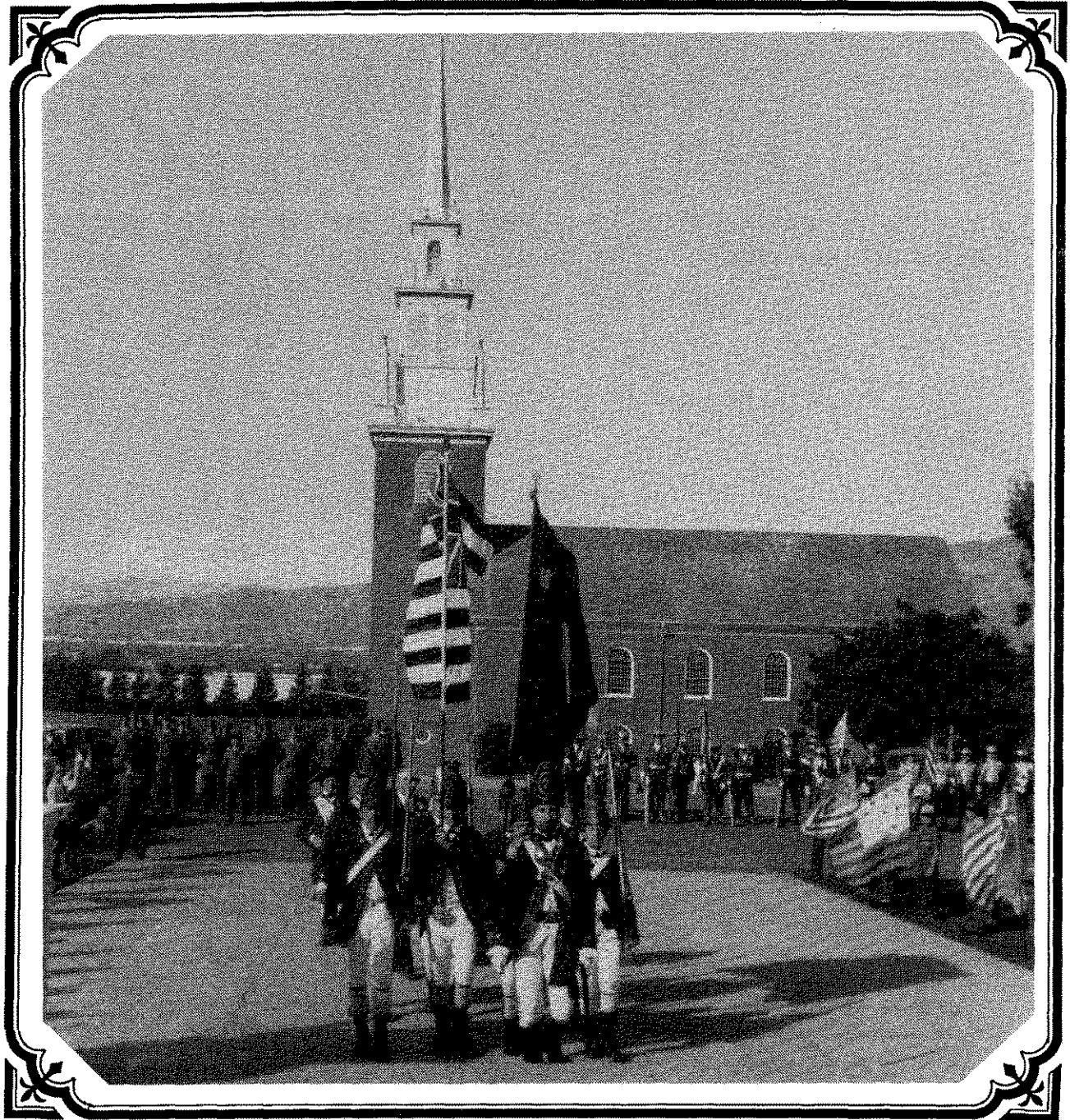




the VALLEY COMPATRIOT

San Fernando Valley Chapter

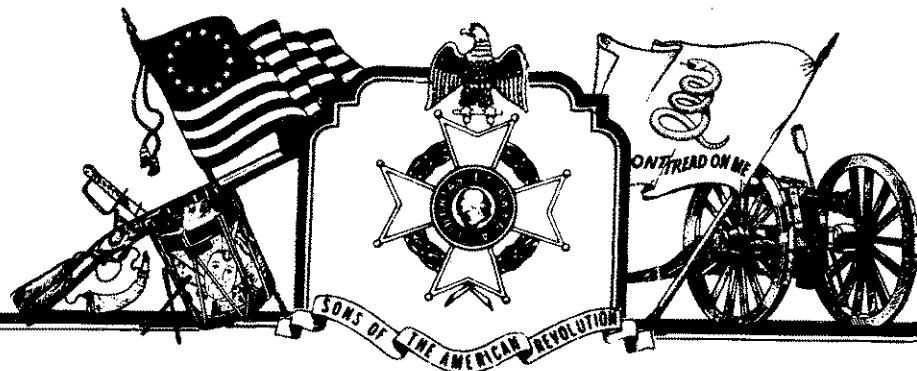


Volume IV
Number - 3

MARCH 1984

"The MASSING of the COLORS"

See Story on Page 31



OFFICERS and DIRECTORS 1984

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The Valley Compatriot

The Valley Compatriot is the official publication of the
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER, S.A.R.

Donald Norman Moran
Editor

mailing address: 7741 Fair Avenue, Sun Valley, Calif. 91352

The Front Cover

Burbank, February 19th, 1984 - "THE MASSING OF THE COLORS" in honor of George Washington. The Delaware Regiment of Foot is leading CSSAR President Leland B. Hawkins and Washington Family Descendants President-General, Dr. Charles Witt who laid the wreath at the base of the Washington monument.

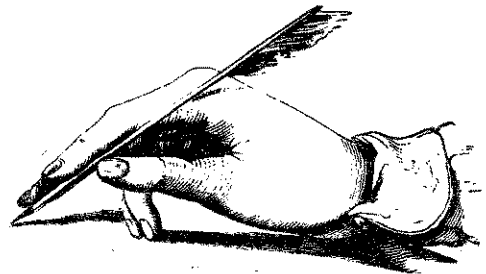


The Saint
Patrick's Day Dinner
with the
HARBOR Chapter
MARCH, 19th, 1984



As announced in the February issue of the Valley Compatriot, the San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R. and the Harbor Chapter, S.A.R. will be holding the SECOND ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY DINNER on March 19th, 1984 (Monday Evening) at the King Authur Steak House, 5511 East Spring Street, Long Beach. Cocktails at 6:30 P.M. and Dinner at 7:30 P.M. Owing to the distance we will be car pooling. Secretary Moran will coordinate the pooling. Additionally, RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST! Please advise the Chapter Secretary of your intentions. For those that wish to drive on their own, the Harbor Chapter has advised that best route from the Valley is the San Deigo Freeway, taking the Bellflower off ramp. East on Bellflower to Spring Street. The Steak House is on the northside of the street.

From the President's Desk



There is a quality to the human being which, all too frequently, breeds envy over the good fortune of others. We have a tendency to feel that the best interests of justice are not necessarily served when others gain and we don't. All too often, the doctrine of fair play translates to: "Me first - - me most."

This is true with children ("Mommy, it's not fair!"), with adults ("He just knows the right people!") and with nations, ("They are Malvinas - - not Falklands!").

Unfortunately, it is also true with societies. The election of another to high office may cause a pang of bitterness. Congratulations to another may breed jealousy. An award given to another may even cause anger.

The paradox is that we, the Sons of the American Revolution are ONE SOCIETY - - a fraternity based on unity of ancestral purpose, unity of current objectives and unity of future goals. When one member of this Society is singled out for recognition, that recognition benefits the Society as a whole and so, benefits every other individual member.

The same is true on the chapter level. The recognition of any chapter - - the achievement of any chapter - - benefits every other chapter and so, benefits the Society as a whole as well as every individual member of the Society. The analogy applies upward to State, National and International levels.

In considering the S.A.R., I think each of us would do well to remember Alexander Dumas' motto for his Three Musketeers: "One for all and all for one".

More poetically, the same idea was expressed years before by John Donne.

"No man is an island, intire of it selfe;" he wrote.
"Every man is a peece of the continent, a part of the maine."

If we can all feel that way about every accomplishment of the Society, its chapters and its individual members, we will acheive that inward unity so vital to all success.

LtC James Bellah, II
President

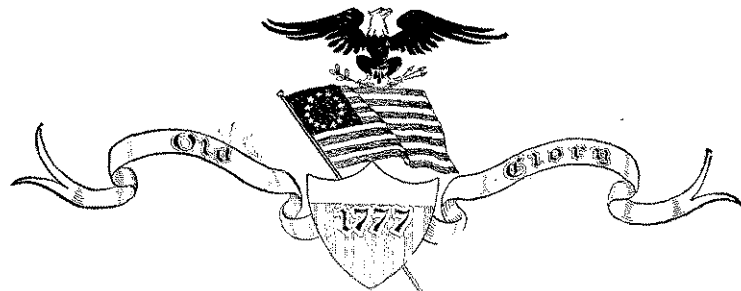
President Bellah addresses DAR & Lions



resident Bellah, speaking as both our Chapter President and as a member of the President's Commission for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves, addressed the Los Angeles Chapter of the D.A.R. on February 8th, 1984. The D.A.R. meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Mary Evans and was very well attended, with Mrs. Arnold H. Bechmann, the Chapter Regent conducting said meeting.

LtC Bellah addressed the subject of National Defence, and the needs for stronger bonds of unity between the D.A.R. and the S.A.R. and all other hereditary and patriotic organizations. The membership of which forms the backbone of our entire heritage.

Earlier this year, on January 12th, LtC Bellah was the featured speaker at the Valley's Lions Club. National Defence, the Sons of the American Revolution, patriotism were the theme of his talk.



The C.S.S.A.R. Scene



e here in the California Society, S.A.R. are blessed with a very effective system for the selection of State Officers. The CSSAR By-laws require that the Nomination Committee be comprised solely of past state presidents. The obvious advantage to the system is that it is truly non-partisan. They, the past presidents, have nothing to gain but the self-satisfaction of knowing they have helped better the State Society. I whole heartedly support this concept.

As you know, in November, at the urging of many friends, I sought the nomination for the State position of Vice President-South. On March 1st, the CSSAR Executive Secretary, Compatriot Carl Lamb, announced the slate of Officers for 1984/5 as presented by the Nomination Committee. Compatriot David Young received the Vice-Presidential nomination.

In keeping with the philosophy of unity and support for the institutions of the CSSAR, I withdrew my candidacy, and have thrown my support behind the Nomination Committee. I respectfully request that those kind Compatriots who expressed support for my candidacy, join me in support of Compatriot David Young.

Compatriot Young has demonstrated his commanding administrative ability when he was San Diego Chapter's President and orchestrated one of the finest National Congresses ever held. David is a team player and an achiever. We will all benefit from his leadership abilities.

Donald Norman Moran

Berkeley !



ompatriot William Melton, CSSAR Treasurer, and Compatriot Winston C. Williams, Editor of the SAR Magazine, both sent your editor extensive articles on the Berkeley, California City Council's vote against saluting the U.S. Flag at City Council meetings. Their School Board's action in support of this anti-American act, and their not prosecuting flag burners. We understand that the S.A.R. Chapters in the Bay Area have joined many other Patriotic organizations in righting this treachery. At the urging of Compatriot Melton, We strongly recommend that you immediately write to your State Officials protesting the actions of the City of Berkeley!

The "Massing of the Colors", sponsored by this Chapter on February 19th, was a shining demonstration of the feelings of the vast majority of American People. When the sixty-eight American flags passed in review, there were very few dry eyes, if any. BERKELEY, THERE IS THE RESPONSE FROM THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY!

~ ~ ~ Our Revolutionary Ancestors ~ ~ ~



One of the objectives of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is to preserve for generations yet unborn, the history of the American Revolutionary War. Many of the biographical sketches of our ancestors who fought and died during that conflict are composites taken from many different sources. It is the intent of the San Fernando Valley Chapter to publish these biographical sketches, one or more per month. We will also be publishing the genealogy of the Compatriot who descends from the veteran of the Revolution. Unfortunately, space limitations restricts the contributors to our own chapter membership.

~ ~ ~ Captain ASA LAWRENCE ~ ~ ~

REVOLUTIONARY WAR ANCESTOR OF DONALD ROSS McDOWELL

Captain ASA LAWRENCE

b. 14 June 1737

w. Groton, Massachusetts

d. 16 January 1804

w. Groton, Massachusetts

ABIGAIL KING

b. 30 July 1736

w. Littleton, Massachusetts

d. 12 June 1829

w. Claremont, New Hampshire

ROWLAND LAWRENCE

b. 25 March 1763

w. Groton, Massachusetts

d. 17 June 1812

w. Groton, Massachusetts

AZUBAH PARKER

b. 06 February 1768

w. Groton, Massachusetts

d.

w. Northbridge, Massachusetts

JAMES SULLIVAN DAVIS

b. 29 July 1807

w. Needham, Massachusetts

d. 29 July 1877 on his birthday.

w. Janesville, Iowa

PARINTHA LAWRENCE

b. 18 January 1806

w. Groton, Massachusetts

d. 22 June 1898

w. Rock Valley, Iowa

HERBERT BENTON DAVIS

b. 13 August 1852

w. Wauconda, Illinois

d. 15 December 1939

w. Long Beach, California

EMMA JANE COOK

b. 17 October 1851

w. White Pigeon, Michigan

d. 18 April 1946

w. San Bernardino, California

JOHN RAYMOND McDOWELL

b. 19 June 1876

w. Sparta, Ontario, Canada

d. 14 July 1946

w. Milwaukee, Wisconsin

WINIFRED LAWRENCE DAVIS

b. 30 October 1875

w. Elkhart, Indiana

d. 09 February 1962

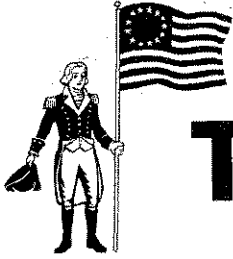
w. Long Beach, California

DONALD ROSS McDOWELL

b. 11 July 1913

w. Milwaukee, Wisconsin

For the biographical sketch on Asa Lawrence see page 35 of this issue.



THE MASSING of the COLORS

The San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R., under the leadership of our President, LtC James Bellah, sponsored the massive "COMMEMORATIVE MASSING OF THE COLORS" held on February 19th, at Forest Lawn's 'Hall of Liberty'. This event was without a doubt the largest assembly of patriotic Americans gathered to pay tribute to the founding father of our Country, General George Washington, here in California. An estimated (by CBS-TV) crowd of four-hundred witnessed the ceremony.

The accomplished Master of Ceremony was the noted actor (and S.A.R. Applicant) Mr. John L. Russell ("The Lawman"). He was assisted by our V.P. Col. George A. Eckert. Dr. Robert H. Scanland offered the invocation. Our guest speakers were: Dr. Charles Witt, President-General of the Washington Family Descendants, and our own LtC James Bellah. C.S.S.A.R. President Leland B. Hawkins, III and Dr. Witt laid the wreath at the base of the statue of Washington escorted by the impressive Delaware Regiment of Foot.

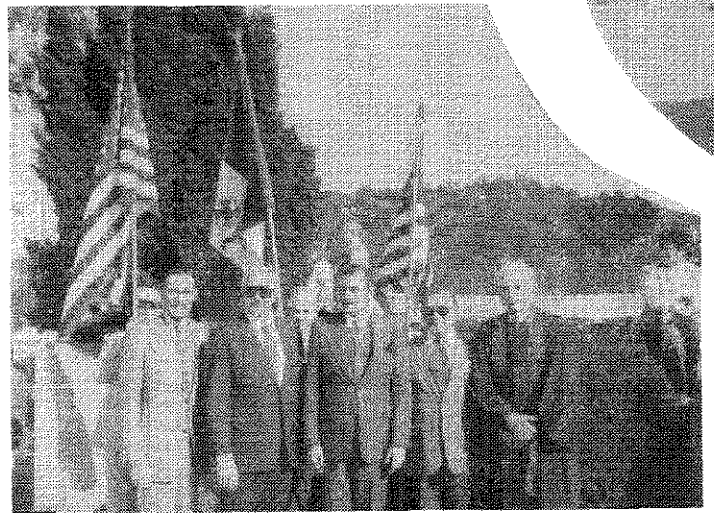
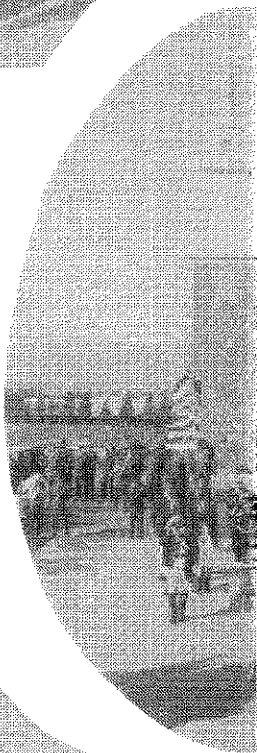
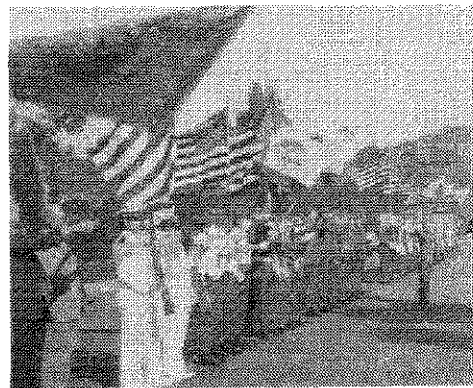
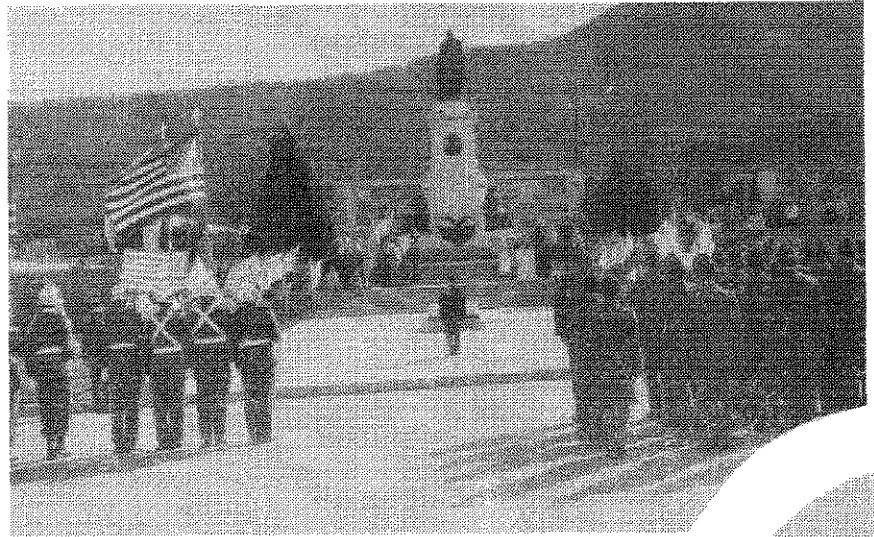
The "Massing of the Colors" would not have been possible without the assistance of Mr. Bob L. Huston and Mr. Donald Roberts, both of Forest Lawn. Mrs. Muriel Fisher, Flag Chairman for the Don Jose de Ortega Chapter, D.A.R. furnished the flags carried by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Ladies Auxillary, SAR (Lead by president Jane Hawkins), the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. Mr. Evert Siegrist, band master for the Third Brigade Band, California Military Reserve provided the stirring music.

The Color Guards were organized by Command Sargeant-Major Jesse Ramil, USA; The units were: The Color Guard of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R. (Compatriots Donald R. McDowell, Walter Turnell, and 1st V.P. George Sutherland Van Dorn); The 63rd RCOM, consisting of the United States Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard; The U.C.L.A. ROTC Color Guards from the NROTC, Air Force ROTC and Army ROTC; The Color Guards of the Los Angeles School District's Junior ROTC Program, with units representing Bellmont, Fairfax, Los Angeles, Jefferson, Monroe, Roosevelt and Van Nuys High Schools. The 130th Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. The American Legion; The Veterans of Foreign Wars; Military Order of the World Wars, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts were also well represented. Representatives of several DAR Chapters lined the walkway all carrying colonial flags.

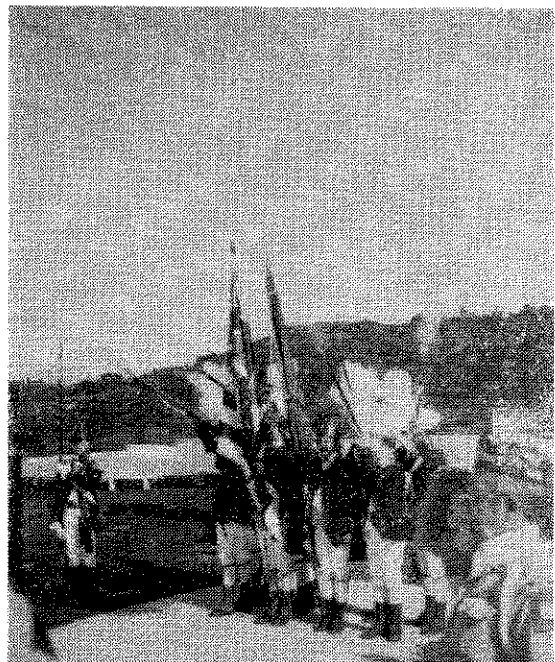
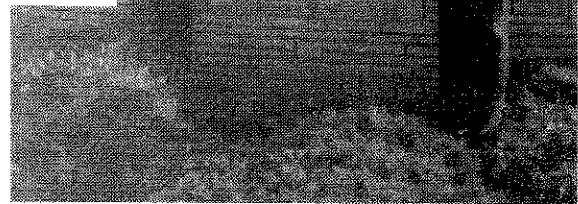
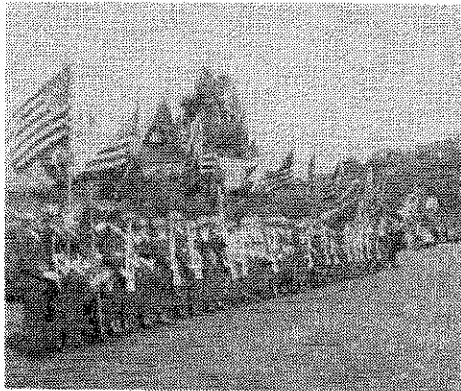
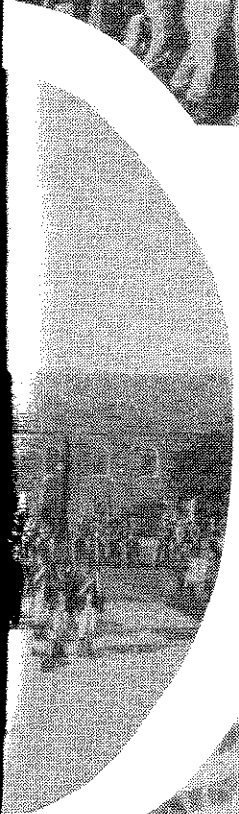
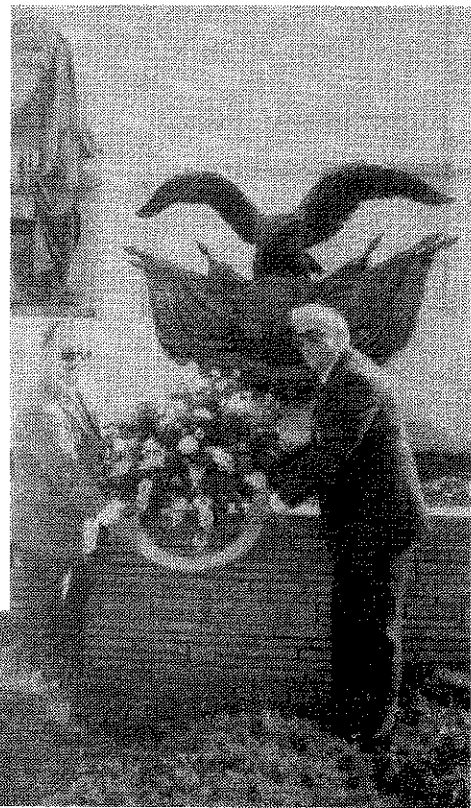
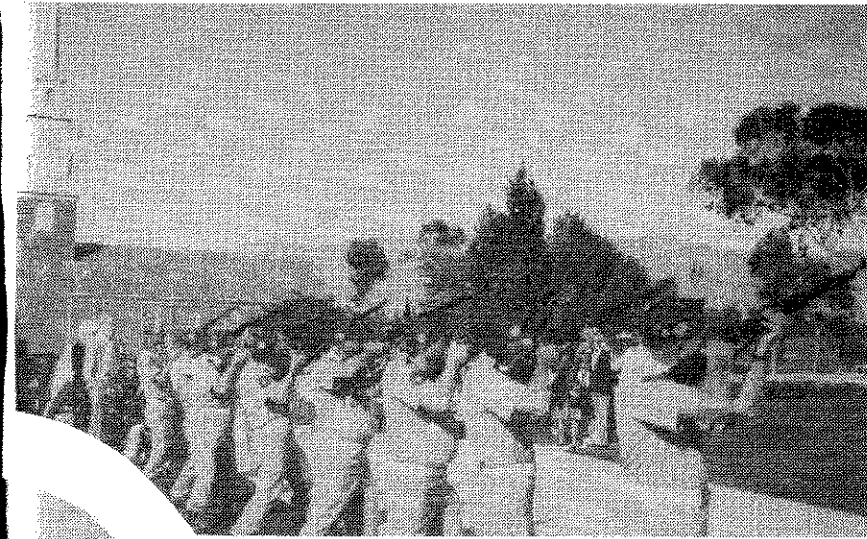
The V.F.W. Honor Guard (Ship 8310 which has been the Honor Guard for the "Sacred Torch" Veteran's Day ceremony for the last 25 years) and the Delaware Regiment of foot, commanded by David Wiedner, (an SAR Applicant), fired a twenty-one gun salute.

With sixty-eight flags blowing in the breeze, 154 uniformed men and women serving as Color Guards, in the patriotic setting of the Hall of Liberty, we can be justly proud of having sponsored such a display of true Americanism. See photographs on the next two pages.

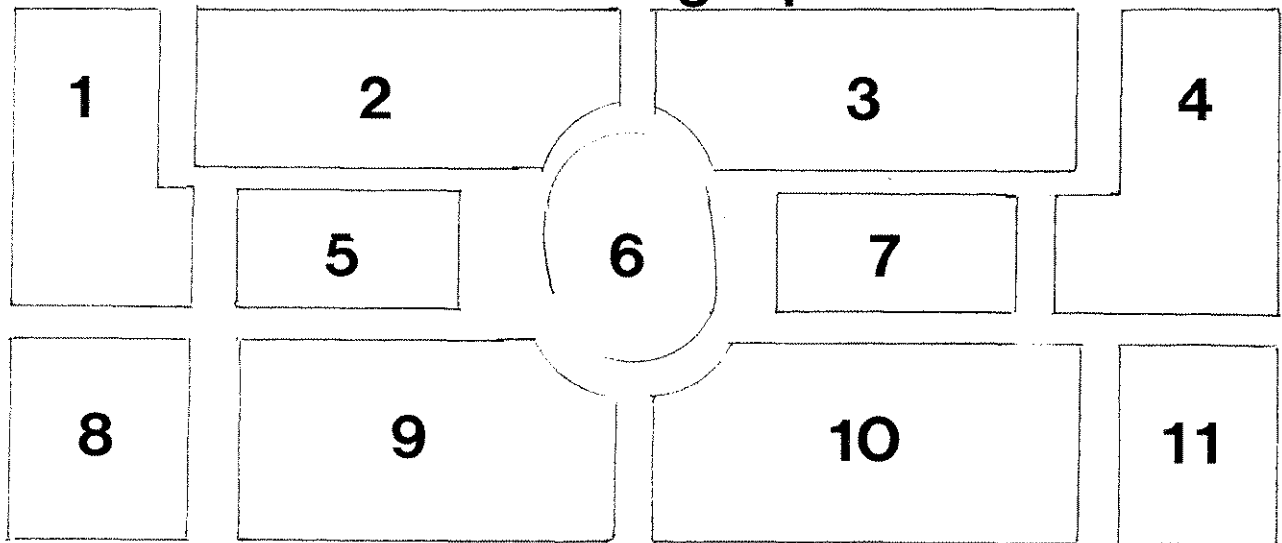
THE MASSING



THE COLORS

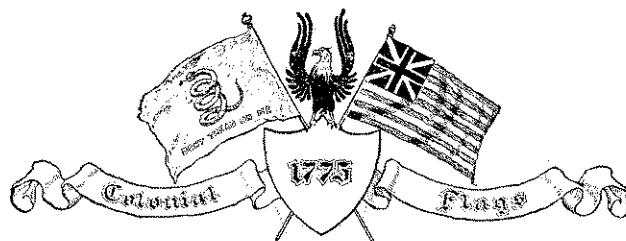


Photographs



1. Master of Ceremony, Mr. John L. Russell and Chapter President LtC James Bellah.
2. The General George Washington monument at Forest Lawn.
3. The Honor Guard of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars firing a twenty-one gun salute in honor of General Washington.
4. Leland B. Hawkins, President of the State Society, S.A.R. and Dr. Charles Witt, President-General of the Washington Family Descendants laying the wreath at the foot of the Washington Monument.
5. The Color Guards.
6. The Delaware Regiment of Foot leading Presidents Hawkins and Witt to the Washington Monument.
7. The Color Guards.
8. The Delaware Regiment of Foot proceeding the wreath layers.
9. Mr. John L. Russell, Master of Ceremony; Dr. Charles Witt, LtC James Bellah, Chapter President; Leland B. Hawkins, CSSAR President, Dr. Robert H. Scanland.
10. Command Sargeant-Major Jesse Ramil, U.S. Army, with David Wiedner, commanding the Delaware Regiment of Foot.
11. The "Delawares" firing the twenty-one gun salute to Washington.

Photographs by Compatriots Wm. David Tullis and Donald N. Moran.



OUR REVOLUTIONARY WAR ANCESTRY

Compatriot Donald Ross McDowell, a charter member of the San Fernando Chapter, S.A.R. attained membership in this organization by right of his descent from Asa Lawrence. We are very pleased to present this Revolutionary War veterans biography.

Captain ASA LAWRENCE of Groton

By: COMPATRIOT DONALD ROSS MCDOWELL



Lawrence has been a famous surname in Massachusetts for more than three centuries, with many of that named tracing their Lawrence ancestry to John Lawrence, who arrived in Watertown, Massachusetts, in 1630 with the Winthrop fleet. Although working primarily as a carpenter, he was also a large landowner, having bought fifteen acres of the "Kings Common" in 1650 from the town. In 1662, at the age of 53, he became one of the original proprietors of Groton. The town prospered in spite of its abandonment between 1676 and 1679 after being burned to the ground by King Philip's savage warriors, and numerous attacks in later Indian uprisings. Men of the Lawrence family were prominent among the defenders of the town during these turbulent times.

Asa Lawrence, a fifth generation descendant of the immigrant John, was born June 14th, 1737. He lived about a mile north of the center of town on a farm known later as the Governor Sullivan Place after James Sullivan, the local Justice of the Peace during the Revolutionary War and Governor of the Commonwealth in 1807. Except for his military service, Asa was a farmer all his life. On July 27th, 1757, he married Abigail King, a descendant of Daniel King, an early settler of Lynn, Massachusetts. They had ten children.

On October 26th, 1774, the First Provincial Congress of Massachusetts passed a resolution that at least one quarter of the members of the militia regiments be formed into companies to be ready, at short notice, to march to a designated place of rendezvous on orders of the Committee of Safety. Colonial militia had existed under British jurisdiction since before the Indian Wars of a century earlier. Two Groton companies were duly formed as part of a regiment commanded by Colonel William Prescott of nearby Pepperell. Asa Lawrence and Henry Farwell were elected to lead the two companies of about fifty men each.

Early on the morning of April 19th, 1775, word of the fighting at Lexington and Concord reached Groton. The alarm spread quickly to the surrounding countryside, and by late morning the two Groton companies were marching toward Concord, some fifteen miles away. They arrived too late for the fighting, so they hurried on toward Cambridge, camping over night at Lexington. At Cambridge they joined the hundreds, later thousands of militiamen from as far away as Pennsylvania and Virginia who were to bottle up General

Gage's Regulars until they left Boston in March of 1776. A few days after the Concord action the troops that stayed were enlisted into a Continental Army under the Command of General Artemus Ward. Colonel Prescott's nine companies became the 10th Massachusetts Regiment of the Continental Line.

On May 25th, Prescott's company captains, to make sure that there would be no change of command, certified in writing to the "Honourable Congress of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay now sitting in Watertown". Below is reproduced this unusual document with Asa Lawrence listed as the fifth signer. The document states that they were 'well contented' with their officers.

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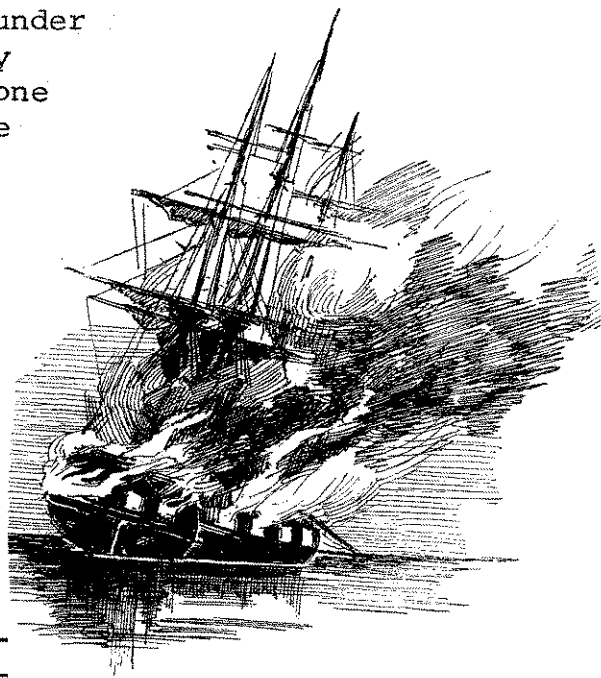
To the Honourable Congress of the
Province of the Massachusetts Bay now
sitting Assembled at Watertown. this may cer-
tify that we the Subscribers Captains of
Colonel Wm Prescotts Regiment are
well contented to have Wm Prescott to
be our Col, John Robinson to be our
Leut Col, Henry Wedel to be our Major
and desire that they may be Commissioned
accordingly. Cambridge May 25th 1775

Henry Farwell
Hugh Mearns
Sam^l Patch
John Cutting
Asa Lawrence
Oliver Parker
Captains Company
Ephraim Parker

On May 27th a mixed force of about two-hundred men under the command of Colonel John Nixon, which included at least two companies of Groton men, was dispatched to remove livestock from Noddle's and Hogg Islands. Now known as East Boston, but in 1775 a swampy area on the north shore of Boston harbor.

The British detected the move and sent the armed schooner, H.M.S. Diana, under the command of Lt. Thomas Graves (nephew of Admiral Graves, Commanding the British Naval force at Boston) to

intercept the colonials. To assist the lieutenant, a full company of Royal Marines was assigned to the Diana. After a brief skirmish the Marines were forced to return to their ship, which then took the militiamen under fire from the ship's cannons. Shortly thereafter, the Diana ran aground in one of the shallow channels, caught by the ebbing tide. With its guns no longer able to bear, the ship was abandoned. Wading through waist deep water, Captain Lawrence led a boarding party which removed twelve 12 pound naval guns and several swivel guns, burned the ship. About 3:00 A.M. the burning Diana exploded and sank.



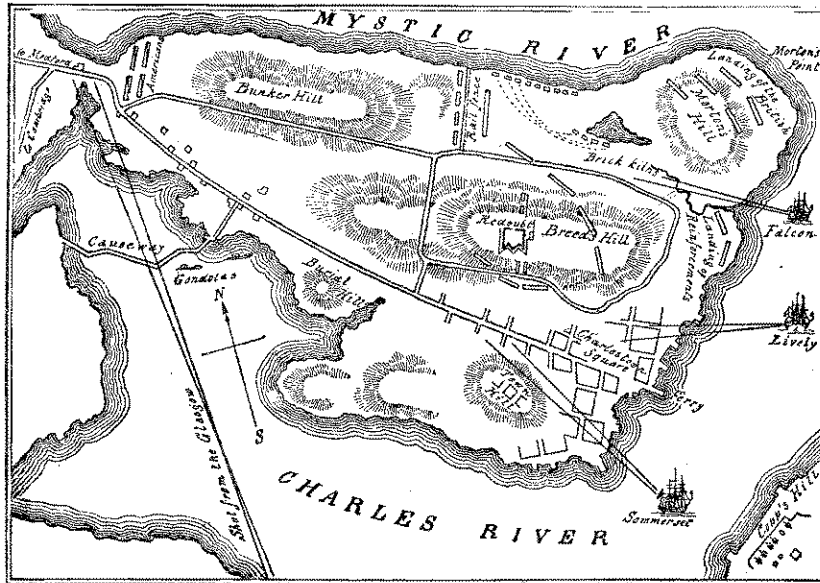
THE BURNING OF THE H.M.S. DIANA BY CAPT. LAWRENCE.

One June 16th, Colonel Prescott was ordered to take command of the regiments of Colonels Bridge and Frye and with his own men, proceeded to Bunker Hill under the cover of darkness with instruction to erect a fortification to preempt a possible breakout of the British by way of the Charlestown peninsula. Because they thought they would be relieved after the breastworks were completed, they took only their entrenching tools, a minimum supply of ammunition, and almost no food or water.



CAPTAIN LAWRENCE AND HIS MEN FORTIFYING BREED'S HILL AT NIGHT.

They disobeyed orders by marching past Bunker Hill to Breed's Hill, where they worked quietly through the night without being detected. But, with the coming of daylight the surprised British opened a heavy barrage of artillery fire from Copp's hill in Boston and from four Man-o-War anchored in the Charles River less than a mile away. Prescott's men continued their digging in spite of this bombardment, suffering several casualties, including Lieutenant Joseph Spaulding of Asa's Company, who was beheaded as he stood next to Colonel Prescott.



Plan of Bunker Hill.

The action on that historic day is too well known to be repeated here. Suffice it to say that the British lost 226 dead, and 828 wounded, a total of 1,054 or nearly fifty percent of the 2,300 soldiers engaged. Many companies of about forty men had only three or four left, and casualties among the officers were well over fifty percent. A month after battle, General George Washington put the

American losses at 115 killed, 305 wounded and 30 missing, for a total of 450 men out of the estimated 1,500 engaged. More men were lost from Groton than from any other town, a total of twelve, including six of Captain Lawrence's men killed outright and a number of others were wounded.

Captain Lawrence was called upon several more times during the war. On September 27, 1777 he was ordered to assemble a company to serve under Colonel Jonathan Reed for "Service at the Northward", which meant to join the army under General Horatio Gates who, with the help of Daniel Morgan and his Virginia riflemen and Philip Schuyler's New Yorkers was preparing to engage General Burgoyne, who was advancing down the Hudson Valley with a force of 5,000 British, Hessians, Tories and Indians. Asa assembled his veterans quickly, marching from Groton just three days after the call. He reached the scene of the fighting ten days later after a march of 120 miles, too late for the last major battle at Freeman's Farm on October 7th, but in time for the final skirmishing around Saratoga. Asa and his men were among the ordered ranks of silent, sturdy Continentals who watched the red, blue and gold uniformed, but weaponless British and Hessians pass in review after the October 17th surrender.

Captain Lawrence was discharged on November 9th, 1777, and returned to Groton with his company. Although General Gates is not considered one of our great Revolutionary War leaders, Asa must have admired him, because he named his fourth son, born 11 June 1778, Horatio Gates Lawrence. Horatio died October 28th, at the age of four months.

In early 1778, the British still maintained a strong naval base at Newport, Rhode Island, which constituted a threat for possible future moves into Connecticut and Massachusetts. Washington and French Admiral D'Estaing mapped out a pincher attack by sea and land to remove this threat, with the Americans to be under the command of the capable General John Sullivan of New Hampshire, who put together a strong force of Continental Regiments and Massachusetts militia in addition to his own troops.

Asa's Groton company was again called upon and he was re-commissioned on May 17, 1778. After serving six weeks in Rhode Island, his company was ordered to Peekskill, New York, to guard the "North (Hudson) River Passes", against British moves north from New York City and some of the lower river strong points which they had held since the beginnings of hostilities. Asa was discharged "In Consequence of General Washington's orders" on October 12, 1778, at West Point, although his company remained there until the following February. This was Asa's last military service, the war having moved into the south.

On January 28, 1779, Asa petitioned the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Bay for reimbursement for "Services and losses". He referred to his part in the actions at Chelsea, Bunker Hill and Rhode Island. He listed a "Gun and Bayonet, Coat and blanket, Knapsack & Tumpline" lost at Bunker Hill, and stated that he had received no pay at any time. In a resolution passed May 4th, 1780, the House of Representatives awarded Asa 100 pounds. The resolution was approved by John Hancock, and endorsed by Samuel Admas, Artemus Ward and thirteen other Representatives.

Captain Asa Lawrence died January 4th, 1804, and is buried in the "Old Burying ground" at Groton, Massachusetts, as is Rowland Lawrence, his son who also served in the Revolutionary War, and three other Lawrence children. Asa's grave, in addition to his headstone, is marked by a bronze plaque which reads: "Captain Asa Lawrence, Capt. Company G Groton Minute Men, April 19, 1775. Capt. Co. in Col. Prescott's Reg't at Bunker Hill".

Compatriot McDowell is also descendant from Rowland Lawrence, and we are pleased to advise our readers that we have another fine biographical article to present you in a future issue of the VALLEY COMPATRIOT.





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DATED MATERIAL

