

# The Liberty Tree

The Newsletter of the Sons of Liberty Chapters, Sons of the American Revolution  
Vol. 28 Number 4 April 2009



Our Commander-in-Chief's Guards at the American Cemetery at Normandy, France

## Our Living History Education Program

The Sons of the American Revolution's stated objectives are declared to be "Historic, Patriotic and Educational" Our **"Living History Education Program"** along with our web site **"Revolutionary War Archives"** does it all and does in better than our greatest expectations!

Our Living History program consists of members of our Commander-in-Chief's Guards, (Color Guard), who volunteer to speak to various groups, schools and at public reenactments, adopting the persona of a Revolutionary War soldier. At the re-enactments we are often joined by SAR Compatriots from other Chapters, and in particular the Harbor, Redlands and Riverside Chapters.

The presentations usually consist of a short introductory monologue followed by an extensive question and answer segment. This requires our re-enactors to have a working knowledge of life during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and considerable knowledge of the Revolutionary War. Our re-enactors adopt the identity of patriots who were actual members of the Commander-in-Chief's Guards. By impersonating an actual member you add to the presentation, and at the same time limit the amount of knowledge needed, as you would only have knowledge of the events that the patriot would have participant in. To provide you with an idea as to why

we go to such lengths is the long term impact the living history presentation has on the audience. Think of the times your parents or a school outing took you to a historic site. For the rest of your life when you hear about that location you think of your visit. When you see it on television or at the movies, you instantly recall your visit. After being part of the audience of a living history program every time you hear about our founding fathers or the American Revolution you recall your visit with a 'soldier' from that war! Recognizing this factor, extra emphasis is placed on those pieces of our history that can be connected to life today. A classic example is our re-enactors opening their leather purses and passing around a Continental dollar coin, then pieces of the dollar that have been cut up into 'half dollars' 'quarters' and one tenth pieces, then called 'dimes'. now called dimes. A direct connection is then made between the American Revolution and our founding fathers, and how our currency got it's names. How often when handling a coin will that be remembered?

When doing an outdoor encampment the young visitors actually get excited to see "George Washington" and all our soldiers.

Our Guardsman, Greg Gujda, came up  
*continued on page 4 -->*



**NAMED BEST CHAPTER  
IN THE SAR 1983,  
1989, 1995, 1996,  
2002 & 2003**



**NAMED BEST NEWSLETTER  
IN THE SAR  
1983, 1985, 1989  
1992, 1994, 1999 & 2002**





CHAPTER OFFICERS

President - Douglas H. Bradley  
1012 Macy Street, La Habra, CA 90631

1st Vice President & Color Guard Commander  
Melvin M. Harrell  
P.O.Box 3334 Running Springs, CA 923820-3334

2nd Vice President - Ronald Mayo Johnson  
1000 Prospect Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91103-2810

Secretary - Donald N. Moran  
17651 Arlington Pl, Tehachapi, CA 93561-5300  
1-661-823-9227 -

Treasurer - David W. Eaton  
5200 Irvine Blvd, #283 Irvine, CA 92620

Registrar - Berni K. Campbell  
31333 East Nine Dr. Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Chaplain - The Reverend Victor M. Springer  
1420 Santo Domingo Ave, Duarte, CA 91010

Historian - James Q. Bradley  
1918 E. Rio Verde Dr. West Covina, CA 91791-2759  
- jqbrad@msn.com

Chancellor & Vice Cdr, Gregory M. Gujda  
13691 Gavina Avenue #551 Sylmar, CA 91342-2669

Genealogist - Kerry Davidson  
1409 Sandia Avenue West Covina, CA 91790-3309

Surgeon - Dr. Francis P. Powers  
Post Office Box 20623 New York, N.Y, 10021-0072

Web Master - GARY BOHANNON  
5839 Ingvaldsen Place. Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739

Trustees of the Permanent Fund

David W. Eaton - Term: 2007-2010  
James C. McHargue - Term 2008-2011  
David M. Hayball - Term 2009-2012



12 NOON - SATURDAY APRIL 25th, 2009

Program:

“THE FUTURE OF OUR CHAPTER’S WEB PRESENCE”

Speaker:

GARY BOHANNON

Gary will provide a slide show on the goals and objectives of our Chapter’s web site, and in particular, our History Archives. The number of viewers continues to increase as does the number of inquiries generated by the viewers of our published articles on said web site.



To be held at the  
Tam O’Shanter Inn - 2980 Los Feliz Blvd. - Los Angeles  
\$20.00 per person - Guests always welcome -  
reservations **not** required



Our Chapter has seven Compatriots in uniform and we wish to formally thank them for their service.

- Lt. Col. David Smith, USAF - (Edwards AFB, California).
- Major Mason Dula, USAF - (Middle-East),
- Capt. Eric Fourroux, USA - (Arlington, Virginia),
- 2nd Lieutenant Sean D. Hayball, USA - (Schofield Barracks, Hawaii)
- Sergeant Major William Fitzgerald, USMC - (Okinawa)
- LCpl Christopher Pickens USMC - (Colorado)
- PFC Daniel Pickens USA - (Fort Knox, Ky)

The Liberty Tree is the official newsletter of the Sons of Liberty Chapter, SAR. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not that of the Chapter, State or National Society. Donald N. Moran, Editor, 17651 Arlington Place Tehachapi, CA. 93561 - 1-661-823-9227 - E-mail: dmoransar@att.net. Virginia Emrey Patten, Assistant Editor. Jim Bradley and Linda Moran photographers.



**Welcome New Compatriots**

The Sons of Liberty Chapter is delighted to welcome 4 new Compatriots into our Chapter and the SAR.

Compatriots

**CHRISTIAN DON GODIN CORSINI**  
(Nat'l No. 173420 / State No. 8454 )  
and

**JOSEPH JOHN GODIN CORSINI**  
(Nat'l No. 173421 / State No. 8455)

Their ancestor:

**JOSHUA BEAN, JR.**

Who served the cause of the American Independence by signing the Association Test on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1776 and later was a Massachusetts delegate to the Constitutional Convention.

**LCP CHRISTOPHER P. PICKENS**  
**U.S. MARINE CORPS**

(Nat'l No. 173542 / State No. 8457)  
and

**PFC DANIEL A. PICKENS**  
**U.S. ARMY**

(Nat'l No. 173543 / State No. 8458)  
Their ancestor:

**PRIVATE ROBERT McCANDALESS**

Who served the cause of American Independence in Captain John Jack's 2<sup>nd</sup> Company in Colonel Abraham Smith's 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania Militia.



**Compatriots in the News**  
**Happy Birthday**

Richard Milner ----- 04/03  
Robert Sexton ----- 04/06  
Ronald Johnson ----- 04/09  
Edward Kasmar ----- 04/10

Stephen Rucker ----- 04/13  
B/G Robert Hutchinson MD -- 04/17  
D.F. "Bill" Semerau ----- 04/19  
Max Hurlbut ----- 04/27  
Ned Robertson ----- 04/28

**Happy Anniversary**

Fred & Claudia Hessmeyer  
*Married: 07 April 2001 -- 8 years*

Joseph & Hiromo Prang  
*Married: 08 April 1991 -- 18 years*

James & Vance Dawson  
*Married: 12 April 1958 -- 51 years*

Richard & Florence Breithaupt  
*Married: 15 April 1952 -- 57 years*

Gary & Sandra Bohannon  
*Married: 16 April 1983 -- 26 years*

Conrad & Esther Palisano  
*Married: 17 April 1974 -- 35 years*

Richard & Carol Ann Phegley  
*Married: 20 April 1996 -- 13 years*

Christian & Cynthia Mellow  
*Married: 26 April 2003 -- 6 years*

Ned & Royanna Robertson  
*Married: 27 April 1975 -- 34 years*

Lt. General Brett & Terri Dula  
*Married: 30 April 1972 -- 37 years*



**Registrar's Report**

Name	1	2	3	4	5
Nicholas Anduze	✓				
Michael Biferno	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Borncamp	✓				
Dino Cardone	✓				
Andrew Clayton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jay Dupre	✓				
Michael Gilleppe, Sr.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michael Gillespie, Jr.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Daniel Harrell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jonathan Harrell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michael Harrell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gary Alan Harris	✓	✓	✓		

Name	1	2	3	4	5
Joshua Hayball	✓	✓			
Bradley Hill	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bob Jacobs	✓	✓			
Bill Knoll	✓				
John Lundstrom	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Mohler	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sean O'Rourke	✓				
David Slay	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ray Simison	✓	✓	✓		
Michael Squires	✓	✓			
John Stites	✓				
Daniel Wilson	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Matthew Wilson	✓	✓	✓	✓	

**Legend**

- (1) Worksheet sent to applicant
- (2) Worksheet received
- (3) Genealogical work in progress
- (4) Application in preparation
- (5) Application at National for approval
- (6) These are transferred to our Chapter.

Berni K. Campbell,  
Registrar



**SAR Humor**



At the fortifications at West Point a Guardsman asked the captain: "Why are we spending so much time shaping up the encampment just because the 'Guards' getting a Sergeant Major, whatever that is?" The Captain replied: "Private, all you need to know is that the Sergeant Major didn't take the ferry across the Hudson River, he walked!"





**OUR LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM, continued from page 1**

with the idea of having the young visitors ‘enlist’ in the Continental Army or sign the ‘Oath of Allegiance’ with a quill and ink. Another Revolutionary War connection they’ll never forget! Students today receive very little history education, and what is taught generally leans toward multiculturalism, ignoring those men, women and events that created this great country.

**CATALINA ISLAND**

We received and accepted an invitation to provide a living history educational program at a ‘one room’ school at Two Harbors, Catalina Island on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. With the limited ferry schedules it was necessary to go to the island on Friday, make the presentation on Saturday, then return to the mainland on Sunday. Don Moran as Major Caleb Gibbs, Melvin Harrell as 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Joseph Timberlake, of the Commander-in-Chief’s Guards, and their wives as ‘camp followers’ agreed. It turned out that most of the students are the children of the staff at the USC’s Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, who operate a 30,000 square foot laboratory there. They arranged to put us up in a delightful

the Institute. After the dinner we were given a private tour of the Civil War barracks which is now used as a yacht club. A special thanks to the teacher Melanie Barney and her husband Gary and to Bill Nelson, Ph.D. from USC.

**TEHACHAPI**

Members of our Living History team accepted an invitation to put on a program for the Cardner School (K-8) at Tehachapi on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. This presentation had a first. The two “Camp Followers” participated in the Question and Answer segment of the presentation which was extremely well received. The students number approximately 140, and as usual the kindergartners, first and second graders rarely put their hands down, all having questions. At the end of the program, one little guy came up and said “*You guys are awesome!*”



**OUR REENACTORS AND HOSTS  
L-TO-R: MELANIE BARNEY, MELVIN & KATHY HARRELL,  
LINDA & DON MORAN AND BILL NELSON**

visitor’s residence, and supplied our food. The ‘winter’ community population is less than 200, however there are boaters, who the Islanders call “*Boaties*” who spend the weekend on their boats in the harbor. Our hosts placed flyers



around the village, and between the children, residents and boaties we had a nice size audience. After the presentation we were taken on a private tour of the island, then were treated to a delightful pot luck dinner. Most of the adults there were Ph.D.’s from



**KATHY HARRELL AS ANN TIMBERLAKE, SHOWING HOW LADIES USED THEIR APRONS TO CARRY ITEMS. LINDA MORAN, AS CATHERINE GIBBS, EXPLAINS, WHILE DON MORAN AS MAJOR CALEB GIBBS AND MELVIN HARRELL AS SERGEANT JOSEPH TIMBERLAKE LOOK ON.**



**SOME OF THE CARDEN SCHOOL STUDENTS EXAMINING THE REPLICA FIRST U.S. DOLLAR AND THE ONES CUT UP TO BE ‘HALF DOLLARS’, ‘QUARTERS’ AND DIMS (DIMES), LEARNING HOW OUR COINAGE GOT THEIR NAMES, BASIC FRACTIONS AND BEING TAUGHT THERE IS A DIRECT CONNECTION WITH THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION TODAY!**





The Following letter was received from Betty Gubler, Director of the Carden School of Tehachapi.

“March 10, 2009

*On behalf of our students and staff, I send our most grateful thoughts for your recent reenactment of The Commander-in-Chief’s Guards. The entire school was so taken with your costumes, props and characterizations of Revolutionary War members. Many classes told me that the discussions that followed in the individual classrooms were both thought out and interesting. I was completely surprised that our students’ questions kept coming, even after 45 minutes. And it was so wonderful*

*to have our youngest students attentively listen to your answers and explanations. Thank you for passing around replicas of the time period. The small musket (replica of George Washington’s flintlock pistol) was met with great excitement and awe. And we all appreciated the lesson in money; this will be something we can share with our students from year to year.*

*You made history real and when that occurs, lifelong interests and passions are sparked. Thank you for making those moments happen in the lives of our students.*

*Our Grateful appreciation  
Betty Gubler, Director.*

CONTINENTAL DOLLARS USED IN OUR LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM

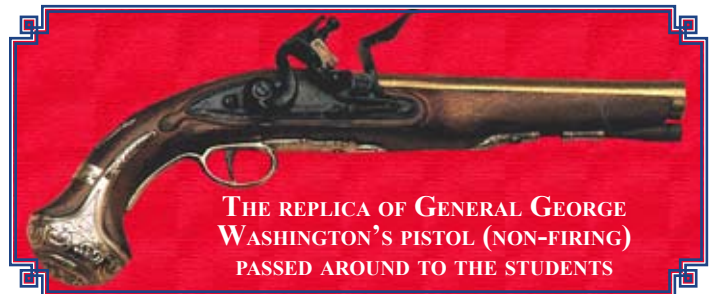


Continental Dollar

Continental Half Dollar

Continental Quarter Dollar

Dime (Dime)



THE REPLICA OF GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON’S PISTOL (NON-FIRING) PASSED AROUND TO THE STUDENTS

HISTORY DAY - LOS ANGELES - 2009

Compatriot Guardsmen from Redlands, Riverside and Sons of Liberty Chapters set up “George Washington’s Field Headquarters” at the History Day - Los Angeles - 2009 event held in Azusa on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. They provided a living history of the American Revolution to an estimated 750 students - hundreds of which ‘enlisted’.



COMPATRIOT ROGER COOPER OF THE RIVERSIDE CHAPTER PORTRAYING GEORGE WASHINGTON. HE DOES AN EXEMPLARY JOB AND IS VERY BELIEVABLE IN THE ROLE. OUR MARQUE IN THE BACKGROUND.



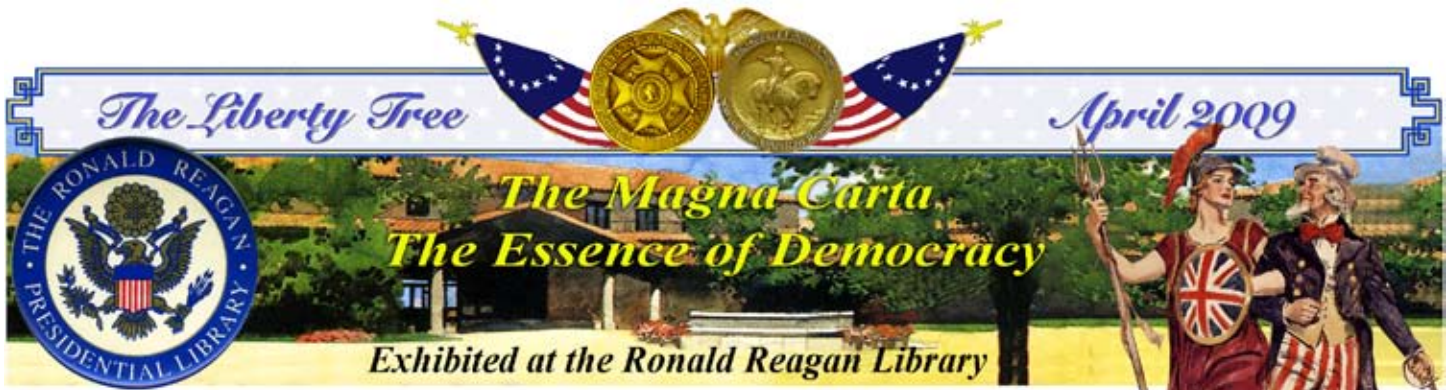
SERGEANT JOSEPH TIMBERLAKE ( MELVIN HARRELL OF OUR CHAPTER ) ENLISTING STUDENTS INTO THE CONTINENTAL ARMY. THEY SIGN THE ENLISTMENT FORM WITH A QUILL AND GET TO KEEP THE FORM AS A SOUVENIR - A MEMORABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE.



THE OFFICER OF THE DAY (COL. WILL LANGFORD) ESCORTING GENERAL WASHINGTON ON AN INSPECTION OF THE GUARD.







The Magna Carta, one of the most famous and important documents in history is now on display at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley. It is a must see! The Library issued the following news release:

“The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum is pleased to announce the opening of its latest temporary exhibit, Magna Carta: The Essence of Democracy. Opening January 23 and running through June 20, 2009, Magna Carta: The Essence of Democracy provides visitors with a fascinating look at why the Magna Carta is widely viewed as one of the most important documents in the history of our freedom and how it became the cornerstone of the U.S. Constitution. The highlight of this exhibit is the original 1215 Magna Carta, on loan from the Lincoln Cathedral in Lincolnshire, England.

“Our joint love of liberty was spawned by a common heritage. It was English history and tradition, with the Magna Carta and the Common Law, which gave birth to our Declaration of Independence. It was men of enormous intellectual capacity and courage . . . whose powerful ideas fed our notions of individual freedom and the dignity of all people.” proclaimed President Ronald Reagan at a State Dinner honoring Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1981

Inscribed in Medieval Latin and written on a 17 ½ inch sheepskin parchment, the Magna Carta laid out the basic rights of man into English law, including equal protection under the law, protection of personal property, trial by a jury of peers, no taxation without consent, and protection from persecution without evidence.



Known as “The Great Charter”, the Magna Carta served as a model for the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The most famous clause from the Magna Carta referring to Habeas Corpus – protection against imprisonment without cause.



THE MAGNA CARTA - 1215

From the Magna Carta: “No free man shall be arrested, or imprisoned, or deprived of his property, or outlawed, or exiled or in any way destroyed, nor shall we go against him or send against him, unless by legal judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land.” – Clause 39

“To no one will we sell, to no one will we refuse or delay, right or justice.” – Clause 40

“At her husband’s death, a widow may have her marriage portion and inheritance at once . . . .” – Clause 7

At the time the Magna Carta was written in 1215, forty copies were distributed throughout the realm of King John I. Today only four copies have survived – two at the British Library, one at the Salisbury Cathedral Chapter House, and one at Lincoln Cathedral. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 one copy sold at Sotheby’s for 21.3 million dollars.

“Here is a law which is above the King and which even he must not break. This reaffirmation of a supreme law and its expression in a general charter is the great work of Magna Carta; and this alone justifies the respect in which men have held it.” From Sir Winston Churchill, “A History of the English-Speaking People”, Vol. 1 page 200-1 published in 1956.



KING JOHN I SIGNING THE MAGNA CARTA AT RUNNYMEDE



### OUR CHAPTER'S ROTC AND JROTC PROGRAM



THE SAR'S  
BRONZE JROTC  
MEDAL

The Sons of Liberty Chapter is very proud of our Reserve Officer's Training Corps (College level) (ROTC) and Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (High School level) (JROTC). Our support program is the largest in the entire Sons of the American Revolution. As of this report we support six (6) ROTC detachments and forty-three (43) JROTC units, for a total of forty-nine detachments

This is made possible by our late Compatriot Walter G. Turnell and his wife Glenn, who established the permanent fund that helps fund

it. Most of these ROTC or JROTC detachments have asked that we provide a "presenter" for our award. This involves attending their awards ceremony, usually a banquet, and when called upon, to simply present the medal and certificate. You would not be required to address the audience, just hand the cadet/midshipman the medal.

If you are interested in participating in one or more of these wonderful events, our Secretary can provide the date and time of an event near your home.



THE SAR'S  
SILVER ROTC  
MEDAL

#### ROTC DETACHMENTS

- University of California -L.A. - Army ROTC
- University of California -L.A- Navy ROTC
- University of California -L.A - Air Force ROTC

- University Southern California - Army ROTC
- University Southern California- Navy ROTC
- University Southern California - Air Force ROTC

#### JROTC DETACHMENTS

- Abraham Lincoln High School Army JROTC
- Azusa High School Army JROTC
- Belmont High School Army JROTC
- Benjamin Franklin High School Army JROTC
- Blair High School Army JROTC
- Canoga Park High School Army JROTC
- Crescenta Valley High School Air Force JROTC
- Cleveland High School Army JROTC
- Crenshaw High School Marine Corps JROTC
- El Camino High School Navy JROTC
- El Rancho High School Marine Corps JROTC
- Fairfax High School Army JROTC
- Fremont High School Marine JROTC
- Fulton College Prep Academy Air Force JROTC
- George Washington High School Army JROTC
- Garfield High School Army JROTC
- Highland High School Air Force JROTC
- Hollywood High School Army JROTC
- Inglewood High School Army JROTC
- James Monroe High School JROTC
- John Muir High School Air Force JROTC
- Jordan High School Army JROTC



- John F. Kennedy High School Navy JROTC
- Knight High School, Army JROTC
- Lancaster High School Army JROTC
- Little Rock High School Army JROTC
- Locke High School Navy JROTC
- Los Angeles High School Army JROTC
- Madera High School Marine Corps JROTC
- Manual Arts High School Army JROTC
- Paramount High School Army JROTC
- Pasadena High School Navy JROTC
- Polytechnic High School Army JROTC
- Reseda High School Navy JROTC
- Roosevelt High School Army JROTC
- South Gate High School Air Force JROTC
- Thomas Jefferson High School Army JROTC
- Van Nuys High School Army JROTC
- Valencia High School Air Force JROTC
- Verdugo Hills High S. Air Force JROTC
- West Adams College Prep Army JROTC
- William S. Hart High School Army JROTC
- Woodrow Wilson High School Army JROTC







The fife and drum in various forms pre-dates recorded history -- every known civilization and every period of time used them. Being simple in design, one's imagination can tell you how they were discovered.

History tells us that the first recorded time they were used together as a military band was in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century by the Swiss. The Swiss, known for their military capabilities, had gained their independence in 1291, and often served various neighboring kingdoms as mercenaries bringing their fifes and drums with them.

By the 14<sup>th</sup> Century the fifes and drums had been adopted by most European armies. A known example where music played an important part was the Battle of Marignano in 1515.

The influence of the fife and drum music and the positive effects it had on the troops spread throughout Europe. By the late 1600's and early 1700's almost every Regiment had their own musical band, even the cavalry units developed mounted bands.

British Queen Anne (1702-1714) apparently had little interest in her army and accordingly neglected it. The British army rapidly became undisciplined. When George I, a Hanoverian, assumed the crown in 1714 he infused some of the Germanic military doctrine, which included martial music, mostly in the form of fifes and drums. His Scottish troops employed their native bagpipes in lieu of the fifes.

As the colonies in America grew they brought with them the traditions they had become accustomed to in England, which included the organization of their local militia. Many of the towns and villages had raised companies of militia and their respective colonies raised the regiments. So you would have as an example, the Lexington 'Company' of the Middlesex Regiment. Each

Company would have at least one drummer and one fifer. When the various companies came together to operate as a regiment, their fifes and drums would be 'banded' together to form the Regimental Band. The average colonial regiment numbered between 800 and 1,000 men, from a dozen 'companies'. Their combined fifes and drums would average over twenty musicians. The fifes and drums were not just for entertainment, but essential for communications. A number of specific 'beats' or tunes were created to commu-

nicate instructions to the troops. Some of these signals were: Call to Arms, Reveille, breakfast call, sick call, Officers call, Non-Com Call, various duty calls, dinner call, and lights out / tattoo. The Tattoo call comes from the Dutch "die den tap toe" which signaled the beer selling sutlers to 'turn off the taps', so the soldiers would drink up and return to camp.

The importance of the drum as an instrument to communicate messages is demonstrated by the fact that the officer-of-the-day, would always have a drummer assigned to him so he could signal the various calls as needed.

We often hear that the fifes and drums were used to send signals during battle. This was rare. First the noise of battle would drown out any signals thusly

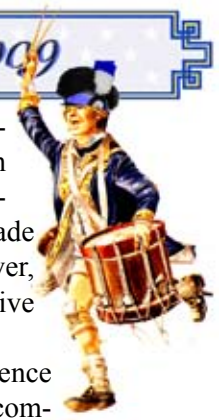
generated. Further, if you employed your musicians to send orders to the troops in battle, the enemy would also know what your intentions were.

The fifes and drums were used to position the troops before and after a battle. Various signals could be sent and the troops would reform their lines accordingly. Before a battle the troops of the army would be formed up for what was called "Trooping of the Colors". This was done so the Regimental Colors could be displayed before the troops so they would know which flag to follow. The regimental



FIFES AND DRUMS LED 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY ARMIES.





colors are so important to the troops in battle that several of the best and bravest soldiers of the regiment were assigned to protect them, they were called the 'color guard'.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century it was believed, and rightfully so, that a smartly uniformed army would have a psychological effect on the opposing enemy. As various regiments earned their fearless reputations it was clear that the enemy was likely to retreat rather than hold their ground. The same applied to the music accompanying each regiment. Many had their own tunes. Sound, like sight is an important sense. Consider what went through the minds of an army being attacked by approaching ranks of smartly uniformed troops, accompanied by the steady beat of dozens of drums - - the attacking force would appear to be unstoppable.

During the colonist's attack on the British troops at the North Bridge at Concord, Massachusetts on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1775, four British officers noted how surprised they were at the 'appearance' of the Americans militia. One has to wonder how a detachment, not wearing uniforms, marching with indifference could possibly appear to be 'Sharp looking'. It wasn't what the British officers saw, it is what they heard - - Colonel James Barrett, commanding the militia at the Bridge had massed his fifes and drums and they played a very martial new tune, "The White Cockade", as they marched on the bridge.

The use of fifes and drums bands continued throughout the American Revolution and for the next eight decades throughout the Civil War. Warfare by the Civil War had

changed drastically. The increased firepower of the weapons, speed in which armies had to manoeuvre, and long marches being minimized by trains and ships, made the fife and drum corps obsolete. However, the U. S, Marine Corps kept the tradition alive on board the ships on which they served.

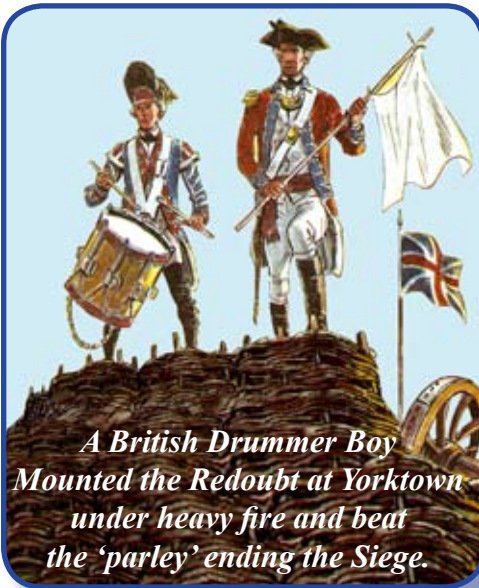
Since the centennial of the Independence of the United States in 1876 numerous communities established fife and drum corps. They recreated the music of the American Revolution - - possibly because the musical instruments used by a fife and drum corps were less expensive, and fewer instruments to have to know how to play - - the concept flourished.

Over the years the Fife and Drum Corps became more popular and continued to spread. This popularity was not lost on the United States Army. In 1960 the Army established the "Fifes and Drums of the Old Guard". Part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Infantry, stationed in Washington, D.C. which has become known as the President's Own. Today they perform at five hundred events each year. The musicians of this unit enlisted in it for their entire Army career.

They wear the 1784 regulation uniform of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry. The regular members of this elite unit wear the blue faced with red regimental coats with white 'small clothes's, while the Fife and Drum Corps wear the reverse, red regimental coats faced in blue - both where the traditional tricorne hat.

Imagine what our George Washington Massing of the Colors and Salute to Our Armed Forces would be like without Kevin Garland's "*Mountain Fifes and Drums!*"

Donald N. Moran



*A British Drummer Boy Mounted the Redoubt at Yorktown under heavy fire and beat the 'parley' ending the Siege.*



**KEVIN GARLAND LEADING THE MOUNTAIN FIFES AND DRUMS - A YOUTH BAND. THEY ARE REGULARS AT OUR MASSING OF THE COLORS AND REVOLUTIONARY WAR REENACTMENTS AS WELL AS NUMEROUS PARADES AND CIVIC EVENTS.**





# George Washington's "Watch Chain"



United States Military Academy, West Point, Site of the Chain Across the Hudson

Even before Lieutenant General Sir William Howe was forced to evacuate besieged Boston, George Washington was concerned about New York City, its massive and safe harbor and direct access to the critical Hudson River, then commonly referred to as the North River. Washington was well aware that the Hudson River was the key to the continent. Whoever controlled it would divide New England from the rest of the colonies. He dispatched his second in command to take command of New York and fortify it.

Washington was absolutely correct. Once reenforced, Sir William and an enlarged British Army supported by the Royal Navy invaded New York.

After several engagements, all of which the Continental army lost to the overwhelming forces of Great Britain, Washington was forced out of New York, pursued across New Jersey to Pennsylvania. In a stroke of genius, Washington counter-attacked on Christmas Day 1776 at Trenton and then Princeton. These small battles forced the British to abandon all they had gained during the campaign, and concentrate their forces in New York City and nearby Staten Island.

It was at this time that Washington turned his attention to the Hudson River. He was aware that the Hudson Highlands, a range of mountains that stretched from Stony Point to New Windsor and were highly defensible. Fortifying them also prevented the Indian allies of the British from gaining access to Eastern New York and New England.



General Washington addressed the subject of defending the Hudson River in a letter to the New York Provincial Congress, on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1776.

*"Gentn.:*

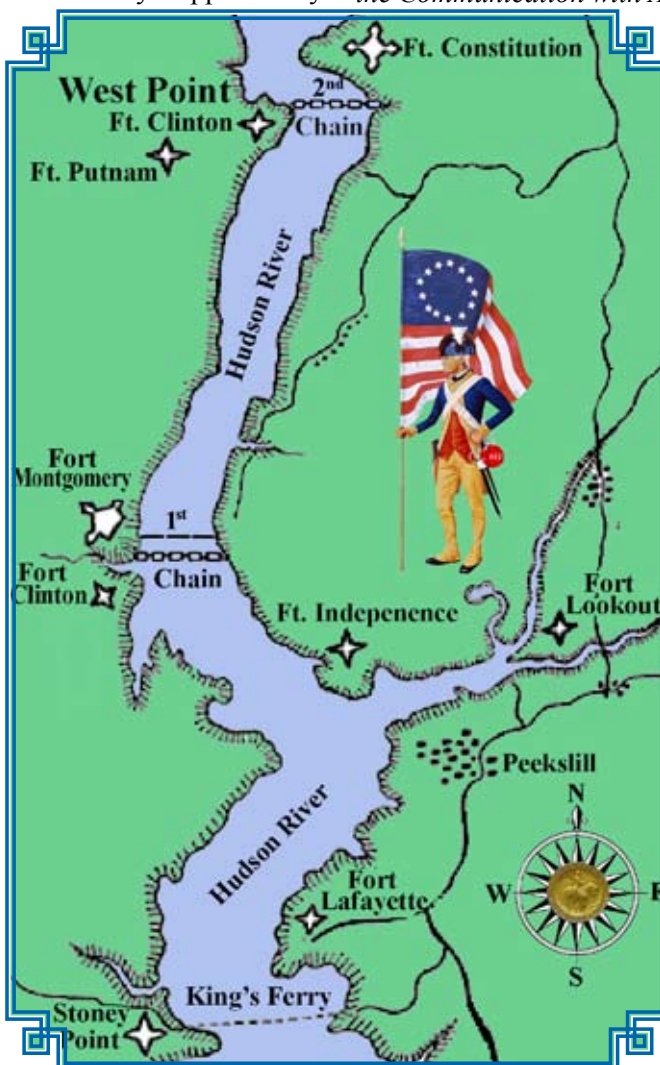
*The passage of the Enemy up the North River, is a point big with many Consequences to the Public Interest; one particularly occurs to me well deserving your attention, and to prevent which, I shall gladly give every assistance in my power, consistent with the Safety of the Army. I am informed, there are several passes on each side the River, upon which the Communication with Albany depends, of so commanding*

*a Nature, that an inconsiderable Body of Men may defend them against the largest Numbers. It may be, that on Board these Ships there may be Troops for this purpose, who expecting to be joined by the disaffected in that Quarter, or Confiding in their own Strength, may endeavour to seize those defiles in which case the intercourse between the two Armies, both by land and Water, will be wholly cut off. . . . . I am Gentn. &c.*

*Geo. Washington"*

The New York Provincial Congress had already an engineer, Bernard Romans to design and construct fortifications along the river. Romans, untrained in military engineering, relied on firepower rather than obstructions for defense, creating a controversy with his employers. He was replaced by William Smith, who designed the fortifications at Fort Montgomery, Fort Constitution and West Point.

General Washington assigned a Captain of Engineers,



AMERICAN FORTIFICATIONS ON THE HUDSON RIVER





THE STORMING OF FORT MONTGOMERY BY THE 52<sup>ND</sup> AND 57<sup>TH</sup> BRITISH REGIMENTS ON OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, 1777. PAINTING BY: JACK MEAD. COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS

Thomas Machin, a veteran of the British Army to complete the work. Machin served with great credit. He was born in 1744 near Woverhamton. Staffordshire. England and was sent to America where he resigned and stayed. He was a member of the Sons of Liberty, participated in the Boston Tea Party, assisted in designing the fortifications on Bunker (Breed's) Hill. He engineered the fortifications along the Hudson River, and it is said that he sighted the first American cannon to be fired at Yorktown (fired by Washington). He died in 1816. His son, Thomas, Jr. served as a Brigadier General during the Civil War, and his grandson, Timothy N. Machin, served as Lieutenant Governor of California 1863-1867.

Captain Machin designed a combination of Chevaux-de-frise placed in the river, and a set of rafts on which a chain was attached and a boom going from shore to shore. This was accomplished at Fort Montgomery crossing the river there.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1777, Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton, launched an attack up the Hudson River in an attempt to relieve General John Burgoyne, who had invaded New York from Canada and was stopped at Saratoga. Sir William Howe, with the majority of the British Army, stationed in New York had elected to invade across New Jersey and capture Philadelphia instead of supporting General Burgoyne - a big tactical mistake. Sir Henry, with a smaller force, made the attempt and successfully stormed Forts Clinton and Montgomery. American Major General Israel Putnam commanded the Highlands but his forces were reduced to support the efforts to stop General Burgoyne. Sir Henry

landed his troops on the East side of the Hudson, deceiving Putnam as to his objectives. Putnam ordered reinforcements from both Fort, Clinton and Montgomery. Both forts were not only weakened by the losses of men, but the forts were constructed to face the river and the rears of each were not completed. They fell to the British but with considerable losses. Clinton lost 18 officers and 169 rank and file. It is unclear if these numbers included the Hessian and Loyalist forces that also participated. After capturing the forts, they destroyed as much of them as they could, and destroyed Captain Machin's river blockade. But the effort was too late to prevent Burgoyne's surrender.

General Washington was upset over the loss of both forts, delighted in the victory at Saratoga and the taking of Burgoyne's army. He expressed his opinion that the idea of the chain was a good one, but the placement



MAP OF THE FORTIFICATIONS AT WEST POINT AND CONSTITUTION ISLAND. 1-FORT MEIGS ★ 2-FORT WYLLYS ★ 3-REDOUBT #1 ★ FORT PUTNAM ★ 5-FORT WEBB ★ 6-FORT CLINTON ★ 7-HILL CLIFF BATTERY ★ 8-GRAVEL HILL BATTERY ★ 9-ROMAN'S BATTERY ★ REDOUBT #3 ★ 10-REDOUBT #6 ★ 11-REDOUBT #5

was wrong. Captain Machin, moved north, six miles and started the work of fortifying West Point.

The location at West Point was far more desirable. It was the point where the Hudson River ceased being an estuary, and a sharp bend to the west and







then immediately again to the north made it extremely difficult for a sailing ship to navigate, and if under fire from nearby fortresses, and blockaded by another boom and chain, it would be impossible. The forts and redoubts constructed at West Point were interlocking, meaning each could assist in defending another. On the opposite side of the Hudson was Constitution Island.



THE THIRTEEN LINKS OF THE SURVIVING "GREAT CHAIN" SHOWN AT TROPHY POINT, UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

It is not really an Island, but the east side is an impassable marsh, making it easy to defend and again interlocking forts and redoubts.

The Great Chain that Captain Machin designed included 800 wrought iron links, each weighed 125 pounds, secured to forty sixteen by sixteen log rafts. They were hastily made at Sterling's Forge, located in the Ramapo Mountains. The soldiers installing this chain blockade nicknamed it "**George Washington's Watch Chain**".

Owing to the Hudson's river ice, the entire chain had to be dismantled in late fall, and as soon as the winter ice started to break up, reinstalled. This was extraordinarily difficult and tiring work.

With the exception of General Benedict Arnolds attempt to sabotage the fortifications (and chain) at West Point, no attempt by the British was made on the all important position. The British interest in Arnold's changing sides and providing them a method of capturing West Point underscores the importance they placed on the Hudson River blockade. Obviously West Point earned the title "*Key to the Continent*". No single invention during the entire eight years of the American Revolution was as important nor contributed as much to our ultimate victory. Captain Thomas Machin earned his place in our history.

But, this is not the end of the story of the 'West Point Chain'.

After the Revolution, the great chain remained at the Fortifications at West Point. It was decided that the tons of wrought iron were to valuable to al-

low the links to "rust in peace". It was sold as scrap to the West Point Foundry near Cold Springs, New York. Some far thinking individual recognized the historic importance of the West Point Chain and saved thirteen links representing the original thirteen colonies. These were stored at West Point and today are displayed at Trophy Point, shown below.

In the early 1880's a New York City junk dealer, John C.



A CLOSE UP PHOTO OF A LINK OF THE "GREAT CHAIN" SHOWING IT BEING MADE OF WROUGHT IRON WITH A VIEW OF THE HUDSON RIVER BEYOND.

Abbey, also known as "Westminster Abbey" after the great cathedral in London, claimed to have purchased the remaining Great Chain at an auction at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. An article in the New York Times stated: "*It was a byword along the East river waterfront that you could get anything from a nail to a cannon at Westminster Abbey's Old Place*". Abbey took advantage of a tendency of some wealthy Americans to want a piece of our Revolutionary War heritage, and advertised that he had genuine links of the West Point Chain. Interestingly, although the original chain links were on public display only fifty miles up the Hudson, no one apparently made the comparison. The Abbey links were sixty-five percent larger and three times heavier!

Abram Hewitt, Mayor of New York City purchased twenty-six of the links and prominently displayed them at his estate, Ringwood Manor in New Jersey. Sometime later, while visiting West Point Hewitt discovered the original chain, and knew he had been swindled. He demanded his money be refund. His son Edward, kept the embarrassing incident to himself, and then after a great deal of research including metallurgical evidence proved the West Point links sold by 'Westminster Abbey' were manufactured a century later at the Brown, Lenox and Company's Newbridge Chain and Anchor Works at Pontypridd, Wales. This chain was Royal Navy approved mooring chain.

Francis Bannerman, a New York City businessman, and neighbor of 'Westminster Abbey', bought out Abbey's business. He realized that the remaining counterfeit chain would be a good source of income. To enhance the value,





he published a booklet, "History of the Great Iron Chain Laid Across the Hudson River in 1778 by Order of General George Washington". The pamphlet had the desired affect, it brought the West Point Chain back to the public's interest, and not only increased the sales, but the price! Among the buyers were descendants of the iron master at Sterling Furnace who made the original. One of these descendants presented some of the counterfeit West Point Chain links to the United States Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut. They were displayed at the entrance to the Academy's Museum from 1933 until the fraud was discovered. As a spoof of the fraud, the links are now 'stolen' by the Plebes (4<sup>th</sup> classmen) prior to each football game, and hidden on the grounds of the Academy. If not found by the upper class men by half-time, the Plebes are granted extra privileges.

Bannerman sold the remaining 13 counterfeit links to Massachusetts's millionaire, Edward F. Searles. His wife, Mary Sherwood Hopkins, the widow of Mark Hopkins of the California Pacific Railroad fame. He had purchased a handsome statue by Thomas Ball, of George Washington and had it displayed on the grounds of his Methuen, Massachusetts estate. He added the links to decorate the site. In 1958, one of Searles' descendants sold the Washington statue and seven of the links to Hubert Eaton, founder of Forest Lawn Memorial Park. Eaton had the Washington Statue and the seven counterfeit links installed at the Glendale cemetery's "Court of Freedom", and it is still displayed there.

It is not known if Hubert Eaton was aware that the links he purchased were counterfeit or not, but even after the deception

was discovered, the links remain displayed and identified as the "West Point Great Chain".

Four additional counterfeit West Point links were purchased by British businessman, Sir Henry S. Wellcome. He donated his links to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. It is believed that said links are now stored in a warehouse in Maryland.

The Chicago Historical Society also acquired some of the West Point counterfeit links, but when they were discovered to be frauds, they unceremoniously disposed of them.

In order to divide up the chain it was necessary for Francis Bannerman to cut a connecting link, hence he was left with a collection of these damaged links. Being ingenious he devised a lucrative scheme to sell off the remainder of the chain. This was an equal opportunity fraud, designed to deceive the common citizens, not just the wealthy. He had each of the damaged links cut up, polished and made into paper weights. Then to make them more attractive, he had each one engraved:

"Section of Chain Used by Genl. Geo. Washington West Point, N.Y. 1778"

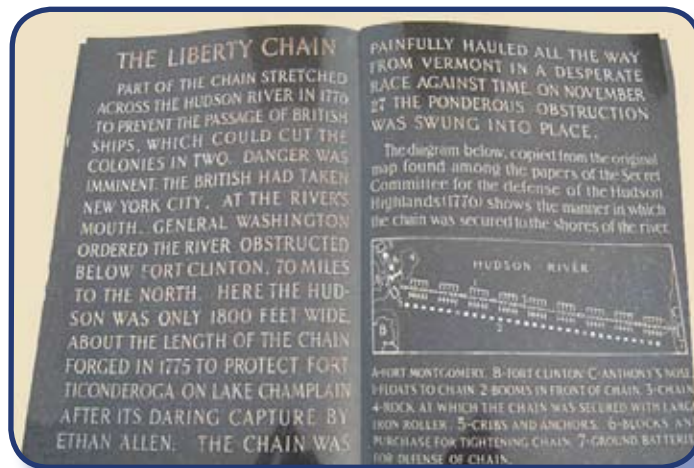
Bannerman charged \$2.75 for each paper weight and included a copy of his eight-page pamphlet. It is estimated that each of the damaged links brought Bannerman a net profit of \$350.00!

Francis Bannerman died in November 1918, and four years later, on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1922, 'Westminster' Abbey died. It was not until sixty years later, the 1980's that the deception became common knowledge, although several of the deceived certainly knew they had been swindled.

Donald N. Moran



THOMAS BALL'S STATUE OF WASHINGTON AND THE WEST POINT COUNTERFEIT LINKS AT FOREST LAWN, GLENDALE.  
*photograph courtesy of Linda Moran*



THE DESCRIPTIVE PLAQUE AT FOREST LAWN PROCLAIMING THE FOREST LAWN CHAIN AS BEING ORIGINAL





### What Ever Happened to the Traitor Benedict Arnold ?



THE TRAITOR BENEDICT ARNOLD

After Major General Benedict Arnold's failed attempt to surrender the fortress at West Point to the British, he escaped to New York where he received the £6,000 of the £10,00 offered him to betray his country, and a Colonel's commission in the British Army, and was commissioned a Brigadier General of Provincial Troops. He led a raid on Virginia and then on New London, Connecticut. After Lord Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown, Arnold sailed to England. He served for a time in the West Indies, His reception was polite but cool. It seems that to the British mind, 'a traitor is a traitor'. He and his wife Margaret 'Peggy' (Shippen) Arnold were never accepted into British society.

Arnold spent his last years barely surviving on the meager pension allowed him by the King. He died in London on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1801, followed by his wife on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1804, only 44 years of age. Both Benedict and Peggy were buried at St. Mary's Church's crypt in Battersea, London. On a recent trip (2009) to England. Compatriot the Rev. Dr. Gary Alan Dickey and his wife Tammy visited Arnold's crypt at St. Mary's and took the photographs shown herein.



BENEDICT ARNOLD IS INTERRED IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH BATTERSEA, LONDON. PHOTO COURTESY OF REV. GARY DICKEY



MAJOR GENERAL BENEDICT ARNOLD AMERICAN PATRIOT RESIDED HERE FROM 1796 UNTIL HIS DEATH 11 JUNE 1801

BENEDICT ARNOLD'S TOWN HOUSE AT 62 GLOUCESTER PLACE, LONDON, ENGLAND -- PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DON MORAN



BENEDICT ARNOLD'S MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN THE CRYPT AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH



THE MEMORIAL STAINED GLASS WINDOW FOR BENEDICT ARNOLD AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH.



# The Sons of Liberty Chapter, SAR Meeting Minutes for March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009

The Sons of Liberty Chapter, SAR, held it's March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 meeting at the Tam O'Shanter Restaurant, President Douglas H, Bradley presiding. *Attending were:* Doug Bradley, Berni Campbell, Scott Campbell, Kerry Davidson, Lowell Downer, David Eaton, Elliott Graham, Melvin Harrell, Don Moran, Tom Pyburn and the Rev. Victor Springer. *Guests were:* Mary Campbell, Dana & Virginia Patten, John & Mary Ellen Mohler, and guest speaker, Lt. Col. David J. Worley and Mrs. Gail Worley.



## OPENING CEREMONY

The invocation was given by the Rev. Victor Springer, the Pledge of Allegiance by Lt. Colonel David Worley, and pledge to the SAR by Don Moran.

## PROGRAM

Lt. Colonel David J. Worley, USAF (Ret.) Senior Military Advisor at Crescenta Valley High School Air Force JROTC brought the Chapter up to date on the program. It was a very positive report. Although there are a number of people who oppose the JROTC, their voices are muted by the overall high scholastic achievement of the cadets. Approximately 92% of the cadets graduate from High School compared to the Los Angeles School Districts of 45 % !

The Colonel then presented a second part of his program on "What America means to him" stressing the need for all of our citizens to be concerned about the erosion of their rights. It was informative and enjoyable.

## FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by Scott Campbell and seconded by Elliott Graham that the minutes of the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 meeting he accepted. The Motion carried.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer David W. Eaton presented his report showing a balance in our checking account of \$ 1,734.59. It was moved by the Rev. Victor Springer to accept the report and seconded by Jim McHargue. The motion carried.

## PERMANENT FUND REPORT

Trustee David W. Eaton presented the report on the Permanent Fund. The report was not accepted as it was incomplete. Compatriot Jim McHargue brought up

the subject of the \$1,700. owed by the color guard to the Permanent Fund. After some debate over the method of repayment and the urgency thereof, it was moved by the Rev. Victor Springer, and seconded by Scott Campbell that Trustees of the Permanent Fund and the President present a report at the April meeting in that regard. The motion was carried.



LT. COL. DAVID WORLEY, USAF (RET.) RECEIVING OUR CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION AS OUR GUEST SPEAKER AND THE MASSING OF THE COLORS MEDAL.

## REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR

Registrar Berni K. Campbell reported that as of this date Christian and Joseph Corcini and Christopher and Daniel Pickens had been approved. Seven additional applications are at National for approval, and he will be submitting two more.

## REPORT ON THE LIBERTY TREE

Editor Don Moran reported that we could no longer meet the requirements of the Post Officer for bulk mailing, and as of the April edition, will be transmitted solely electronically.

## SUPPORT OF THE COL. JOHN FORD FUND

It was recommended that discussion of the support of the Colonel John Ford Fund be delayed until the issues over the Permanent Fund are resolved.

## REPORT ON THE CHAPTER MEDALS

Secretary Don Moran reported that the cost of producing the two medals has been recovered and from this date forward, it is all profit.

## ROTC / JROTC PROGRAM REPORT

Secretary Don Moran reported that all forty-seven medals have been distributed to the various ROTC and JROTC Detachments. He then moved that the Chapter accept the request of the Inglewood High School Army JROTC Detachment to enter into our program. It was seconded by Scott Campbell. The Motion carried.

## REPORT OF THE COLOR GUARD

Our Color Guard Commander, Melvin Harrell reported that our Color Guard / Reenactment group participated in three events since our last meeting. The first was at a one room school at Two Harbors, Catalina Island. Hosted by USC - - they arranged for transportation to and from Catalina, housing, meals and held a pot luck dinner after the reenactment, and a private tour of the Island. The second Living History presentation was made before 150 students K-8 at the Carden School, and the third was an all day open-air encampment at Azusa for Los Angeles History day. All three events were a success.

## CLOSING CEREMONIES

The benediction was given by the Rev. Victor Springer.

The SAR Recessional by President Douglas Bradley.

There being no further business before the Chapter the meeting was adjourned.

Donald N. Moran  
Secretary





COMING EVENTS  
MONTHLY MEETING

APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2009

SPEAKER:

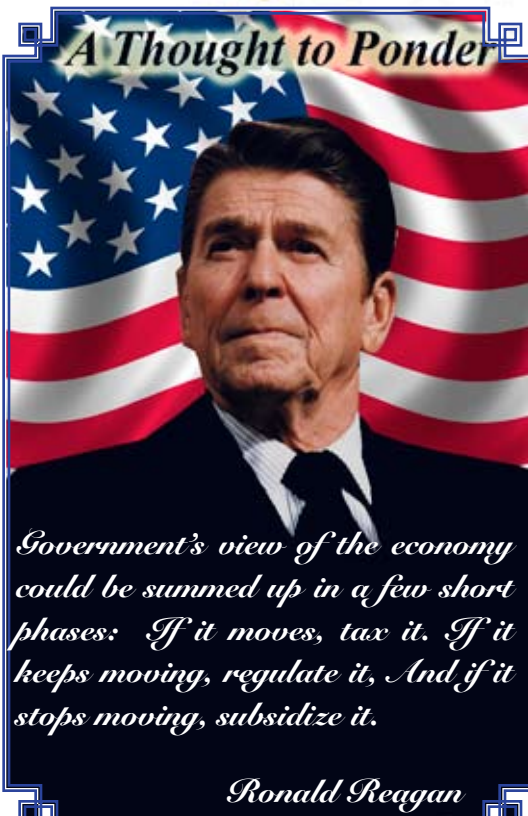
GARY BOHANNON

TOPIC:

"THE FUTURE OF OUR  
CHAPTER'S  
WEB PRESENCE"

To be held at the  
Tam O'Shanter Inn  
2980 Los Feliz Blvd.  
Los Angeles

A Thought to Ponder



2009

- April 17<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> - State Meeting  
Irvine, CA
- Apr. 25<sup>th</sup> --- Monthly Meeting
- May 16<sup>th</sup> --- Monthly Meeting
- June 20<sup>th</sup> --- Monthly Meeting
- July 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> - Annual Congress  
- Atlanta, GA
- July 18<sup>th</sup> --- Monthly Meeting
- Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> --- Monthly Meeting
- Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> --- Monthly Meeting
- Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> ----- Marching  
Through History
- Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> - State Meeting  
Riverside - Mission Inn
- Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> --- Monthly Meeting
- Dec. tba ---- Christmas Party