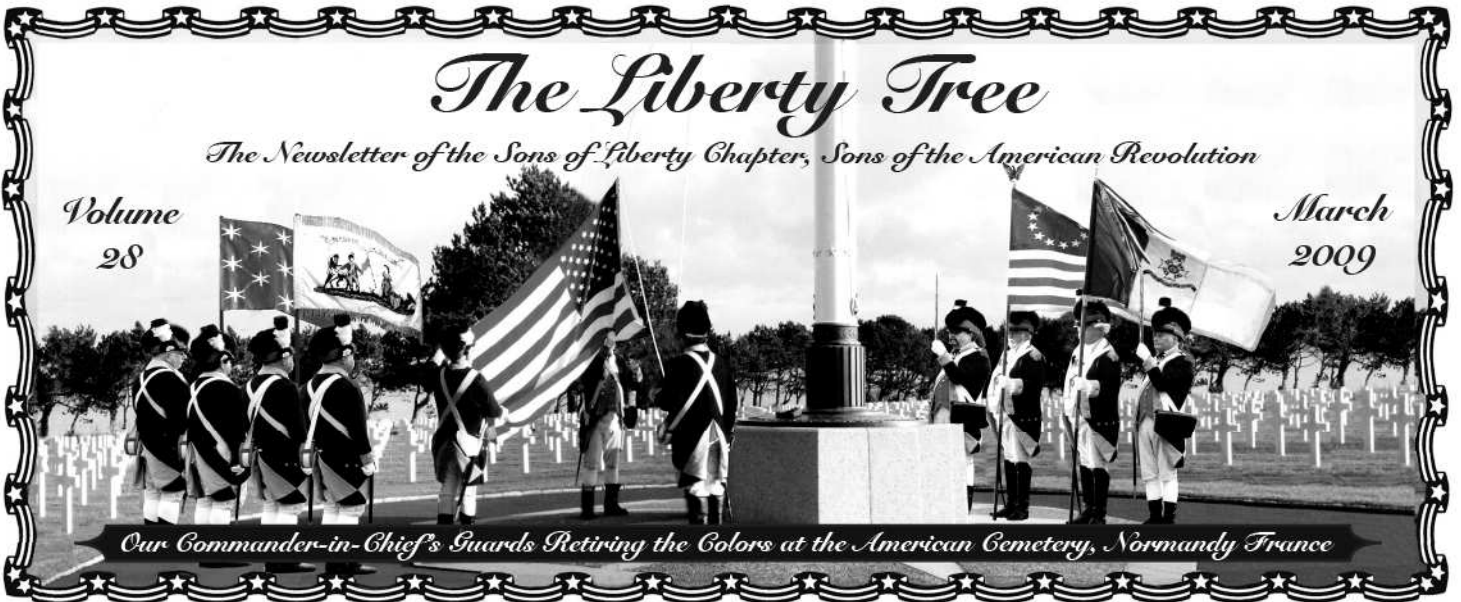


The Liberty Tree

The Newsletter of the Sons of Liberty Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

Volume
28

March
2009



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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

THIS IS THE LAST 'HARD COPY' OF THE LIBERTY TREE NEWSLETTER

Owing to changes in the U.S. Post Office bulk mailing regulations we are now finding it impossible to comply and continue to furnish 'hard copies' of this newsletter to you via mail. We can not afford to use 'first class' mail, as the rates continue to rise as well as the cost of printing. Consideration was given to provide hard copies to those who do not have computers, however, that would require producing two different editions, one for mailing and one on-line.



At our February 21st, 2009, meeting it was decided to make the

change.

On the plus side, the issues posted on our web site each month will be in full color and not be restrained to 12 pages. This will allow us to publish longer more detailed articles. The first of each month, the new edition will be posted on the Chapter web site (address below). We will also prepare an E-mail notification list. Please send your E-mail address to our Secretary at: dmoransar@att.net. This will be your last hard copy.

CHAPTER ANNUAL RECOGNITIONS

With our annual Installation of officers meeting in January being a joint meeting with several other Societies, we limited the amount of time spent on recognizing the contributions of our members and support personnel. These awards are made at our February meeting. Former President David M. Hayball, presented Certificates of Distinguished Service to eighteen Sons of Liberty Chapter members.



PRESIDENT DOUGLAS BRADLEY PRESENTED FORMER PRESIDENT DAVID HAYBALL THE SAR OFFICER'S NECK RIBBON AND SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP BADGE, WITH THE FORMER CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S PIN AFFIXED TO THE RIBBON.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: OUR APRIL MEETING WILL BE ON SATURDAY THE 25th



Named Best Chapter in
the SAR - 1983,
1989, 1995, 1996,
2002 & 2003

Visit Our Web Site at:



Named Best Newsletter
in the SAR
1983, 1985, 1989,
1992, 1994, 1999 & 2002

www.Sons-of-Liberty-SAR-org



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Trustees of the Permanent Fund
Wm. Scott Campbell - Term: 2006-2009
David W. Eaton - Term: 2007-2010
James C. McHargue - Term 2008-2011



The Liberty Tree is the official news-letter 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 - - Email: dnmoransar@att.net. Virginia Emrey Patten, Assistant Editor. Linda Moran and Jim Bradley photographers.



Meeting Notice

12 NOON - SATURDAY MARCH 21st,
2009

Program

“TODAY’S JROTC PROGRAM”

Speaker:

LT. COLONEL DAVID J. WORLEY, USAF (RET.)
SENIOR MILITARY ADVISOR
CRESCENTA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL AIR FORCE JROTC

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

WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



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 - (Iraq),
- 2nd Lieutenant Sean D. Hayball, USA - (Schofield Barracks, Hawaii)
- Sergeant Major William Fitzgerald, USMC - (Okinawa)
- LCP Christopher Pickens USMC - (Colorado)
- PFC Daniel Pickens USA - (Fort Benning, Georgia)

COMPATRIOTS IN THE NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Daniel Q. Prang ----- 03/05
 Reginald M. Humphreys ----- 03/06
 Karl Wm. Jacobs ----- 03/19

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Kenneth & P.J. Walker
Married: 03/15/1997 - 12 years

Larry & Betty McClanahan
Married: 03/16/1963 - 46 years

Richard & Mary Harbin
Married: 03/20/1952 - 57 years

Mark & Roxanne Gujda
Married: 03/21/1998 - 11 years

Elliott & Gloria Graham
Married: 03/23/1975 - 34 years

William & Dorothy Blair
Married: 03/26/1944 - 65 years

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Name	1	2	3	4	5
Nicholas Anduze	✓				
Michael Biferio	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Borncamp	✓				
Dino Cardone	✓				
Andrew Clayton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chistian Corsini	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joseph Corsini	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jay Dupre	✓				
Michael Gillepie, Sr.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michael Gillespie, Jr.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Daniel Harrell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jonathan Harrell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michael Harrell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gary Alan Harris	✓	✓	✓		
Joshua Hayball	✓	✓			
Bradley Hill	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bob Jacobs	✓	✓			
Bill Knoll	✓	✓			
Dennis LeMay	✓				
John Lundstrom	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

John Mohler	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sean O'Rourke	✓				
Christopher Pickens	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Daniel P. Pickens	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Slay	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ray Simison	✓	✓	✓		
Michael Squires	✓	✓			
John Stites	✓				
Daniel Wilson	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Matthew Wilson	✓	✓	✓	✓	
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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

CHAPTER ANNUAL RECOGNITIONS

continued from page 1



L-TO-R: FORMER PRESIDENT DAVID HAYBALL, GREG GUJDA, MARY CAMPBELL, SCOTT CAMPBELL, BERNI CAMPBELL, KERRY DAVIDSON, GARY BOHANNON, DOUGLAS BRADLEY AND JIM BRADLEY.



L-TO-R: FORMER PRESIDENT DAVID HAYBALL, REV. VICTOR SPRINGER, MELVIN HARRELL, LINDA MORAN, DON MORAN AND COL JOHN MOHLER.

Six members who will receive Certificates of Distinguished Service for the efforts on behalf of the Chapter and were not shown above are: Jennifer Bishop, David Eaton, Jim McHargue, Virginia Emrey-Patten, Dr. Francis Powers, and Lt. Col. David Smith,

A special thanks from President Hayball for the assistance and support he received during his administration.



The 27th George Washington Massing of the Colors and Salute to Our Armed Forces



The 27th Annual Massing of the Colors and Salute to our Armed Forces was an unqualified success. The good Lord provided a break in the weather. We had several distinguished guests among them were our President General David N. Appleby, from Missouri our keynote speaker, Judith H. Swan, Governor General of the Society of Mayflower Descendants, Stephen R. Renouf, President of the California Society, SAR, Compatriot Lucas H. Borncamp, President of the California Society, C.A.R., Barbara P. Aerni, State Organizing Secretary for the California DAR and Frederick Alexander who portrayed George Washington. Special guest color guardsman was Barney Ellis of the Kansas Society, President of the SAR Foundation, Our Master of Ceremonies was our Chapter President Douglas Bradley.

The inspiring music was supplied by Kevin Garland and his wonderful Mountain Fifes and Drums. The Bagpipe played by former California Society Chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Gary Alan Dickey, Taps played by Lt. Col. Dean Thomas, C.A.P, and the National Anthem sung by Compatriot Jim Blauer, California Society state Historian. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Larry J. Magerkurth, the SAR's Inspector General.

Our clergy played a special part in the ceremonies, our Rev. Victor Springer, provided the invocation, The tribute to our Nation's military dead by The Bishop Louis Carlson and the prayer for our active duty military by Brigadier General Stephen Kirtley, Chief of Chaplains, USAVR, and the benediction by the Rev. Dr. Philip Dodson, California Society, SAR.

The Honor Guard, serving as well as the parade directors, was the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, with members from San Francisco (Lt. Col. Robert Ebert), The Thomas Jefferson (Oakland) Chapter (Stephen Renouf), The Redlands Chapter (led by Col. Willard Langford) and the Sons of Liberty Chapter.

The Flag folding ceremony led by Lt. Col. David Smith and the Edwards Air Force Base's Blue Eagle Honor Guard.



Photo courtesy of Linda Moran

OUR PRESIDENT DOUGLAS BRADLEY, SERVING AS MASTER OF CEREMONIES AND THE WREATH THAT WAS LAID AT THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.



Photo courtesy of Linda Moran

COMPATRIOT BARNEY ELLIS, PRESIDENT OF THE SAR FOUNDATION RECEIVING THE CHAPTER'S MASSING MEDAL FROM PRESIDENT BRADLEY. BARNEY FLEW HERE FROM KANSAS JUST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MASSING !



Photo courtesy of Linda Moran

THE OFFICERS OF THE 23rd REGIMENT OF FOOT, THE ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS, GEORGE MACK AND JACK PRICHARD PURCHASED MASSING MEDALS AND HAD PRESIDENT BRADLEY PRESENT THEM TO THEIR MEN.





Photo courtesy of Eileen Tisch



THE FIFTY-FOUR COLOR GUARDS FORMED UP AT THE HALL OF LIBERTY. THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S GUARDS LEADING

Photo courtesy of Linda Moran



Photo courtesy of Linda Moran



Photo courtesy of Linda Moran



THE REVIEW OF THE MASSES COLOR GUARDS BY THE OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY, THE UNITED STATES ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVES, PRESIDENT GENERAL DAVID APPLEBY, FREDERICK ALEXANDER (GEORGE WASHINGTON), ESCORTED BY STATE PRESIDENT STEPHEN RENOUF (CARRYING GENERAL WASHINGTON'S POSITION FLAG, AND EVENT COORDINATOR DONALD MORAN

The Musket Salute was performed by Morgans Rifles and the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, and the Artillery Salute by Charles Capsar as Colonel Lamb's artillery.

Behind the scenes of any event are a number of hard workers. Supporting this event was: Jennifer Bishop, Scott Campbell, Kerry Davidson, Lowell Downer, Glenn Gujda and Paula McHargue - - all manning the registration and ROTC tables.

Jim and Paula McHargue provided transportation and entertained President General David Appleby, David Hayball and Ronald Johnson assisted where needed.

Jim Bradley, David Lasher, John Mohler and Linda Moran served as Chapter photographers.

The participating 54 Color Guards were:

- American Legion - Post 193
- Azusa High School Army JROTC
- Benjamin Franklin High School Army JROTC
- Cleveland High School, Army JROTC
- Civil Air Patrol - Squadron No. 153
- Colonial Dames XVII Century
- Crescenta Valley High School AFJROTC
- Don Antonio Lugo High School JROTC
- Fairfax High School Army JROTC
- Fulton College Preparatory Army JROTC
- Garfield High School Army JROTC
- George Washington High School Army JROTC
- Gladstone High School Army JROTC
- Highland High School AFROTC
- Hollywood High School Army JROTC
- James Monroe High School Army JROTC
- John F. Kennedy High School Navy JROTC
- Jordan High School JROTC
- Little Rock High School JROTC
- Col. John Lamb's Continental Artillery
- Los Angeles High School Army JROTC
- Manual Arts High School Army JROTC
- Morgan's Rangers
- Mountain Fifes and Drums
- Pasadena High School Navy JROTC
- Reseda High School Navy JROTC
- Coachella Valley Chapter, SAR
- General George S. Patton Chapter, SAR
- Harbor Chapter, SAR
- Montecello Chapter, Kansas Society, SAR
- Kern Chapter, SAR
- Orange County Chapter, SAR
- Riverside Chapter, SAR (two color guards)





PARTICIPATING COLOR GUARDS, continued

Redlands Chapter, SAR
 San Francisco Chapter, SAR
 San Diego Chapter, SAR
 Sons of Liberty Chapter, SAR
 South Coast Chapter, SAR
 Thomas Jefferson Chapter, SAR
 Sons of Confederate Veterans
 Sons of Union Veterans

23rd Regiment Royal Welsh Fusiliers, B.A.R.
 33rd Regiment of Foot, B.A.R.
 U. S. Navy Cadets - Langley Division

University of California, Los Angeles Army ROTC
 U.S. Volunteers Joint Services Command
 United States Navy
 United States Marine Corps
 United States Air Force
 Van Nuys High School Army JROTC
 Verdugo Hills High School, Army JROTC
 Veterans of Foreign Wars.
 West Adams College Prep. Army JROTC
 Woodrow Wilson Army JROTC High School



Photo courtesy of Eileen Tisch



THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S GUARDS BEING GIVEN LAST MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS ON ORGANIZING THE FIFTY-FOUR PARTICIPATING COLOR GUARDS

Photo courtesy of Eileen Tisch



THE MOUNTAIN FIFES AND DRUMS, LED BY DRUM MAJOR KEVIN GARLAND, 40 STRONG ADDED GREATLY TO THE CEREMONIES

Photo courtesy of Linda Moran



JIM BLAUER, STATE HISTORIAN SINGING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM. JIM HAS PERFORMED IN THIS ROLE FOR A DECADE!

Photo courtesy of Linda Moran



THE REV. VICTOR M. SPRINGER, CHAPLAIN OF THE SONS OF LIBERTY CHAPTER GIVING THE BENEDICTION.

Photo courtesy of Linda Moran



STATE PRESIDENT STEPHEN R, RENOUF BRINGING GREETINGS FROM THE CALIFORNIA SOCIETY, SAR

Photo courtesy of Linda Moran



FREDERICK "TED" ALEXANDER, AS GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON BRINGING GREETINGS - STEPHEN RENOUF SERVED AS HIS COLOR BEARER.

Photo courtesy of Linda Moran



JUDITH H. SWAN
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF THE SOCIETY OF
MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS BRINGING GREETINGS



LUCAS H. BORNCAMP
STATE PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA SOCIETY CHILDREN
OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BRINGING GREETINGS.

Photo courtesy of Linda Moran



BARBARA PAYNE AERNI
STATE ORGANIZING SECRETARY OF THE
CALIFORNIA SOCIETY, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION BRINGING GREETINGS



DAVID N. APPLEBY
PRESIDENT GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL
SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICA REVOLUTION
THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Photo courtesy of Linda Moran



THE BISHOP LOUIS V. CARLSON,
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA
SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
MEMORIALIZING OUR NATIONS WAR DEAD.



BRIGADIER GENERAL STEPHEN KIRTLEY, USAVR
CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS OF THE U.S. VOLUNTEERS JOINT
SERVICE COMMAND OFFERING A PRAYER FOR ALL
OUR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN.

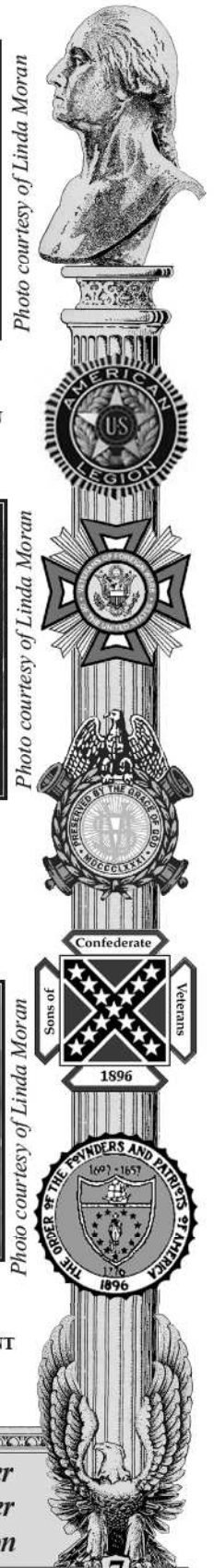


Photo courtesy of Linda Moran



The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any way, no matter how justified shall be directly proportional as to how they perceived the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.

George Washington



Photo courtesy of Eileen Tisch

COMPATRIOT / LT. COLONEL DAVID SMITH, USAF, ASSISTED BY THE BLUE EAGLES HONOR GUARD PERFORMING THE "FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY" -- ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT.



Photo courtesy of Eileen Tisch

THE OFFICERS OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND DIGNITARIES PREPARING FOR THE PASS IN REVIEW



Photo courtesy of Linda Moran

PRESIDENT GENERAL DAVID APPLEBY WITH MEMBERS OF FOURTEEN CALIFORNIA SOCIETY, SAR COLOR GUARDS, AND BARNIE ELLIS OF THE KANSAS SOCIETY COLOR GUARD. AMONG THOSE WITH THE PRESIDENT GENERAL ARE STEPHEN RENOUF, THE REV. DR. PHILLIP DODSON, STATE CHAPLAIN, AND THE BISHOP LOUIS CARLSON, STATE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT.



Flag Folding Ceremony

Among the moving ceremonies that are performed at our annual Massing of the Colors and Salute to our Armed Forces is the Flag Folding Ceremony. Our Compatriot, Lieutenant Colonel David Smith, USAF, presently stationed at Edwards Air Force Base suggested it four years ago, and it has been performed ever since. The Lt. Colonel employs his base's Honor Guard, the Blue Eagles, to do the flag folding. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

THE CEREMONY

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, *"Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."*

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our coun-

try and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered in to the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on mother's day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

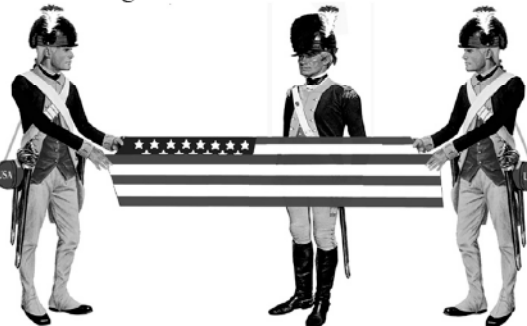
The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, *"In God we Trust."*

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.



GENERAL WASHINGTON HAD HIS PRIORITIES RIGHT !

En route to Yorktown, the General wrote the Commander of his personal guard: "September 7th, 1781. *The best security for your liquors and other stores which are liable to be pilfered or otherwise wasted, will be to place them in a situation in the [ships] hold where they cannot be got at easily. George Washington*"



The Skirmish at King's Bridge Finally Explained!



In 1815 an accidental fire at the Boston Naval Yard, where the records of the Commander-in-Chief's Guards were stored, were destroyed. At the end of the Revolutionary War, General Washington had entrusted these records to the custody of Major Caleb Gibbs, who had served as the Commandant of this elite unit. Without these records, large gaps in the history of the unit exist.

One of the most troubling of these was the skirmish that took place at King's Bridge, which connected British held New York City to the rest of the state, on July 3rd, 1781. Until now, the only known record of the skirmish was found in Carlos F Godfrey's Book: *"The Commander-in-Chief's Guards"*. It read: *"Headquarters, 11th July 1781, Captain Pemberton, Return of killed, wounded and missing of His Excellency's Guard in the late skirmish at King's Bridge - one lieutenant and one sergeant wounded; fourteen rank and file wounded - one missing and three of the wounded since dead."*

*Lt. Levi Holden
C-in-C Guards."*

Since none of the muster rolls from that period have survived we can only estimate the number of men in the unit at the time, probably about fifty. The 'report' was sent to Captain Robert Pemberton, assistant Adjutant General. Lieutenant Holden was second in command of the Guard.

One third of the detachment were casualties! From General Washington's diary no mention is made of his Guards being engaged, and for that date all he reported was that he had been on a reconnaissance mission near King's Bridge.

Godfrey wrote in his book, 104 years ago: ". . . he [Washington] was discovered by a foraging party of the enemy, 1,500 strong, who had sailed out at daybreak to scour the country, when an irregular skirmish ensued, which resulted very disastrously to the Guard . . ." He then quotes Holden's report to Pemberton. The only reference found referring to a British foraging party is found in Godfrey's

book, He probably expended a great deal of time attempting to unravel the events of that day, and made an assumption.

The question still remained, how could 50 Guardsmen, with single shot muskets hold off 1,500 regulars? Even at the bridge itself, which would be a major obstacle for the British, the river is so narrow that they could easily form up on the south bank and fire devastating volleys at the Guard. With 30-to-1 odds, the skirmish would have been over in minutes.

In hopes of finding an answer we researched the pension records of those members of the Guard that had applied and received pensions, we discovered some references to the skirmish, but none explained what happened, but did mention their having been wounded. The Commander of



THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S GUARD IN THE SKIRMISH AT KING'S BRIDGE.

the Guard, Lieutenant William Colfax, who succeeded Major Gibbs, was wounded and we will relate the story of his injury later. Private Jedediah Brown was wounded in both arms, Private John Dent lost an eye, Private William Martin was struck in the neck by a musket ball, Luther Smith suffered a bayonet wound to his left leg, Private Edward Whel-

an was wounded in the left foot, Privates Lewis Campbell and Edward Wade stated they had been wounded in the skirmish, but provided no details. Of all these men, only Private Dent was discharged. From these records we only know the names of 8 of the 17 wounded or killed.

Luther Smith's wound, caused by a bayonet, indicates hand-to-hand combat which adds a whole new dimension to the engagement and even more unanswered questions.

Dr. William Colfax, Jr. the son of Lieutenant Colfax, wrote about his father, who had achieved a high level of post war prominence, having retired from the Army as a Major General in 1815. The Doctor left us a vivid description of his father's King's Bridge wound. He wrote: ". . . while on horseback, in an exposed position a bullet was sent through his body, just above the hip and below the bowels, entering in front and coming out behind. The long buff waistcoat he wore at the time is preserved by his descendants, and the





hole is apparent, made by the almost fatal shot”.

Long known to us was another member of the Guards, Corporal Asa Redington. He joined the Commander-in-Chief's Guards on June 16th, 1781, and served until it's final disbanding on December 20th, 1783. He was one of the twelve Guardsmen that escorted General Washington's baggage from Newburgh, New York to Mount Vernon. One of his surviving letters provided the surnames of the twelve Guardsmen and is the only source of that information. He also left a journal. We secured a transcription of that portion of the journal, but made no effort to obtain the entire document as it was not pertinent to research. However, recently, thanks to the assistance of Mimi Calter, Special Projects Librarian at Stanford University, we obtained the journal, and found within it's pages a first person account of the skirmish at King's Bridge, which explains the engagement.

“ On the 2nd day of July, the Regiment moved from their quarter to the Hudson River, and in the evening embarked on board flat boats at Tellers Point, about 30 miles above New York.

We rowed down the river to near Dobbs Ferry, where we landed under the side of a mountain on the Jersey side of the River, cut green bushes and covered the boats to avoid discovery, went up the side of the mountain, and there remained through the day covered by thick woods - - - were not allowed to make any fires or cook any food.

About the sun setting the companies were paraded, and Lieut. Sherburne who then had the care of the company to which I belonged, harangued us in rather a rough way. “My lads, said he, some of you will see H_ll before morning”, and verified the assertion with a solemn oath, “and if one of you disobey my orders, I will run you through, and if you see me flinch, serve me in the same manner.” What a wicked man!

About nine o'clock in the morning we again embarked and fell down the River, a number of miles, and landed about two o'clock in the morning of the 3rd of July on the east side of the River about 2 1/2 miles above King's Bridge, and apparently undiscovered.

After ascending the bank, the troops were paraded and formed in order of battle. We then took up the line of march (the night being very dark) and paraded toward King's Bridge, where the enemy had a strong post - - - just before day we came in contact with their picket guard, and a

sharp firing commenced in front, when the enemy retreated and joined their friends on the other side of the bridge. We then quickly marched and took position about 100 rods from the Bridge, covered by some birch bushes by the road side. About this time it was about half way between day and sun rising. In a few minutes after we were thus posted, a body of the B. [British] cavalry came dashing along the road, and were immediately fired upon, some of whom were shot down and left dead in the road. The others instantly retreated over the bridge, and hauled up the draw to prevent our crossing it, which we had no idea of doing. We then lay on our arms, having a kind of respite saving now and then a few muskets were fired by sharp shooters, some of the balls doing execution, as several of our company were wounded, one of them, I think, mortally.

The enemy soon began to muster on [New] York Island, both infantry and cavalry. I could see their arms glistening in the sun in many places on the high lands.

We were then moved off the ground, and took post on a high swell of land, perhaps 3/4 of a mile from the bridge, where we could plainly see all the enemy on the other side [of] the East River; which the bridge crossed. By this time we were joined by Colonel Sporets [actually Lt. Colonel Ebenezer Sprout] Regiment of about

400 men, making the whole 900 men. These men also came down the River by boats.

At about 8 O'clock in the morning the enemy let down their bridge and a large body of cavalry and infantry advanced upon us and a severe action ensued. The Americans were commanded by General Lincoln. We were overpowered by numbers and retreated from the ground, getting however behind double walls, and keeping up a fire upon them, retarding their advance. We were kept in close order to prevent the cavalry from charging upon us, whom we most dreaded.

The dead and wounded were mostly left on the ground, to the mercy of the enemy. I expected to have been killed, wounded or captured on that fateful day, indeed I saw no chance for escape. I, however, by the protection of Divine Being, got off with a whole skin.

After retreating about a mile, hard driven by the enemy, to our great joy a body of French Cavalry



GUARDSMAN EDWARD WHELAN HAVING HIS WOUNDED FOOT BANDAGED BY A SURGEON AND COMFORTED BY LIEUTENANT HOLDEN.





[The Duke de Lauzun's cavalry] hove in sight, and immediately after the front of the main army under Washington appeared. On discovery of this large force, the enemy gave up the pursuit and retired over the bridge. I felt quite relieved at this unexpected turn of good luck having given up all for lost.

I afterward learned the plan was for the party under Lincoln to engage the enemy, draw out a large body of them, and then retreat, while the meantime a part of Washington's army was to march down the River road and cut off their retreat unto York Island. this plan failed owing to the badness of the roads and bridges, so that the Army under Washington, who marched the whole night, were unable to arrive in season to accomplish their design. Of this arrangement, however, we poor soldiers were wholly ignorant, and seemed to be doomed to destruction. Many poor fellows lost their lives on that day, and many were wounded.

Although I had no sleep for two nights, I had to watch with the wounded men the night after the action. They were taken into a large house, the lower floor of which was covered by these poor fellows. The next morning, 4th of July, those that were so badly wounded as to be unable to ride in wagons, were carried in biers on the men's shoulders, as the army marched that day up the river about 8 miles, and took post at Dobb's Ferry. About 12 men were assigned to carry one man, and relieve each other at intervals. I assisted

in moving one poor fellow who was shot through the body. He was a young man, appeared to be a fine fellow, and belonged to Gen. Washington's Life Guard, most of who took part in the action. The day was very warm, and we had to rest him often, under the shade, and fan him with small bushes. He greatly lamented his fate, belonged to New Jersey, said that if he had minded his mother he should not have been in that dreadful situation. A number died on the march, and were simply buried by the roadside, being told that such a one had died, he said "It will be my turn next". He, however, lived through the day, but I understood he afterwards died. What a dreadful thing is war."

No record can be found as to why the Commander-in-Chief's Guards were involved. 900 Continentals were hotly

engaged in the skirmish and badly outnumbered, fifty of which were members of the 'Guard'. We can only assume that word was sent to General Washington that his light infantry was heavily engaged and needed support. As he did at the Battle of Connecticut Farms, he ordered his personal Guard, marching with him, under Lieutenant William Colfax, to rush forward and support the Light Infantry.

The unnamed Guardsman that Asa Redington helped carry and buried alongside the road, was probably the man Lieutenant Holden mentioned as being missing.

Thusly, a historical mystery has been resolved.

Donald N. Moran



The Minutes of the February 21st, 2009 Meeting

The Sons of Liberty Chapter, SAR, held it's February 21st, 2009 meeting at the Tam O'Shanter Restaurant, President Douglas H, Bradley presiding. *Attending were:* Gary Bohannon, Doug Bradley, Jim Bradley, Berni Campbell, Scott Campbell, Kerry Davidson, Lowell Downer, Elliott Graham, Greg Gujda, Melvin Harrell, David Hayball, Ron Johnson, John Mohler, Don Moran, Tom Pyburn and the Rev. Victor Springer. *Guests were:* Ted Alexander (George Washington), Mary Campbell, Barney Ellis (Kansas Society, SAR), Kathy Harrell, Paul McAtee, Barbara Johnson and Linda Moran.



OPENING CEREMONY

The Invocation was given by the Rev. Victor Springer, the Pledge of Allegiance by Lt. Col. Tom Pyburn, and the pledge to the SAR by Barney Ellis, President of the SAR Foundation, from Kansas.

PROGRAM

There was no formal program, just a general discussion on the Massing of the Colors was had.

Continued on page 13 -->



THE FEBRUARY 21ST MEETING MINUTES, *continued*

NOVEMBER 17TH MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the November 17th, 2008 meeting were distributed. It was moved by the Scott Campbell and seconded by David Hayball to accept the minutes. The motion carried.

DECEMBER 20TH MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the December 20th, 2008 meeting were distributed. It was moved by the Rev. Victor Springer and seconded by Kerry Davidson to accept the minutes. The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The Treasurer's report was distributed with a balance in our checking account of \$1,448,09. It was moved by David Hayball and seconded by Melvin Harrell to accept the report. The motion carried.

PERMANENT FUND REPORT

The report of the Permanent Fund Trustees was distributed. The combined total of the Chapter's Permanent Fund is \$53,621,75. It was moved by Ron Johnson and seconded by Tom Pyburn to accept the report. The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR

Registrar Berni Campbell gave the report, with 25 applications in various stages of completion, with 9 of them having been received at National Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky

CHANGE IN MEETING DATE

Owing to a conflict in with the State Society's Spring meeting, it was moved by the Rev. Victor Springer and seconded by David Hayball, that we hold our April meeting on the 25th. The motion carried.

CHAPTER MEDALS PROPOSAL

Compatriot Don Moran reported that he has received orders for 23 medals to be

delivered at tomorrow's Massing of the Colors. If we sell another ten (10) we will have reached the break even point, and all future sales will be profits.

**THE LIBERTY TREE VERSUS
THE POST OFFICE**

Compatriot Don Moran advised the Chapter that in the U.S. Post Office's continued effort to commit financial suicide, they have laid a new rule on bulk mailing. We are now required to electronically submit our address labels to their web site for comparison to detect any address changes. The software to do this cost \$7,900.! A mailing house has been contacted and they will do this for us at a cost of \$.25 per label. This cost plus the bulk mailing cost equals first class for six pages!

This action on the part of the Post Office and the increased costs of printing have made continuing mailing The Liberty Tree cost prohibitive.

It is therefore moved by David Hayball, and seconded by Gary Bohannon that The Liberty Tree be provided electronically with no provisions for hard copy. The motion carried. The editor is to provide one more edition via mail with an explanation.

THE COLONEL JOHN FORD FUND

The Redlands Chapter has asked us to contribute to the newly established Colonel John Ford Fund. A detailed flyer on the subject was distributed. It was informally decided to wait until our March meeting, when we receive an updated report on our Permanent Funds before we consider the request.

REPORT OF OUR HISTORIAN

Our Chapter's Historian, Jim Bradley has prepared a two page history of the Chapter's activities during 2008, to be posted on our web site. Copies were distributed and all agreed it was a good idea.

OUR HISTORY ARCHIVES WEB SITE

Our Web Master, Compatriot Gary Bohannon provided us with the latest very impressive statistics on the activities on our web site. Thousands have been accessing our articles and some have added links to it on their web sites. There are many different statistics to measure our site's success. One of the key metrics is "*Time Spent On the Site.*" Obviously, someone who spends five or ten minutes on the site is finding something of value. RevolutionaryWarArchives.org is now attracting over 40,000 visitors annually who spend from two minutes to over an hour on our site during their visit. Many are school kids researching a report, sent to our site by a link on their school or teacher's website. Our chapter is having a big impact at getting the real word out about our ancestors' struggle and incredible achievements.

BENEDICTION

The closing benediction was led by the Rev. Victor M. Springer.

CLOSING RITUAL

The closing ritual was led by President Douglas H. Bradley.

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

Donald N. Moran,
Secretary

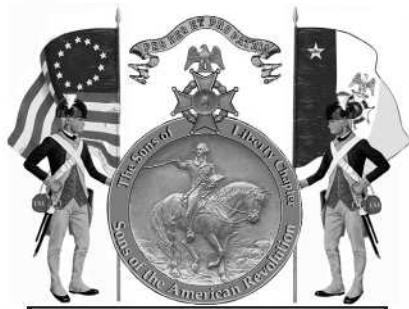


A Point to Ponder

“. . . It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds . . .”

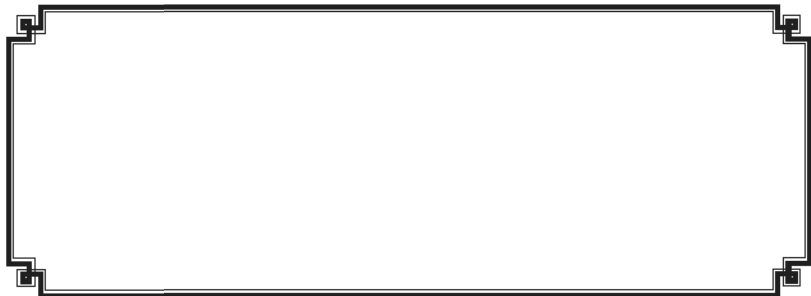
Samual Adams





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The Liberty Tree

March 2009

COMING EVENTS MONTHLY MEETING

MARCH 21ST, 2009

Topic:

THE VALUE OF THE
ROTC PROGRAM

SPEAKER:

LT. COL. DAVID J. WORLEY

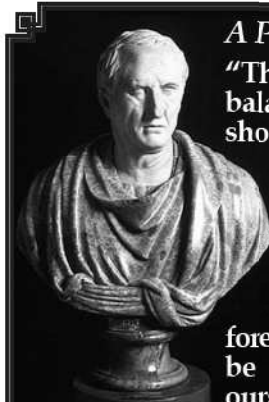
To be held at the Tam O'Shanter Inn
2980 Los Feliz Blvd. Los Angeles

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE APRIL MEETING WILL BE
HELD ON SATURDAY THE 25TH
NOT ON THE 18TH. WE WISH
TO AVOID A CONFLICT WITH
THE CALIFORNIA SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THIS WILL BE THE LAST "HARD COPY"
OF THE LIBERTY TREE. ALL FUTURE IS-
SUES WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEB SITE,
AND/OR SENT TO YOU VIA E-MAIL. SEE
PAGE ONE OF THIS ISSUE FOR DETAIL.



A Point to Ponder

"The budget should be
balanced. The Treasury
should be filled. Pub-
lic debt should be
reduced. The arro-
gance of officials
should be temper-
ed and controlled,
and assistance to
foreign lands should
be curtailed lest we
ourselves should be-
come bankrupt. The people should
be forced to work and not depend on
government subsistence."

Marcus Tullius Cicero(106-43 B.C.)

2009 MEETING CALENDAR

- Mar 21st --- Monthly Meeting
- April 17th- 18th - State Meeting
Irvine, CA
- Apr. 25th --- Monthly Meeting
- May 16th --- Monthly Meeting
- June 20th --- Monthly Meeting
- July 4th- 8th - Annual Congress
- Atlanta, GA
- July 18th --- Monthly Meeting
- Aug. 15th --- Monthly Meeting
- Sept. 19th --- Monthly Meeting
- Oct. 3rd & 4th ----- Marching
Through History
- Nov. 21st --- Monthly Meeting
- TBA ----- Christmas Party

2010