



The President's Message

By Chapter President Keith L. Bigbee

Several chapter members including David Gilliard, Bill D Welch, Barry Hopkins, Smitty Virgil, Bill A. Welch, and Wayne Griswold have been very busy of late with the poster contest. Beginning with giving presentations to 942 students at nine separate schools (joined by Earl & Ann Young, Jeannette Welch, and Winona Virgil), then collecting the posters, preliminary judging of the posters (joined by Dale & Coreena Ross and Cyndy Bigbee), bringing them to the chapter meeting for final judging, and then returning to the school to congratulate the winners. I am worn out just thinking about it. The group of volunteers that make this all possible are to be commended for their dedication and commitment to the youth of the local area. There were 378 posters that were submitted. There would have been more, but evidently there is a problem with some of the schools supplying the poster board for the competition. By next year I would like to have in place a way for the chapter to supply the poster board and drawing materials for those students in need. We would like as many students as

possible to have the joy of participating in this great contest. Please think about this and help me find a way for more students to participate.

The planning committee for the annual state meeting is continuing with great progress towards our goal of being ready for all the participants on April 8th through the 11th. Wayne Griswold will be the incoming President of the State Society and I will continue as V.P. North for another year. If you would like to help with the meeting and/or like to attend, it is not too late to submit your registration. If you are unable to commit to the entire meeting, consider attending one of the award luncheons or Saturday banquet to get a feel for a State level event. Please contact Wayne or myself for more information. We are planning on having a great time and have some wonderful entertainment planned for the Saturday banquet.

The elections are coming soon and this is an opportunity to help the chapter that you won't want to miss. Manning the election precincts is a very productive means to earn the needed monies for our programs and activities. It may be a long day but it is well worthwhile. If you cannot work a whole day, perhaps you would be willing to fill in for a while or stop by one of the locations to give a quick break to those who are working all day. Please contact Keith or Wayne for more information about serving.

Yours in service and patriotism,

Keith L. Bigbee

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Calendar of Events

Sunday, April 4th

Easter - Fly the Flag!

April 9th-10thCASSAR Annual Spring Meeting,
Sacramento.**Saturday, April 17th**Regular Meeting, 9:30 A.M., Lou
LaBonte's Restaurant, Auburn.**Monday, April 19th**Patriots' Day - Fly the Flag! Honors
first battles of the Revolutionary War.**Thursday, May 6th**

National Day of Prayer - Fly the Flag!

Saturday, May 8th

V-E Day - Fly the Flag!

Sunday, May 9th

Mother's Day - Fly the Flag!

Monday, May 10thSAR Honoring Spain Trip, Madrid and
Malaga.**Saturday, May 15th**Peace Officers' Memorial Day - Fly the
Flag!**Saturday, May 15th**

Armed Forces Day - Fly the Flag!

Happy Birthday wishes to the following who will celebrate birthdays this month: Jennifer Bell, Cyndy Bigbee, Kevin Brown, Mike Cilurso, Karen Cleaver, Jane Costa, Karen Crutcher, Stephen Ferguson, Wayne Ford, Tom Douglas, Dave Gilliard, Chuck Lambie, Gloria Marquette, Mike Lucas, Norm Matson, Tom Murphy, James Rooney, Floyd Sampson, Hedda Shepherd, Aaron Young, and Christopher Zobel.

The next Gold Country Chapter meeting is

Saturday, April 17th at 9:30 A.M.

Lou LaBonte's Restaurant, Auburn

The Gold Country Chapter's 2010 regular meetings will be held on the 3rd Saturday of each month except in May, September, and December. During these months special meeting dates occur in order to accommodate other Chapter or California Society activities. All regular meetings are held in the banquet room of Lou LaBonte's Restaurant, 13460 Lincoln Way, Auburn, (530) 885-9193, at 9:30AM. See you there!

Visit our Chapter, State and National Websites
GoldCountrySAR.org ♦ CaliforniaSAR.org ♦ SAR.org

The submission deadline for the May edition of
The Forty-Niner is Friday, April 23, 2010.

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America's Educational Heritage

By Michael G. Lucas



All during the year, but especially during these last few months, a number of our chapter members have been busy in the classrooms across the area, sharing America's story of freedom and independence. The SAR's emphasis on education follows the example set by our Founding Fathers.

Education in America has been emphasized from its earliest days. The Puritans stressed education in order to promote Bible reading. Harvard University, the oldest institution of higher learning in America, was named for Puritan minister John Harvard, one of the school's earliest and greatest benefactors. Harvard migrated from England to America for a better life and chance to worship freely. He only survived about a year before he died of consumption. On his deathbed he bequeathed half his sizeable estate and his large collection of books to a new fledgling college in Cambridge, Massachusetts. A year later the Massachusetts General Court renamed the school Harvard University in his honor.

Literacy became so high in colonial America that John Adams wrote, "A native of America who cannot read or write is as rare an appearance...as a comet or an earthquake." At the time of the American Revolution, it is estimated that literacy among white males in America ranged between 70-100% versus 48-74% in England. In fact, the literacy rate in New England was about 90%, the highest in the world. Our Founding Fathers, with few exceptions, were products of education. Over half of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention were college graduates. Just as it had played a major role in their own accomplishments, the Founders

viewed education as essential for the success of America. For example, Thomas Jefferson wrote that "no other sure foundation [education] can be devised for the preservation of freedom and happiness." Compulsory public education started in America decades before it did in England.

Many of our Founding Fathers left rich legacies of education as well as independence. On Thomas Jefferson's tombstone are listed the three things for which he was most proud. Most people would assume that being president of the

*"no other sure foundation
[education] can be devised
for the preservation of
freedom and happiness."*

---Thomas Jefferson

United States would certainly have been included, but it wasn't. Jefferson was prouder of having founded the University of Virginia than his presidency. Benjamin Franklin founded the University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Benjamin Rush founded Dickinson College. In order to help it survive, George Washington in 1796 provided an endowment of \$20,000 to Liberty Hall Academy, known today as Washington & Lee University.


Alexander Hamilton was one of the first trustees of the institution now named Hamilton College.

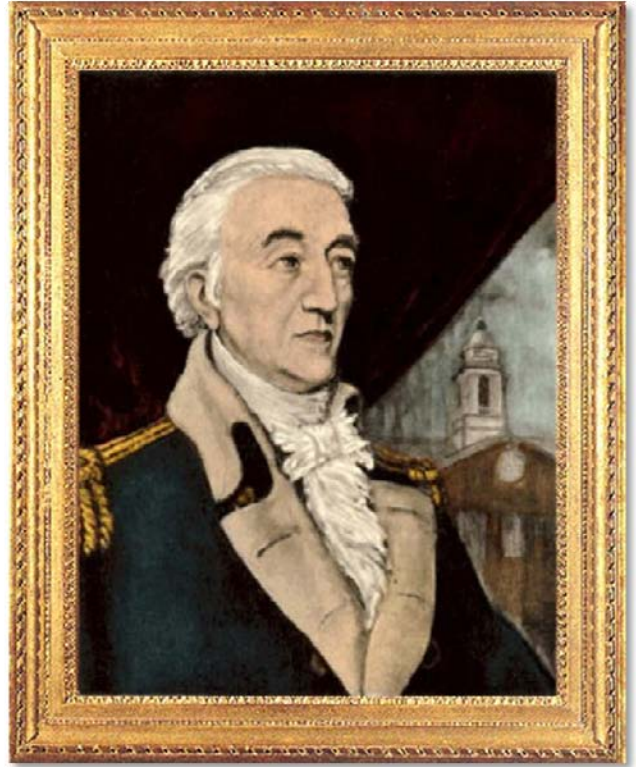
Following are the stories of two lesser known Revolutionary leaders who were major benefactors of prestigious universities bearing their names today. These institutions are Rutgers University, named after Colonel Henry Rutgers, and Brown University, an Ivy League college, named after shipping merchant John Brown. These two patriots left legacies of education while championing the cause of independence.

Henry Rutgers graduated from King's College, now Columbia University, in 1766 and immediately became an advocate for American independence. He went on to serve as a captain at the Battle of White Plains and later served as a colonel in the New York militia. His home served as a barracks during the British occupation of New York in 1776. Colonel Rutgers would continue to play a role in the defense of America after the Revolution, presiding over a meeting to organize American forces in New York in anticipation of a British attack in the ensuing War of 1812. Colonel Rutgers served several terms in the New York legislature. Rutgers devoted much of his fortune to philanthropy. Rutgers' donation to Queen's College in New Brunswick, New Jersey, later renamed for him, helped it survive at the time when it was suffering considerable financial difficulties and had been forced to close.

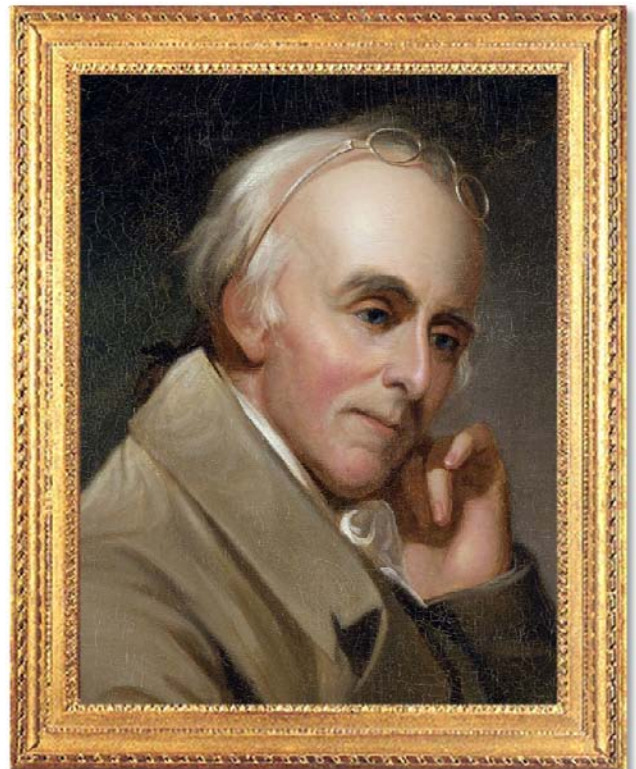
John Brown was one of the first patriots who defied the power of the British Navy and the authority of King George III. In 1770, after the Seven Years' War, the Royal Navy was sent to America to enforce customs collection and cargo inspection. Rhode Island had a reputation of widespread smuggling. John Brown arranged for his fastest ship to enter the Narragansett, Rhode Island Bay, as if attempting to smuggle cargo. Just as he expected, the British ordered the ship to stop and be searched. Brown's ship had a crew intimately familiar with the surrounding waters. The American ship, *Hannah*, quickly fled with the British ship, *Gaspee*, in quick pursuit. The *Hannah* led the *Gaspee* into uncharted waters and it soon ran aground. After dark, the Americans, led by Abraham Whipple, quietly approached the British ship, captured the crew and plundered its cargo. It then torched the *Gaspee*. It was later reported that Brown was the last to leave the deck, determined to prevent anyone from removing anything that could implicate the parties involved. It was a reckless act of rebellion, but fortunately a subsequent British investigation never could uncover the perpetrators. After American independence was achieved, the Brown family funded and organized much of the construction of the buildings of Brown University.

We are most fortunate in America that we inherited a heritage of education. Scripture says, "The truth shall make you free." It's difficult to perpetually enslave a people who are literate and have access to the truth. Slave owners knew that literacy would have a liberating influence; therefore, slaves were usually prohibited from learning to read or write. As late as in 1964, Brazil was still attempting to keep peasants subservient by keeping them illiterate; an educator was even arrested and exiled for teaching them to read. An educated populace will ultimately find a way to achieve freedom. Our heritage of education has not only increased our prosperity but it has helped safeguard us against tyranny.

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Col. Henry Rutgers founded Rutgers University



Dr. Benjamin Rush founded Dickinson College

The American Revolution Month-by-Month

April 1776

Positioning for War

British Hire Hessians

By Andrew Jackson Stough, III

Edited by Michael G. Lucas



April had become a month of transition; it was not notable for what occurred openly as much as the creation of operational plans for both the Americans and the British. Britain planned to use an overwhelming force and a pincer movement. Howe attacking from New York and Carleton from Canada would divide New England, the most populous colonies, from the southern colonies. Clinton was already in the south and would attack Charleston. It was both his and Germain's belief that once the British flag flew over Charleston, the Tories, who were in the majority in the southern colonies, would rise up and restore the Crown's authority over the entire southern sector of rebellion. This would leave it up to Howe and Carleton to restore British hegemony over New England, where there was not only the greatest population but the greatest proponent of rebellion.

It has always been the privilege of the aggressor nation to arm itself and dispose its resources according to its plan of attack. Washington had several choices to prepare for the coming offensive. He could guess as to where the attack would occur and place all of his resources at that point. His other choice was to depend upon fixed defenses and rush his assets to the endangered area, once its location became known.

In this case, the British had a fleet in the vicinity of Charleston, waiting to be joined by the fleet put out from Cork. The Howes in Halifax also were waiting for a build-up of the fleet and arrival of military to supplement that expedition. Sir Guy Carleton in Canada was also waiting for reinforcements and supplies before starting down the lake route to seize the Hudson River and its fertile valley, thereby, splitting the colonies. Washington would be forced to make educated guesses as to British intentions.

London was frantically trying to get its ships and military together for the American venture. The difficulty here was a choice between jeopardizing its holdings in both India and the Sugar and Spice Islands and their possible seizure by the

French, Spanish, or Dutch navies. These islands were, at the time, considered more important to the British Empire than the thirteen colonies along the Atlantic Seaboard. However, George III was determined to put down this insurrection before it could spread to other possessions or force England into another general war with its European enemies.

Finding the ships was not an easy task; Britain was an empire with ships scattered all over the globe. Additionally, in the years following the Seven Years' War, the treasury was in dire straits. To save money, Britain had methodically down-sized the fleet to the point that even little Portugal might be emboldened to snatch some booty from the Lion's claw.

Ships were not the only problem; the English people were not enthused by the treatment of their North American cousins and were not volunteering for army duty. The navy's impressments made it possible to fill empty navy berths but with poorer quality sailors. George III made overtures to Catherine of Russia to rent the services of elements of the Russian army but she refused.

George I was of German ancestry, from the House of Hanover. Therefore, George III, using his family ties to the German principalities, found soldiers for hire. Not all were from the State of Hesse-Kastle, but any German soldier in British hire in America became known as a Hessian. They were not the best soldiers because the best German soldiers had been retained in Germany. The British had given the Germans false information as to what beasts the American rebels were. This led them, if they were not already so inclined, to be vicious, especially with unarmed prisoners and the American people as a whole. Most could not understand any orders in English and could only follow their German officers' orders.

Washington could relate to this, as he had units in his own army who would act only under orders from their own

officers, if then. During war a number of Hessians deserted the British army and joined the Americans army, or they settled in the German-speaking areas, becoming loyal citizens.

So the acquisition of soldiers was not only a burden to Washington but to the British also. The difference was that Britain had the money and ability to hire foreign soldiers. Washington had to depend upon patriotism, which, in the long run, turned out better for the cause of independence.

The Howe brothers in Halifax were awaiting the arrival of reinforcements from across the turbulent North Atlantic. The fleet, that left Cork on February 13th, had run afoul of a vicious storm, forcing some of them to return to Cork; others were forced into the English ports of Plymouth or Portsmouth. Finally on April 18th the first ships arrived at Cape Fear, bringing General Lord Cornwallis to reinforce Clinton's military in the Carolinas. Clinton, after subduing the rebels in Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia, gave the victorious Tories the task of governing. This freed up Clinton and his army to return to New York to reinforce Howe.


Congress, as it would do too many times in the future, without any consultation with the commander in chief, commissioned officers and directed military movements on its own. It was in this spirit that Congress directed Charles Lee to proceed to Charleston to take over defense of that port city, considered by Congress as the most likely target for Clinton to attack.

On April 6th Congress announced that American ports were open to all but British vessels. Actions such as this slowly led to the break from the empire, which would later be expressed in the Declaration of Independence. There was now little doubt that the colonies had embarked on a course of dissolution of all ties to the mother country.

Washington, assessing the situation, arrived at the conclusion that, with Clinton reinforced and operating in the south, Howe's next move would be against New York City. Accordingly, on April 13th he departed from his headquarters in Cambridge. He led the main part of the Continental Army to New York City to defend it from a British attack.

On the proceeding day the North Carolina Provincial Assembly had become the first colony to authorize its representatives to vote for independence from Britain. It was the beginning of increased support in Congress for total independence.

References: Arthur Meier Schlesinger's *Almanac of American History*; Don Higginbotham's *The War of American Independence*; Leckie's *George Washington's War*; Leckie's *The Wars of America*; Christopher Ward's *The War of the Revolution*; Encyclopedia Britannica.

Not for sale or republication, *The American Revolution, Month-by-Month* series was written and is published solely for the benefit of the members of Gold Country Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution. 

*“America,
Love it or
Leave it!”*



By Michael G. Lucas

For years there has been a bumper sticker stating, “America, Love it or Leave it.” Most Americans feel really good about their country and they don't like others bashing or disrespecting it. However, twice in our nation's history we've ratcheted up the “love it or leave it” message and actually enforced it. Unfortunately, both of these periods were not the brightest days in our nation's history.

The first time that America asked some to leave the country was in the aftermath of the American Revolution. A number of states, particularly in the South, passed laws requiring citizens to swear an oath of loyalty. They also had to bring witnesses vouching for their patriotism. If they were unwilling to take the oath or unable to produce the required witnesses, they would have their possessions seized and they would be banished. Some of the more liberal states allowed Loyalists to remain but they were subjected to fines, land confiscation, limited rights, and triple taxation. It has been estimated that up to 20% of the American population, about a half a million, had remained loyal to the British Crown. It is estimated by some historians that well over 100,000 American Tories left the country, either voluntarily or by force, after the war. An estimated 70,000 went to Canada, 7,000 to Britain, 17,000 to the Caribbean, 3,000 ex-slaves to Sierra Leone, and the remainder to East Florida. Most left with few possessions and ended up in abject poverty. Abigail Adams was in Halifax when many arrived and she witnessed their distress. She wrote her husband that, “Some of them with six or eight children round them sitting upon the rocks crying, not knowing where to lay their heads.” But she expressed little sympathy for them when she wrote, “Just

--Concluded on page 9.

135th Annual Meeting of the California Society, Sons of the American Revolution, April 9-10, 2010

Hosted by Embassy Suites Hotel, Sacramento Riverfront Promenade
100 Capitol Mall, Sacramento
Registration Phone Number 1.916.326.5000

Registration Form

SAR members will receive a special rate of \$99, plus tax for single or double occupancy. Your hotel accommodations include a spacious two-room suite, complimentary fully cooked-to-order breakfast, manager's reception from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M., the daily newspaper and a free airport shuttle. Hotel parking is \$24 per night, but we are negotiating with nearby lots to reduce this fee. You should make your reservations with the hotel no later than March 19th. Reservations after this date will be on a space and rate available basis. When reserving your room, be sure to mention that you are with the Sons of the American Revolution.

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____
Chapter: _____ Title: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone No. _____ E-mail: _____

My planned time of arrival is: Thursday, April 8th - Friday, April 9th - Saturday, April 10th

Registration is \$130.00 per person on or before March 19th, 2010, or \$140.00 per person after March 19th. Your Registration fee covers all meetings, Friday luncheon, Saturday luncheon, and the Saturday banquet.

My Registration for \$130.00 Spouse/Guest Registration for \$130.00 Other Registration for \$130.00

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Make your check payable to **Gold Country Chapter, SAR**

Mail completed Registration to: **Wayne A. Griswold, 283 Randall Drive, Folsom, California 95630-4926**
For more information call **1.916.985.3756**

Mark your Friday Luncheon Meal Selection Below:

Chicken Caesar Salad Roast Beef Sandwich Vegetarian

Mark your Saturday Luncheon Meal Selection Below:

Cobb Salad Three Cheese Ravoili Vegetarian

Mark your Saturday Banquet Meal Selection Below:

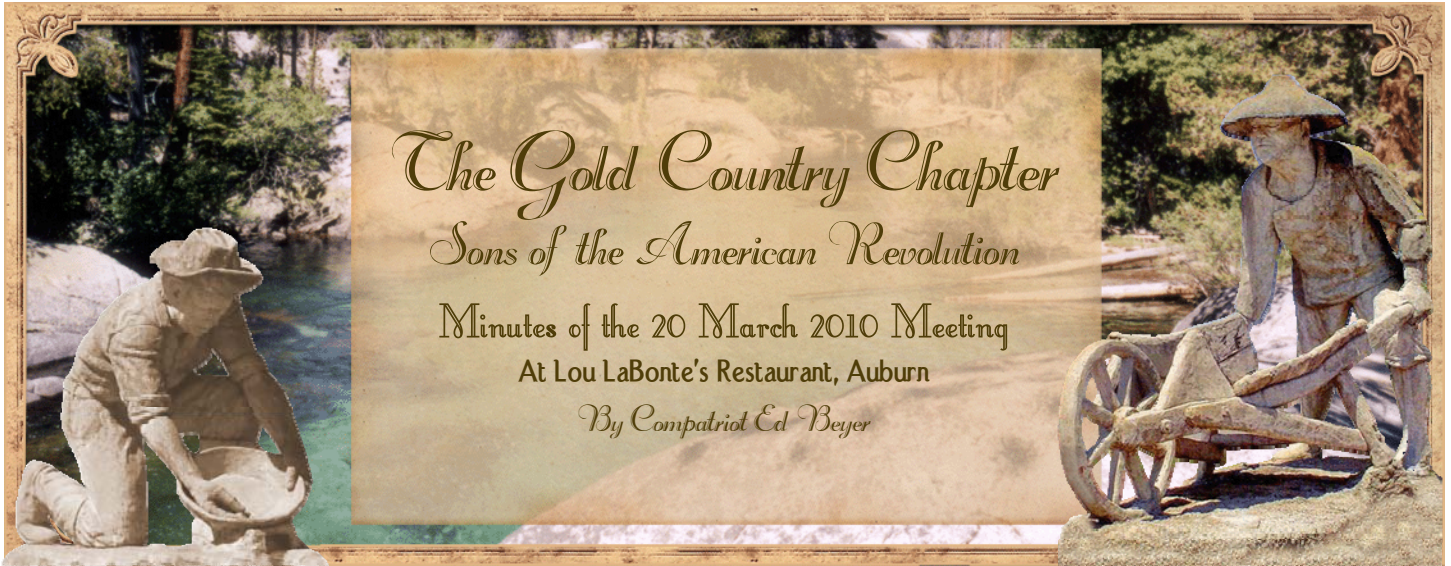
Herb Roasted Chicken Sliced London Broil Vegetarian

Meal Prices for Non-Registered Members and Guests are listed below:

Non-Registered Friday luncheon at \$40.00 Non-Registered Saturday luncheon at 40.00

Non-Registered Saturday Banquet at \$60.00

Total cost of non-Registered meals \$ _____



President Keith L. Bigbee called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Chaplain Ron Williams gave the Invocation. Compatriots Smith Virgil led the Pledge of Allegiance and Keith Bigbee led the SAR Pledge.

Attendance: There were fifteen members and three guests in attendance.

President Bigbee recognized DAR members Coreena Ross and Armida Manifor from the Capt. John Oldham Chapter and Winona Virgil from the Emigrant Trail Chapter.

General Business: President Bigbee asked for a motion to approve the February meeting minutes as published in the newsletter. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

Announcements: President Bigbee made a number of announcements. He announced that Past President Wayne Griswold had been appointed as Membership Chairman. Wayne then reported that three applications were in process. Anyone interested in serving on the committee should contact him in person or email him at wagris@att.net.

The proposed budget for the Chapter has been prepared and will be presented at the next meeting.

The Chapter bank account has been changed from Chase to Community 1st Bank, a local business.

A planning meeting for the Spring CASSAR Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21st, 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M. at Auburn Roundtable Pizza, off Elm Street.

An Audit Committee is required to examine Chapter records. Anyone interested in serving should contact Keith in person, by phone, or email him at kckbigbee@auburninternet.com.

Boy Scout Display: Dale and Coreena Ross had prepared and displayed several very impressive photo collages of Boy Scout awards, activities, and events. Dale and Coreena gave a progress report on the upcoming Scout Expo at Beale Air Force Base, April 30-May 2, 2010. It was stressed that visitors to Beale must have their automobile registration and proof of insurance to present at the entrance gate.

There was a brief break so people could enjoy their breakfast. Afterwards the meeting was then turned over to Poster Contest Chairman Dave Gilliard.

2010 Poster Contest Program: A total of nine schools were visited and presentations were made to 33 fifth grade classes. 942 students attended these presentations, resulting in 378 students submitting posters. It was reported there would have been more entries had it not been for the economy and tight school budgets. Presentations this year were conducted by Dave Gilliard, Wayne Griswold, Bill D. Welch, Earl Young, Smitty Virgil, Bill A. Welch, and Barry Hopkins.



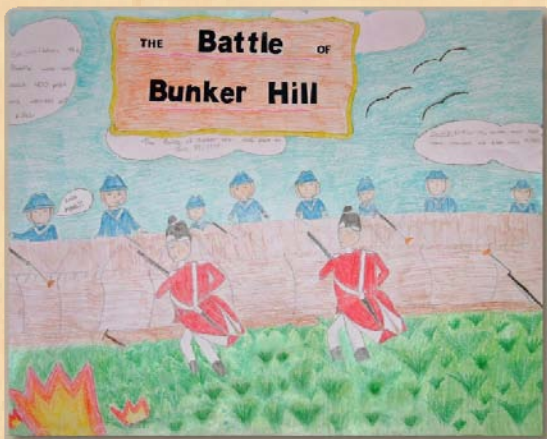
2010 Poster Contest Winners



1st Prize: MacKenzie Simpson, Twelve Bridges School, Lincoln



2nd Prize: Gaby Neves, Loomis School, Loomis



3rd Prize: Morgan Irwin, Valley View School, Rocklin

---“America, Love it or Leave it!” concluded from page 6.

Heaven has given to them to taste of the same cup of affliction which they administered to thousands of their fellow citizens.” Thomas Fleming in *The Perils of Peace* gave an account of one woman who had served in the British ranks for seven years but ended up eating moldy bread and salt pork while living in a tent in St. Johns. Her situation was eventually upgraded when she was able to move into a cabin with dirt floors and no windows. Four hundred refugees living in tents in Nova Scotia died in a violent storm. Another account by Fleming was of a prosperous Loyalist lawyer who committed suicide rather than accept such humiliating poverty in Canada. Black refugees suffered even worse circumstances than white refugees. Many states passed laws that made it very difficult for exiled Tories to return to America. Even if there were no legal ban in force, vigilante groups of patriots carried out acts of violence against Loyalists. Some who attempted to return were refused admission, arrested, or became victims of mob action.

The second time that America enforced a “love it or leave it” philosophy was during the presidency of John Adams as a ramification of the XYZ Affair. Aimed both at quelling political dissent and destroying Thomas Jefferson’s Republican Party, which had shown support for the French Revolution, the Federalists passed four bills, collectively known as the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798. In all of American history this legislation has been considered some of the most heinous. The Alien Acts raised the residence requirements for citizenship from five to fourteen years and provided means for the president to expel any alien he deemed dangerous. The change in residence requirements was an attempt to limit the voting rights of recent European arrivals who would have been more apt to support the Republican agenda. During the legislative debates many aliens fled the country so President Adams actually never signed a deportation order. The Sedition Act made it a crime to “print, utter, or publish...any false, scandalous, and malicious writing” against the government or its officials. Twenty-five people, including editors and a Congressman, were arrested. Ten were convicted of sedition. Congress later recompensed victims and President Jefferson pardoned the convicted. All except one of the Alien and Sedition Acts either expired or were repealed. (The Alien Enemies Act, authorizing the president to apprehend and deport resident aliens, if their home country is at war with the United States, is still on the books.)

So how about a new bumper sticker: "America - where so many patriots have sacrificed their lives to give you the right to feel how you want to about it, say what you like, and have your right to do so protected by law?" But I guess that would take a billboard rather than a bumper sticker. ☺



THE Forty-Niner

Newsletter of the Gold Country Chapter
California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
PO Box 408 • Meadow Vista, CA 95722-0408



First Class

Address Correction Requested

2010 Poster Contest Program (continued): The 378 posters were judged by the Poster Contest Committee and the top nine were presented at this meeting for the members' final judging. Dave Gilliard gave the ground rules prior to the judging. After the tally of votes there was a tie for 1st place and the winner was decided by a hand vote of members present. The judging results are shown in the table. Photos of the top three winning posters are shown on page 9.

Place	Student	School
First	MacKenzie Simpson	Twelve Bridges School
Second	Gaby Neves	Loomis Grammar School
Third	Morgan Irwin	Valley View School
Fourth	Hannah Siebert	Newcastle School
Fifth	Matthew Stonestreet	Weimar Hills School
Sixth	Aliah Rahman	Rock Creek School
Honorable Mention	Alec Page	Excelsior School
Honorable Mention	Ethan Pineschi	Cobblestone School
Honorable Mention	Jacob de Vries	Kaseberg School

Closing: President Bigbee asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of passed chapter compatriots.

Ron Williams gave the Benediction and Keith Bigbee led the SAR Recessional. The Travis USO donation helmet was passed during the meeting and a total of \$70.00 was collected.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 A.M. ☮