

## *The President's Message*

*By Chapter President Keith L. Bigbee*

**W**elcome to the National award-winning newsletter of the Gold Country Chapter, created by Compatriot Mike Lucas. I suggest you take a few extra minutes as you look over the current month's edition, to really appreciate the outstanding job that Mike continues to do. As president, I wanted to point out some upcoming opportunities that need your support.

On April 8th-11th, we will be hosting the Annual State meeting where our very own compatriot Wayne Griswold will be sworn in as State President. The meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Sacramento. There are many opportunities to participate during the meeting, starting with registration Thursday evening and culminating in packing up Sunday morning. The more members who help, the smoother things will run. We are currently looking into purchasing shirts to designate those from the chapter that are there to help. We need support with the hospitality suite, banquet setup, flag coordination, and mainly folks to provide general information to our visitors from around the state. If you think you might be available to help in any way, please contact me to let me know your interests and availability. If you are planning to stay at the hotel please reserve your room as soon as possible.

The poster contest is off to a great start thanks to Dave Gilliard and the dedicated participants who take time to support the presentations to the schools. Dave said they are planning on presenting to approximately one thousand students this year. A huge thank you to all who help make this possible.

2010 is the one hundredth anniversary of Boy Scouts in the United States. On April 30th through May 2nd, there will be a Scout Expo at Beale Air Force Base. The chapter will be hosting a booth for one day at the Expo. This is a great chance to meet some of the youth of our area and see the commitment of many of the adult leaders. Please contact Eagle Scout Chairman Dale Ross if you would like to help out the day of the event. I know I will be there.

Over the next month the executive committee will be preparing a proposed budget to present to the membership at the February meeting. We will also begin the process of reviewing the chapter bylaws, as they need to be in alignment with both the state and national bylaws.

Thank you all,

*Keith L. Bigbee*

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**CHAPTER OFFICERS****2010 - 2011 TERM****PRESIDENT****Keith L. Bigbee**

(530) 878-0144

kckbigbee@auburninternet.com

**FIRST VP****John M. "Mike" Holmes**

(530) 889-2780

NJRHS@Inreach.com

**SECOND VP****William A. Welch**

(916) 987-1356

Welch19@Comcast.net

**SECRETARY****Ed Beyer**

(916) 791-4014

iobeyer@surewest.net

**TREASURER****Bruce N. Choate**

(530) 878-3783

BruceC4193@aol.com

**REGISTRAR****Smith "Smitty" Virgil**

(530) 885-9038

SWVirgil@SBCglobal.net

**HISTORIAN****Barry E. Hopkins**

(530) 906-4562

Pau.Hana@Yahoo.com

**CHAPLAIN****Ronald P. Williams**

(916) 791-0587

wolfram@surewest.net

**CHANCELLOR****Craig M. Hopkins**

(503) 419-6320

Craig@Hopkinslaw.net

**PAST PRESIDENT****Wayne A. Griswold**

(916) 985-3756

WAGris@ATT.net

## Calendar of Events

**Friday, February 12th**  
Lincoln's Birthday (1809) - Fly the Flag!

**Monday, February 15th**  
President George Washington's Birthday Observed - Fly the Flag!

**Saturday, February 20th**  
Regular Meeting, 9:30 A.M., Lou LaBonte's Restaurant, Auburn.

**Sunday, February 21st**  
28th Annual Massing of the Colors, 3:00 P.M., Los Angeles.

**Monday, February 22nd**  
Washington's Birthday (1732) - Fly the Flag!

**March 4-6th**  
NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, National Society Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky.

**Wednesday, March 17th**  
St. Patrick's Day - Fly the Flag!

**Saturday, March 20th**  
Regular Meeting, 9:30 A.M., Lou LaBonte's Restaurant, Auburn.

Happy Birthday wishes to the following who will celebrate birthdays this month:

Marian Best, Benjamin E. Dreher, Darryl M. Hopkins, Jerold W. Kopp, Kathy Thomas, Kyle W. Young, and Manuela Welch.



The next Gold Country Chapter meeting is  
Saturday, February 20th 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 March edition of  
The Forty-Niner is Friday, February 26, 2009.

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# Yielding Political Power

By Michael G. Lucas

Recently the world carefully watched the presidential elections in Iran and Afghanistan and the ensuing protests. We don't know the actual results of these elections, but reported irregularities caused many to question the legitimacy of these elections. Many believe that both elections may have been manipulated to keep Presidents Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Hamid Karzai in power, or at least to show an unrealistic level of support. In Iraq, Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was thought by some to have supported Ahmadinejad in order to keep his own firm grip on power. Throughout history, men have typically been unwilling to yield power once they have it in their grasp. The Communist Party built an Iron Curtain around the Soviet Union to stay in power. Kim Il-sung and his descendants have isolated North Korea to maintain their hold on power. Sadaam Hussein used ruthless brutality to stay in power in Iraq.

The United States is unique in the world in that political power has always rested with its people. Americans are very blessed to have had Founding Fathers who recognized that legitimate power belonged to its citizens. When our founders had the opportunity to usurp that power, they refused to do so.

Our nation's oldest founding document, the Declaration of Independence, clearly identified the source of political power: "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government." Likewise, the Preamble of the Constitution recognized that it was "We the People" who formed, established, provided, promoted, secured, and ordained it.

"The Father of our country" repeatedly refused to increase his personal power by consistently yielding to civilian authority. George Washington recognized that the world's first republican experiment would only succeed if leaders accepted limited power. Washington was made commander of the Continental Army on June 15, 1775 and was given vast executive power. He never abused such power and insisted



that he remain subservient to Congress. After the war, Washington surrendered his commission to Congress on December 23, 1783 and returned to civilian life. He established the indelible American principle that the military would always remain under civilian rule.

While commander in chief, Washington was encouraged many times to seize civilian power from Congress. On May 22, 1782, Colonel Lewis Nicola, representing army officers, wrote Washington a letter encouraging him to overthrow Congress and establish himself as King of the United States. Washington didn't need time to consider it because he answered the letter on the same day. He responded, "You couldn't have found a person to whom your schemes are more disagreeable. [You must] banish these thoughts from your Mind, and never communicate...a sentiment of the like Nature." Washington achieved true greatness by refusing personal power. Washington's actions were truly rare in the history of mankind. For example, in revolutionary France, the ambitious Napoleon couldn't resist accepting the very same offer to become king when it was presented to him.

In 1783, Washington discovered that his officers were planning a coup against Congress. The officers were frustrated that Congress had not kept its promises concerning their compensation. Washington called his officers together and scolded them for rebelling against civilian authority. He encouraged them to keep faith in their nation. His intervention prevented them from undoing what had been accomplished during eight long years of war.

After two terms as president, Washington again yielded his power to a new president. As he had done so many times before, he yielded the power which easily could have been his for the taking.

*A Patriot's Perspective is concluded on page 7.*



# *The American Revolution Month-by-Month*



## *February 1776*

### *Quebec Siege Ends*

#### *Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge*

*By Andrew Jackson Stough, III*  
*Edited by Michael G. Lucas*



In February 1776, Benedict Arnold was still attempting a siege of Quebec; he was certain that sufficient reinforcements would come soon to allow him to take the city. Arnold continued in command during his recovery until he fell from his horse and reopened his leg wound. On April 2nd, Colonel Wooster arrived to relieve Arnold while Arnold retired to Montreal. The operation expanded, with more men, money, supplies, armament, and ammunition, but none in a coordinated manner. Therefore, the siege continued to bumble along. With the disparity between the forces, the only challenge possible was with cannon fire. When fired upon, Sir Guy Carleton immediately responded with more firepower and range than the Americans could muster, discouraging any further action of the kind. Carleton had the resources and ability to descend upon the Americans, but he did nothing, allowing the stalemate to continue.

The number of men encamped increased, resulting in more logistical headaches and an increase in infections of deadly smallpox. In early May, General John Thomas arrived to command the army of 2,500 men. Death and desertion ended the enlistments of many; so many men were incapacitated with smallpox that there was only an effective strength of less than 1,000. More men were funneled into the pipeline with little improvement in the situation.

On May 2nd, word arrived that a fleet of 15 ships had entered the St. Lawrence and their masts could be seen by the Americans five days later. Carleton, with 900 men and several cannon, now issued from the town. The siege of Quebec was now over. What was called a retreat was begun, but, according to more than one source, it was more like a flight back toward the safety of Ticonderoga. A momentary halt was called when a rear guard was met at the Richlieu River. From that point on, the retreat was over. The army became a mob attempting to reach safety. It scattered and was no longer a military unit. On June 2nd, General Thomas, who had contracted smallpox, died (Ward; Higginbotham; Schlesinger; Alden).

A relieving force sent by Washington caught up to the retreat and began an attempt to hold at that point. The force was reorganized and marched against Trois Rivieres, then on to Quebec. Unfortunately they had no idea that a very much stronger force of land troops, supported by naval vessels, was present. They fought valiantly, but in the end were overwhelmed. Carleton was generous in his treatment of the defeated force, allowing it to retire from the field. In truth, he allowed them to escape, since his own provisions were low and he could not have fed both them and his own people.

Finally 8,000 survivors reached Ile aux Noir. Ward states "Two thousand suffering from smallpox were hospital cases upon arrival. Within two days a quarter of the remainder were stricken with malarial fever or dysentery."

The sad state of affairs continued with much sacrifice, pain, and continuing deaths from smallpox until those who survived ended their odyssey at Crown Point in early July - ten months after General Montgomery's original departure. It was not the end of thoughts of invading Canada, but it was the end of any actual attempt to do so during the Revolutionary War.

Of what value was the sacrifice of so many lives in a futile attempt to take Canada? John Alden says it may very well have saved the Revolution by requiring Britain to divide its forces during the critical year of 1776. Further, it resulted in a creation of two commands, one in Canada and one in the colonies, thereby reducing the effectiveness compared to a single command.

George Washington, in early January, received word from an intelligence source that a fleet, fitting out in Boston Harbor, was loading troops. Considering the reluctance of the Royal Navy to navigate the North Atlantic in winter, it was assumed that the fleet was intended for a southern destination. All things considered, this probably indicated an invasion of New York City, giving Britain a stronghold on the southern terminus of the invasion route from Canada. Major General

Charles Lee, an experienced former British officer, was ordered to depart for New York City and put it in order to withstand an attack.

Lee arrived in New York on February 4th to find that British General Sir Henry Clinton had entered the harbor two hours earlier. New York was panicked - had the war finally come to them? The mayor of New York immediately made contact with Clinton who assured him that he would not land a single soldier; he was there merely to talk with Governor Tryon. Clinton sailed on February 11th, leaving New York secure and unharmed. No one knew his plans but he sailed south, perhaps intending an attack on Philadelphia or other cities to the south.

While apparently not known by the American establishment, but of interest later on, would be the sailing on February 13th of a large fleet movement from Cork, Ireland. Under Admiral Sir Peter Parker were numerous troop transports and supply ships. General Lord Cornwallis commanded the military. Until this armada arrived off Cape Fear on May 3rd there was no relevant action and the American establishment was unaware that the combined force even existed (Ward; Schlesinger).

The three southern colonies had a large population of Scots and Irish who were primarily loyal to the Crown. Germans, who mostly lived in the backcountry, were generally loyal to the local (Tory) government, such as it was. The three southern states were nominally loyal to the king (or were thought to be by London) but not to his governors. London thought all that was needed to bring them out was a British leader with a contingent of regulars. With such a force and a taste of the bayonet, the rebels would not be able to run away fast enough (Ward).

That is the background to the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in North Carolina. Josiah Martin, succeeding William Tryon as governor of North Carolina, was no more popular than Tryon. For his own safety he had taken refuge on a British warship. From his self imposed exile he had declared anyone who would not pledge allegiance to the king to be a rebel. On January 10th, from the ship, he issued a call to arms to assist Sir Henry Clinton and the naval commander who were headed south from Boston and New York. On February 5th, he ordered them to assemble at Brunswick, across from Wilmington, by February 15th. On February 18th, the Tories, predominantly Scots, were encamped four miles below Cross Creek (today's Fayetteville, NC).

Colonel James Moore with the 1st North Carolina, had entrenched himself at Rockfish, seven miles below Cross Creek. On February 18th, he was joined by minutemen and rangers giving him a total of 1,100 men. Additional patriot

(rebel) forces on the march to join Moore were ordered to hold Moore's Creek Bridge at any cost, while he moved to encircle the Scots and fall on their rear.

The Scots, making up the majority of the van, were experienced fighters. They had fought in the wars of succession and at Culloden, where they were so thoroughly beaten that not to this day has there been another uprising of Scots against the English yoke. Once deadly enemies of the Crown, these men later migrated to America, becoming the king's stoutest supporters.

The deep and swift creek offered no place except Moore's Creek Bridge to cross in force, making it, at most, a stalemate. The two forces stood across the river and glared at each other. On February 27th, the Tories and their commander had delayed long enough. They would no longer avoid the patriots, who appeared unwilling to fight in the Continental manner. The Scots charged toward the bridge with the battle cry of "King George and the Broadwords." (Ward).




As they came onto what was expected to be a passable bridge, they discovered that the rebels had removed the planking, leaving only the stringers. The forerunners, who could not stop, found themselves in the torrent, as they tried to cross on the stringers which had been greased. The rest of the army continued toward the bridge since it was unaware of the open bridge. Many,

including officers, were cut down by riflemen from the trenches as well as grapeshot from artillery.

As the Tories massed in confusion behind the bridge, the rebel force charged at the bridge. They were led by men who replaced the planking, while the rest continued to pour fire into the enemy. The Tories fled, but the leaders and 850 soldiers were captured. With all of this firing, only 30 Scots were killed or wounded as opposed to the rebels who lost two men. Ward states that booty from the victory was the "wagon train, 1,500 rifles, 350 muskets and 150 swords."

As battles go, this was significant because it was discovered that the rebels could and would stand to fight. More importantly, it denied General Clinton any reinforcement to add to the 900 men he had landed; he was forced to leave the colony. Even more importantly was the change in attitude by the Tories towards the rebels. It was some time before there was any important Tory activity within the colony.

References: Christopher Ward's *War of the Revolution*; John Alden's *A History of the American Revolution*; Arthur Meier Schlesinger's *Almanac of American History*; Don Higginbotham's *The War of American Independence*.

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# *“Separation of Church and State”*

## *Historical Look at the First Amendment*

*By Michael G. Lucas*

Many Americans believe the term “separation of church and state” can be found in the Constitution. However, the First Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1791, contains the only provision related to religion: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” The first part of the amendment is commonly called the establishment clause and the second half is known as the free-expression clause. The term “separation of church and state” cannot be found in the Constitution, but it can be traced back to a January 1, 1802 letter from President Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptist Association of Connecticut. The Danbury Baptists had written Jefferson on October 7, 1801, due to their concern over losing their religious freedom. Jefferson responded that the religious practice of individuals was none of the business of the federal government because there was a “wall of separation between Church & State.” Jefferson’s letter conveyed the message that it was not the place of the federal government to do anything that might be interpreted as interfering with private religious practices.

The “wall” established by the First Amendment was one directional – it restricted actions of Congress but did not place restrictions upon religious practices. Quotations from many of our founders strongly indicate that they never intended that there would be a separation from religious values or principles. After the Revolutionary War, our government initiated public days of prayer, appointed chaplains for both Congress and the armed forces, and they established schools in the Northwest Territory for the stated purpose of Christianizing the Indians. George Washington, in his Farewell Speech, said “reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principles.” Elsewhere in the speech, Washington stated that “of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.” John Adams said “We have no

government armed with power which is capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It’s wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” Noah Webster said “the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people.”

The First Amendment also did not place restrictions upon state governments - “Congress shall make no law...” Thomas Jefferson in 1808 wrote “Certainly, no power to prescribe any religious exercise, or to assume authority in religious discipline, has been delegated to the General [federal] Government. It must then rest with the states...” Up until 1940, the Supreme Court’s rulings were consistent with the view that the federal government had no authority over religion. For example, in their ruling of *Permoli v. New Orleans* in 1845, the Supreme Court wrote “The Constitution makes no provision for protecting the citizens in their religious liberties; this is left to the state constitution and laws: nor is there any inhibition imposed by the Constitution of the United States in this respect on the states.”

A number of states had religious restrictions well after the ratification of the First Amendment. The Congregational Church was the established church of Connecticut until 1818. Massachusetts had a system until 1833 requiring church membership. New Hampshire until 1877 required members of their state legislature to be Protestants. North Carolina until 1835 allowed only Protestants to hold public office, and from 1835 to 1876 allowed only Christians to hold public office. A number of states provided aid to religion at the time they ratified the First Amendment. A diametric change in Supreme Court rulings started 150 years after the Bill of Rights was ratified and long after the states had an established precedence.



After 1940 the Supreme Court no longer refrained from ruling on religious matters. The court's abrupt change came in the ruling of *Cantwell v. Connecticut*. This new position was further strengthened in *Everson v. Board of Education* in 1947. The court ruled that the First Amendment applied not just to




Congress but also to the states. The court relied on the Fourteenth Amendment, ratified in 1868, which declares "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

However, critics, holding to an originalism philosophy, charge that the purpose of the Fourteenth Amendment was to guarantee that emancipated slaves would not have their civil rights violated. The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments were all passed in quick succession after the Civil War to abolish slavery, to make sure that states did not deny rights, and ensure the right to vote. Professor Daniel Dreisbach, in *Thomas Jefferson and the Wall of Separation between Church and State* writes that there was no legal or historical precedence to incorporate the First and Fourteenth Amendments. He states "Thus, a barrier [First Amendment] originally designed, as a matter of federalism, to separate the national and state governments, and thereby to preserve state jurisdiction in matters pertaining to religion, was transformed into an instrument of the federal judiciary to invalidate policies and programs of state and local authorities... Incorporation, in short, destroyed a vital purpose for which the First Amendment...had been written." An attempt by Maine Senator James Blaine to pass a Constitutional amendment in 1875 provides a strong historical argument against incorporating the First and Fourteenth Amendments. Blaine proposed an amendment that "no state shall make any law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Critics argue that there would have been no need to attempt to pass this amendment if Congress believed the First and Fourteenth Amendments had already been incorporated. The Court, in essence, invalidated the Tenth Amendment which states, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." On the other hand, those holding to the theory of a "Living Constitution" believe that even though Congress may not have had religion in mind when passing the Fourteenth Amendment, its principles must still apply as a governing concept.

Critics believe that some Supreme Court rulings in recent years are in sharp contrast with the statements and actions of our founders. They argue that the "wall" of protection became

a "wall" of isolation. Mention of religion or a public display in public buildings has often become prohibited. As an example, Ohio school officials recently ordered a teacher to hide his Bible from students because having the Bible on his desk violated the separation of church and state. Many Americans, including Ronald Reagan for example, believe the "wall" of the First Amendment was intended to protect the church so that the federal government could have no jurisdiction over it, not to silence it. President Reagan stated, "Freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God is acknowledged. When our Founding Fathers passed the First Amendment, they sought to protect churches from government interference. They never intended to construct a wall of hostility between government and the concept of religious belief itself. ... To those who cite the First Amendment as reason for excluding God from more and more of our institutions every day, I say: The First Amendment of the Constitution was not written to protect the people of this country from religious values; it was written to protect religious values from government tyranny." On the other side of the argument, there are those who feel that in order to insure that all Americans have the right to practice the religion of their choice, or refrain from taking part in any religion, the government must remain totally neutral and must hold no religious viewpoint whatsoever.

Americans will never be in total agreement on the demarcation between religion and government. The "wall" is too high for some and too short for others. The "wall" should be positioned between the church and the federal government for some and between all governments for others. Fortunately, we still have the freedom in America to speak our minds and to work for revisions that we think should be made. In spite of the differences of opinion and some dissatisfaction on both sides, Americans still enjoy unprecedented religious liberty, which is in sharp contrast with much of the world. 



### *A Patriot's Perspective – concluded from page 3*

Throughout history we will continue to watch men attempt to achieve greatness by seizing power at any cost. They will join so many on the trash heap of history like Hitler, Hussein, Idi Amin, and Ceausescu. On the other hand, America and the world will continue to honor one of the greatest men in history, a man who achieved greatness by denying himself and by willingly laying down his power.

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# In the Hands of Providence

By Stephen McDowell, Providence Foundation

Providence Foundation and AFA have given permission for the *Forty-Niner* to reprint this article, which originally appeared in the July 2008 *AFA Journal*, [www.afajournal.org](http://www.afajournal.org).

George Washington is one of the most significant men in all of history. Regarding the direct advancement of civil and political liberty in the earth, he may well be the most significant champion in all history. Certainly he was the central figure of bringing a new era of liberty to the world in modern times. Abraham Lincoln observed: “Washington is the mightiest name of earth – long since mightiest in the cause of civil liberty, still mightiest in moral reformation. On that name no eulogy is expected. It cannot be. To add brightness to the sun or glory to the name of Washington is alike impossible. Let none attempt it.”<sup>1</sup>

Founding Father Fisher Ames said that Washington changed the standard of human greatness.<sup>2</sup> One biographer wrote, “Washington was without an equal, was unquestionably the greatest man that the world has produced in the last one thousand years.”<sup>3</sup> Thomas Paine observed: “By common consent, Washington is regarded as not merely the Hero of the American Revolution, but the World’s Apostle of Liberty.”<sup>4</sup>

A figure in history like Washington did not just arise by happenstance. It was the near unanimous consent of early Americans that Washington, like Esther of old, had “come to the kingdom for such a time as this.”

After Washington’s death hundreds of commemorative orations were given all over the United States. Nearly all of them declare that Washington was a gift of God to the American people and to all of mankind. Some mention this in passing, many with this as the dominant theme. Washington is called the Moses of the American people, the Joshua who



led his people into the Promised Land, and the savior of his country. In his sermon “On the Death of George Washington,” Rev. Jedidiah Morse concluded his comparison of Moses and Washington by saying: “Never, perhaps, were coincidences in character and fortune, between any two illustrious men who have lived, so numerous and so striking, as between Moses and Washington. ... Both were born for great and similar achievements; to deliver, under the guidance of Providence, each the tribes of their respective countrymen, from the yoke of oppression, and to establish them, with the best form of government and the wisest code of laws, an independent and respectable nation.”<sup>5</sup>

General Morgan, who fought alongside Washington during the Revolutionary War, acknowledged that Washington was key for obtaining independence, relating that while there were many officers with great talents, he was “necessary, to guide, direct, and animate the whole, and it pleased Almighty God to send that one in the person of George Washington!”<sup>6</sup> President Calvin Coolidge summed up Washington’s contribution to mankind, under the providence of God, in a speech to Congress: “Washington was the directing spirit without which there would have been no independence, no Union, no Constitution and no Republic. His ways were the ways of truth. His influence grows. In wisdom of action, in purity of character he stands alone. We cannot yet estimate him. We can only indicate our reverence for him and thank the Divine Providence which sent him to serve and inspire his fellow men.”<sup>7</sup>



Washington's contribution to the birth of America and the advancement of liberty in the world is unsurpassed by any man. Without Washington, America would not have won the Revolution. He provided the leadership necessary to hold the troops together, even in the most difficult situations. As one contemporary observed, Washington was "that hero, who affected, with little bloodshed, the greatest revolution in history."<sup>8</sup> Due to Washington's influence, America avoided a monarchy or military rule — he rebuffed an attempt to make him king; he thwarted a military coup; and he set an example of civilian rule by resigning as Commander-in-Chief. The Constitutional Convention would not have succeeded without Washington's influence as president of that body. America may never have set into motion her constitutional form of government, with a limited role of the president, without his example, for the unanimously elected Washington modeled how the president was to govern. Washington also set the standard for American international relations in his Farewell Address. There would be no America, the land of liberty, without Washington, the apostle of liberty. The unique freedom, justice, and virtue incorporated into the American Republic have in the last two centuries spread throughout the world and taken root in many nations. Hence, Washington's legacy has impacted the world, and will continue to do so for centuries to come. His greatness did not stem from oratorical skills or superior knowledge or brilliant military tactics, but rather from his strong virtues, sense of duty, and invincible resolution. When he was offered leadership of the army and leadership of the nation, he expressed doubts in his abilities to accomplish these tasks, but once he occupied those positions, nothing could stop him from performing his duty. By sheer force of character he held the disorganized nation together during the great struggle for independence, and after victory was won, the love of the people for him provided the unifying factor necessary to set a course for the American constitutional republic. The providence of God and Washington's Christian faith were key to his character, career, and accomplishments. His faith, heart, and humility are revealed in the "Circular to the Governors of the states" in 1783 when he prayed that God would protect them and "most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation."<sup>9</sup>

In his famous "Oration on the Death of General Washington," Gen. Henry Lee said that Washington was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen. Vice shuddered in his presence, and virtue always felt his fostering hand; the purity of his private character gave effulgence to his public virtues." Washington was first because, as Lee said, he was "the man designed by


Heaven to lead in the great political, as well as military, events which have distinguished the area of his life. The finger of an overruling Providence pointing at Washington was neither mistaken nor unobserved."<sup>10</sup>

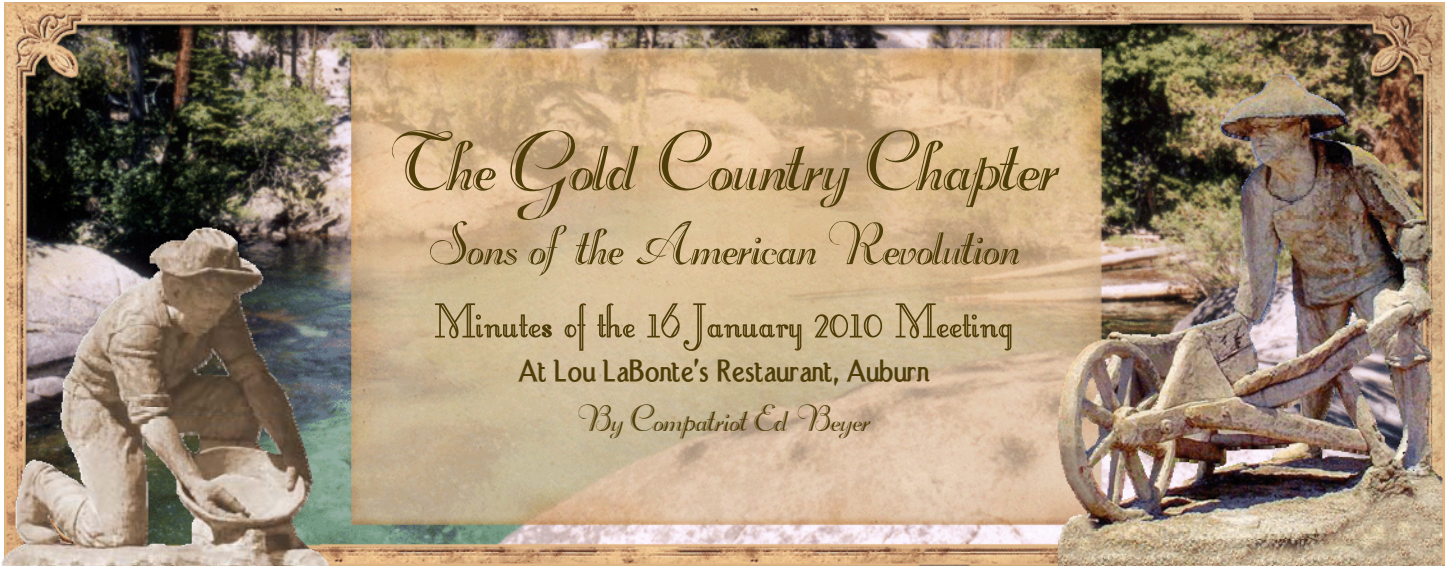
Washington himself had a sense of how God used him providentially to advance the cause of liberty to mankind as well as an understanding of the providential purpose of America, writing in March 1785: "At best I have only been an instrument in the hands of Providence, to effect, with the aid of France and many virtuous fellow Citizens of America, a revolution which is interesting to the general liberties of mankind, and to the emancipation of a country which may afford an Asylum, if we are wise enough to pursue the paths [which] lead to virtue and happiness, to the oppressed and needy of the Earth."<sup>11</sup> America set in motion a new example of religious, civil, and economic liberty that the nations have attempted to embrace during the last two centuries. The advancement of liberty in the world is directly related to the establishment of liberty in America, which owes its beginnings in large part to George Washington. Paine's epithet of "World's Apostle of Liberty" is, therefore, most fitting. Americans and citizens of the world who value liberty must forever keep alive in their hearts this great man and seek to follow his example.

This article above is taken from *Apostle of Liberty: The World-Changing Leadership of George Washington* by Stephen McDowell. This book can be ordered from the Providence Foundation, [www.providencefoundation.com](http://www.providencefoundation.com) or 434-978-4535.

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#### End Notes:

1. Lucretia Perry Osborn, *Washington Speaks for Himself* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1927), xi.
2. Works of Fisher Ames, as published by Seth Ames (1854), edited and enlarged by W.B. Allen, vol.1 (Indianapolis: Liberty Classics, 1983), 527.
3. William Wilbur, *The Making of George Washington* (DeLand, Florida: Patriotic Education, 1973).
4. "George Washington: Deist? Freemason? Christian?" by James Renwick Manship, in *Providential Perspective*, Vol. 15, No. 1, Feb. 2000, Charlottesville: Providence Foundation.
5. Jedidiah Morse, "A Prayer and Sermon, Delivered at Charlestown, December 31, 1799, On the Death of George Washington . . . With an Additional Sketch of His Life" (London: Printed by J. Bateson, 1800).
6. *Recollections and Private Memoirs of the Life and Character of Washington by George Washington Parke Custis*, Benson J. Lossing, editor, (Philadelphia: Englewood, 1859), 322.
7. Osborn, p. iv. A facsimile of the peroration of President Coolidge's Address to the Sixty-ninth Congress, Second Session, on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1927.
8. Letter of Dr. Letsom of London to a friend in Boston, in E. C. M'Guire, *The Religious Opinions and Character of Washington* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1836), 326.
9. Circular to the States, June 8, 1783, *The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799*, John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1931), 26:496.
10. "Oration on the Death of General Washington, Pronounced before Both Houses of Congress, on December 16, 1799" by Major-General Henry Lee, in Custis, 622, 618-619.
11. Letter to Lucretia Wilhemina Van Winter, March 30, 1785, *The Writings of George Washington*, 28:120. 



**P**resident Keith L. Bigbee called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Chaplain Ron Williams gave the Invocation. Compatriot David Gilliard led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Compatriot Barry Hopkins led the SAR Pledge.

**Attendance:** There were twelve members and two guests in attendance. President Bigbee recognized the DAR members, Coreena Ross of the Captain John Oldham Chapter and Winona Virgil of the Emigrant Trail Chapter.

**General Business:** President Bigbee asked for a motion to approve the December 2009 meeting minutes as published in the newsletter. A motion was made, seconded, and passed.

The following officers who were not present at the December meeting were sworn in by President Bigbee:

Position	Officer
First Vice President	Mike Holmes
Historian	Barry Hopkins
Chaplain	Ron Williams

**Presentations:** Barry Hopkins was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation for his participation in 24 presentations in eleven schools, reaching more than 800 students for the Americanism Poster contest program. He was also presented the Meritorious Service Medal and Certificate for his many contributions to the chapter.

#### Reports:

**CASSAR:** Immediate Past President Wayne Griswold reported that on January 15th the California Society created a new Facebook group open to all California SAR members. He stated the new group was very similar to one created by Compatriots Dave Gilliard and Gregory Hill last year specifically for the Gold Country Chapter. The CASSAR group, however, is moderated and intended to facilitate communication among California's 1500+ SAR members on

matters of mutual interest and concern. Interested members should visit [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and create a free Facebook account if they don't already have one. The member should then log into that account and search for California Society Sons of the American Revolution and click "join." The group's administrator will verify CASSAR membership; after verification, the member will be able to participate immediately.

**Registrar:** Smith Virgil reported the submission of membership applications for Edward Moore Gaines and Edward Scott Gaines, the 7th and 8th generation descendants of William Lee.

**Americanism Poster Contest:** Dave Gilliard reported that three schools had been visited and 200 students were present. The poster theme this year is "The Battle of Bunker Hill."

**JROTC:** Mike Holmes reported on future award ceremonies at Rocklin and South Lake Tahoe High Schools. The Rocklin High School ceremony is scheduled for January 30th, 6:00 P.M. at the Sunset Community Center, 2650 Sunset Blvd., Rocklin.

**Eagle Scout:** Dale Ross gave an update on the upcoming 2010 Scout Expo at Beale Air Force Base, April 30th to May 2nd. There will be activities for all levels of scouting.

**Knight Essay:** Acting Knight Essay Chairman Wayne Griswold reported the chapter received two contest entries in the 2009-10 Knight Essay contest. He stated the winning chapter contestant was Paige Gilliard, daughter of Dave and Maryanne Gilliard. Paige's essay will now advance to the state competition where it becomes eligible to win a \$1,500 US Savings Bond. If Ms. Gilliard's essay wins at the state level it will advance to national competition where it could win the \$3,000 grand prize.



**Unfinished Business:** President Bigbee expressed the need for an Executive Committee meeting for budget planning. He will establish the date and notify committee members.

**Closing:** There was a moment of silence in remembrance of passed chapter compatriots. Ron Williams gave the Benediction and Barry Hopkins led the SAR Recessional. The USO Donation Helmet was passed for contributions and a total of \$59.00 was collected. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M. 🌀



*Three officers were sworn into office by President Bigbee.*



*Barry Hopkins was acknowledged for his contributions to the chapter.*

Photos provided by S. Virgil

## The Declaration of Independence

### - The Copies and the Results

By Michael G. Lucas

There are three official versions of the Declaration of Independence. The oldest version is Thomas Jefferson's rough draft, in his handwriting, now residing in the Library of Congress. It's entitled "A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in General Congress Assembled." The second copy is the one printed on the evening of July 4, 1776 by John Dunlap. It resides in the *Journal of Congress* in the Congressional Library. This version is entitled "IN CONGRESS, JULY 4th, 1776. A Declaration By the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN GENERAL CONGRESS Assembled." The third version is an engrossed (written by an expert penman, thought to be Timothy Matlack) parchment copy which was signed, starting on August 2nd. It is on display in the National Archives. It is entitled "In CONGRESS, July 4th, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united STATES OF AMERICA." The word "unanimous" was inserted because New York ratified the Declaration later on July 19th. Most historians feel that Jefferson made a fair copy (his handwritten copy after final corrections) and this copy went to Dunlap for printing. The fair copy apparently didn't survive.

The Declaration of Independence was read and copies were spread throughout the land. It was met with demonstrations of celebration across America. It rallied the nation to make independence a reality. It became the foundation for American democracy. It gave the reasons for the authority of the state – "governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." It presented our fundamental rights – men are "created equal" and have the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." The Declaration of Independence forever changed the course of history. It ignited the desire for freedom which quickly became an overwhelming force around the globe. The far-reaching effect was summarized by early historian George Bancroft: "The civilized world had the deepest interest in the result; for it involved the reform of the British Parliament, the emancipation of Ireland, the disenfranchisement of the people of France, the awakening of the nations of Europe." With the Declaration of Independence, the United States of America was born and the world was never the same. 🌀



# 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*



## **YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOU!**

In order for the Gold Country Chapter to prosper there are key positions which need to be filled. We are in need of chairmen of two of our programs – the Knight Essay Contest and the Valley Forge Teachers Program. Our chapter genealogist position is also vacant. In September the newsletter editor and webmaster positions will become vacant. Assistance and mentoring are available for all these positions. We promise not to throw you into a “sink or swim” situation. These vacancies provide wonderful opportunities to pass on a legacy of patriotism to a younger generation of Americans. They are opportunities to support the chapter while utilizing your interests or developing new ones. Contact President Bigbee to learn more about these positions.