

## The President's Message

By Chapter President Keith L. Bigbee

**W**e're now on the threshold of a new year as well as a new decade. Gold Country Chapter SAR has much to be thankful for and a lot to look forward to. Gold Country Chapter has been outstanding over the last ten years and most recently under the leadership of Past President Wayne Griswold.

Over the past decade, Gold Country grew from a small chapter to a large chapter, winning best chapter and many other awards along the way. The chapter has increased in financial stability, primarily through the efforts of a number of our members in staffing the polls. Our newsletter has won national awards under two different editors; we are a well-respected chapter within the State and National Societies. All of this growth and recognition is due to the efforts of many, not one.

As we look forward to the next ten years and beyond, we must first focus on the coming year. In April the chapter will be hosting the annual State Society meeting when our very own Compatriot Griswold will be sworn in as the next California State Society president. There will be many opportunities to volunteer in planning and running the next state meeting. I am confident our members will step up so that we will have all the help we need for this event.

I agreed to return as chapter president with the understanding that I will fulfill the obligation for one year only. We will need other members to step forward if our chapter is to continue. I urge anyone interested in the position of president to discuss it with any of our past presidents. The year will go by quickly so it is important right now to pursue what the position entails. A year of overlap and opportunity to learn these responsibilities would be invaluable. I feel obligated to point out that much of my energy must be dedicated to the state level as CASSAR Vice President North. I will, therefore, need the continued support from all our chapter members.

I want to thank all of the newly elected and continuing officers of the chapter for making the commitment to serve; together we will get things done. I am looking forward to many more parades, school presentations for our amazingly active poster contest, and participation in events with other chapters such as the Wreaths Across America program.

We joined the Sons of the American Revolution to support its positive mission and goals. However, we sometimes get caught up in the details and lose sight of the overall picture. Our goal is to unite, not divide - E Pluribus Unum - out of many, one. I hope my next year as president will see the chapter come together for the benefit of all.

In liberty and patriotism,

**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, January 1st**  
New Years Day - Fly the Flag!**Saturday, January 16th**  
Regular Meeting, 9:30 A.M., Lou LaBonte's Restaurant, Auburn. The Spring CASSAR Planning Committee will meet after the regular meeting.**Monday, January 8th**  
Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday - Fly the Flag!**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.**Monday, February 22nd**  
Washington's Birthday (1732) - Fly the Flag!

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

Sheldon E. Ball, Alfred Costa, Jr., Braxton L. Crismore, JoAnn Cupp, Karl L. Dreher, Rosemary Dreher, William E. King, Wanda King, Aurora N. Kopp, Kristine Lawson, Bianca Manifor, Patricia Peabody, Nicholas S. G. Rapport, Noreen Rooney, Andrew Rowe, Kelly C. Schuck, Smith Virgil, Smith Virgil, Jr., and Ronald P. Williams.



The next Gold Country Chapter meeting is  
**Saturday, January 16th at 9:30 A.M.**  
**Lou LaBonte's Restaurant, Auburn**

The Gold Country Chapter's 2009 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](http://GoldCountrySAR.org) ♦ [CaliforniaSAR.org](http://CaliforniaSAR.org) ♦ [SAR.org](http://SAR.org)

The submission deadline for the February edition of  
 The Forty-Niner is Friday, January 22, 2009.

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# Moral Character – The True Measure of a Man

By Michael G. Lucas



Why is it that two men with similar beginnings end up with dramatically opposite endings? Why does one contribute while the other takes? Why does one have high ideals while the other has selfish motives?

A perfect example of men with virtually identical circumstances was two of our greatest American Revolutionary battlefield giants. They were George Washington and Benedict Arnold. During the first half of the war these two men were revered as America's greatest warriors. Washington singlehandedly held the Continental Army together, ran the British out of Boston, and pulled off a miraculous victory at Trenton. Arnold captured Fort Ticonderoga; its cannon were used to drive the British from Boston. He invaded Canada and was victorious at Saratoga; he constructed warships from green wood on Lake Champlain which blocked a British invasion from Canada. These two great patriots had lives paralleling each other in numerous ways but one became America's greatest hero while the other America's most despised traitor. These two patriots began their lives with very similar beginnings but ended up with totally different legacies. Washington reached the zenith of national adoration while Arnold's name became synonymous with treachery and treason.

Both men were born into financially successful families with a history of public service. Both were given sound educations. Their pursuits of higher education were cut short due to the early death of their fathers. Since death claimed both of their fathers before they were fifteen, their futures depended upon their own efforts and abilities. They both became responsible for their own destiny at an early age and both men became financially successful prior to the war.

Both of these men were fearless in battle. They were both highly esteemed by their subordinates. They were able to motivate their troops unlike any other leaders. Each had their enemies and both became targets of jealous men. Both had to contend with the frustrations of dealing with an inept Congress.

Despite similar early circumstances and abilities, these men left diametrically opposite legacies. The character of Washington caused him to rise above his enemies, to focus more keenly on his objectives, and to use his political prowess to further his objectives. Arnold's conflicts caused him to physically retaliate and become embittered. Washington remained selfless from the beginning to the end of the war. He forsook the comforts of home and remained with his troops through thick and thin. While meeting with the Continental Congress in Philadelphia he was appalled by the decadence he witnessed, while his troops were starving and naked. The "luxury and profusion" of Philadelphia caused him "infinitely more pain than pleasure." During the war Arnold

**CHARACTER:** features and traits that form the individual nature; moral or ethical quality; an account of the qualities or peculiarities of a person.

---Random House Dictionary

married loyalist Peggy Shippen and purchased the most expensive house in Philadelphia. Washington refused to give any appearance of impropriety for the success of the nation, whereas Arnold unethically and illegally sought financial gain during the war. Washington was a man of forgiveness, giving men the opportunity for redemption. Arnold often duelled and never sought reconciliation with his enemies. Content with having achieved his station in life, Washington gracefully yielded his power and fame, whereas a narcissistic Arnold perpetually sought power and fame. Therefore, it appears that character is the single most contributing factor to the resulting success or failure of men.

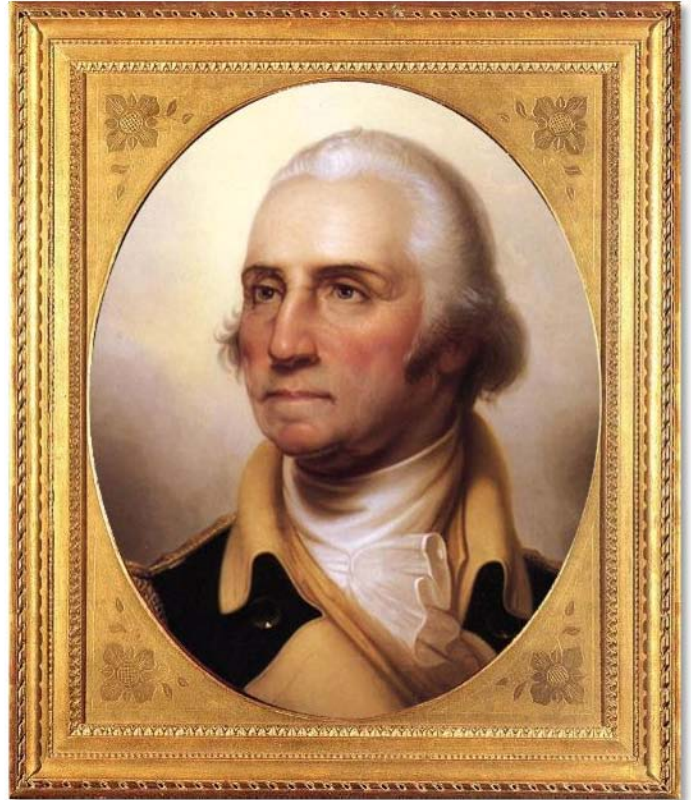
Dave R. Palmer, author of *George Washington and Benedict Arnold* quoted Richard Brookhiser, a modern historian, who stated that Washington possessed “an absolute unwillingness to be led astray by personal gain or ideological distractions.” Palmer also quoted David Abshire, former president of the Center for the Study of the Presidency, who stated, “For George Washington, who he was, and what he did were the same...the heart of Washington’s leadership was pure character.” The great British statesman and four times Prime Minister, William E. Gladstone, named Washington as the purest figure in history. King George III, when hearing of Washington’s resignation from the Continental Army, said that this act “placed him in a light the most distinguished of any man living...The greatest character of the age.” Thomas Jefferson wrote, “The moderation and virtue of a single character probably prevented this revolution from being closed, as most others have been, by a subversion of that liberty it was intended to establish.” Mount Rushmore bears his image; the famous obelisk in our nation’s capital honors his memory; our money uses his image; our capital bears his name; a state, numerous counties, buildings, and markers are named after him. Tributes and honors for George Washington are endless.

Washington wrote of Benedict Arnold that, “there are no terms that can describe the baseness of his heart.” When asked what Americans would do to Arnold if captured, one colonial answered that they would bury his left leg (shattered in the Battle of Saratoga) with full military honors and then hang the rest of him. Few books have been written about Arnold. His heroic feats have been forgotten. The fort once named after him was renamed. He became a man without a country. He moved to England but was never accepted. He then moved to Canada but was rejected there too. He died in England a broken man, leaving his family with a large debt and a reviled name.

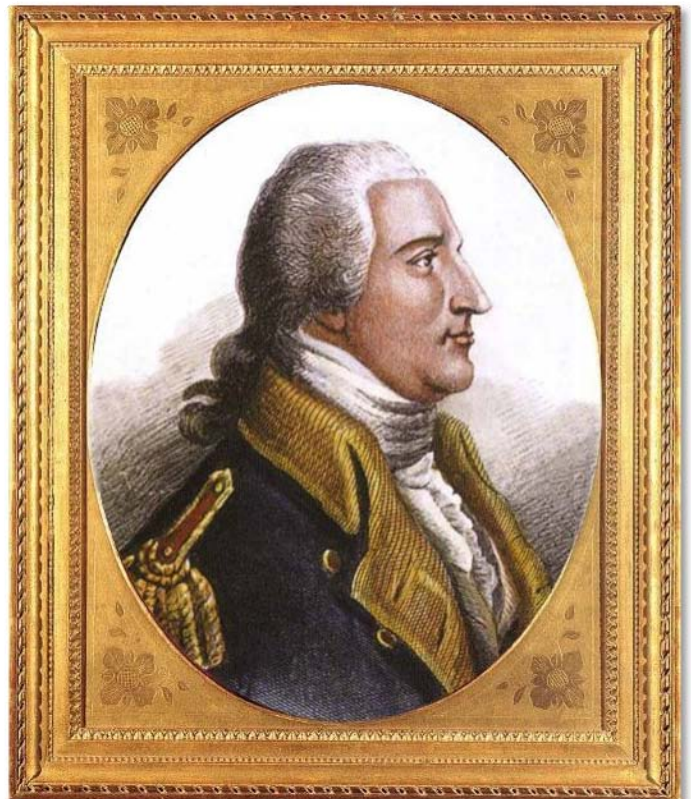
Legendary Coach John Wooden has been quoted, “Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.” Men wishing to leave a commendable legacy need to carefully develop their character and guard it from corruptive influences. It is not our circumstances but our character which will determine our destiny.

Sow a thought, and you reap an act;  
Sow an act, and you reap a habit;  
Sow a habit, and you reap a character;  
Sow a character, and you reap a destiny.

---Anonymous, attributed to various sources



*General George Washington*



*Major General Benedict Arnold*

# *The American Revolution Month-by-Month*

## *January 1776*

### *Dunmore Ravages Virginia*

#### *Arnold Perseveres at Quebec*

*By Andrew Jackson Stough, III*

*Edited by Michael G. Lucas*



Based upon history, January should have been a dull month because European armies did not fight under winter conditions. In January 1776, the Continental Army spent its time looking down on the British snug in the comfort of Boston. Benedict Arnold and his remaining forward force suffered in the winter cold near Quebec. Virginia was the only scene of active warfare.



By the end of December, Virginia's Governor Dunmore prepared for war. He loaded five warships and six smaller ships with his armed forces. He included many slaves and as many Loyalists as he could crowd aboard. Tight quarters and unsanitary conditions on the ships led to sickness and death. The condition was aggravated by the lack of foodstuff of every kind. Foraging parties sent ashore to remedy the shortage were either driven back or captured. Obviously the situation demanded action and relief for British land and sea forces in Dunmore's fleet. Frustrated and angry, Dunmore had announced in December that he would burn Norfolk on New Year's Day. Norfolk, having a population of 6,000, was one of the most prominent and prosperous cities in the colonies. Would he wantonly destroy such a city?

New Year's Eve came and went, without action from Dunmore, but this was about to change. At 4 A.M. the stillness of the night exploded with sound from cannon firing red hot cannon balls. Dunmore had made good his threat and began a bombardment of the town. Gunners aboard ship had been made aware of houses and buildings owned by Loyalists and were told not to fire upon them. It didn't matter because locals, whose properties were being shelled, rushed to set fire to any Loyalist property (Ward). The bombardment lasted for seven hours and fires raged for two days. In the end, there

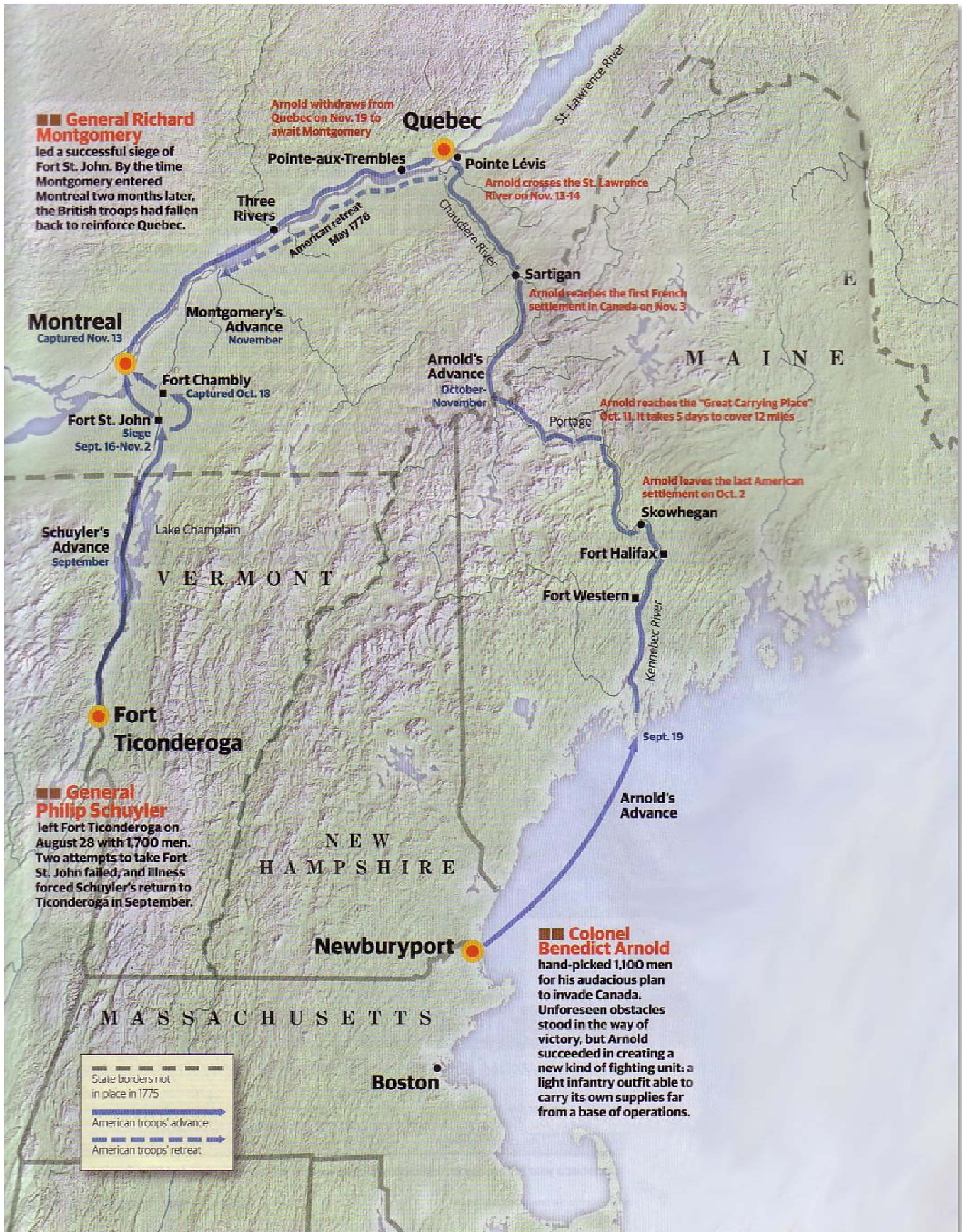
was nothing left of the most prosperous town in Virginia but ashes and a name on the map.

Following this event, Dunmore's fleet sailed north joining up with the larger fleet off New York City. At this time Dunmore's fleet was split into three parts. One part was sent to Florida and another to Jamaica. Dunmore, with a portion of the British fleet, returned to England where he was given a hero's welcome. For his gallant defense of Crown property, he was rewarded with governorship of the Bahaman Islands. Ironically, slaves who had been promised freedom if they would serve in Dunmore's army, were taken to Florida and Jamaica and sold back into slavery.



After the battle, Sir Guy Carleton held to the environs of Quebec, allowing Arnold to wither away outside the city. Carleton was militarily stronger than ever and could expect to receive overwhelming support from London in the spring. Normally it would be expected that Arnold's defeated army would fall back to Montreal where it would have the support of that garrison, along with better housing and supplies. However, his troops were dwindling by the day as enlistments expired and others simply walked away (Higginbotham).

In spite of the obstacles, Arnold continued to hold on outside the city. His call for reinforcements from Montreal was denied by Colonel Wooster who could not reduce his garrison without the danger of being overrun. This left Arnold between two British forces with no place to retreat. Appeals to Schuyler at Albany were denied because he needed all of his men to fight an uprising by Loyalists in the area. Still Arnold persisted and appealed to the Congress who on



January 19th promoted him to the rank of brigadier general and authorized funding along with reinforcements from the New England area (Ward).

With reinforcements arriving daily at Montreal, Colonel Wooster joined Arnold. He brought with him 200 veterans, seasoned from the Battle of Montreal. Meanwhile, smallpox was raging in Arnold's camp; out of 600 men, only 200 were fit for duty. The reinforcements would also dwindle in effective numbers as smallpox began overtaking them (Ward).




The situation in the siege of Boston was turned around as Colonel Henry Knox, Washington's chief of artillery, accomplished what everyone said could not be done in mid-winter. Knox arrived on January 24th with cannon and mortars captured from Fort Ticonderoga. He had used teams of oxen to drag the equipment through the deep snow of the wilderness. The shoe was now on the other foot. Previously Washington had been in jeopardy from guns aboard the British fleet anchored in Boston Harbor. With his new strength, he could now place guns on Dorchester Heights and out-gun the British fleet.



Thomas Paine was an English propagandist, a spokesman and writer sent by Ben Franklin to contribute his talents to the American cause. Paine came to America, writing and speaking for the American cause without prosecution. The Revolution needed a spokesman who could inspire a belief in revolution. He began to convince the common man that revolt was the only way to seek sovereignty from England. Early in January, Thomas Paine published the pamphlet *Common Sense*. It was overwhelmingly received by the American public as their justification for revolt against King George III.

References: Robert Leckie's *George Washington's War*; Jeffrey Shaara's *Rise to Rebellion*; Edmund Morgan's *The Birth of the Republic*, Christopher Ward's *War of the Revolution*; Arthur Meier Schlesinger's *Almanac of American History*; Don Higginbotham's *The War of American Independence*

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. 

By His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN Earl of DUNMORE, His MAJESTY'S Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of VIRGINIA, and Vice Admiral of the fame.

## A P R O C L A M A T I O N .

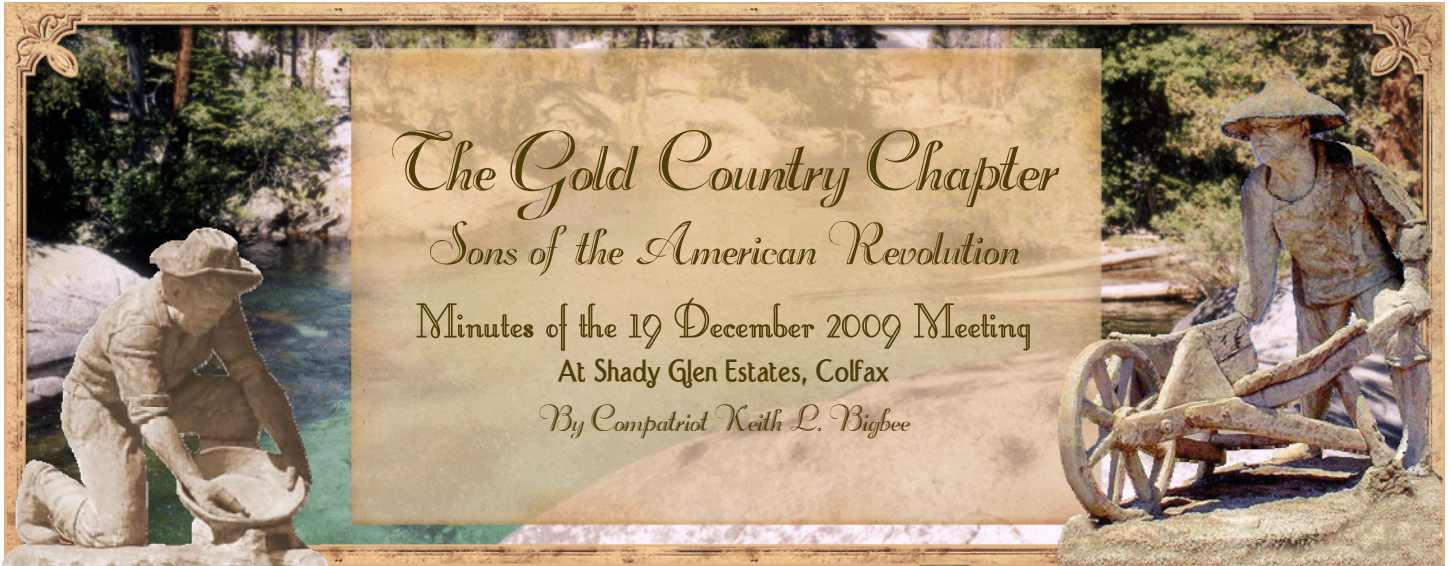
AS I have ever entertained Hopes, that an Accommodation might have taken Place between GREAT-BRITAIN and this Colony, without being compelled by my Duty to this most disagreeable but now absolutely necessary Step, rendered so by a Body of armed Men unlawfully assembled, firing on His MAJESTY'S Tenders, and the formation of an Army, and that Army now on their March to attack His MAJESTY'S Troops and destroy the well disposed Subjects of this Colony. To defeat such treasonable Purposes, and that all such Traitors, and their Abettors, may be brought to Justice, and that the Peace, and good Order of this Colony may be again restored, which the ordinary Course of the Civil Law is unable to effect; I have thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, hereby declaring, that until the aforelaid good Purposes can be obtained, I do in Virtue of the Power and Authority to ME given, by His MAJESTY, determine to execute Martial Law, and cause the same to be executed throughout this Colony: and to the end that Peace and good Order may the sooner be restored, I do require every Person capable of bearing Arms, to resort to His MAJESTY'S STANDARD, or be looked upon as Traitors to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Government, and thereby become liable to the Penalty the Law inflicts upon such Offences; such as forfeiture of Life, confiscation of Lands, &c. &c. And I do hereby further declare all indentured Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His MAJESTY'S Troops as soon as may be, for the more speedily reducing this Colony to a proper Sense of their Duty, to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Dignity. I do further order, and require, all His MAJESTY'S Leige Subjects, to retain their Quitrents, or any other Taxes due or that may become due, in their own Custody, till such Time as Peace may be again restored to this at present most unhappy Country, or demanded of them for their former salutary Purposes, by Officers properly authorized to receive the same.

GIVEN under my Hand on board the Ship WILLIAM, off NORFOLK, the 7th Day of NOVEMBER, in the SIXTEENTH Year of His MAJESTY'S Reign.

DUNMORE.

(GOD save the KING.)

*The day after the First Continental Congress adjourned, the royal governor, John Murray, fourth earl of Dunmore, under orders from King George III, issued the above proclamation forbidding the appointment of delegates to the Second Continental Congress, which was to meet in Philadelphia on May 10, 1775. The proclamation was issued too late because the Virginia convention had already elected delegates. Approximately one month later, before dawn on April 21st, British marines from the HMS Magdalen took action. Acting under orders from the governor, they removed gunpowder from the magazine in Williamsburg. Militia companies converged on the capital, and the colony came close to an armed rebellion. On April 30th, news of fighting between British soldiers and Massachusetts militiamen at Lexington and Concord reached Williamsburg. War between Great Britain and her American colonies was now inevitable.*



**P**resident Wayne Griswold called the meeting to order at 2:45 P.M. Earl Young gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bob Gentry. Smitty Virgil then led the SAR Pledge.

**Attendance:** There were 19 members, 17 guests, and four junior members in attendance.

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

**New Member Inductions:** President Griswold then moved into the induction of new members starting with our newest junior member Michael Manifor, followed by the induction of Richard Manifor, Stephen Manifor, Brian Manifor, Kyle Young, and Aaron Young. Both Kyle and Aaron were prior youth registrants and are now junior members. What a great time for so many new members to be inducted. Congratulations to all.

**Business:** President Griswold then asked for a motion to suspend all business until the January 2010 meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and passed.

**Fellowship:** Head table introductions were made beginning with Past President Earl Young and his wife Ann, Immediate Past President Keith Bigbee and his wife Cyndy, and Immediate Past CASSAR President and National Trustee Stephen Renouf and his wife Joy. After head table introductions were made, everyone enjoyed a wonderful potluck dinner, including ham, numerous wonderful pasta and potato dishes, and a myriad of delectable desserts.

**Presentations:** President Griswold then asked Armida Manifor to come forward. She was presented the Medal of

Appreciation for her diligent efforts in gathering the necessary documentation for four of the new members inducted earlier in the program.

The Bronze Baron von Steuben Color Guard Medals were awarded to Kyle Young, Aaron Young, and Kile Bigbee for their many years of Color Guard service to the chapter. Joshua Brown and Nathaniel Stowells were not present to receive their awards.

In honor of his many years of paid membership in SAR, Earl Young was presented with a 10-year service pin. Dave Perkins, who was not in attendance, will be presented a 20-year service pin during the next chapter meeting.

Dave Gilliard, Barry Hopkins, Smitty Virgil, Winona Virgil, Bill D. Welch, Jeanette Welch, Earl Young, and Ann Young were recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation for conducting 24 presentations in eleven schools reaching more than 800 students for the Americanism Poster Contest program. This contest is one of our chapter's landmark activities with a high level of participation. Such success required the time and dedication on the part of these individuals.

Dale Ross was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his service as captain of the Gold Country Chapter Color Guard as well as member of the CASSAR Color Guard. Dale has done an excellent job of coordinating our Color Guard to ensure we are present at many events.

Dave Gilliard and Keith Bigbee were each awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster for the Meritorious Service Medal, as they are both recipients of this medal. They continue to devote significant time and energy at both the chapter and state levels.





Mike Lucas, who was not in attendance, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding and award-winning efforts as our newsletter editor and webmaster. It was noted that Compatriot Lucas's editorial skills was awarded the National Society's Best Chapter Newsletter Award during the Atlanta Congress this past July.

Past CASSAR President and National Trustee Steve Renouf installed the chapter's new slate of officers for the coming year. Dave Gilliard escorted the following new officers forward to be sworn in.

President (1 year term)	Keith Bigbee
First Vice President	Mike Holmes (not present)
Second Vice President	William A. Welch
Secretary	Ed Beyer
Treasurer	Bruce Choate
Registrar	Smith Virgil
Historian	Barry Hopkins (not present)
Chaplain	Ron Williams (not present)




In closing, President Griswold concluded his awards portions of the program with two final presentations before turning the meeting over to newly installed President Bigbee. He asked Coreena Ross and Cyndy Bigbee to come forward and he presented them with a gift basket from Bath and Body Works. This was in appreciation for the support they had given him during his tenure.

He then asked Past CASSAR President and National Trustee Stephen Renouf and his wife Joy to come forward. He thanked them for their attendance explaining to the chapter that they had attended the last four Christmas parties. In appreciation President Griswold presented them with a gift package from Ghirardelli Chocolate.



President Bigbee presented Past President Griswold with a Past Presidents Pin and an engraved business card holder as a thank you gift from the chapter for his years of service.

**Closing:** Earl Young gave the Benediction and Bill A. Welch led the SAR Recessional. Meeting was adjourned at 4:15. 

*Top Photo: The CASSAR Color Guard at the Fall Meeting. At the top, second from the left is Dale Ross.*

*Middle Photo: President Griswold turned the meeting over to newly installed President Keith Bigbee.*

*Bottom Photo: Earl Young, Dave Gilliard, Smitty Virgil, Winona Virgil, Ann Young, Bill D. Welch, and Jeanette Welch were recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation for their support of the Americanism Poster Contest program.*



Beginning top left and then continuing clockwise:

Inducted as Gold Country Chapter's newest junior member was Michael Manifor, son of Richard Manifor.

Inducted as our newest members were Richard Manifor, Steven Manifor, Brian Manifor. Kyle Young, and Aaron Young were inducted as junior members.

Armida Manifor was presented the Medal of Appreciation for her invaluable genealogical support to the chapter.

The Bronze Baron von Steuben Color Guard Medals were presented to Kyle Young, Aaron Young, and Kile Bigbee. Cyndy Bigbee accepted the award for her son Kile.

A wonderful potluck dinner with a wonderful selection of entrees and desserts was enjoyed by everyone.





Beginning top left and then continuing clockwise:

Dale Ross was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his service as captain of the Gold Country Color Guard and member of the CASSAR Color Guard.

Dave Gilliard and Keith Bigbee were presented Oak Leaf Clusters for their Meritorious Service Medals.

President Wayne Griswold was presented several gifts in appreciation for his invaluable service to the chapter.

Past CASSAR President and National Trustee Stephen Renouf and his wife Joy were presented a gift basket in appreciation for their support to the chapter for a number of years.

Earl Young was presented a 10-year service pin.





# 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*

## Wreaths Across America

The NSSAR, CASSAR, Sacramento Chapter, and Gold Country Chapter participated in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery in Dixon, CA on Saturday, December 12th, as part of the national Wreaths Across America program.

The SAR Honor Guard paid tribute to each military branch of the service (USA, USMC, USN, USAF, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines), POW/MIAs, and patriot ancestors. The Honor Guard included Tom Chilton, Jim Faulkinbury, and Vince Gantt from the Sacramento Chapter; Keith Bigbee, Dale Ross, Smith Virgil, Earl Young, and Bill D. Welch from the Gold Country Chapter. CASSAR Executive Vice President Wayne Griswold read the NSSAR President-General's proclamation of support for the Wreaths Across America program. Photos were provided by Don Littlefield of the Sacramento Chapter.

