



The President's Message

By Chapter President Keith L. Bigbee

May was another busy month for Gold Country Chapter. Bill D. & Jeanette Welch, Smitty & Winona Virgil, Barry Hopkins, Dale Ross, and Wayne Griswold have been seen wandering the halls of the local schools in their period costume. They exhibited our magnificent flag collection and made the Americanism Poster contest award presentations to the schools. Due to Bill Welch's leadership, these are now complete for this year.

On May 8th Dale and Coreena Ross were at Beale Air Force Base for a 100th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. There were over 6,000 scouts at the weekend celebration. Dale and Coreena were in charge of the Cub Scouts, which had 1,100 attendees. Wayne Griswold, Ernie McPherson, and I joined them for a day with flag displays and Revolutionary War artifacts. It was a great success.

This year's Community Awards program was held in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Placer Library on May 16th. We had the privilege of honoring members of the local community along with Law Enforcement from the City of Roseville. Fire Commendation Medals and Certificates were presented to the nine members of the Forest Guard team from Meadow Vista. Professionals in the field from all over the world have recognized their innovative ideas for wildfire detection. Easley's Nursery has been a supporter of the community for a long time. They provide flower arrangements to the local schools for proms, graduations and special events along with donating table arrangements for the Gold Country's many state meetings. It was an honor to present the nursery with the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal. True to his commitment to the community, Earle Easley could not be in at the awards program because he was busy getting ready for the next graduation, so we stopped by to make the presentation after the meeting. We also recognized Dr. David Salmassy for his enumerable contributions to the community. Two winners of our youth programs received awards: Paige Gilliard in the Knight Essay Contest and Riley Brian in the Eagle Scout Essay Contest.

The June election is right around the corner and we have had to scale way back this year due to a lack of participation from the chapter members. We will not be able to meet our budget income goals for the year as a result. I must say I am distraught over the difficulty we continue to face in getting our members to participate in events and take an active role in the business of the chapter. Last year I agreed to fill in for a year as president with everyone's help. A few members did step up to assist. A dedicated group continues to participate in and attend almost all activities, but as a whole, I do not think we have had the needed support so far this year. As a result, the chapter is not in as good a shape as I know it can be and as it must be to continue providing the programs and support to our community and youth. We need some folks to get involved and get the chapter back on its foundation or we will have to make a possibly drastic decision as to what the next move must be.

<i>In This Issue</i>	
<i>The President's Message</i>	1
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	2
<i>A Patriot's Perspective</i>	3
<i>American Revolution Series</i>	5
<i>Remembering Two Patriot Doctors</i>	6
<i>Meeting Minutes and Photos</i>	7

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 &
CASSAR PRESIDENT****Wayne A. Griswold**

(916) 985-3756

WAGris@ATT.net

Calendar of Events

Sunday, June 6th

D-Day - Fly the Flag!

Monday, June 14th

Flag Day - Fly the Flag!

Thursday, June 17th

Bunker Hill Day - Fly the Flag!

Sunday, June 20th

Father's Day - Fly the Flag!

Saturday, June 26th

Regular Meeting, 9:30 A.M., LDS Church, 615 Hollow Way, Nevada City. *Directions from Auburn: Exit Hwy 49 at Gold Flat Road (Exit 185A) Take a right at the exit and then a quick left onto Hollow Way. The road ends at the church parking lot.*

Happy Birthday wishes to the following who will celebrate birthdays in June:

John Anderson, Patrica Ball, Alexander Baxter, Matthew Becker, Jordon Brown, Nicholas Chiolino, Beverly Cleaver, Zachary Hymans, Karen Hopkins, Christy Longbotham, Robert McClurg, Isabel Perkins, Kerry Singleton, Ryan Welch, Bill D. Welch, Ed Young, James B. Zobel, and Matthew Zobel.



The next Gold Country Chapter meeting is
Saturday, June 26th at 9:30 A.M.

LDS Church, 615 Hollow Way, Nevada City

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 July edition of
The Forty-Niner is Monday, June 28, 2010.

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George Washington - America's Joshua

By Michael G. Lucas

On August 17th and 18th, 1790, President George Washington visited Newport, Rhode Island, the location of America's largest and oldest Jewish congregation. Moses Seixas, the congregation's warden, in his welcoming speech, prayed that Washington's life would be, like Joshua, full of days and full of honor. Washington's response was emotional, perhaps being overwhelmed with the comparison with Joshua.

Joshua had become God's chosen servant to defeat Israel's enemies and secure their new land. Joshua's remarkable life was filled with valor, success, and honor. He was known for his unflinching trust in God and as "a man in whom is the spirit." We honor George Washington as "The Father of Our Country" who brought our nation safely into its inheritance. Like Joshua, Washington had an unflinching trust in God. Through his valor, he, too, achieved unparalleled success and honor.

Both leaders faced insurmountable odds. Joshua had been one of the twelve spies earlier sent into the Promised Land by Moses. Joshua and Caleb were the only two who came back with encouraging reports. The other spies came back defeated and declared that the Israelites were too weak to fight these inhabitants. The reports were that "the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak [giants] there." Joshua didn't let the overwhelming odds deter him from his mission. Against larger armies, alliances and all odds, Israel conquered Canaan. George Washington, likewise, had virtually no chance of defeating the world's greatest military power. He started with no army, no logistics system, no navy, no credit, no manufacturing, and a divided population. Both of these leaders refused to accept defeat and found a path to victory.

Joshua and Washington were accomplished military leaders. First, they did not send their men into battle but



rather they led them into battle. "Joshua and the whole army moved out to attack" and "Joshua marched...with his entire army" are descriptions of his military leadership. During battle, General Washington was usually in front of his troops. One of his officers wrote the following: "Our army love [sic] their General very much, but they have one thing against him which is the little care he takes of himself in any action. His personal bravery and the desire he has of animating his troops by example, make [sic] him fearless of danger." Second, both Joshua and Washington were masters of military spying. Neither entered battle without first obtaining the most comprehensive intelligence available. Third, these leaders were encouragers. Joshua told his people to "be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified: do not be discouraged." Without the encouragement of George Washington, the American Revolution would have failed. During brutal winters, he never left his troops but stayed to encourage them. When the enlistments of his entire army were about to expire, he successfully encouraged them not to quit but stay and fight on.

Joshua continually reminded his people to remember their God and to obey Him so that they would be prosperous and successful. He was careful to have the priests carry the Ark of the Covenant before them into battle. He also gave credit to God who had mightily manifested Himself in their midst. Joshua set aside days of remembrance of God. Centuries later George Washington followed this same course. He knew that their battle was a spiritual struggle as well as a physical one. The federal chaplaincy was initiated by the Continental Congress on July 29, 1775, in response to the request of General Washington. He later augmented the chaplaincy corps through a general order of July 9, 1776. On June 8, 1783, as the commander in chief, General Washington sent a circular Letter to the States. A portion of that letter was the following prayer in his exact words: "Now I make it my earnest prayer that God would have you and the State over which you preside, in His holy protection, that He would

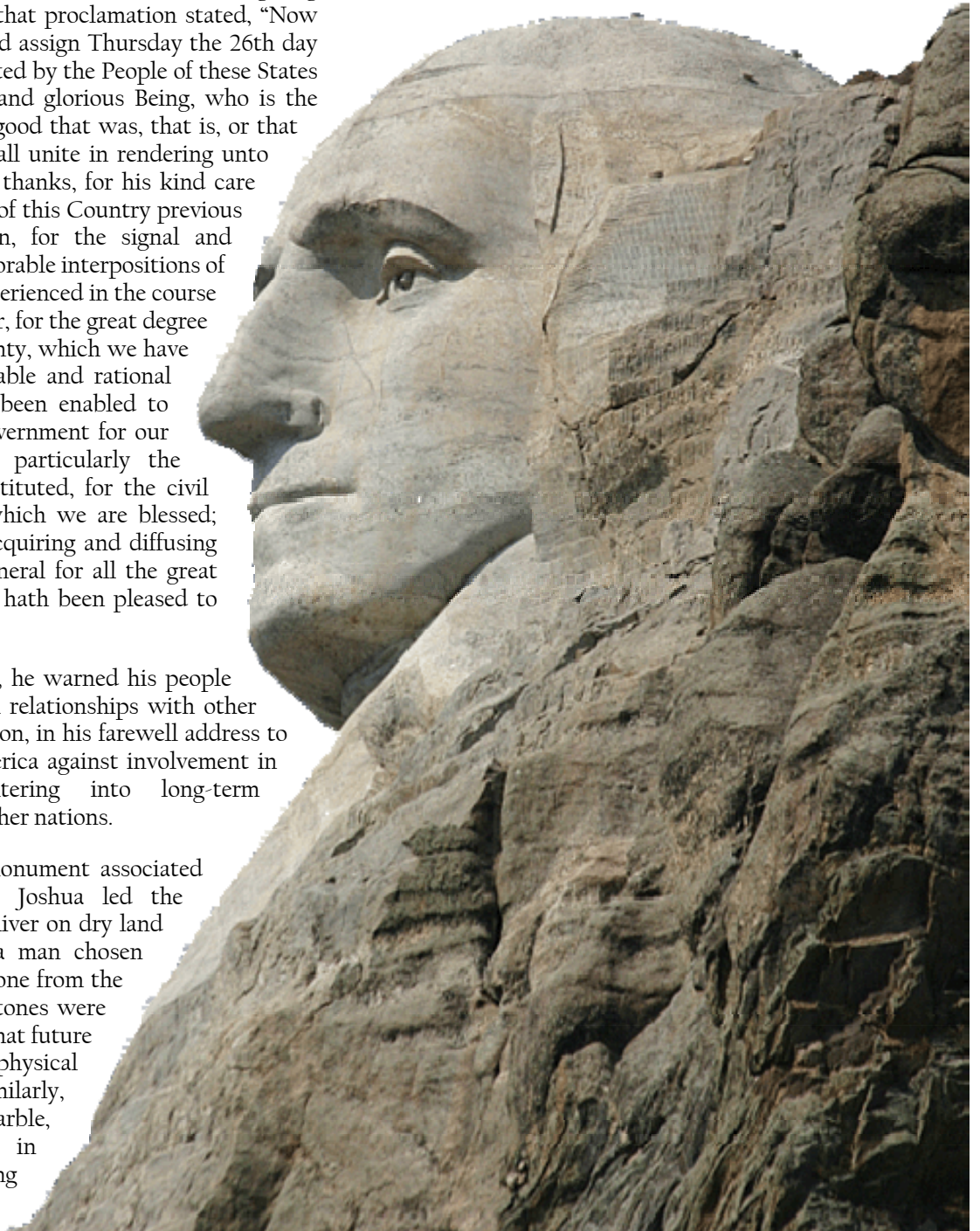
incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government, to entertain brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow citizens and the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the field, and finally, that He would 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.” As president, Washington made a Proclamation of National Thanksgiving on October 3, 1789. Part of that proclamation stated, “Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks, for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation, for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war, for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.”

In Joshua’s farewell speech, he warned his people against joining themselves in relationships with other nations. Likewise, Washington, in his farewell address to the nation, would warn America against involvement in European wars and entering into long-term “entangling” alliances with other nations.

There would be a stone monument associated with each leader. When Joshua led the Israelites across the Jordan River on dry land into their Promised Land, a man chosen from each tribe removed a stone from the middle of the river. These stones were used to make a memorial so that future generations would have a physical reminder of the event. Similarly, Americans have a granite, marble, and sandstone monument in their nation’s capital providing a physical reminder of what was accomplished through

George Washington. Just as each Israelite tribe contributed a monument stone to their memorial, each American state and territory contributed a stone for the Washington Monument. And as a reminder for future generations of Americans, there is an inscription on the east face on the aluminum point which crowns the apex of the Washington Monument: “Laus Deo” – Praise be to God.

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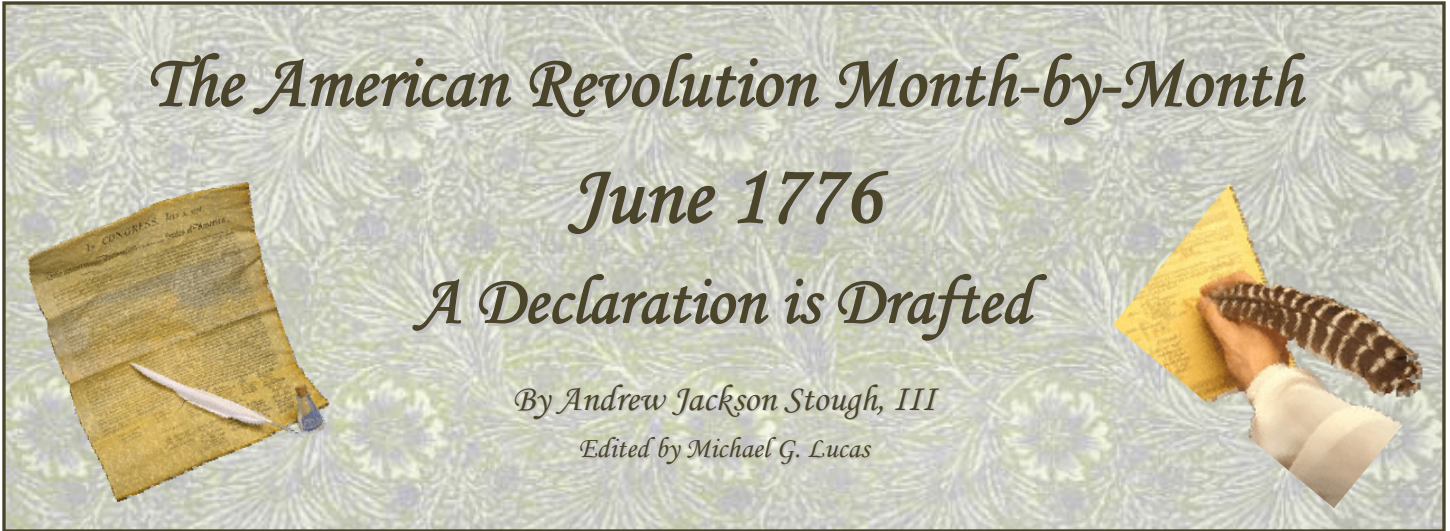
The American Revolution Month-by-Month

June 1776

A Declaration is Drafted

By Andrew Jackson Stough, III

Edited by Michael G. Lucas



June was a month for creativity. Determined at last to create a formal document declaring independence, Congress appointed a committee of five to draft the document and present it for approval by the sitting body. The only requirement imposed was that the document must conform to the Virginia Resolves.

To Jefferson, younger and less distinguished, fell the task of doing the writing. Franklin and Adams were known for their ideas, but Thomas Jefferson possessed an ability to write. He became stuck with the drudgery of drawing up a new document which had to conform to an already published document.

You might inquire why would Franklin or Adams not grab this opportunity to expand on the Virginia Resolves and therefore further distinguish himself? Several authors have volunteered reasons. Among those suggested are that, at its inception, the document was seen as simply a restatement of the Virginia Resolves – hardly an incentive to the two older men. They may have considered their expertise to be of more value as reviewers than as rewrite authors of a document. The document would express to the king, Parliament, and other nations that the colonies, here and now, declared themselves sovereign states; free and independent; and capable of being able to negotiate, trade, and carry on diplomatic relations with any other nation as it saw fit.

Jefferson pondered the problem: Should he make it a bare bones statement or should he also review the wrongs requiring dissolution of the bonds with the mother country? Should it be an inspirational document to rouse men's souls as had Paine's *Common Sense*? To his credit, he did all three. The original writing was much amended to its final version but the essence remained. Jefferson imported ideas from Mason, Locke, and other political theorists of that day. His secret was the uplifting manner in which he expressed these ideas. They were concise and inspirational, causing a flood of reprints so that all could read or own a copy of his document.

There were numerous changes made to the declaration, not only at the request of Franklin and Adams, but by the demands of Congress. Still, the original tenor was maintained. There had been much politicking in the effort to arrive at unity on the Declaration. As time for a vote neared, only New York and Pennsylvania were holdouts. Pennsylvania approved it prior to the final vote on July 1st. New York abstained, allowing more time for consideration, without showing a lack of unity among the states.

On July 4, 1776, came the official adoption and formality of signing the Declaration. John Hancock, as president of the Congress, signed with his oversized signature, assuring that the king saw Hancock's approval of the United States' Declaration of Independence.

On July 8th, the Declaration was read to the assembled populace in Philadelphia. And, on the ninth the Declaration was read to every brigade in the Continental Army to rousing cheers. The soldiers were then read an inspiring speech written by Washington for the troops. Essentially, he said that they were now free of any loyalty to the king, but that freedom was tenuous and could only be maintained by a victorious Continental Army. The message was well received, but would the army be able to uphold the freedom gained by the Declaration of Independence, especially against a professional British military?

How did all of this come about? For years the colonists had looked on the king as a father figure and they were his children. In the beginning, there was reluctance by the states and the people to overthrow the yoke that bound them. Also, at least in the early days of revolt, Parliament was blamed for all the hated acts imposed on the colonies. As time passed, it became clear that this was not only Parliament's will, but also the king's. The breaking point seems to have come when Hessians were hired by the king to do the dirty work of suppressing Americans by any means possible. Probably no less was the work of the Royal Navy and the king's colonial


governors. They had burned entire towns because of the actions of a few. They had been carried out simply to impress occupants, and the colonists in general, that it did not pay to disagree with the king's will, or that of his minions.

Militarily, there were minor engagements during the month but nothing to compare with the events that would begin with the arrival of General Howe on July 2nd and the unloading of troops on Staten Island. Several days later his elder brother Admiral Lord Howe arrived with a battle fleet and transports loaded with supplies and troop

reinforcements.

July was noted for its political events. August returns to the military scene as the source of outstanding events during the month.

References: Leckie's *George Washington's War*; Leckie's *The Wars of America*; Edmund S. Morgan's *Birth of the Republic*; Don Higginbotham's *The War of American Independence*; A. J. Langguth's *The Men Who Started the American Revolution*.

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. 

Remembering Two Patriot Doctors

By Michael G. Lucas

Doctor Hugh Mercer and Doctor Joseph Warren were two awe-inspiring patriots whose lives and deaths paralleled each other in numerous ways.

Both of these men were successful medical doctors who put their careers on hold in order to fight on the battlefields of the Revolutionary War. Even though they were men of status, it was their humility that made them unique. Virginia had been trying to raise a third regiment but the only applicants were from men seeking high ranking commissions. Dr. Mercer wrote his application on a scrap of paper: "Hugh Mercer will serve his adopted country and the cause of liberty in any rank or station to which he may be appointed." He was made a Brigadier General but he had been willing to serve even as a lowly private. Likewise, Dr. Warren had been given the rank of Major General but it had not taken effect when he served as a volunteer private at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Both men died on the battlefield. Dr. Mercer was at Princeton when he encountered two British regiments and a mounted unit. His horse was shot out from him. After he was surrounded, he continued to fight rather than surrender and he was mortally wounded. Dr. Warren was shot in the head at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

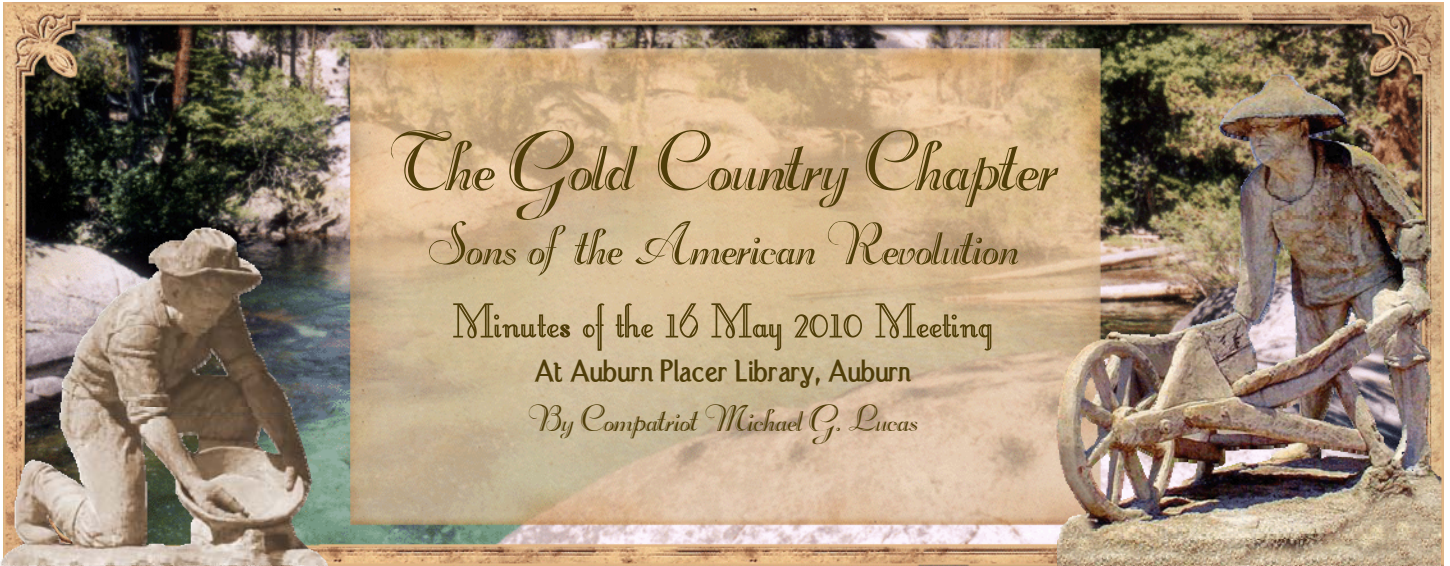
Both men had put the American cause above their own ambition. The night before the Battle of Princeton, Dr. Mercer was in the tent with General St. Clair and several other officers who were discussing their recent promotions. Mercer remarked "If this War was for Ambition, then I

would have no part of it, for each man should just be happy to serve in the position that he would be most useful." Mercer also stated that he had only one objective: the success of the American cause and before God he would be happy to lay down his life if that is what it would take to secure it. Within hours he kept his pact with God. Similarly, Warren declined the offer to command his unit at Bunker Hill. He responded that he needed to learn warfare by serving as a volunteer private.

Both men made incredible contributions to the Revolutionary effort. Some think that the idea of crossing the Delaware River and surprising the Hessians at Trenton was the brainchild of Dr. Mercer. At any rate, he contributed mightily to its success. Dr. Warren helped create the Committee of Correspondence, which laid the groundwork for the creation of the nation. He gave speeches, wrote articles, and was a dominant figure in the Boston Massacre and Boston Tea Party. He wrote the "Suffolk Resolves" which advocated an armed resistance to the British. He was the patriot who dispatched Paul Revere on his midnight ride.

Both men were given initial inauspicious burials with later dignified re-interments. Dr. Mercer was given a humble burial near the battleground. Two days later his remains were removed to Philadelphia and interned with military honors in Christ Churchyard. Dr. Warren's body was dumped into a grave along with another patriot in Granary Burying Ground. His remains were later interned at St. Paul's Church in Boston.

--Concluded on Page 10.



President Keith Bigbee called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM. Barry Hopkins provided the Invocation. Keith Bigbee led the Pledge of Allegiance. Bruce Choate led the SAR Pledge.

Attendance: Eight members and forty guests attended the meeting.

Guests Recognized: President Bigbee recognized Auburn Mayor Mike Holmes; DAR members Pat Hopkins, Winona Virgil, and Coreena Ross; and the award recipients along with their families and friends.

General Business: President Bigbee presented a brief summary of the organization and its purpose. He asked for and received a motion approving the April meeting minutes as published in the chapter newsletter. President Bigbee asked for a motion to suspend all chapter business until the next meeting. Smith Virgil made the motion; Bruce Choate seconded the motion; the motion was passed by the membership.

Awards Program:

Fire Safety Commendation Medal: The Fire Safety Commendation Medal is presented to individuals for contributions in the area of fire safety. It is the ultimate goal to protect human life and property by preventing injuries or casualties due to fire and chemicals. The chapter's winner was the result of the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) contest. One of their programs is the FIRST Lego League for children 9 to 14 years old. A team from Meadow Vista has garnered international acclaim for their project of an Early Wildfire Detection System. The team members are

Faith Oakes, Drew Oakes, Andrew Wood, Bobby Huckins, Alejandro Vega, and Aydan Potts. Their mentor is Karl Buck LeVezu; the coaches are Heidi Buck and Alan LeVezu. Each member was presented the SAR Fire Commendation Medal.

Eagle Scout Scholarship: The Eagle Scout Scholarship is open to all Eagle Scouts who are currently registered in an active unit and have not reached their 19th birthday during the contest year. This year's Chapter winner was Riley Brian. Riley was unable to attend the meeting but will be presented the SAR Eagle Scout Medal and a check for \$150.00.

Knight Essay Contest: The Knight Essay Contest is designed to give students an opportunity to explore the influence of the Revolutionary War on present day America. It is open to all high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors. It provides them opportunities to win scholarships at the chapter, state, and national levels. President Bigbee announced this year's winner as Paige Gilliard. Paige was presented with medal and certificate along with a check for \$150.00.

Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate: The Bronze Good Citizenship Medal was authorized in 1895 and recognizes persons whose achievements are noteworthy in their school, community or state. This medal, the ROTC Medals and the Medal for Heroism are the only SAR medals awarded to both adults and/or minors. Two Bronze Good Citizenship Medals and Certificates were presented this year. The first Medal and Certificate was presented to Eisleys Nursery. The Eisley family has a long tradition of providing rewards and decorations for proms, graduations, and special events.



The Fire Safety Commendation Medals were presented to the members of Meadow Vista's FIRST Lego League. They developed an Early Wildfire Detection System which is being implemented.



The Knight Essay Contest winner was Paige Gilliard. Paige's essay dealing with Thomas Paine's revolutionary pamphlet "Common Sense" was the chapter's winning essay. She is shown with her parents, Dave and Maryanne.

The Bronze Good Citizenship Medal and Certificate were presented to Doctor David Salmassy, an Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon in Auburn. David has volunteered his time and surgical expertise to many in the community.

The Law Enforcement Commendation Medals were presented to Officer Darren Kato and Claudia Raya for their outstanding work in the field of law enforcement. Also pictured is Claudia's son Alexander.





The Bronze Good Citizenship Award was presented to Eisley’s Nursery for their support throughout the community. Mr. Eisley was unable to attend the meeting. The award was presented to him at the nursery after the meeting.

The Eagle Scout Essay Award was presented to Eagle Scout Riley Brian. Brian was unable to attend the meeting so the award was to be presented to him at a later date.

They have contributed to the chapter in the form of flowers during State meetings and for other award presentations. Mr. Eisley was unable to attend the meeting. His medal and certificate were to be presented after the meeting. The second Medal and Certificate was awarded to Doctor David Salmassy, an Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon in Auburn. He has touched many lives and has made a profound impact upon our community and throughout the world. He has eagerly volunteered his time and expertise to improve the lives of many who could not have afforded medical procedures. His impact has extended even across the globe into African villages.

Law Enforcement Commendation Medal: The Law Enforcement Commendation Medal is not limited to peace officers and can be awarded to attorneys, judges, prosecutors or legislators who have performed an exceptional act or service beyond that normally expected. Officers Darren Kato and Claudia Raya of the Roseville Police Department were this year’s winners. They made impacts as members of drug enforcement teams, SWAT teams, and various field teams.

Closing: In recognition of Armed Forces Day, President Bigbee recognized those who have served or have family members who are serving in wartime. President Bigbee read the following quotation:

“It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to demonstrate. It is the soldier who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag. It is the soldier who protects us all without question.”

The recessional was led by Mike Lucas, followed by a Benediction given by Barry Hopkins. Guests were invited to fellowship and enjoy refreshments provided by the Gold Country Ladies Auxiliary. The meeting adjourned at 2:35 P.M. ♪



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

--- Remembering Two Patriot Doctors, Concluded From Page 6

Congress made special provisions to educate a child of each man at the nation's expense. Mercer's youngest son was educated at William & Mary. Warren's oldest son was educated at Harvard.

Neither of these men died in vain. Because of Dr. Mercer's courage and sacrifice, Washington was able to proceed into Princeton and defeat the British forces there. He then moved and quartered his forces to Morristown in victory. Because of those victories, Washington's army reenlisted and the French finally approved arms and supplies for America. From that point on America had the means to fight, and British public support for the war slowly began to wane. Dr. Joseph Warren's tragic death strengthened the patriots' zeal for independence and helped to prepare the way for the acceptance of the Declaration of Independence in the following year.

Both men have been subsequently honored by the nation. There are six counties, one city, and one historical fort named after Dr. Mercer. There are fourteen counties, four cities, five ships, and one historical fort named after Dr. Warren. Statues have been erected to honor both men. These men remain immortalized in the hearts of freedom loving Americans. 



Dr. Joseph Warren