



## *The President's Message*

*By Chapter President Keith L. Bigbee*

February and March are two of the busiest months for our Chapter. Over the last few years, under the leadership of Compatriot Dave Gilliard and supported by several other chapter members, the fifth grade Americanism Poster Contest has grown to unprecedented levels of participation. The members of the chapter who participate in the classroom presentations have their hands full this year as they are presenting to 33 classrooms at ten schools. A total of 942 students' posters will be submitted to the chapter for judging on Saturday, March 13th at the Rose Room in Auburn City Hall. Chairman Dave Gilliard has done an outstanding job organizing this special chapter event; it is truly a lot of fun for those members who can help with the judging. It is always a struggle to choose the best ones due to the varied creativity of the students. In my opinion, this youth program touches more lives directly than any other program the Sons of the American Revolution sponsors. It is a great opportunity to expose the fifth graders to our American heritage. The presenters are in uniform and period dress. Wayne Griswold always brings artifacts for the students to examine. What a great way to nurture an interest in American history! During the coming months I intend to highlight each of the youth programs in which we participate.

April is fast approaching and planning for the CASSAR annual meeting is well on its way. Everyone involved is busy with different jobs to get ready for a successful meeting. There are places where we could still use some help in the coming months, not so much in the planning but in the execution of a few of the tasks that will be coming up. This would only require a few hours of commitment. If you are willing to help for just a little while, please contact me. I will get you in touch with the persons who may need an extra hand as we get closer to the actual meeting date.

In an ongoing effort to keep the chapter up to date in the modern world, I have appointed Ernie McPherson as the Chapter's Information Technology Chairman. His duties will include maintaining the chapter website as well as coordinating software issues between chapter officers and helping research software so we can provide better communication between chapter members. Thank you, Ernie, for volunteering your time.

Yours in service and patriotism,

*Keith L. Bigbee*

<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>CASSAR Registration Form</i>	7
<i>Meeting Minutes and Photos</i>	8
<i>Officer &amp; Program Reports</i>	9
<i>Example of George Washington</i>	10
<i>Ronald Reagan's "Song of America"</i>	12



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## Calendar of Events

**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.**Sunday, April 4th**

Easter - Fly the Flag!

**April 9th-10th**CASSAR Annual Spring Meeting,  
Sacramento. See more details on  
page 7.**Saturday, April 17th**Regular Meeting, 9:30 A.M., Lou  
LaBonte's Restaurant, Auburn.**Monday, April 19th**Patriots' Day - Fly the Flag! Honors  
first battles of the Revolutionary War.Happy Birthday wishes to the  
following who will celebrate birthdays  
this month:Larry Bigbee, Joyce Douglas, Mike  
Holmes, Stephen Manifor, Carol  
Matson, Frances Reilly, David Ross,  
Brody Schuck, Eric Singleton, Joe  
Spitler, Mark Spitler, Sheryl Stowells,  
and Roselyn Young.

The next Gold Country Chapter meeting is

Saturday, March 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 April edition of  
The Forty-Niner is Friday, March 26, 2010.

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# America's Greatest Generation

By Michael G. Lucas



Tom Brokaw, in *The Greatest Generation*, chronicles stories of an American generation that survived the Great Depression and successfully defeated tyranny during World War II. This generation went on to build modern industrial America. By and large, this generation was composed of unheralded people who accomplished extraordinary things during a unique time in American history. The World War II generation made an indelible impact upon our society: women entered the workforce; minorities stepped out of the shadows; men left small towns and farms to become successful businessmen and corporate leaders.

I think we are on solid ground by also bestowing our founders with the same title – America's greatest generation. When it comes to impacting an organization or a nation, it's normal for us to think only of the leaders. When we consider the American Revolution, we understandably think of such great men as George Washington, Nathanael Greene, Anthony Wayne, or Marquis de Lafayette. But there were many patriots, largely unrecognized, who crucially aided the American cause. Following are just four examples of how American independence was advanced, and the course of history forever changed, by ordinary people: an unidentified Revolutionary War soldier during the winter of 1776, the shunned wife of a British Loyalist, a physician volunteer, and a slave girl.

On December 30, 1776, General Washington's army was about to dissolve. A great many enlistments were scheduled to end on the following day. The army was cold, sick, tired, and naked. They longed to return home. There would be no replacements and their departure virtually meant the end of the cause for independence. Washington addressed his army and begged them to reenlist for 30 days. The army loved Washington and embraced independence, but they had fulfilled their duty. In a response to his plea, there was only

silence and no one stepped forward. The great cause was about to slip away when finally a middle aged soldier stepped forward and declared that he would stay. This unidentified soldier started a tidal wave which rippled across the army. Within minutes, the majority of the army agreed to stay another month. Because of this one volunteer, the army survived. Within days, the army went on to achieve victories at the second Battle of Trenton and at Princeton. The cause of independence had been kept alive.

During the fall of New York City in 1776, many American troops owed their escape from Manhattan to a Quaker woman, Mary Lindley Murray, the wife of a British Loyalist. The retreating troops under General Israel Putnam were about to be massacred when the British inexplicably stopped just short of cutting them off. Mrs. Murray invited the British commanders in for cake and wine. Mary and her two daughters, Beulah and Susannah, entertained them for two hours, allowing the Americans to escape. It is rumored that Murray asked her maid to keep watch from an upstairs window and to let her know when the troops had safely withdrawn. Murray's actions helped save the Continental Army and the American cause. Mary had probably been the object of scorn from patriots since she was both a pacifist and the wife of a Loyalist. Fortunately the Murray family was not exiled after the war. Mary was not honored during her lifetime, but today a plaque in New York City, at the corner of Park Avenue and 37th Street, honors her patriotic service. The story of Mary Lindley Murray has since been developed into two Broadway plays: *Dearest Enemy* in 1925 and *A Small War on Murray Hill* in 1957.

After crossing the Delaware River during the march to Trenton on Christmas Day 1776, Lieutenant James Monroe, was confronted by a man who ordered them off his property. There was a violent confrontation since the man initially thought they were British soldiers. Monroe ordered the man to return to his house or be imprisoned. But after realizing



they were Americans, he brought them food and offered to join them. He explained that he was a doctor and would possibly be able to help “some poor fellow.” This man, Dr. John Riker, joined Monroe’s infantry as a surgeon volunteer. The next night Dr. Riker was indeed able to help “some poor fellow” - James Monroe himself. Monroe had been hit by a musket ball, which severed an artery. Dr. Riker clamped the artery just in time to prevent him from bleeding to death. Later as a representative to France, Monroe brokered the Louisiana Purchase which doubled the size of the United States. James Monroe later became the nation’s fifth president and served for two terms. The Monroe Doctrine, that he established, became the foundation of the United States’ foreign policy. Dr. Riker, by offering his services, saved Monroe and changed American history.

Susanna Wheatley, the wife of a wealthy Boston tailor and merchant, went to the docks in 1761 to purchase another household slave. Her slaves were getting old and she needed a younger replacement. Several “robust, healthy females” were for sale at the wharf but her attention was drawn to a wretched “poor, naked child” covered only by a piece of filthy carpet. The child was about six years old and still had her baby teeth. Moved by the girl’s misery, Susanna bought her. She nursed her back to health and named her Phyllis, after the slave ship. It soon became apparent that Phyllis was a brilliant child. Rather than live in the slave quarters, she lived in the main house with the Wheatley family and was taught to read and write. Teaching a slave to read and write was very rare and often forbidden. Phyllis became a gifted poet. She became the first slave and the third American woman to have a book of poems published. Her poems were published in London because no Boston publisher would print her work. In December 1775, Phyllis Wheatley wrote a poem to General Washington, honoring him on his appointment to command the Continental Army. Washington was so moved by the poem that he asked to meet with her. At the time that the poem arrived, Washington had been considering whether blacks should be allowed to join the army. After reading her poem and meeting with Phyllis Wheatley, Washington decided to admit blacks into his army. That decision had a far-reaching impact upon the war effort. Less than a year later, blacks paid a major part in saving the army by helping them withdraw across the East River from Brooklyn Heights to Manhattan. The newly integrated regiment, serving under Colonel John Glover, saved the army by carrying out the “Dunkirk of the American Revolution” as historian David McCullough called it. A few months later it was again Glover’s sailors who ferried Washington’s army across the Delaware River, reversing the outcome of the Revolution. Years later at the Battle of Cowpens it was Prince Whipple, a slave, who saved the life of Washington’s cousin, Lieutenant Colonel William Washington. Washington’s cavalry charge against Banastre Tarleton succeeded and the British attempt to consolidate its control of the South was thwarted. In 1781 General Washington called upon his best unit, the all-black First Rhode Island Regiment, to carry out the most important

assignment of Yorktown - the assault of Redoubt 10, which brought about the end of the war. Phyllis Wheatley had been a victim of a great deal of prejudice in her lifetime and she died in poverty, but her poetic skills changed America.

We honor the first generation of Americans who created an independent nation. That greatest generation, in the words of our SAR Pledge and Recessional, “established the United States of America” and “gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a Nation of free men and women.” This founding generation defeated the greatest military power on Earth. It ignited a firestorm of freedom which continues to burn around the world. It established a beacon of liberty, shining brightly, which continues to bring hope to a freedom-starved world. Most of that generation struggled and died in obscurity. During their lifetimes most were never recognized for the magnitude of their accomplishments. One of the privileged purposes of our society is to identify these patriots and finally give them the recognition which they so richly deserve.

Not for sale or republication. A *Patriot’s Perspective*® series is published solely for the benefit of the members of Gold Country Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution. 

### Excerpts from Tom Brokaw’s *The Greatest Generation*

“The year of my birth, 1940, was the fulcrum of America in the twentieth century, when the nation was balanced precariously between the darkness of the Great Depression on one side and the storms of war in Europe and the Pacific on the other. It was a critical time in the shaping of this nation and the world, equal to the revolution of 1776 and the perils of the Civil War. Once again the American people understood the magnitude of the challenge, the importance of an unparalleled national commitment, and, most of all, the certainty that only one resolution was acceptable. The nation turned to its young to carry the heaviest burden, to fight in enemy territory and to keep the home front secure and productive. These young men and women were eager for the assignment. They understood what was required of them, and they willingly volunteered for their duty... The young Americans of this time constituted a generation birthmarked for greatness, a generation of Americans that would take its place in American history with the generations that had converted the North American wilderness into the United States and infused the new nation with self-determination embodied first in the Declaration of Independence and then in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights... This generation was united not only by a common purpose, but also by common values—duty, honor, economy, courage, service, love of family and country.”

# *The American Revolution Month-by-Month*



## *March 1776*

### *British Depart Boston Howe Brothers Replace Gage*

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



For General George Washington and the Continental Army the siege of Boston had been an ongoing vigil by day and night during all types of weather. Quite the opposite was true of the British soldiery. The men have been quartered, perhaps not handsomely but adequately. Officers lived much better, spending their evenings being entertained by Boston's wealthier citizens loyal to King George III.

Cards and gaming were popular as was the production of plays with young officers as the actors. It was not always that "the act must go on." Continentals were aware of this gaiety and frequently probed the British line, with no other intent than to exercise the officers and spoil their entertainment. On one occasion the characters of young women were played by the youngest officers who were called from the stage to lead; they later led their soldiers still dressed as ladies in their gowns.

Washington, from the beginning, had been chafed by the fact that he could not bodily move the British from their luxurious life in Boston and send them packing back to England. The arrival from Ticonderoga on January 24th of the former bookseller, Henry Knox, now Colonel Knox/Chief of Artillery, gave Washington the means to break the siege and send the British home.

On the nights of March 4th and 5th, General John Thomas led a force from the Continental Army. He captured and fortified the Heights of Dorchester, giving him a platform for the mounting of the big cannons from Ticonderoga. It provided an advantage of fire power over both the army in Boston and the naval ships in the harbor. The capture and conversion of Dorchester Heights from an empty hill to a full-fledged attack platform, complete with trenches and protective works, took the British by surprise. A young naval officer was the first to notice the difference in the situation. Every ship in the harbor and every inch of the city of Boston were vulnerable to superior American fire power.

On March 2nd, Washington showed the British exactly how effective his artillerymen were. Knox raked the British lines with telling effect. One British officer commented that they had "returned the fire but not with the same effectiveness."

Seldom do we see or hear of the British version of this story; however, London had already determined from reports sent by General Gage that Boston and its harbor were vulnerable, if the rebels had the proper weapons. Now not only did the rebels have the cannon they needed, but they were in place and capable of attacking the city and harbor at any time. New York and Ticonderoga held the key to the British invasion route up and down the Hudson Valley. Boston had no such strategic value. It had only become important because of the rebellious actions of its citizens who had stirred the embers of revolution, not only in Boston but throughout the entire thirteen colonies.

London had already decided that Gage was ineffective. Long favored by the king and generally known as a distinguished soldier, the king called him home for a briefing. This provided an excuse to remove a failed general without embarrassment to him or the Crown. Once home he would be given no duties and would be allowed to wither on the vine.

The replacements for General Gage were the Howe brothers. Major General Sir William Howe would command on land while his elder and more distinguished brother commanded the British North American fleet. I find no mention of Admiral Graves, who ordered the burning of Falmouth, Maine, on his own authority. Presumably he became second in command to Admiral Howe, or he and his fleet were reassigned to other duties.

The Howe brothers had been sent to relieve Gage, with orders to abandon Boston and make a temporary move to Halifax, Nova Scotia. They transported as many Loyalists as possible away from Boston.



There were now three British fleets in American waters. In addition to Admiral Howe and his fleet, there was a second fleet in the Carolinas carrying troops under Sir Henry Clinton. A third fleet, en route under Admiral Sir Peter Parker, carried the military commanded by General Lord Cornwallis. It was on its way to complement the expedition already present in the Carolinas.

On March 17th, the last British soldier and a thousand Loyalists departed Boston for Nantaskett Harbor. A fleet of 170 ships departed for Halifax ten days later.

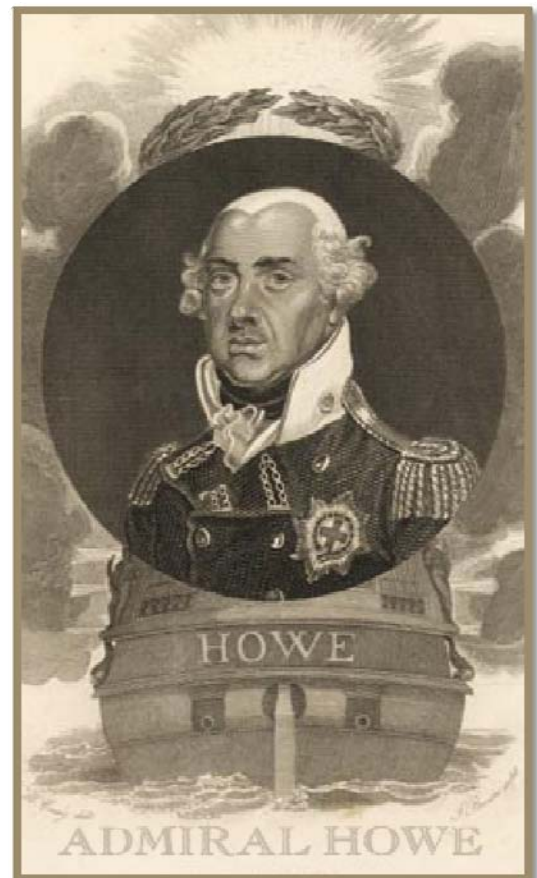
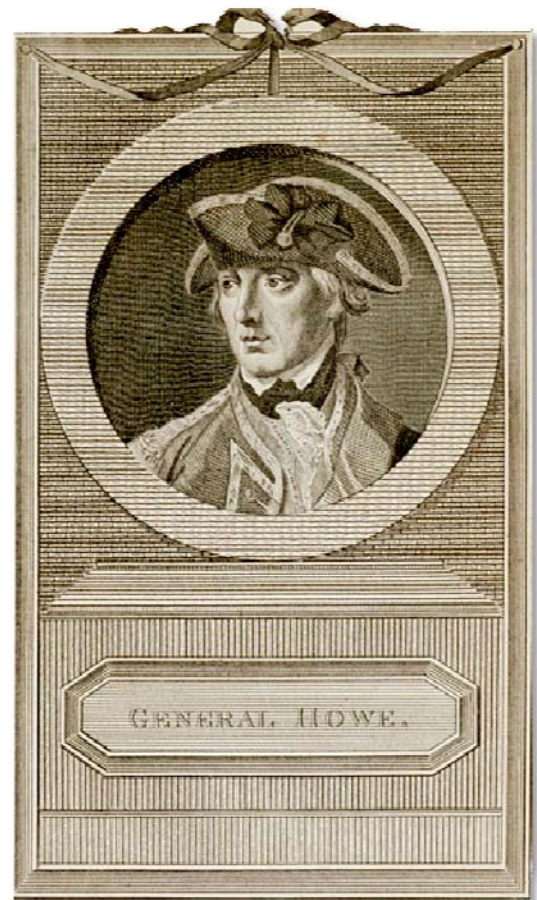
London may have made a prior determination to abandon Boston but events caught up with them. The British may have sailed voluntarily, but certainly Knox and his artillery had emphasized that a hasty departure would be a healthy thing to do.

Now, Washington had to determine where the two Howes would appear next? Clinton was already in the Carolinas, so Washington surmised that New York would be their choice, due to the excellent harbor, defensibility of the area, its large Loyalist population, and its strategic location along the Hudson River.

Congress was also concerned with the next move: would it be to Philadelphia and what about the Loyalists in their midst? Britain had already attempted to use Loyalists as a military force against the rebels at Moore's Creek. In a nation where approximately one third of the nation was Loyalists, they represented a serious threat, especially in a military role.


With this vulnerability in mind, on March 19th, Congress recommended a policy of disarming all Loyalists. Congress was also concerned by the lack of legality for American ships taking action against British shipping. On March 19th, it authorized attacking of British shipping by privateers.

Not only was Washington concerned about the disposition of Howe's force but what and where was Clinton's next move. A southern army was non-existent. The southern states primarily depended upon an uncoordinated militia for defense.




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References: Arthur Meier Schlesinger's *Almanac of American History*; John Alden's *A History of the American Revolution*; Don Higginbotham's *The War of American Independence*; A. J. Langguth's *Patriots: The Men who Started the American Revolution*; Bruce and William B. Catton's *The Bold and Magnificent Dream*; Robert Leckie's *George Washington's War*; Christopher Ward's *The War of the 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. 

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

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

## Registration Form

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mark your Friday Luncheon Meal Selection Below:**

Chicken Caesar Salad  Roast Beef Sandwich  Vegetarian

**Mark your Saturday Luncheon Meal Selection Below:**

Cobb Salad  Three Cheese Ravoili  Vegetarian

**Mark your Saturday Banquet Meal Selection Below:**

Herb Roasted Chicken  Sliced London Broil  Vegetarian

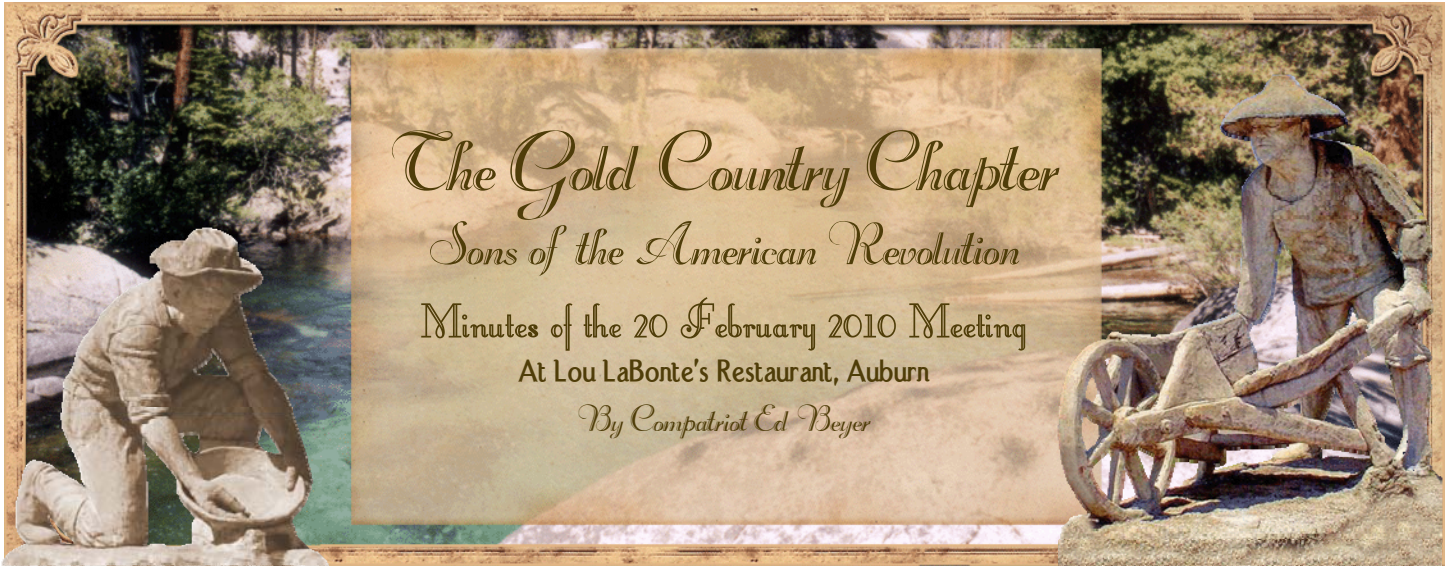
**Meal Prices for Non-Registered Members and Guests are listed below:**

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

Non-Registered Saturday Banquet at \$60.00

Total cost of non-Registered meals \$ \_\_\_\_\_





President Keith L. Bigbee called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Chaplain Ron Williams gave the Invocation. Compatriot Bill A. Welch led the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR Pledge was led by Compatriot Mike Holmes.

**Attendance:** There were 14 members and 5 guests in attendance. President Bigbee recognized the DAR members: Coreena Ross- Capt. John Oldham Chapter, Io Beyer-Emigrant Trail Chapter, and Marilyn Chilton-Sacramento Chapter.

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

President Bigbee reported that an Executive Board Meeting was held at the home of Ed and Io Beyer in Granite Bay on February 6th, 2010 to plan the annual budget and special events of the year. A follow-up meeting is to be held on March 6 to finalize the planning.

President Bigbee announced that the Poster Contest pre-judging will be on March 13th at 9:00 A.M through noon in the Auburn City Hall Rose Room. All members are invited

and encouraged to participate in the pre-judging.

President Bigbee announced that the chapter webmaster Mike Lucas will turn the web site over to Ernie McPherson in September. Our sincere thanks to Mike for the award winning performance and to Ernie for stepping up to this important job.

President Bigbee asked that a meeting be held after adjournment to discuss planning progress on the upcoming California SAR meeting to be hosted by the Gold Country Chapter.

**Reports:** Barry Hopkins reported the Elementary School Poster Contest presentations are going very well. So far presentations have been given to 800 5th grade students at eight schools. There are three schools yet to be visited for a total of 150 more students.

Coreena Ross reminded everyone of the Scout Expo at Beale Air Force Base April 30th through May 2nd. Setup will begin Friday evening April 30th. If you are willing to volunteer, please email Dale Ross at [cr7861@ips.net](mailto:cr7861@ips.net) for more information.

**Program:** The Hobby of Keeping Bees by Tom Chilton. Have you ever wondered how far a honeybee has to fly in order to produce a pound of honey, or why bees swarm? Guest speaker Tom Chilton answered these questions and many more in the informative presentation of his hobby.

**Closing:** There was a moment of silence in remembrance of passed chapter compatriots. Ron Williams gave the Benediction and Bill A. Welch led the SAR Recessional. The USO Donation Helmet was passed during the meeting and a total of \$82.00 was collected. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M. ♪







## Officer Reports:

**Chaplain:** Chaplain Ron Williams wishes to remind everyone to let him know of significant events (births, marriages, illnesses, and deaths) in the extended chapter family so that he can send cards.

**Genealogy:** Have an interest in genealogy? The chapter is in need of a genealogist - one who could assist in locating patriot ancestors for prospective and current members.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Bruce Choate reports that at the end of 2009, the chapter had \$15,968.30 in the money market account and \$5,614.85 in the checking account. Income was greater than budget and expenses less than budget. The chapter ended the year \$3,191.68 better than expected.

**NSSAR:** Wayne Griswold will be attending the Spring Leadership meeting in Louisville, March 4-6. He will provide us a report upon his return.

## Program Reports:

**Valley Forge Teachers Program:** Mike Holmes forwarded an application package to the superintendent of the Auburn Union School District to distribute to teachers, fifth grade through high school. The chapter has also received word that a Placer County teacher will enter the contest. However, up to this point no Valley Forge entries have been received. The chapter is still in need of a chairman for this program.

**Junior ROTC Program:** Chairman Mike Holmes reports that the NJROTC Navy Ball and Awards Dinner are scheduled to take place on Friday, May 7th at South Lake Tahoe.

**Forty-Niner Newsletter:** Have computer skills and an interest in desktop publishing - Photoshop, graphics layout, history, and writing? The chapter will be in need of a new editor starting in September. Mike Lucas is offering the opportunity to observe and assist in the entire process of creating his remaining six newsletters - providing a smooth and relatively pain-free transition.

**Americanism Poster Contest Program:** Chairman Dave Gilliard reports that the program is currently in full swing. A large number of entrees are expected again this year. The poster "pre-judging" is scheduled to be held on Saturday, March 13th, starting at 9:00 A.M. The location is still TBD. The chapter will conclude the judging at the regular meeting on March 20th.

**Knight Essay Contest:** The chapter received two entries into the 2010 Knight Essay Contest. The winning contestant was Paige Gilliard. Ms. Gilliard's essay has advanced to the state level where it will compete against winners from other California SAR chapters. The California Society, SAR winning contestant will receive a \$1,500 U.S. Savings Bond.

**Web site:** Thanks to Wayne Griswold, a new application form is now part of the web site. The form can be filled out online and emailed directly to Wayne. Ernie McPherson is in the process of phasing in as the new webmaster. ☺

# George Washington – Model of Christian Virtue

By Dr. Peter A. Lillback, Providence Forum

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

In these politically correct times, George Washington isn't the hero he once was.

Children don't read about him in school as much as their parents did. They're much more likely to learn about African-American, Native American or female heroes.

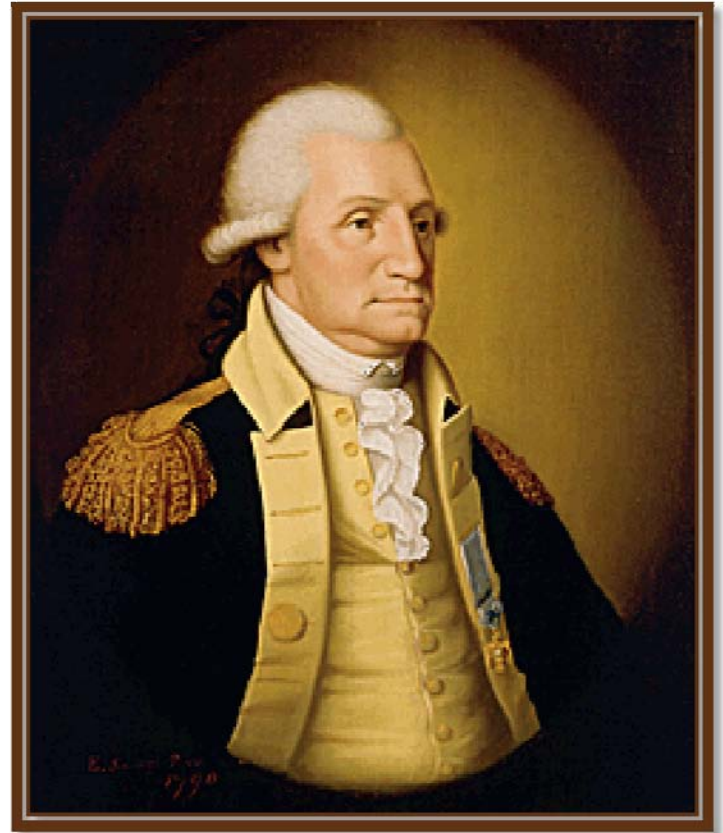
New Jersey, in fact, issued new history standards a few years ago that omitted any mention of Washington.

Even when children do learn about him, it's in an article in a boring textbook or a static image in a painting. There are no radio, TV or video clips that would make him come alive.

Washington's stature has diminished so much that a recent Washington College Poll found that Americans had a higher respect for Bill Clinton's job performance as president than they did for George Washington's.

As we once again approach his birthday, it's time to rediscover Washington, the role model. From his earliest childhood, through his youth, military career, political career and retirement, Washington was a model of Christian virtues – strength and humility, servanthood and leadership, principles and forgiveness.

"First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen, he was second to none in the humble and endearing scenes of private life," Maj. Gen. Henry Lee said at Washington's funeral. "Pious, just, humane, temperate and sincere; uniform, dignified and commanding, his example was



edifying to all around him, as were the effects of that example lasting."

How many recent statesmen have been widely described with these or similar words? The geniuses of the age, people like Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, looked to Washington for leadership. Jefferson said that Washington's mind wasn't of the very first order, but "his integrity was most pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known. ... He was a good, and a great, man."

As Washington's army suffered defeat after humiliating defeat on the road to Yorktown, he refused to give up and inspired others to do the same. When all seemed lost in the cold and deprivation of Valley Forge, his example galvanized his beleaguered army.

When the war was over, Washington merely desired to be left alone on his Virginia farm. But a group of officers, disenchanted with Congress for its failure to pay the Army, wanted him to become king. He refused.

Washington said he had "no lust" for power. After serving one term as president, he reluctantly agreed to serve a second. And he declined to serve a third, establishing a precedent that – with the exception of Franklin Roosevelt – has survived until this day.



But when his country needed him, Washington was ready to serve. The year before he died – in 1799 at the age of 67 – war with France appeared likely, and Washington agreed to return to public life, in command of the army, if needed.

When King George III of England heard that Washington had willingly relinquished power after the war, he said, “If true, then he is the greatest man in the world.”

One of Washington’s criticisms of King George was that he could neither forget nor forgive; Washington forgave people who hurt him during the war. The list includes childhood friend Bryan Fairfax and the Rev. Jacob Duché, who both rejected the Patriot cause, and the Rev. Jonathan Boucher, who attacked his character.

Washington was not a saint; he owned slaves, for example. And he had to learn to keep deep passions under control and master a quick temper.

But by and large, he was a man who said what he did and did what he said, and he was justifiably beloved for it.

After Washington died, the Duke of Wellington, an enemy, said Washington had “the purest and noblest character of modern time – possibly of all time.”

Washington’s selfless virtues do not play well in our look-at-me age. The heroes of the American Revolution are being relegated to the margins of high school history courses, and we must make sure that Washington is not the next to hit history’s trash bin.

His virtues are greatly needed today, as well as tomorrow, for they never go out of style. ❧



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## The Declaration of Independence -An Outline

By Michael G. Lucas

The Declaration of Independence contained four sections (some analysts dissect it slightly differently). The first section is the first paragraph, and it is called the Preamble. It stated the purpose of the document. The second section, which is the second paragraph, presented a philosophy of government based upon the natural rights of man. The third section enumerated twenty-seven charges against King George III, proving that he was a tyrant, who had deliberately opposed the natural rights of the American colonists. The last section declared the independence of America.

The first two sections are the best known, making the document sacred and immortal, but they were actually the least significant to the signers. The most significant to them were the reference to their patient sufferings and the list of abuses by the king. Since the signers would be seeking the assistance of European powers, they had to be careful that European kings wouldn't interpret this as a rebellion against monarchy in general, but against tyranny and despotism. It presented America not as a rebellious subject, but as an independent nation, warring against another nation.

There are several interesting aspects of the Declaration. The document didn't directly address Parliament since that body never had any authority over the colonies. The Declaration took the position that the relationship between America and Britain had been a voluntary allegiance to the British Crown. The colonists had the right to withdraw that allegiance because the current sitting king was a tyrant who had reduced them to slaves. The document also didn't address their rights as Englishmen; since they couldn't have completely justified a rebellion based upon a violation of their rights as English subjects, they used the argument of a violation of their natural rights possessed by all men. The Declaration conveyed the sense that it was a reluctant and sorrowful parting.

The twenty-seven charges against King George III weren't listed in an attempt to justify rebellion but to prove that the King had deliberately subjugated the colonists to the status of slavery. It, in essence, presented its case in the court of public opinion. One of its purposes was to seek the support of American citizens by delineating the reasons to fight.

The last paragraph was the exact wording of the resolution for independence which had been presented by Richard Henry Lee and adopted on July 2nd, 1776.



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**First Class**

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**H**istory is a ribbon, always unfurling; history is a journey. And as we continue our journey, we think of those who traveled before us....and we hear again the echoes of our past: a general falls to his knees in the hard snow of Valley Forge; a lonely President paces the darkened halls, and ponders his struggle to preserve the Union; the men of the Alamo call out encouragement to each other; a settler pushes west and sings a song, and the song echoes out forever and fills the unknowing air.

It is the American sound. It is hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic, daring, decent, and fair. That's our heritage; that is our song. We sing it still. For all our problems, our differences, we are together as of old, as we raise our voices to the God who is the Author of this most tender music. And may He continue to hold us close as we fill the world with our sound--sound in unity, affection, and love--one people under God, dedicated to the dream of freedom that He has placed in the human heart, called upon now to pass that dream on to a waiting and hopeful world.

---Ronald Reagan

Second Inaugural Address  
January 21, 1985