

The President's Message

By Chapter President Wayne A. Griswold



Gold Country Chapter celebrated the 222nd anniversary of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution on Sunday, September 13th as participants in Nevada City's 43rd Constitution Day Parade and Celebration. SAR members and guests flocked to Nevada City for what has become one of the chapter's favorite traditions. The Constitution Day Parade provides the opportunity to join members from other chapters and this year was no exception. Gold Country united with members from the General George Washington, Sacramento, and San Francisco Chapters. There were also three Boy Scouts who assisted us by carrying the chapter's banner. Our colorful collection of historic flags beautifully fluttered in the breeze as spectators gazed at the display.

Later, members and guests converged on Memorial Park in nearby Grass Valley for a time of fellowship over culinary favorites during the annual potluck picnic. I want to express my special thanks to Past President Keith Bigbee for conducting the brief business meeting while Yoncie and I were away on vacation. Thanks also go to Dale and Coreena Ross, as well as Cyndy Bigbee, for pulling everything together while I was away. Then there was Lyndy and Smitty Virgil, assisted by Earl Young. This team cooked everything to perfection. Also thanks to Winona Virgil and Ann Young for preparing the condiments and in making sure everything was ready for service at the proper time.

The chapter's color guard participated in a new event this year, the Gold Country Fair Boosters Parade in Auburn. This parade was held during the evening of Thursday, September 10th and Gold Country's color guard led off in first position. The parade route wound twice through the crowded streets of the fairgrounds as excited spectators watched the procession pass by. Surprisingly, the chapter was awarded second place, which isn't too bad considering this was our first time at this event.

The chapter's Historic Flag Program was presented to the Chief Solano Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Fairfield on Saturday, September 19th. I was assigned the speaking role and was assisted by members from three different chapters. Barry Hopkins and Ernie McPherson represented Gold Country Chapter. Tom Chilton joined us from the Sacramento Chapter as well as Fred Barnes and Dick Williamson from the Thomas Jefferson Chapter. The ladies were absolutely amazing, treated us as their honored guests, and provided us a delicious lunch and well wishes. Chapter Regent Anna Wood later presented us with a Certificate of Appreciation. It was truly a wonderful time for all of us.

Annual dues notices will soon be in the mail and your prompt attention allows the chapter ample time to meet the deadline set by the state society. Your speedy responses are appreciated. Thank you.

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CHAPTER OFFICERS**2008 - 2009 TERM****PRESIDENT****Wayne A. Griswold**

(916) 985-3756

WAGris@ATT.net

FIRST VP**David A. Gilliard**

(916) 663-9605

DGilliard@ncbb.net

SECOND VP**William A. Welch**

(916) 987-1356

Welch19@Comcast.net

GENEALOGIST**Earl L. Young**

(530) 346-9536

eysar@wildblue.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**Keith L. Bigbee**

(530) 878-0144

kckbigbee@auburninternet.com

Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 10th
Columbus Day Parade, Colfax!**Monday, October 12th**
Columbus Day, Fly the Flag!**Tuesday, October 13th**
Navy Day, Fly the Flag!**Saturday, October 17th**
Regular Meeting, 9:00 A.M., Lou
LaBonte's Restaurant, Auburn.**Monday, October 19th**
Victory at Yorktown, Fly the Flag!**October 23rd-24th**
All Veterans Stand-Down, Nevada
County Fairground. Contact is Wayne
Griswold.**November 12th-14th**
CASSAR Fall Board of Managers
Meeting, Mission Inn, Riverside.**Tuesday, November 10th**
USMC Birthday, Fly the Flag!**Wednesday, November 11th**
Veterans Day, Fly the Flag!**Saturday, November 21st**
Regular Meeting, 9:00 A.M., Lou
LaBonte's Restaurant, Auburn.**Thursday, November 26th**
Thanksgiving, Fly the Flag!

The next Gold Country Chapter meeting is
Saturday, October 17th at 9:00 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 9:00AM. See you there!

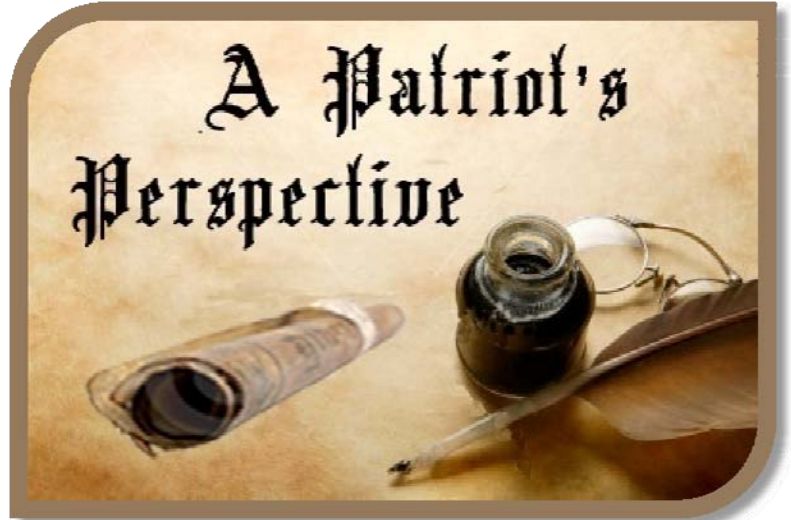
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The submission deadline for the November edition of
The Forty-Niner is Friday, October 23, 2009.

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The Winds and Storms of Victory

By Michael G. Lucas



Throughout history weather has been a major player in shaping destiny. It has caused population migrations and led to the rise and fall of civilizations. Weather has even led to military successes and failures. Fortunately, America has been the beneficiary of favorable changes in weather during numerous military campaigns.

The weather played a major part in the Allied success of World War II. D-Day had initially been scheduled for June 5, 1944. The weather had been beautiful during the first few days of June. It began to deteriorate, causing fear that the operation may have to be abandoned. Fortunately, it was predicted that there would be a short period of improvement for the following day. The invasion would proceed with only a 24 hour delay. The Germans took comfort from the poor weather conditions, and believed no invasion would be possible for several days. Some troops stood down and many senior officers were away for the weekend. General Rommel took leave to visit his family, while dozens of commanders were away from their posts, engaged in war games. The weather was perfect for an invasion, good enough to succeed yet poor enough to cause the Germans to let down their guard. If there had not been a break in the weather, which was timed as a conjunction of a full moon and a high tide, the invasion would have had to have been called off for at least another year. [The next opportunity would have been a month later when a violent storm raged. Troops could not have remained staged for that long in anticipation of a future invasion and the element of surprise would have been lost. The operation would have been abandoned. A new landing site would have been selected with a year of necessary planning.] The ramifications of a delay would have changed the course of history. Roosevelt, Eisenhower, and Churchill would probably have not remained in power. Some historians think that such a delay could have resulted in a Communist takeover of Europe. Of course, the weather did improve, the invasion went forward, and tyranny was defeated.

Weather played a major part in the American success during the Revolutionary War. Weather first came to the rescue of the American patriots in spring of 1776. For nine months General Washington had been at a stalemate with General Howe in Boston. Expiration of enlistments and a shortage of artillery had earlier prevented Washington from taking any significant moves against his opponent. Finally in March, the Americans had artillery captured from Fort Ticonderoga and a larger army due to new enlistments. Washington planned a bold move against the British to prevent them from departing Boston for New York City. Washington planned to seize Dorchester Heights and emplace cannon there. After the British attacked the American position, four thousand patriots supported by cannon would assault Boston from the Charles River. Half the force would seize Beacon Hill and the other half would attack the British on Boston Neck. Reinforcements would then rush in from Roxbury. On March 4th, the first step was accomplished; Washington's army seized Dorchester Heights and the rest of Washington's plan was ready to unfold when a freak storm blew in the next day. A fierce wind with snow and hail prevented Howe from attacking the American position. Less than two weeks later the British evacuated Boston. Washington then had the opportunity to closely examine the British fortifications. He then realized that his attack would have been a disaster because the British fortifications had been impregnable. Washington called the storm a "remarkable interposition of providence." The weather had prevented a British attack and saved the Continental Army.

Less than six months later the weather would again come to the rescue of Washington's army. On August 27, 1776, the battle of Long Island was fought. General Howe's army outflanked and out-fought General Washington's army. Washington and his exhausted army retreated to their fortifications at Brooklyn Heights. The enemy was at their front and the East River at their rear. The Americans were in

a perfect trap and would have been destroyed without another big change in the weather. On August 29th the temperatures dropped and the rain started. One local wrote that “such heavy rain fell...as can hardly be remembered.” The strong winds prevented the British ships from moving up the East River into position behind the American army. It soon became apparent that the only hope for the Americans would be an immediate evacuation of the 9,000 soldiers from Brooklyn Heights. Boats of every description moved in and worked all night to remove the soldiers to safety. Miraculously that night the winds calmed just enough to allow the exodus. In addition, the wind direction changed perfectly to the patriots’ advantage. The morning of August 30th was dawning before all the troops had been evacuated. Many soldiers were still at risk without the intercession of the weather again. An extremely thick fog moved into the area early that morning. The fog was described as “a peculiar providential occurrence,” “manifestly providential,” and “an unusual fog.” The remaining troops were able to be evacuated

under the cover of dense fog. Finally, as he stepped onto a boat, General Washington heard shots coming from the enemy. The British, realizing that the Americans had escaped, were chasing the remaining part of the rear guard into the boats. At that point the fog began to lift. The weather had again saved the Continental Army and the American cause.

Four months later a storm provided the opportunity for Washington’s army to surprise the Hessians garrisoned at Trenton. The Continental Army crossed the frozen Delaware River on Christmas Day 1776 and marched through a blizzard and caught the Hessians off-guard. The Hessians never expected an attack during such a driving snowstorm. Without the victory at Trenton, the middle colonies would have surrendered almost immediately with the other colonies eventually following suit. This victory fanned the revolution’s fading embers and rekindled hope and determination. A little over a week later Washington again crossed the Delaware and attacked Trenton. The Continental Army was trapped by Cornwallis who decided to wait until the following morning to “bag the fox.” Only because of a freeze which set in with nightfall did a back road, previously a quagmire, become passable for men and cannon. Due to a change in the weather, Washington’s army was able to slip away, unobserved by the British.

Years later, with independence hanging by a thread, weather would again be the deciding factor in the American Revolution. Lord Cornwallis’s army was trapped at Yorktown. On October 13, 1781, the British fleet was scheduled to sail from New York into the Chesapeake Bay to rescue the army. But high winds that day broke the anchor cable on one of the ships of the line, causing damage to it and another ship. The British fleet could not sail in time to rescue Cornwallis. The successful American siege on Yorktown caused Cornwallis to attempt an escape across the York River on the night of October 16th. There were sixteen flatboats waiting to evacuate his army to safety. But on that evening a tremendous storm broke out with gale force winds and Cornwallis was forced to call off his escape attempt. A change in weather, which had saved the entrapped Washington five years earlier, became the death nail for Cornwallis.

God has told us that He remains sovereign over nature and that “lightning and hail, snow and cloud, powerful wind executes His command.” The forces of nature have been used both for judgment and for blessing. America has been a very blessed nation. There have been so many times when a change in weather, over which we had no control, worked for our nation’s benefit. May America continue to be the recipient of the “remarkable interposition of providence.”

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America has often benefited from favorable weather during wartime, such as crossing the Delaware on Christmas Day 1776 and the Normandy Invasion of World War II.

The American Revolution Month-by-Month

October 1775

The Canadian Expedition

By Andrew Jackson Stough, III

Edited by Michael G. Lucas



Congress, for some time, had been investigating the possibility of liberating Canada from, what they considered, English misrule. In event diplomacy failed, the creation of an army in northern New York would be a first step in the move to make Canada the 14th state.

In May of 1775 Congress had authorized an expedition to Montreal and Quebec. The expected invasion would, in all likelihood, strike Montreal first. The delay between authorization and the actual invasion gave Sir Guy Carleton, governor and captain general of the Province of Quebec, plenty of time to reinforce Fort St. John's, the key to Montreal (Leckie).

On June 25th General Philip Schuyler, a militia officer, had been put in command of the "Department of New York" with orders to man Ticonderoga and other defenses along Lake Champlain. Later orders from Congress were given to him for an aggressive movement to the north if it were practical and if it were not disagreeable to the Canadians.

Schuyler had assembled a force of 2,000 men from New York and Connecticut, as ordered. Trouble arose immediately; men on both sides refused to take orders from anyone except officers from their own state. Schuyler's published instructions, as sent down by Congress, were to maintain the peace by keeping watch on the British Indian Agents and others who used Indians to raid the northern border settlements from Canadian territory.

There was a fallacy inherent in any attempt to make Canada a 14th state. Canadians were quite satisfied with the current governor Sir Guy Carleton and with his administration of the "Quebec Act." This act had given the common people of Canada not only continuation of Catholicism and use of the French language but relief from the semi-feudal system imposed by the former (French) authorities. All-in-all, living conditions for citizens of French extraction had been

improved by becoming British subjects. Few would find any interest in joining the colonies in their fight for freedom.

Schuyler departed New York on July 4th, arriving at Ticonderoga on the 18th. He found Ticonderoga in a sorry state, both structurally and in the organization of the garrison, not to mention a lack of supplies and ammunition. Crown Point and Ft. George were in no better shape, as they were under the same ineffective commander who was later relieved of duty and returned to the militia.

Schuyler, on August 3rd, had been informed by an advance party that there was only a total force of about 700 men to defend the entire province of Quebec. Schuyler, at the time, had at least 500 able men, theoretically giving him the advantage. He was urged to move before the enemy could improve their defenses and, while the weather was favorable, Schuyler lingered, building his supplies, etc. On August 17th Schuyler went to Albany to attend a meeting with Indians (Ward).

The mantle of command now fell upon the shoulders of Brigadier General Richard Montgomery (Leckie; Ward). On August 28th, the greater part of the Army departed Ticonderoga and soon reached Crown Point. It then progressed to Isle La Motte, where Schuyler, who had been suffering from biliousness and rheumatic pains, caught up with them on September 4th.

When Schuyler joined the troops he made no protest about Montgomery having moved the army (now called the Northern Army) without his (Schuyler's) permission. On September 5th, the army continued up Lake Champlain to the Richelieu River, which flows from the lake northeastward, emptying into the St. Lawrence. Fort St. John's (the first defense of Montreal) lies on the north side of the Richelieu River (Ward).

The army moved rapidly up the lake and down the Richelieu, despite sickness and misery caused by the constant cold and drizzly fall rain. Not only was the weather against them, but they suffered casualties on September 9th, at a point near St. John's when they were ambushed by Indians led by a British officer. The men reacted well and the Indians were repulsed. However, it was reported back in Montreal that a small group of Indians, led by a New York Tory, had sent the Americans running. The story was believed and a grand mass, complete with a "Te Deum," was held at the cathedral to celebrate the great victory.

On the night of September 10th, a two-pronged force moved toward St. Johns. Leery after the ambush of the previous day, the army panicked when the two forces accidentally collided. Montgomery calmed them and started off again. A few shots were heard and the panic began anew. Most of the attacking force turned tail and ran. But all was not lost as a small group of New York men, under Colonel Ritzema, stayed together and then moved forward, capturing a house held by the enemy. The next day another false ambush occurred when two scouting parties accidentally met and another panic ensued.


Montgomery realized that his force was firmly in the grip of panic and was unfit to fight. If the late start under Schuyler and the loss of most of his boats and canoes were not sufficient to delay the venture into winter, this certainly would be. To retrain and obtain confidence in the woods, the force was moved back to Ile aux Noix (Ward).

Schuyler, sick and further weakened by exposure, departed for Ticonderoga and home on September 16th. At last Montgomery was in full command and quickly moved against Fort St. John's, the sole defense of Montreal. When the decision to invade Canada was issued, Fort St. John's was lightly armed and defended. The delays by Schuyler allowed the reinforcement of St. John's to the point that it required reduction by siege.

Another thorn in the lion's side had been the all too frequent capture of British vessels by Yankee ships in the Massachusetts Bay region. Vice Admiral Graves had been sent to enforce the blockade of all Yankee ships in the area. It soon became evident that the superior British force could not stop the pilfering. On October 6th he sent out two ships with orders to "burn, destroy, and lay waste" the seacoast towns that supported privateer fleets. He first approached Gloucester but found it a poor target to teach the people that it could be harmful to their health if they continued to harbor privateers. On October 16th, he anchored off Falmouth Maine (now Portland) and delivered his ultimatum. He was put off until the following morning when they refused to follow his dictum. He then sent a landing party to raid the town and then he set it afire. By evening, the town and eleven ships were left in ashes. Four other vessels were taken and returned

with the raiders to Boston. Graves, apparently satisfied, ordered no more raids.

Reference: Robert Leckie's *George Washington's War*; U.S. Army Historical Series *American Military History, Volume I*; Don Higginbotham's *The War of American Independence*; Christopher Ward's *War of the Revolution*.

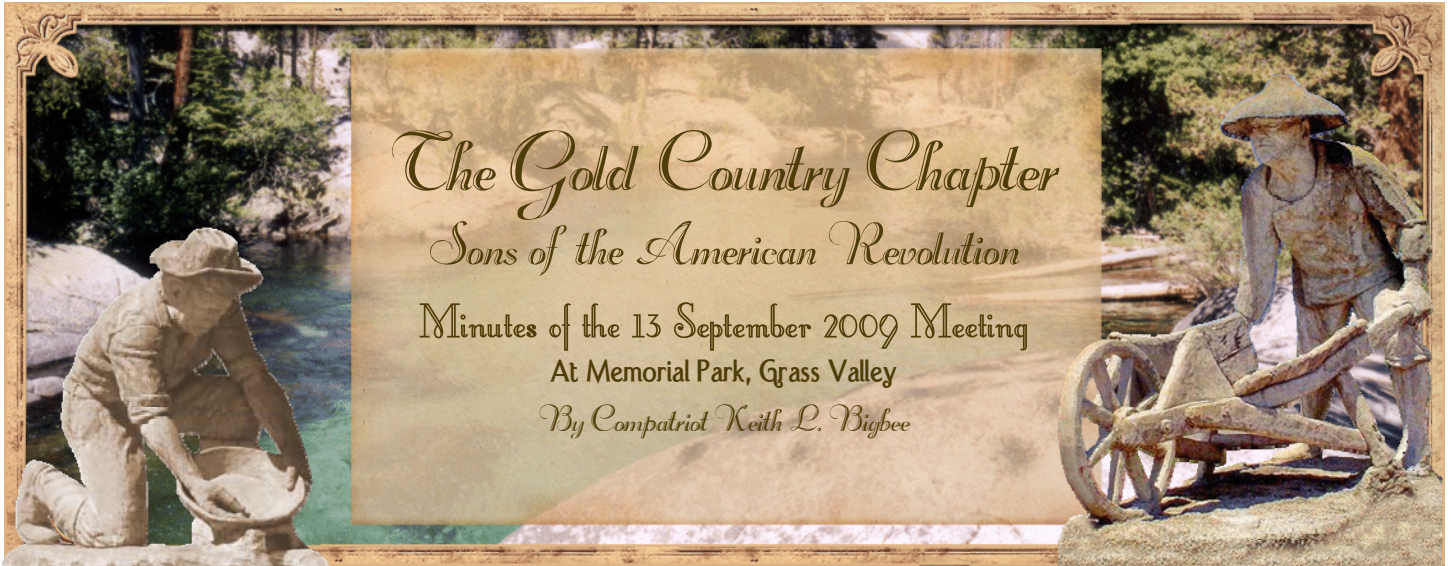
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Brigadier General Richard Montgomery



Sir Guy Carleton



In the absence of President Griswold, CASSAR Vice President North Keith Bigbee called the meeting to order at 3:15 P.M. The invocation was given by Earl Young. Garrett Jackson, past CASSAR president and visiting compatriot of the San Francisco Chapter, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Keith Bigbee led the SAR Pledge.

Attendance: Nine members, 38 guests, and two youth registrants attended the meeting.

Compatriot Bigbee introduced several distinguished guests: Stan Henderson - Past CASSAR President and member of General George Washington Chapter, and his wife Past CASSAR Ladies Auxiliary President Linda Henderson; Garrett Jackson - Past CASSAR President & member of the San Francisco Chapter; Tom Chilton - CASSAR Registrar & Registrar of Sacramento Chapter; Corena Ross - CASSAR Ladies Auxiliary Historian & member of Captain John Oldham Chapter, DAR; Owen Stiles - President General George Washington Chapter and his guest Marty; Armida Manifor - Vice Regent of Captain John Oldham Chapter, DAR; Lee Hicks - Chaplain of Captain John Oldham Chapter, DAR; Ann Young - member of Captain John Oldham, DAR; Patricia Hopkins - application submitted to become a member of the Captain John Oldham Chapter, DAR; Io Beyer - Registrar Priscilla Alden Chapter Colonial Dames - Sacramento and member of Emigrant Trails Chapter, DAR; Winona Virgil - member of Emigrant Trails Chapter, DAR; Janet Welch - member of Gold Trail Chapter, DAR; Marilyn Chilton - member of Sacramento Chapter, DAR.

General Business: Compatriot Bigbee called for approval of the minutes as published in the newsletter. A motion was made, seconded and approved. Compatriot Bigbee reminded everyone that the 2010 Spring CASSAR Planning Committee meeting would be held Wednesday, September 30, at 6:30 P.M.

at Denny's Restaurant on Hwy 49 and everyone is welcome. He also mentioned that the speaker for the October meeting would be Juli Longtin, Gold Country Chapter's sponsored winner of the Valley Forge Teacher Contest. Ms. Longtin will talk about her trip to the Freedoms Foundation Workshop at Valley Forge, PA.

Closing: Compatriot Bigbee thanked everyone for their participation in the Constitution Day Parade and asked for a motion suspending business until the October meeting. The motion was made, seconded, and approved. Everyone then enjoyed good food thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary and our wonderful chefs, Smitty and Lindy Virgil. It was a great time of fellowship for all. 🌀



October's Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker will be Juli Longtin, winner of the 2009 Valley Forge Teacher Award for both Gold Country Chapter and CASSAR. She will be speaking about her experiences at the Freedoms Foundations at Valley Forge this summer. Juli is a fifth grade teacher at Weimar Hills School. She is a DAR member and her son is a Junior SAR member. She lives in Meadow Vista with her husband and two children. Juli loves teaching and bringing subjects to life with hands-on experiences. Please join us for a most interesting presentation.



Gold Country Chapter *At Constitution Day Parade!*

September 13, 2009 marked the 43rd consecutive Constitution Day Parade hosted by Nevada City. The parade has been a local tradition since 1967 and is reported to be the oldest and largest Constitution observance in the western United States. Representing the Sons of the American Revolution was Gold Country, San Francisco, Sacramento, and General George Washington chapters. Participants are listed on page 10.





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



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CONSTITUTION DAY PARADE PARTICIPANTS

The Sons of the American Revolution had thirty-five participants in the September 13th Nevada City Constitution Day Parade. The San Francisco Chapter was represented by Garrett Jackson (Captain). The Sacramento Chapter was represented by Tom Chilton (musket bearer). The General George Washington Chapter was represented by Bill Fox (flag float quartermaster), Bob Trueax (pike bearer), Owen Styles (Cowpens Flag bearer), Gary Bettinger (musket bearer), Lyle Philips (flag float driver), Stan Henderson (flag float quartermaster), Edson Meyers (musket bearer), Bob Damon (musket bearer), Betty King (1st Navy Jack Flag bearer), Corkey Phillips (flag float quartermaster), and Linda Henderson (Sons of Liberty Flag bearer). Representing the Gold Country Chapter were Bill A. Welch (bagpipes), Janet Welch (drum), Kelly Schuck (drum), Keith Bigbee (musket bearer), Dale Ross (Captain), Lyndell Virgil (SAR Flag bearer), Smitty Virgil (American Flag bearer), Barry Hopkins (musket bearer), Kevin Brown (California Flag bearer), Ann Young (Grand Union Flag bearer), Coreena Ross (Guilford Court House Flag bearer), Winona Virgil (Bennington Flag bearer), Cyndy Bigbee (Betsy Ross Flag bearer), Joshua Brown (Philadelphia Light Horse Flag bearer), Katie Brown, Maddie Brown, Jordan Brown, Heidi Brown (Bedford Flag bearer), Earl Young (Culpepper Flag bearer). Boy Scouts Nolan Sheehan and Nicholas Gow were banner bearers and were joined by Michael Howell, Scoutmaster. Thanks to everyone who helped us show our colors and honor our Constitution! 🇺🇸