

The Courier



September 2011



A PUBLICATION BY THE SACRAMENTO CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

SAR COLOR GUARD



*On Parade - Fourth of July
Carmichael, California*

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by Peter Darnall



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Community Awards Banquet

will be held on
Saturday, October 22nd
at the
Sacramento Yacht Club

Editors Note: The statements and opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Editor or of the California or National Societies, Sons of the American Revolution.

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Is the official newsletter of the Sacramento Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Unless explicitly stated, the opinions expressed herein are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the society.

President's Corner

I am thrilled to welcome back of you back to the fall series of SAR Sacramento Chapter meetings. I struggled all summer to balance work with play and, while work won, I still had a lot of fun, recreation and travel. The SF Giants appear to be losing a shot at the NLCS but the Sacramento River Cats are headed for the PCL playoffs . . . Go Cats!

My single focus the next few months is to ensure that the Sacramento Chapter has a leadership team in place to guide us through 2012 and beyond. We already have speakers lined up for the rest of 2011 and even starting into 2012. We have program chairmen to guide our youth programs (Americanism Poster Contest, Knight Essay Contest, Eagle Scout, ROTC/JROTC and School Guard) through the 2011-2012 school year. The Community Awards Banquet is set for Saturday, October 22 at the Sacramento Yacht Club. This event should again prove to be our signature event of the year.

We need men to step up and lead this organization as President, Vice President-Programs, Treasurer, Secretary, Publicity Chairman and Calling Committee members.

As members of the Sons of the American Revolution, we have an obligation to connect with the Sacramento community so that the public will gain a greater appreciation of the benefits the S.A.R. offers. The increased exposure will further enable us to bring an appreciation of our heritage to the schools and youth in this region. Our objectives are as follows:

Unite and promote fellowship among their descendants.

Inspire them and the Community with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers.

Encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution.

Maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, an appreciation for true patriotism, a respect for our national symbols, and the value of American citizenship.

Promote the purposes expressed in the preamble of the Constitution

I hope in the coming weeks and months that I can count on each of you to help share in carrying out the objectives of the Sacramento Chapter and work to make the Sacramento Chapter the best SAR chapter in the state and, possibly, in the nation. We can accomplish this goal, but it will take your time and your efforts to make it happen.

I am calling on those of you who are in a position and who are able to help, to step up to the plate and spend a few hours each month working to help us connect with our communities and neighborhoods. Become an officer, program chairman, or just volunteer to help on one of our program committees. Together we'll make a difference.



Donald B. Littlefield

—Don Littlefield

Program for September Meeting

Katherine Hope Borges is the Co-Founder and Director of The International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG), which promotes and educates about genetic genealogy.

ISOGG has grown to over 8,000 members in 66 countries. Through ISOGG, Katherine has increased professional standards in the practice, research, and discussion of relevant issues in DNA testing, interpretation, and ethics. She organized a speakers bureau and has given many presentations on genetic genealogy to groups across the United States and in the United

Kingdom. She administers several surname, regional, and haplogroup DNA projects.



**Katherine Hope Borges at the
NSDAR Continental Congress**

Katherine is also a Past Regent of Turlock Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution and currently serves as 2nd Vice-Regent and Chaplain.

Friday, September 16th at 7:00 PM
The Buggy Whip Restaurant
2737 Fulton Avenue - Sacramento
(Between El Camino & Marconi Avenues)

If the telephone committee has not taken your menu selection(s) by September 14th, please call Don Littlefield at (916) 985-6544 for reservations. Payments must be **guaranteed for each reservation made**. Wives, guests and visiting compatriots are always welcome.

Come socialize with us at 6:15PM. The meeting will start promptly at 7:00 PM.

& Ampersand

What's In A Name?

HOW ABOUT THAT TEA PARTY!

The modern Tea Party is a grassroots movement of like-minded Americans from all backgrounds and political parties, expressing concerns about the increasing cost and the size of our government. They've even chosen one of our nation's treasured icons, the Gadsden Flag, as their standard. Sam Adams and John Hancock would be right there waving those yellow rattlesnake flags if they were with us today.

We're seeing living history every night on the Evening News! . . . Niggling thought: Shouldn't the name now be "Tea Party Party"?

Today's Tea Party movement takes its name from an event that took place in Boston Harbor on the evening of December 16, 1773. Three ships, laden with tea, were moored at Griffin's Wharf. When officials refused to prevent the unloading of the tea casks, a group of colonists boarded the ships and, watched by a large crowd, broke open the casks and dumped the tea into the harbor. This raid, which took about three hours to accomplish, is now recognized as one of the key events in the American resistance movement that led to the Revolutionary War. It was not always so regarded.

Today's favorable (from the American point of view) interpretation of the activities and consequences of the Boston incident differs from public opinion immediately following the event, according to written reports in newspapers. For years the action was known as the "Destruction of Tea" and was considered by many to be an act of vandalism—destruction of property was simply not the American way. Benjamin Franklin, as a statesman, formally proposed the repayment of losses to the East India Company. Robert Murray, a New York merchant, actually tried to do so but his offer was refused. However, an American victory in the Revolutionary War and the passage of time put events in a different light. Years later, men who had participated in activities, such as the Boston raid, became heroes were able to speak of their actions without fear of prosecution.

The phrase "Tea Party" does not appear in print until fifty-three years after the event when an account of the raid was published by in 1826 by a Cincinnati newspaper. The article quoted the reminiscences of Joshua Wyeth, who was a member of the group that boarded one of the ships. The phrase "Tea Party" appeared in other newspapers and periodicals and entered into common usage thereafter.

Benjamin L. Carp is an associate professor of history at Tufts University. In his award winning book, *Defiance of the Patriots*, he cautions that the phrase "Tea Party" as used in the Cincinnati newspaper article refers to the affiliation of the men themselves and cannot be considered a descriptive of the event. Thus, the colonists were members of the "Tea Party." They did not participate in a "Tea Party."

Our modern Tea Party, it seems, has chosen their name well.

* * * * *

The Sons of Liberty was an underground group formed in Boston by Sam Adams in 1765. The Sons of Liberty opposed the encroachment of British sovereignty in America. Opposition to the increased taxation of colonial commerce by Parliament was widespread and the Sons of Liberty gained support throughout the thirteen colonies. Sam Adams, the son of a deacon and well established Boston brewer, had gained a reputation as a strong proponent of American interests in the Massachusetts Legislature..

Continued on Page 8

The American Revolution

Month by Month



September, 1781

NEW YORK and Virginia -

September begins with the forces of Washington and Rochambeau reaching Philadelphia on September 1, where they received a joyous welcome. The citizens of Philadelphia were particularly impressed by the appearance of the French in their fine uniforms and their soldierly appearance and actions. They were greatly impressed by the manners and figure cut by Lieutenant General Rochambeau.

The next day (Sep. 2) Clinton learned that Washington and Rochambeau had slipped away. It was obvious to him that they were heading for Yorktown. It was by that time too late for the fastest ship to warn Cornwallis to leave Yorktown for the interior where he could avoid being surrounded.

On September 4 a letter arrived from General Gist informing Washington that the French fleet was in the Chesapeake, where, on 5 September de Grasse debarked 3,000 men to add to Lafayette's force.

On 6 September the combined armies of Washington and Rochambeau arrived at Head of Elk to await transportation to Williamsburg. At this point it is interesting to note that Benedict Arnold, who had been recalled to New York, was in Connecticut and on the same day (September 6) was looting and burning the port city of New London, CT.

British admirals Thomas Graves and Hood left New York to intercept admiral de Barras before he could meet de Grasse at the Chesapeake. And, to guard the entrance to the Chesapeake denying de Grasse entrance. Upon arrival they found de Grasse in control of the Chesapeake and had debarked his troops in support of Lafayette. When the British fleet arrived de Grasse moved out to engaged them.

The battle began in late afternoon and raged on for several hours until it was obvious that the British could not match the overwhelming superiority of the French fleet. After the battle Graves and Hood hovered off the coast for several days before returning to New York. The Royal Navy was never again capable of challenging de Grasse, leaving Cornwallis isolated both by land and by sea..Count de Barras arrived uninterrupted on 9 September from Newport, Rhode Island with additional troops to join Rochambeau.. Beginning 14 September de Grasse began transportation of the French and American forces up the Chesapeake from Head of Elk to Williamsburg completing the operation on 24 September.

On the 28th 9,000 Americans and 7,000 French begin the siege of Yorktown. r)

SOUTH CAROLINA – Intelligence reports told Greene that Stuart/Stewart was approaching his encampment but was unable to come closer than 16 miles due to high water. Greene moved around the flooding with the intention of surprising Stuart. On 7 September, the Americans were close to the British encampment at Eutaw Springs. Here Marion joined the force as did Pickens with a group of South Carolina state infantry and Sumter with South Carolinians. The force was now recuperated and healthy but it only numbered 2,400 men of which 200 were assigned to guard the small supply train. As usual, reinforcements had been promised, and as usual nothing had appeared.

It was now up to the old stand by's to face Stuart encamped at Eutaw Springs with 2,000 mixed British and Tories. British regulars were predominant in Stuart's force but the majority of Tories were deserters from the Continental Army. On the other hand,

many of Greene's men were deserters from the British army. Considering this, Greene said: "At the close of the war, we fought the enemy with British soldiers; and they fought us with those of America." Ward states "Perhaps in no other battle of the war were the opposing forces so fairly matched." Hessians in particular are known to have deserted in fairly large numbers and settled in the United States. Were these the deserters who made up so much of Greene's army? I am sure that the irregulars of Sumter, Pickens, and

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Revolution Continued from Page 6

Marion were all Americans and, primarily Americans by birth.

Believing that Greene was unable to move due to flooding, Stuart felt secure encamped in a well fortified position; an eight acre, palisaded enclosure with water from a creek and a stoutly built brick house. He lacked information concerning the location of the American army until (on 8 September) two North Carolina deserters appeared at six o'clock and warned him of Greene's advancing army. He did not believe their report but sent a large party of foot and horse to check their story. This group was surprised and partially destroyed. Its remnants in precipitate flight to their base at Eutaw springs where Stuart was warned of the advancing Americans..

While preferring the European order of battle with two armies drawn up in an open field, Cornwallis, Rawdon and Stuart had learned to incorporate American tactics in their battle plans. With this in mind Stuart formed his main line of battle in the open across Charleston Road but modified the open formation to include a concealed force off the road in a stand of black jack trees. This in itself was one of the factors that saved him from defeat. As the battle waxed hot and heavy the men in the trees did untold damage to the Americans, including destroying most of Washington's cavalry and capturing Washington when in desperation he charged the woods.

Much of the British were forced back through their camp and ran pell mell down the road towards Charleston. Victory seemed inevitable until the attacking force discovered the British supply train and turned their attention to plunder and consumption of rum, instead of continuing to push the British on down the road. Stuart alert to the turn of events and the disorganization of the American line, rallied and reformed his troops to charge the now disorganized Americans. While this represented only a small number of troops it was sufficient to allow Stuart to save the day. It is possible that Greene could have won the day by throwing in all of his reserves. His philosophy had always been to win.. Short of winning he would inflict as much punishment as possible on the enemy but never gamble with his entire army, if victory was not possible then the army must be saved to fight another day and so it was at Eutaw Springs. American casualties were heavy, one fourth of Greene's men had been killed or wounded (522 men wounded or killed and eight missing.) Stuart's losses were greater amounting to two fifths of his force (866 dead or wounded and 430 missing.) Both sides claimed victory but it was more nearly a draw; after three hours fighting in the summer heat both sides were exhausted. .

The following day Greene planned to again attack Stuart while he retreated toward Charleston. This plan was abandoned when reinforcements arrived for Stuart. This was the last great battle in the South; Britain was now confined to the areas around Charleston and Savannah.

Greene without British or Tory Resistance moved to a political role; restoring law and order by the re-establishment of legislatures and civilian enforcement of law and order, backed up by Greene and his army.

The siege of Yorktown began on September 28. The surrender at Yorktown in October 1781 signals the end of major battles in the War For American Independence. The October 1781 will also be the final chapter for the monthly letter entitled "The American Revolution – Month by Month.

— Andrew J. Strough, III

Edited by Harold Jones

Tea Party continued from Page 5

bound for America. Four of the ships, the *Dartmouth*, the *Eleanor*, the *Beaver*, and the *William*, carried slightly more than 100,000 pounds of tea consigned to merchants in Boston. The ship *Nancy*, with twice that amount of tea, was bound for New York. The ship *Polly*, with a cargo of more than 200,000 pounds of tea, was destined for Philadelphia. The ship *London*, with 70,000 pounds of tea, was en route to Charleston, South Carolina. A total volume in the seven ships of almost 600,000 pounds of a most controversial cargo—taxation of tea was at the heart of the revolutionary protest in the colonies..

On Monday morning, November 29th, a posted handbill appeared all over Boston. It read:

Friends! Brethren! Countrymen! — That worst of plagues, the detested tea, shipped for this port by the East India Company, is now arrived in the harbor; the hour of destruction, or manly opposition to the machinations of tyranny, stares you in the face. Every friend to his country, to himself and to posterity, is now called upon to meet at Faneuil Hall, at nine o'clock THIS DAY (at which time the bells will ring), to make united and successful resistance to this last, worst, and most destructive measure of administration.

The Sons of Liberty had organized protests and successfully prevented the tea from being unloaded in New York, Philadelphia and Charleston. Those ships were forced to return to England. Boston, however, would be a different story. Sam Adams had issued an ultimatum to the Boston authorities to protest the unloading of the tea cargo. The Royal Governor of Massachusetts, Thomas Hutchinson, was determined to take a stand against the revolutionaries. He requested two armed British Navy ships be stationed outside Boston Harbor with orders to prevent the tea laden vessels from sailing back to England. He also authorized armed guards to be posted at the shops of the consignees. Three of the ships, the *Dartmouth*, the *Eleanor*, and the *Beaver* had entered customs at Boston Harbor and were cleared to discharge cargo within twenty days. The fourth Boston bound vessel, the *William*, had foundered off Cape Cod and was not moored at Griffin's Wharf. The scheduled day for the unloading was December 16th.

On the afternoon of December 16th, the largest crowd ever seen in Boston overflowed Faneuil Hall and relocated to Old South Meeting House. After a series of fiery speeches, a messenger brought Sam Adams the response to his ultimatum— the governor had denied his petition and ordered the tea to be unloaded as scheduled. An uneasy murmur ran through the assembled group as the order was read aloud. Adams then rose and announced: "This meeting can do no more to save the country."

The meeting broke up and a boisterous mob spilled out of the hall heading for Griffin's Wharf. An epic confrontation seemed inevitable (**To Be Continued**) —Peter Darnall

An early President, observing the nation's 50th year and George Washington's Inauguration, spoke in New York City, at the request of the NY Historical Society. In that "Jubilee" Address, he outlined the philosophical history of the Republic, its Declaration of Independence and Constitution, and the Constitution's built-in protections for "the People's" rights and limitations on its elected representatives.

"The President himself is no more than a representative of public opinion at the time of his election; and as public opinion is subject to great and frequent fluctuations, he must accommodate his policy to them; or the people will speedily give him a successor; or either House of Congress will effectually control his power. It is thus, and in no other sense that the Constitution of the United States is democratic - for the government of our country, instead of a Democracy the most simple, is the most complicated government on the face of the globe."

- John Quincy Adams

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE - CARMICHAEL, CALIFORNIA



Steve Wardlow



Scott Stiewig



Donna Spradling



Russ Kaiser

Schedule of Future Meetings

Friday, September 16 - 7:00 PM

Katherine Hope Borges
Buggy Whip Restaurant

Saturday, October 22 - 6:00 PM

Community Awards Banquet
Sacramento Yacht Club

Friday, November 18 - 7:00 PM

Herbert Brown - FBI
(Special Agent In Charge)
2012 Officer Nominations
Buggy Whip Restaurant

Friday, December 16 - 7:00 PM

The Auburnaires
Buggy Whip Restaurant

Calling All Compatriots
Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
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Sacramento Yacht Club

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