



Volume 12, Issue 3

Original Charter 1924 • Reactivated 1994

March 2012

# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT  
RON BARKER



Dear Gold Country Members, Associates and Friends,

Eight years ago Earl Young started the Gold Country Poster Contest at Weimar Hills School and he received 22 posters. Since then the chapter has had at least four State SAR winners and three NSSAR winners. This year the poster team was lead by Dave Gilliard and included Barry Hopkins, Earl Young, Smitty Virgil, Donn Dancer, Conni Barker, Ron Barker and new member Bill Adams went to two of the presentations. We went to a total of 28 classrooms and received 604 posters. The talent and the response we received from the students was amazing.

Last Saturday, a poster pre-judging team spent almost five hours in a Marathon pre-judging the posters so that we could get it to a manageable count for the chapter meeting this coming Saturday, March 17. We want to thank this team of Marathoners: Dave and Maryanne Gilliard, Earl and Ann Young, Smity and Noni Virgil, Donn and Mary Dancer, Barry Hopkins and Ron and Conni Barker.

Our chapter is hosting the California State Meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento at the Embassy Suites. Our own Keith Bigbee will become President of the California SAR. **We need your help in preparing and conducting this meeting.** You do not have to be registered to help with this meeting. We will need help with set up from 1 p.m. on Thursday of the hospitality suite and luncheon eating area with our flags. We are also requesting individuals to bake or bring goodies for the hospitality room. Greeters are needed on Thursday Evening, Friday and Saturday.

Thank you.  
Ron Barker  
President

P.S. If you have not visited our new website, please do so at

[www.GoldCountrySAR.com](http://www.GoldCountrySAR.com).

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*The California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*



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## Calendar of Events

### National

[www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)

Jul 6-11, 2012

122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congress

Biltmore Hotel

Phoenix, Arizona

U.S. Constitution

225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Philadelphia, PA

Sept 14-15, 2012

Leadership Meeting

Louisville, TN

Sept 28-29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

### State

[www.CaliforniaSAR.org](http://www.CaliforniaSAR.org)

April 13-14, 2012 – California Society

The 137<sup>th</sup> Spring Meeting

Embassy Suites

Old Town Sacramento

Hosted by Gold Country Chapter

### Chapter

School Patriotic Programs

January-May 2012

Contact: Dave Gilliard

March 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Poster Judging

Patriot's Day

April 19

Auburn

**The next Gold Country Chapter meeting is  
March 17, 2012**

**Lou La Bonte's Restaurant**

The Gold Country Chapter's 2012 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 La Bonte's Restaurant, 13460 Lincoln Way, Auburn, (530) 885-9193, at 9:00AM. See you there!

**Visit our Chapter, State and National Websites**

GoldCountrySAR.com ♦ CaliforniaSAR.org ♦ SAR.org

**The submission deadline for the February edition of  
The Forty-Niner is Friday, March 30, 2012.**



The Forty-Niner is the official newsletter of the Gold Country Chapter, California Society, SAR. Statements and opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect or state those of the Editor or of the California or National Societies, SAR. All content, photographs and graphics contained herein are subject to copyright law. Newsletter or Website related questions or submissions should be directed to Chapter Editor: Ron Barker at (530) 205-9581 or email [ron0729con@comcast.net](mailto:ron0729con@comcast.net). All Rights Reserved

# Battle of Waxhaws

## From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The Battle of Waxhaws (also known as the Waxhaws or Waxhaw Massacre, and Buford's Massacre) took place during the American Revolutionary War on May 29, 1780, near Lancaster, South Carolina, between a Continental Army force led by Abraham Buford and a mainly Loyalist force led by Banastre Tarleton. The American commander refused an initial demand to surrender, but when his men were attacked by Tarleton's cavalry, many of them threw down their arms to surrender. In a battle whose accounts differ on significant details, Buford apparently attempted to surrender, but was rejected. Fighting continued, including against men who had disarmed themselves.

Little quarter was given: out of over 400 men, 113 were slain outright, 150 were so badly injured that they could not be moved, and only 53 prisoners were carried off by the British. "Tarleton's quarter" became a common expression for not giving quarter in battle, and some subsequent battles in the Carolinas saw few prisoners taken alive.

### Prelude

Colonel Abraham Buford commanded a force of about 380 Virginian Continentals (the 3rd Virginia Detachment (composed of the 7th Virginia Regiment, two companies of the 2nd Virginia Regiment and an artillery detachment with two six-pounders).[1] Most of his men were raw recruits with little battle experience, although Buford did have experienced officers under his command. Due to delays in outfitting his command, Buford had been unable to reach Charleston to participate in its defense.[3] Charleston's commander, General Benjamin Lincoln, had ordered him to take a defensive position near Lenud's Ferry on the Santee River outside the city, but Lincoln surrendered around the time Buford reached this position. Buford was eventually joined by about 40 Virginia Light Dragoons who had escaped the siege or the battles that took place outside the city, and by Richard Caswell's North Carolina militia. Upon receiving news of the surrender, Buford was ordered by General Isaac Huger to return to Hillsborough, North Carolina, so he turned his column around and headed north.[4][1] At Camden, Buford and Caswell parted ways, with Buford heading north into the Waxhaws region. Buford was accompanied for a time by South Carolina Governor John Rutledge, who had been actively recruiting militia in the backcountry. When Buford stopped to rest his troops at Waxhaw Creek, Rutledge rode ahead toward Charlotte, North Carolina.[5]

General Clinton learned of Huger's force and Rutledge's presence, and on May 15 ordered Lord Cornwallis to bring the South Carolina and Georgia backcountry under British control.[3] His army moving too slowly to keep up with Buford, Cornwallis on May 27 sent Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton in pursuit with a force of about 270 men. Tarleton commanded the British Legion, a primarily Loyalist provincial regiment. The force he took in pursuit of Buford consisted of 170 Legion and British Army dragoons, 100 mounted British Legion infantry, and a three-pounder cannon.[1][5] Tarleton reached Camden late on May 28, and set off in pursuit of Buford around midnight the next morning.[5] By that afternoon, his advance force of 60 dragoons from the 17th Light Dragoons and the British Legion cavalry, 60 mounted infantry from the British Legion, and an additional flanking force of 30 British Legion dragoons and some infantry, had reached Buford's resting place. Buford had, however, been warned of Tarleton's pursuit, and had begun moving north, and was 2 miles (3.2 km) up the road.

[edit]Battle

Tarleton sent Captain David Kinlock forward to the rebel column, carrying a white flag, to demand Buford's surrender. Upon his arrival, Buford halted his march and formed a battle line while the parley took place. Tarleton hugely exaggerated the size of his force in his message—claiming he had 700 men—hoping to sway Buford's decision. The note also stated firmly to Buford, "Resistance being vain, to prevent the effusion of human blood, I make offers which can never be repeated", indicating that Tarleton would ask only once for Buford to surrender. Buford refused to surrender with the message: "I reject your proposals, and shall defend myself to the last extremity." [6] Buford then reformed his troops into a column, and continued the northward march, with his baggage train near the front of the column. Tarleton, arguably in violation of accepted rules of war, had continued his march while the parley took place.[6]

Lieutenant-Colonel Banastre Tarleton by Joshua Reynolds.Around 3:00 pm the leading edge of Tarleton's force caught up with Buford's rear guard. According to a Patriot eyewitness, a field surgeon named Robert Brownfield, the five dragoons

of the rear guard were captured, and their leader, Captain Pearson, was "inhumanely mangled" by saber cuts, some inflicted after he had fallen.[6] Buford stopped the column (except for the artillery and the baggage, which he ordered to continue on), and formed a single battle line near some open woods.[7][8] Tarleton, some of whose horses were so tired out from the pursuit that he was unable to bring his field artillery into range, established a command post on a nearby hill, and organized his forces for the attack. According to his account of the battle, he arrayed 60 British Legion dragoons and a like number of infantry on the right, the dragoons of the 17th along with some additional British Legion dragoons in the center, and he personally took command of the left, commanding "thirty chosen horse and some infantry".[7] Stragglers were to form a reserve corps atop the hill.[7]

What happened next is the subject of much debate, due to the controversial nature of the events and significant inconsistencies in the primary accounts. Tarleton's line charged, and Buford waited until the enemy was within 10 yards (9.1 m) before giving the order to fire.[7] This was a tactical mistake on Buford's part, for it enabled Tarleton's formations to hold, while only giving Buford's men time to fire a single volley before the British riders were attacking the line.[9] As Tarleton's cavalry tore Buford's inexperienced line to pieces, many of the Americans began laying down their arms and offering to surrender. According to Patriot accounts, Buford, realizing the cause was lost, dispatched a white flag toward Tarleton in an attempt to surrender. However, Tarleton had been unhorsed (exactly when differs among the accounts), and may never have received it. Although it is clear from Patriot accounts that a flag was sent, they differ both on who carried it, and how its messenger was treated. What is also apparent is that fighting continued on both sides even though the flag was visible, and the conflicting Patriot accounts (none of the British accounts of the battle mention the flag) agree that flag was effectively refused. Buford and some of his cavalry then escaped the battlefield.[10]

By conventional historical accounts, Tarleton's unhorsing gave some of the Loyalist cavalry the impression that the rebels had shot at their commander while asking for mercy, and they began what became a slaughter. According to the Patriot surgeon Brownfield, whose account was written many years after the war, the Loyalists attacked, carrying out "indiscriminate carnage never surpassed by the most ruthless atrocities of the most barbarous savages". Tarleton's men stabbed the wounded where they lay, regardless of implied surrender, for fifteen minutes after the battle had ended. According to Tarleton's report of the battle, the American rebel casualties were 113 men killed, 147 wounded and released on parole, and the 2 six pounders and 26 wagons captured. The British losses were 5 killed, 12 wounded, with 11 horses killed and 19 horses wounded. Tarleton's men were also able to recover the American baggage train.

Historians in the 19th century blamed Tarleton for the massacre, even though most contemporary references to it did not describe it as such.[11] Tarleton in his report to Cornwallis described the battle as a "slaughter", but claimed that his men, thinking their commander dead, engaged in "a vindictive asperity not easily restrained" after he was unhorsed. William Moultrie noted that the lopsided casualty count was not unusual for similar battles in which one side gained a decided advantage early in a battle. Historian Jim Piecuch argues that the battle was as much a massacre as similar events led by Patriot commanders.[12] David Wilson, on the other hand, holds Tarleton responsible for the slaughter, noting that it represented a loss of discipline, something Tarleton would have been responsible for maintaining. (Tarleton had been reprimanded for transgressions by his men at the Battle of Moncks Corner in April, and a Cornwallis aide, Charles Stedman, wrote of British actions at Waxhaws that "the virtue of humanity was totally forgot.") [13]

[edit]Aftermath

After the battle, the wounded were treated at nearby churches by the congregants, one of whom was a young Andrew Jackson.[14] Tarleton claimed that after the battle ended, the wounded of both sides were treated "with equal humanity" and that the British provided "every possible convenience".[8] Due to the large number of wounded, people from all over the countryside came to assist in their care. They learned of what had happened, and news of the apparent violation of quarter on Tarleton's part spread rapidly.[15]

#### Monument and mass grave at the battle site

The battle at least temporarily consolidated British control over South Carolina, and Patriot sentiment was at a low ebb. General Clinton, among other acts before he left Charleston for New York, revoked the parole of surrendered Patriots. This affront (technically violating accepted "rules of war"), and reports of this battle, may have changed the direction of the war in the South. Many who might have stayed neutral flocked to the Patriots, and "Tarleton's Quarter!" and "Remember Buford" became rallying cries for the Whigs. News of the massacre was also directly responsible for the creation of volunteer militia forces among the "over-mountain men" (from the Watauga Association settlement at Sycamore Shoals at a location is now Elizabethton, Tennessee). These militia participated in actions against British Loyalists at both the Battle of Musgrove Mill on August 18, 1780 near present-day Clinton, South Carolina and in the



decisive defeat of British Major Patrick Ferguson's command on October 7, 1780 at Kings Mountain, near present-day Blacksburg, South Carolina.

[edit]Legacy

The community in which the battlefield is located is now called Buford. The battlefield is owned by Lancaster County, and is preserved as a local park.[16] It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Buford's Massacre Site in 1990.[17]

In the 2000 movie *The Patriot*, Heath Ledger's character Gabriel Martin is wounded in a battle that takes place not long after the fall of Charleston. Gabriel states afterward that "Gates ordered us to march straight at the Red Coats". Horatio Gates was not present at Waxhaws, and the American column was marching away from the British at Waxhaws, not toward them. This is likely a reference instead to the August 16, 1780 Battle of Camden, in which Gates was defeated in another lopsided victory by Cornwallis.



Students are told they are Continental Army at the Battle of Waxhaws and they  
Are killed by Tarleton and his troops when they surrender.

They are asked how they thought Americans would feel about the British and Loyalist after this battle



Dave, Conni and Ron talking about the poster contest



Barry Hopkins taking about powder horns and how they were used



Guilford Courthouse Flag



Dave Gilliard talking about the battle of Guilford Court House



## Member News

### Annual CASSAR Meeting

The Gold Country Chapter is Hosting the California Sons of the American Revolution Annual Meeting and we need **YOUR HELP**.

Coreena Ross is coordinating the Gold Country Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Chapter's Hospitality Room at the California State Meeting on April 12th through the April 16th, 2012 at the Embassy Suites in Sacramento. Resigtration will be in the hospitality room so it will be very active Thursday afternoon from 3 to 7, Friday Morning 7:30 am to 10am and Saturday morning 7:30am to 10:00 am.

She needs ladies and gentlemen to help setting up the Hospitality Room and hosting and greeting our out of town guests.. She is asking for needs individuals to help by baking goodies, bringing finger food, and other items for ours guest to enjoy.

There is also help needed to set up all the flags and poles Thursday afternoon and with the set up for the Friday and Saturday Lunch.

The California Ladies Auxiliary has a raffle to help support the California Society Sons of the American Revolution. If you have anything that is new and unopened and could be used as a raffle item please let me know and I will forward the information onto Conni Barker, Ron's wife.



Please contact Coreena (530) 274-1838 and her e-mail address is cr7861@jps.net. She has a spamblocker and she will let you into my e-mail address book. Her cell phone number is (530) 263-2827. Please let her know what you can do to help.

#### Gold Country Chapter Hosting State Meeting

The Gold Country Chapter will be hosting the State Meeting at the Embassy Suites in Sacramento on April 13 and 14. We need the help of our members with preparation and during the event. One member asked if you had to be registered to help at this meeting. You do NOT have to be registered. You can also pay for an unregistered meal.

We need help before the meeting, picking up members if requested at the train station, giving members their registration packets on Thursday night & Friday morning & helping with issues that arise during Friday or Saturday.

#### Tentative Schedule:

Friday, April 13th 9:00 a.m. Meeting starts

Friday, April 13th 12:00 noon Public Service Awards Luncheon Non-registered lunch: \$ 40

Friday, April 13th 6:00 p.m. Dinner at the Firehouse Restaurant

Saturday, April 14th 9:00 a.m. Meeting starts

Saturday, April 14th 12:00 noon Youth Awards Luncheon Non-registered lunch: \$40

Saturday, April 14th 6:00 p.m. Dinner/Guest Speaker Non-registered dinner: \$60

Our own Keith Bigbee will become president of the California Society on Saturday Night Dinner.

We will have a planning meeting after our meeting on Saturday, March 17. Come and see what you can do to help.

Please go to the following site to register for the state meeting:

[http://www.californiasar.org/forms/137\\_Spring\\_Meeting.pdf](http://www.californiasar.org/forms/137_Spring_Meeting.pdf)

### Great News

Gold Country member Lyall Marshall's daughter Diamond, was discharged from hospital a few weeks ago. It is possible that Diamond could return to school in May. Before then she will have some one on one tutoring. Lyall plans to return to work next month after a year away from his geology position with Daylight Energy. Diamond is cancer free and until somebody tells the family otherwise, that is how they will live their lives. They are planning their own version of the 'Diamond Jubilee' to celebrate day 100 post transplant, which is when Diamond's body should be fully recovered from the bone marrow transplant.

**Volunteers are needed to help with Genealogical research for prospective members.** We are getting leads from our chapter website and from individuals inquiring about SAR who have seen the Ancestry.com release of the pre-1970 SAR applications.

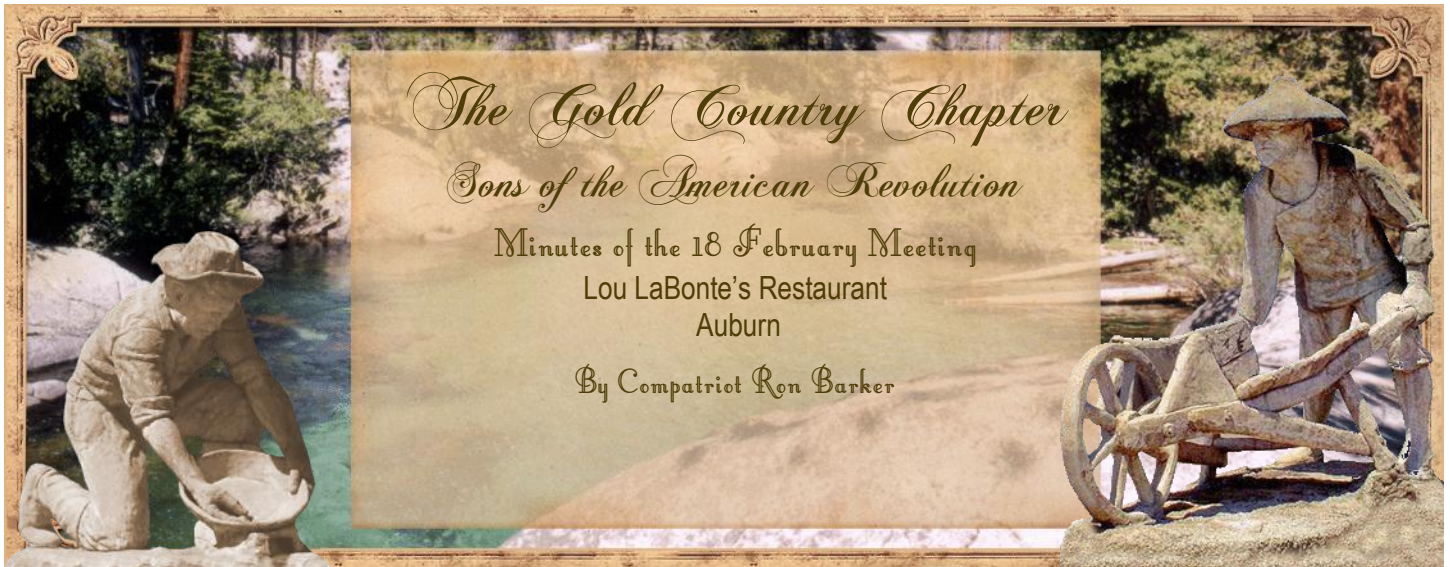
Gold Country is a very active SAR Chapter. Our success depends on the generosity of our members with their time and efforts. If you can help in any way, please step forward.





The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is a patriotic organization formed in 1889 and chartered by the United States Congress in 1906. SAR has more than 28,000 members living in all of the 50 states and 23 foreign countries.

Throughout its 120-year history, SAR has admitted more than 170,000 members. Among them are 16 Presidents of the United States, including both Bushes, Carter, Ford, Johnson, Eisenhower, Truman and both Roosevelts. SAR also has among its members Sir Winston Churchill and King Juan Carlos I of Spain, both of whom trace their ancestry to Revolutionary War patriots.



1. Meeting called to order by Pres. Ron Barker at 9:00 AM.

Barry Hopkins led the invocation, Mike Holmes followed with the Pledge of Allegiance and Michael Howell led the SAR pledge.

Ron Barker recognized DAR Members Coreena Ross from the Capt. John Oldham Chapter and Io Beyer from the Emigrant Trail Chapter and prospective DAR member Mary Dunn.

Attendance: 12 members and 6 guests.

Speaker: Jim McCauley

County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Elections

County expects a 48 to 51% turnout.

Registered voters 47% republican and 29% democratic.

Count 1% of votes by hand as an audit.

60% of vote is by mail. If a precinct has less than 250

Prospective voters, they vote by mail.

Placer County has from 92 to 260 different ballots

Placer is English only. If any one segment of the population

Is more than 10%, you have to have it in that language.

**Working the elections is an important fund raiser for the chapter and helps with our youth programs and other activities.**

The Gold Country Elections Representative is Barry Hopkins

Reports:

President: Ron Barker asked for a motion to approve the minutes and Mike Holmes moved and was seconded by Dale Rose. Minutes approved.

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The Gold Country Chapter is hosting the State Meeting in Sacramento on April 13 and 14<sup>th</sup>. Help is needed from members. Coreena Ross is contact. (530) 274-1838, cr7861@jps.net

1<sup>st</sup> VP-Mike Holmes-Florin and Tahoe JROTC disbanded. Only JROTC is Whitney High School in Rocklin.



Treasurer: Bruce Choate

Checking \$3259.00 after paying dues.

Next fund raiser is polling station work.

Registration/Genealogist-Have received two web inquiries for membership and working these two. Two applications at national.

Color Guard-Dale Ross We received two requests for The color guard-April 19 doing Patriots Day and June 14<sup>th</sup> for a flag presentation. Dale has been talking to Mark Switzer of the Golden Empire Council about out letter to their new Eagle Scouts to be recognized by SAR. Coreena is working on setting up a link from their page to the SAR Web page.

We need to update our web page so it has more current info.

There was a moment of silence in remembrance of passed Chapter Compatriots, Barry Hopkins gave the benediction and Bill Adams gave the SAR Recessional.

A total of \$35.00 was collected for the Travis USO.  
Meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.



Speaker: Jim McCauley  
County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Elections



New Member Bill Adams Receiving his Membership Certificate



DAR Member Wife Jerry and New SAR member Bill Adams with Ron Barker





# 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

