



Volume 11, Issue 4

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May 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT
DAVID GILLIARD



Dear Compatriots and Friends,

April has been a busy and productive month for your Gold Country Chapter! Two Gold Country members were elected to hold statewide SAR office at the California Society Spring meeting in Orange County on April 8-9. Keith Bigbee was elected Executive Vice-President, putting him next in line to be State President, and our own Chapter Secretary Ron Barker was elected State Secretary. Congratulations to Keith and Ron!

The rest of the news from the Spring Meeting was also great. Gold Country's entry into the State Poster Contest took First Place (for the fourth year on a row) and Gold Country won numerous CASSAR awards, including Best Large Chapter.

At our Regular Meeting on April 16, we heard from School Board Trustee Donald Wilson, who gave what one GC member called "the best SAR presentation he has ever heard." Donald's talk, about the role of Scot-Americans in America's founding, directly challenged the conventional history that the American Revolution was about Americans fighting for "their rights as Englishmen." Don's thought-provoking presentation was well received, with members asking that he be invited back soon.

On April 19 we gathered in Central Square in Auburn to commemorate Patriot's Day – the anniversary of the first battles of the American Revolution. Many Auburn residents stopped by to ask what we were doing and to have their photos taken with our Color Guard. Auburn City Councilman (and Gold Country member) Mike Holmes joined us for a time and Auburn Police Chief Valerie Harris stopped by to wish us well. Chief Harris then invited us to present the colors and lead the pledge at a nearby Rotary Club meeting that was about to start and attended by 125 local business people. Go to www.GoldCountrySAR.com and click on the 2011 Photo Album to see photos from the day's events.

The SAR has a vitally important mission of reminding Americans of their heroic ancestors, who sacrificed so much for our freedom. We can't fulfill that mission unless we get out into the community. Gold Country SAR will continue to look for ways to reach new people with our message.

Don't forget to attend our May meeting on May 21 (Armed Forces Day), when our Speaker will be Gold Country's own Ed Beyer, a WWII vet. Also please check our website often for updates and new information.

In Service and Patriotism,

Dave Gilliard

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

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
July 8-13, 2011 - 121st Annual
Congress, Marriot Winston-
Salem, Winston-Salem, NC

Sept 30—Oct 1, 2011 - Fall
Leadership Meeting, NSSAR HQ,
Louisville, KY

State

www.CaliforniaSAR.org
Nov 3-6, 2011 – California Society
The 136th Board of Managers Meeting
Town and Country Resort San Diego

Chapter

June 18, 2011
Cub Scout Day Camp
Nevada City

Speaker for May Gold Country Member Ed Beyer

M/SGT US Army Air Corps 2/3/41 - 11/11/45

Civilian Employee U S Air force 1946-1979 Grade GS 14

Real Estate Salesman/Sales Manager 1979-1991

ASQC Certified Quality Engineer

BS Industrial Management,

Graduate of USAF Air Command and & Staff College 1967

MBA Business

Member: SAR, Masonic Lodge, Ben Ali Shrine

The next Gold Country Chapter meeting is

Saturday, May 21st at 9:00 AM

Lou La Bonte's Restaurant, Auburn

The Gold Country Chapter's 2011 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 June edition of
The Forty-Niner is Friday, May 24, 2011.

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The American Revolution Month-by-Month *May 1781*

Florida, The Carolina's and Virginia

Pushed to the Limits

By Andrew Jackson Stough, III

Edited by Ron Barker



The American Revolution – Month by Month May, 1781

During the winter of 1780 and 81, all activity of any consequence had been in the South. In May, things continued to heat up, with activity in three locations, Spain in Florida, Greene in the Carolinas and Lafayette in Virginia. Each will be discussed with its own chronology.

FLORIDA - While Spain in Florida may have been acting in its own best interest, its activities contributed to American progress in the Revolutionary War. In the early days troops had been moved north from Florida to support the effort against the British at Savannah and then to support activity throughout the three southern most colonies. With Spain endangering British interests in Florida, Britain had much less support for the war in the 13 American colonies.

With Mobile safe in Spanish hands, Galvez had turned his attention to Pensacola. On Feb 28 he made his first attempt to take Fort George. Batteries along the approach made an assault too difficult with the forces at his disposal and he retired to Havana, where he convinced authorities to give him greater support to make a land invasion possible. He left Havana with 7,000 men, mostly Spanish, but some French, Dutch and Americans were included. To oppose Galvez, British General Campbell had 1500 British augmented by 500 Indian warriors.

Realizing that a sea-borne assault was imprudent, Galvez began a siege of Fort George. May 1 he began a tunnel to a hill where he set up cannon to fire on the fort. On 4 May, Indian allies of the British attacked. It might well have been successful if Campbell had not failed once more to support the Indians. From this time on, it was a battle of cannon against cannon. On May 8, a Spanish shell hit and exploded the Fort's magazine killing many men and destroying the fort's ability to defend itself. Campbell then offered to surrender and on May 10 the formal surrender occurred with the laying down of arms and the taking of 1,100 prisoners. *All of West Florida was now a Spanish possession.*

THE CAROLINAS - American General Nathanael Greene, having lost the battle of Hobkirk's Hill on April 25, retired to Rugely's Mill to lick his wounds and recoup. He was concerned that British Commander Lord Francis Rawdon, if reinforced, might try to destroy Greene, or at least try to push him back into the mountains, returning the South solidly to British hands. Rawdon was reinforced and at one point made an effort to draw Greene into a battle, but when he ran into William Washington's cavalry and Robert Kirkwood's rearguard, he mistook Greene's strength and turned back. He had suffered mightily at Hobkirk's Hill. In addition to those lost in battle, he had more than a hundred wounded on his hands.

Rawdon's force had a large number of Americans deserters, many of whom had been taken prisoner at Hobkirk's Hill. Five were hanged, intimidating those deserters who remained in Camden. Rawdon was effectively without re-supply from Charleston due to activities of the irregular forces. Foraging locally was also fruitless as the country side had been stripped bare by Cornwallis. Morale was low, possibly even mutinous. To add to his problems, Fort Motte, the main supply point between Charleston and Camden, was under siege. Learning of the siege, he departed Camden on 8 May to relieve the fort. Upon his departure he left to the mercy of Greene more than 100 wounded who were too sick to move. On the way he picked up any loyalists who wanted his protection while burning and destroying everything behind him. .

Greene too was suffering from a lack of supplies and reinforcements. If supplies and reinforcements had arrived as promised, Greene would have attacked Rawdon in Camden and the southern war would have been over. With the British gone, Greene, with his literal "Skeleton" force, moved to fill the vacuum.

On the same day (8 May) that Rawdon departed Camden, he ordered a reduction in troop strength at Ninety-Six and Fort Granby. On the 15th he arrived at Fort Motte to find it reduced to ashes. Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee and General Francis Marion had used flaming arrows to set the fort on fire, causing the garrison to surrender. Short of everything, they benefited greatly by taking supplies from the fort before it was consumed by flames.

Having destroyed Fort Motte, Lee moved on to Fort Granby (The site of today's Columbia) which was defended by Maryland Tories with a reputation of doing more looting than fighting. They were offered 2 options: (1) face a siege or (2) leave the fort with their booty but no military equipment or supplies. They agreed to leave, giving Lee ample supplies and cannon to add to Greene's dwindling resources. Lee was then assigned to support General Pickens at Augusta. On the way, he captured Fort Gilpin (May 21) then moved on to Augusta to attack Forts Grierson and Cornwallis. Fort Grierson surrendered after little fighting. Fort Cornwallis fought well but surrendered after the Americans erected a tower, making defense of the fort untenable.

Marion laid siege to Georgetown and was surprised when the garrison slipped out without a fight and headed for Charleston. 20 days after Hobkirk's Hill, all interior forts except Ninety-Six and Augusta had fallen to the Americans. Greene had moved toward Fort Motte, but hearing of its surrender he turned toward Ninety-Six. Its more than 500 seasoned Tory veterans were more than qualified to stand off Greene's less than a thousand Continentals, Kirkwood's light Infantry and some untrained militia from North Carolina and Virginia. Kirkwood arrived on the 21st followed by the main body on the 22nd.

Ninety-Six was well fortified with advanced defensive works and had a covered way to Holme's Fort, the source of water for both the fort and village. Greene assessed it as beyond his capability to capture by assault and began a siege. General Thaddeus Kosciuszko began digging approaches too close to the fort and too far from the main body to allow for immediate support. Suddenly, troops erupted from the fort and fell on the work party, bayoneting them all. Negro workers were sent from the fort, picking up the Americans' entrenching tools and retiring before Greene could come to the rescue. The only loss to the Tories was the lieutenant who led the raid. Kosciuszko then began an entrenchment further from the fort. A tower was also begun. The siege began on 22 May and lasted until 19 June.

VIRGINIA - During the Revolutionary War there had been a number of raids on the seacoast but not on the interior or, on such a grand scale as that begun by turncoat Benedict Arnold. His work was devastating, but nothing to compare with what was to come. With Arnold running amuck in Virginia and with little or no opposition, British Commander-in-chief Sir Henry Clinton sent Major General Phillips with 2,600 men and Major General Matthews with 1,800 to continue subjugation of Virginia. Phillips, upon arrival, assumed command of the entire force. Arnold, much to the discomfort of his ego, became subordinate to the two British generals.

Outside of an almost uncontested rampage in Virginia, and Cornwallis on his way, British influence in the South was basically now confined to Charleston and Savannah. Clinton threw his full weight into the pacification of Virginia while maintaining enough men in New York to keep General Washington at bay.

Reinforcements were sent from New York with the intention of controlling Virginia and the prime source of supplies for the American army. Control of the sea would allow reinforcement and supply for British troops while preventing outside interference with the operation. The colonies would then be divided and the South starved out. Subjugating the North would be the follow-on target, and the rebellion would end.

Washington had other ideas, sending Lafayette with 1200 Continentals to defend Richmond. Cornwallis having been supplied and reinforced by the Royal Navy at the port of Wilmington, NC, was marching north with 1,400 men. He next appeared in Virginia on 20 May, where he assumed command of Major General Phillips' army of 2600 men, Brigadier General Arnold's 1600 men and 1800 men commanded by Major General Matthews, totaling about 7,000 men to cope with Lafayette who had arrived at Richmond on 29 April.

May 20, Clinton arrived at Petersburg. On May 24 he crossed over and camped out on the east side of the James River, sending troops forward to reconnoiter Lafayette's position. Reinforced by General Von Steuben, Lafayette left Richmond on May 28, seeking a safe camp until General Anthony Wayne could join him. Since Cornwallis was seeking him out and might come between him and Wayne, Lafayette, by a series of quick marches, kept Cornwallis from approaching him or coming between him and Wayne. Cornwallis, irritated by his inability to force Lafayette to fight, turned to other activities.

It is an axiom of military tactics that victory is not enough. The enemy must be destroyed beyond an ability to strike back. Britain's Generals scored many victories, but they were never able to accomplish their purpose of destruction so great that it was impossible for the Patriots to raise new armies and generals to continue the fight.

May 1781 ended with Cornwallis unchecked but not in total command of Virginia. He had defeated American forces before, but in Virginia he wasn't able to even draw Lafayette into a battle. Greene ended May with only a few forts to keep him from dominating the interior of the three Southern states. The handwriting was on the wall but neither George III, his ministers nor his Generals could see any great obstacle to the return of the colonies to British rule. Perhaps at that time the good citizens of the United States, who were weary from years of war, did not see it either. Yet, May marked the beginning of the end of British rule in America.

References: Schlessinger's "Almanac of American History"; Wards "The War of the Revolution"; Lancaster's "The American Revolution"; Higginbotham's "The War of American Independence"; SAR Magazine Fall 1996; Utley and Washburn's "Indian Wars"; Carl Van Doren's "Franklin"; Encyclopedia Britannica.

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Member News

At the CASSAR State Meeting, which just concluded in Orange Country, two Gold Country Members, Keith Bigbee and Ron Barker, were elected to important positions in the California Society SAR. Keith was elected Executive Vice President, putting him next in line to become President, and Ron was elected Secretary. Congratulations Keith and Ron! John Dodd of Orange County was elected President

Ron Barker received the Silver Color Guard Medal. The Silver Color Guard Medal is for service at the District and National Levels. You must have three years attending a National Congress and a Trustee's meeting each year and also attend another trustee's meeting, District meeting or National Event as determined by the Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee. The three years do not have to be consecutive.

Lyle Marshall has renewed his SAR membership and he recently lost his wife to cancer and now his five year old daughter has cancer. Please Pray and send letter of encouragement.

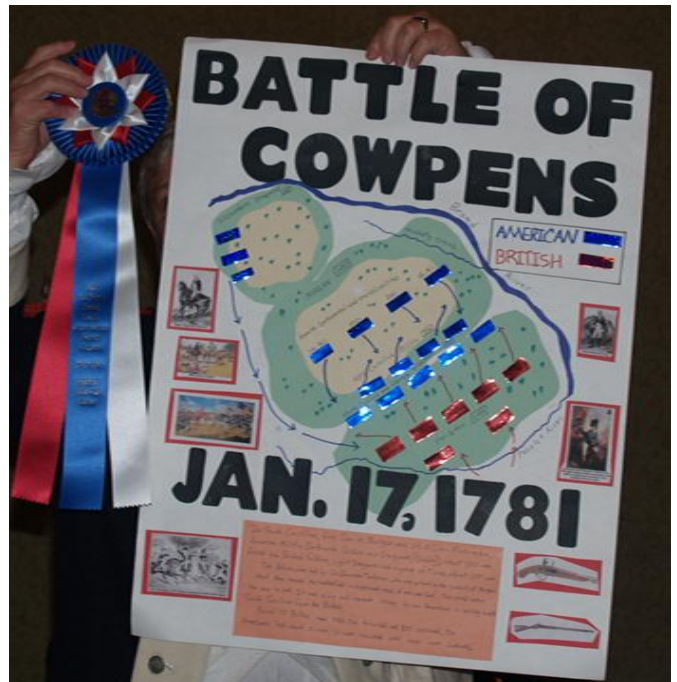
4619 16A ST SW

Calgary, Alberta T2T4L8

CASSAR State Meeting in Irvine

President Wayne Griswold Awards Gold Country
President David Gilliard Best Large Chapter Award

First Place Poster - Blake Steinbach Cobblestone
School - Rocklin Gold Country Chapter





2011-2012 CASSAR OFFICERS Including Gold Country's own Keith Bigbee as Exec VP and Ron Barker as Secretary, and John Dodd, second from right, is the new CASSAR President.



California introduced the new 8th Grade Brochure Contest this year and it has been accepted nationally.

President General J David Sympton
Addresses CASSAR



California's Larry Magerkurth will become
NSSAR President General in July



Gold Country Awards at CASSAR State Meeting

BEST BIG CHAPTER

LARGEST NUMBER OF CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

**LARGEST NUMBER OF MEDALS AND CERTIFICATES
ISSUED**

MOST ACTIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

MOST CASSAR PROGRAMS

BEST CHAPTER PUBLICATION

BEST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER FOR BIG CHAPTER

Thank you Keith Bigbee, 2010-2011 Officers and Gold Country Members

CASSAR Members Review and vote for
State Poster



David Gilliard, Conni and Ron Barker



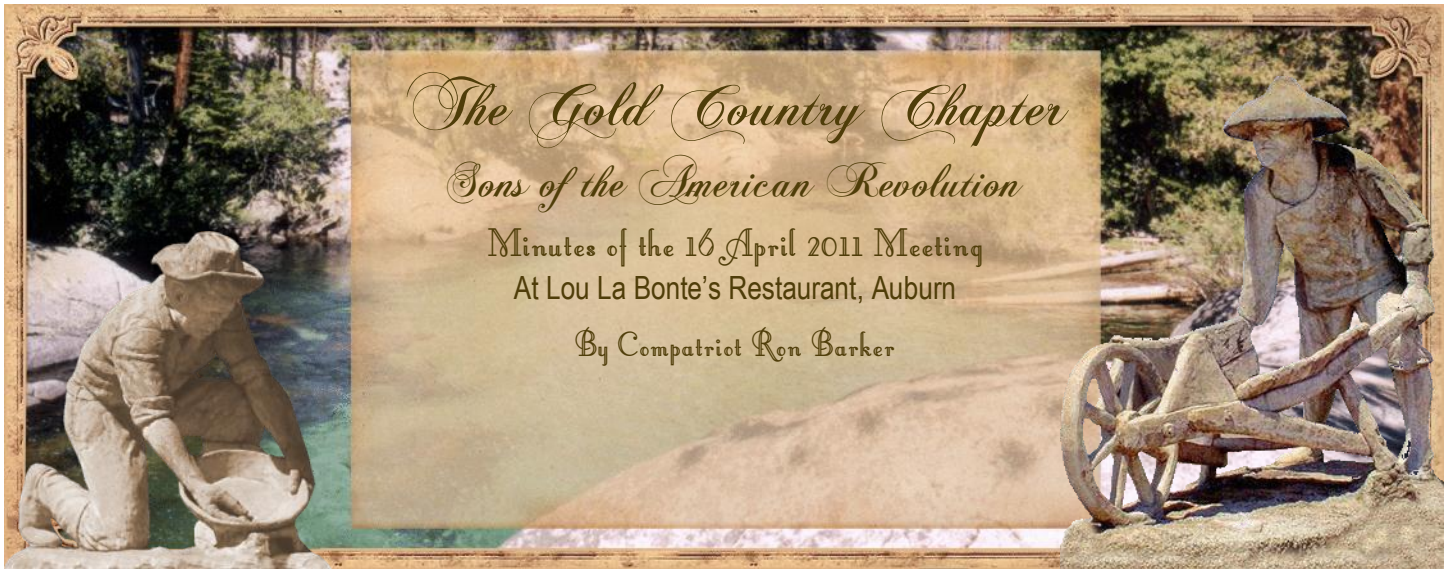


Two of Gold Countries Ladies, Cnydy Bigbee and Conni Barker are the newly elected first and second Vice-Presidents of the Ladies Auxiliary of SAR



Gold Country Color Guard with Auburn Police Chief Valarie Harris at Patriot's Day Celebration on April 19th in Auburn





1. Opening Ceremonies

Meeting called to order by Pres. Dave Gilliard at 9:02 AM.

Smitty Virgil led the invocation, Ron Barker followed with the Pledge of Allegiance and Dave Gilliard led the SAR pledge.

Attendance: 13 members and 5 guests.
Raised \$36 for the USO.

Guests Recognized: President Gilliard recognized DAR Members Coreena Ross and Lo Beyer from the Capt. John Oldham Chapter, Winona Virgil from the Emigrant Trail Chapter, and Maryanne Gilliard, Superior Court Judge.

Minutes from the April Newsletter approved.

Speaker: School Board Trustee Donald Wilson. Title Scottish-American background and the American Revolution.

This was an outstanding talk about the Scottish-American threads throughout our founding as a nation. John Witherspoon helped write the Declaration of Independence and Thirty-Eight of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence were Scot-Irish.

2. REPORTS

a. President Gilliard reported that we won Best Big Chapter Award for the State. Our poster won the State and goes onto the National Congress in July for further competition. On April 19, we will gather in Central Square in Auburn to commemorate Patriot's Day at 11 AM.

b. 1st VP - Mike Holmes met with Newcastle about the Valley Forge Teacher Program.

c. 2nd VP - nothing to report

d. Treasurer - Checking account is \$5875, Checks to be written of \$500 and our Vanguard account is \$13,979.

e. Registrar - no current applications pending

f. Color Guard - Memorial Day Event might be possible.

3. Other Reports

a. J.R.O.T.C. - Last JROTC program is the end of May in Tahoe. This school JROTC program will be decommissioned because of lack of enrollment in the program.

b. Knight Essay - nothing to report

c. Eagle Scout - Working on an applicant for new year.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

- a. May meeting is dedicated to Armed Forces.
- b. Keith Bigbee advised the Gold Country Chapter will be hosting the April CASSAR meeting and he will be calling on members to help. Keith will become the CASSAR President.

6. Adjournment

Bruce Choate led the SAR Recessional and President Gilliard gave the benediction.

Meeting adjourned at 10:19.





Dear Sons of the American Revolution

I write on behalf of Mrs. Longtin's class. We'll had an extra ordinary time. It was an amazing experience! We'll had a fun Revolu. Learning about the American Rev. Also you had grapes and that they really loved those I think it felt like it were amazing! At my old school we had NOTHING like this. Overall the most the most extraordinary thing EVER!

Thanks for everything
Mrs. Longtin's class

etina Class

2010-2011

Names of children (clockwise from top left): Rosalie, Natalie, Kalina, Calvish, Edward, Kendal, Karmayn, Will, Taro-Vis, Caitlin, Josh, Alex, Manos, Robb, Josiah, Maddy, Haley, Randi, Michael, Treve, Tyler.