



Semper Vigilo, Paratus, et Fidelis

## *The Redlands Guardian*

*The Newsletter of the Redlands Chapter Sons of the American Revolution*

April 2011

Volume 18

Issue 4



The California Society

Sons of the American Revolution

136<sup>th</sup> Spring Meeting

1876-2011

April 8-9, 2011

Held at

The Crowne Plaza Hotel

Irvine, California

The 136<sup>th</sup> meeting of the California Society was called to order by CASSAR President Wayne Griswold. The Distinguished Guests representing The National Society SAR were introduced: **President General**, J. David Sympson; **Vice President General**, Stephen Renouf; **Secretary General**: Larry Magerkurth; **Genealogist General**, Joe Dooley. **Registrar General**: Lindsey Brock; **Historian General**, Charles Lampman. Following comments of the National representatives the meeting was adjourned for lunch and reconvened for the California Society Business Meeting.

# Public Service Luncheon

Friday, April 8, 2011

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Irvine, California

## Presentation of Awards

*Wayne A. Griswold, CASSAR President*

*Dr. Kent Gregory, Orange County Chapter President*

### **Emergency Medical Services Commendation Medal**

Marine Safety Officer Matt Norton

City of Huntington Beach

### **Fire Safety Commendation Medal**

Captain Ron Newport

Orange County Fire Authority (ret)

### **Law Enforcement Commendation Medal**

Sergeant Roger Guevara

Orange County Sheriff's Department

Closing

### **Benediction**

*Dr. Phil Dodson, CASSAR Chaplin*

### **SAR Recessional**

*John L. Dodd , CASSAR Executive Vice President*

# Youth Awards Luncheon

Saturday, April 9, 2011,

The **Eagle Scout Scholarship** was awarded to Scout Robert W. Morgan – sponsored by Redlands Chapter. This the second time that Robert has won the State contest. He will move up to compete in the National Contest. Karen Carlson (far right), CASSAR Ladies Auxiliary President, presented awards to the winners of other SAR competitions:

**The Enhanced JrROTC Competition:** Cadet Nicholas Ingrassia.  
**George & Stella Knight Essay Contest:** Jose T. Gurrola Jr.



Judges of the Poster Contest show the winning posters to the audience. This year's theme was "The Battle of Cowpens". The Brochure contest had only three entrants. As this is a new category, it will take more exposure to the schools and support by the chapters in order to get better participation.

# Inaugural Banquet

Saturday, April 9, 2011



Immediate Past President, Wayne Griswold (on left), introduces the 2011-2012 CASSAR President, **John Dodd**. John is an attorney and member of the Orange County Chapter. **Kieth Bigbee**, Gold Country Chapter, was elected as Executive Vice President. He is next in line as CASSAR President,



Chapter Competition Awards were presented at the Installation Banquet by Philip Hinshaw, Chair of the Chapter Competition Committee. Redlands Chapter was recognized for **Best Newsletter** and **Best Chapter Web Site** for medium Chapter, 41-70 members. Redlands Chapter also received a **Certificate of Recognition** for competing in the Best Chapter Contest – which requires participating in the major CASSAR\SAR events.

## The Revolution in April

**April 14, 1775** - Massachusetts Governor Thomas Gage is secretly ordered by the British Prime Minister to enforce the Coercive Acts and suppress "open rebellion among colonists by using all necessary force".



**April 18, 1775** - General Gage orders 700 British soldiers to Concord to destroy the colonists' weapons depot. American spies had learned of the plan even before Gage issued the orders, and moved their stores of weapons from Concord to other safe places. Paul Revere, William Dawes, and Dr. Joseph Warren alerted the countryside that the "Regulars were out" and advancing toward Lexington and Concord.

**April 23, 1775** - The Provincial Congress in Massachusetts begins its effort to sway public sentiment toward open rebellion. Spearheaded by Dr. Joseph Warren and the Committee of Safety, an impassioned appeal for troops was sent throughout New England. Within days some 20,000 Colonial volunteers from all over New England converged on Boston. They establish camps around the city beginning a year long siege of the City.

**April 6, 1776** - The Continental Congress declares colonial shipping ports open to all traffic; however, British Shipping is excluded. The Congress authorized privateer raids on British ships and advised the colonies to disarm all Americans loyal to the King and England.

**April 12, 1776** - The North Carolina assembly is the first to authorize its delegates to the Continental Congress to vote for independence from Britain.

**April 27, 1777** - American troops commanded by Benedict Arnold soundly defeat British raiders at Ridgefield, Connecticut. Led by Arnold, the local militia fought with such intensity that the British could barely get to their ships to withdraw. Arnold was promoted to Major General after his heroic action.

**April 8, 1780** - A British attack begins against Charleston as warships sail past the cannons of the ruined Fort Moultrie and enter Charleston harbor. Washington sends reinforcements to the American Commander, General Lincoln. A protracted siege ends with the surrender of the City and the American Southern Army. It will be the largest single loss of American troops until the surrender at Bataan in the Philippines during WWII.

**April 4, 1782** - Sir Guy Carleton becomes the new commander of British forces in America, replacing General Clinton. Carleton's task is to implement the ending of hostilities and withdrawing British troops from America.

**April 12, 1782** - Peace talks begin in Paris between Ben Franklin and Richard Oswald of Britain.

**April 11, 1783** - Congress officially declares an end to the Revolutionary War.



**April 17, 1790** - The great diplomat, inventor and publisher, Benjamin Franklin dies in Philadelphia at age 84. He was a signer of the Articles of Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, the Treaty of Aid and Alliance with France, the Treaty of Paris ending the Revolutionary War with Britain, and the Constitution of the United States. His funeral draws over 20,000 mourners.

## Opening Shots of the Revolution

On April 14, 1775, General Thomas Gage, the Military Governor of Massachusetts, received orders from the British Secretary of State, William Legge, Earl of Dartmouth, to strictly enforce the Coercive Acts and suppress open rebellion among colonists by “using all means possible”. Gage’s plan to disarm the rebels was by destroying a large store of weapons and powder that were known to be hidden in Concord and other locations. He was further ordered to imprison the leaders of the rebellion – especially Samuel Adams, John Hancock, and John Adams who happened to be on their way to Philadelphia to attend the first Continental Congress.

On April 18 Gage ordered 700 troops under the command of Lt. Col. Francis Smith to march to Concord and destroy a cache of military arms reported to be hidden there. The colonial’s intelligence network learned of the plan well in advance of it being executed, and the arms were relocated to a safe place. On the night of April 18<sup>th</sup> the City of Boston was closed to traffic in and out to prevent word being passed about the departure of the troops. Actually, they were transported across the bay at night in longboats to the backwaters of the Charles River to prevent their departure being discovered by rebel spies.

Things were going wrong for the British Regulars from the start of their march to Concord – they had to leave their boats and wade in water up to their waists to reach dry land, and then begin their march in wet shoes and uniforms, which was an additional burden of weight added to the packs and arms they carried. The ruse of using boats to depart Boston didn’t surprise Paul Revere, who was waiting across the bay. When he saw the signal of two lanterns in the belfry of the North Church, it meant the Regulars were going “by sea”. Revere and William Dawes were joined by Dr. Samuel Prescott and all took off with haste, alerting the countryside that “the Regulars were out”. The

warning was quickly spread throughout Middlesex County by other riders. Once the Regulars were on their march to Concord, ringing bells and shots signaled that the countryside had been alerted. This would not be a surprise raid! Col. Smith makes what would be a wise decision – he sends a rider back to Boston requesting reinforcements be sent to Concord.

The militia at Lexington led by Capt. John Parker responded to the alert with 77 men formed on Lexington Green at dawn. Parker instructed his men to let the British pass by and don’t fire unless fired upon. After a grueling march in wet clothes and heavy packs, the lead element of the British column commanded by Major John Pitcairn arrived at Lexington in the early morning ready for a fight.



Major Pitcairn ordered the assembled militia to lay down their arms and disperse. Parker told his men to withdraw, but carry their arms with them. Then, an unordered shot is fired from an unknown source wounding a British soldier. Without orders, the enraged British respond with a volley that rakes Parker’s men, followed by a bayonet charge. The militia fires and then scatters - except for Jonas Parker, cousin of John Parker, and one other man who stand their ground. The British charged in with bayonets leveled, leaving Jonas Parker and 10 other men dead on the green. Major Pitcairn gets control of his men and continues on to Concord.

The number of Militia coming from the surrounding towns to Concord increases by the hour. Meanwhile, the British have found only a small amount of weapons and supplies which they burn along with some cannon carriages. Seeing smoke alarmed some of the militia who were observing from a hill. Believing that the British were setting fire to the town, Capt. Isaac Davis led his elite militia group over the Concord north bridge to see what the British were up to. Without provocation a squad of British soldiers guarding the bridge opened fire on Davis' group, killing Capt. Davis and Lt. Abner Hosmer instantly.



After five hours of searching the British have found only a small amount of weapons and supplies. With more militia pouring in from surrounding towns, Col. Smith decides to return to Boston. His men are exhausted, having been on their feet for near twelve hours. He loads his wagons with wounded and dead troops, and with flankers on each side to rout out snipers, leads his



broken regiment back to Boston. The British retreat becomes a running battle with militia firing from behind walls, houses, and trees along the entire route back to Boston. It will later be called "Battle Road". Smith's Command was in danger of being overcome, when the sounds of fifes and drums signaled Lord Percy's relief force arriving.

After allowing Smith's men a thirty minute rest, they began their humiliating retreat to Boston. The British are harassed relentlessly by the superior number of colonials. Only the rear guard action with the cannons that Lord Percy had wisely brought kept the colonials at bay, preventing the retreating British column from being enveloped. The battered British had barely made it back to Boston before the City was surrounded by hundreds of militia who would lay siege to the city. British casualties for the event were 73 killed, 174 wounded, 26 missing. American losses were: 49 killed, 5 missing, and 41 killed.



The Monument erected to Commemorate the Battle at North Bridge depicts a Minuteman standing by his plow with his musket at the ready. It is inscribed with the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson at the dedication on April 19, 1836.

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood, their flags to April's breeze unfurled, here once embattled Farmers stood and fired the shots heard 'round the World".

| Registrar's Report                                  | Notable Quote   | Looking Ahead   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Daniel Piedlow</b> <b>Completing Application</b> | <div data-bbox="669 212 868 443" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="526 501 1011 831">           “To take from one, because it is thought his own industry, and that of his fathers has acquired too much, in order to spare others, who, or whose fathers, have not exercised equal industry and skill, is to violate arbitrarily the first principle of association, the guarantee in everyone the free exercise of his industry and the fruits acquired by it.         </p> <p data-bbox="526 856 1011 926"> <b>Thomas Jefferson, letter to Joseph Milligan, 1816</b> </p> | May 21    Chapter Meeting 8:30 AM                               |
| <b>Patrick Lyons</b> <b>Completed Application</b>   |   | May 30    Memorial Day, Hill Side Cem. 9:00 AM *                |
| <b>Nicholas Ewell</b> <b>Completing Application</b> |   | Jun–Aug    Summer Recess  |
| <b>John Skillman</b> <b>Completing Application</b>  |   | July 4      Redlands Celebration, Parade, Fireworks Pre show. * |
| <b>Zachary Tucker</b> <b>Completing Application</b> |   | Sept 17    Chapter Meeting                                      |
| <b>John Flippin</b> <b>Application at Registrar</b> |   | Oct 1-2    Marching Thru History event.                         |
| <b>John Davidson</b> <b>Completing Application</b>  |   | Oct 15    Chapter Meeting                                       |
|   |   | Nov 19    Chapter Mtg. Election of Officers                     |
|   |   | Dec        Redlands Christmas Parade *                          |
|   |   | <b>* Color Guard Event</b>                                      |



Redlands SAR  
 627 Palm Ave  
 Redlands, CA 92374







