



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

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## Thomas Paine: A Founding Father?



*Thomas Paine by Auguste Millere 1876*

Thomas Paine was born January 29, 1737 in Thetford, Norfolk, England. His father was a stay-maker (used in women's corsets) and a Quaker. His mother was a member of the Church of England. Growing up in the small rural town of Thet-

ford, Thomas had little formal education. He apprenticed as a stay-maker but was unable to establish a successful business. He later apprenticed for a position of Collector of Excise Taxes, and was appointed to the position in the town of Alford. However, he was soon "sacked" for claiming he had examined goods when in fact he had only seen the documentation. He appealed for reinstatement and was appointed as Exciseman in Grampound in Cornwall.

Not satisfied with the prospect of being in the far south-east of England, he asked for leave to await another position. He was soon appointed as exciseman in Lewes, Sussex. During his tenure in this position, Paine petitioned the Parliament on behalf of all Excise Men for better pay. He was unsuccessful and was sacked again for his activism

Thomas Paine was a man with radical views for his time. He was a Deist and an outspoken critic of orga-

nized religion. He had no use for royalty, and held that government was a necessary evil. He was an advocate for Social Security, Public Education and other liberal views that would be popular in decades to come.

Having suffered a failed marriage, a bankrupt business, and two dismissals as an Excise Tax man, Paine decided to go to London for a new start in life. It was there he met Benjamin Franklin, who was impressed with Paine and gave him letters of introduction to some of the leading men in America. Thomas decided to immigrate to America, and arrived in Philadelphia in December 1774. In time he became the co-editor of the Pennsylvania Magazine for a period of 18 months.

After hostilities had broken out between Britain and the Colonies, Paine wrote his pro-independence pamphlet, "*Common Sense*" which was published on January 10, 1776. The pamphlet was an immediate success due to Paine's ability to present his ideas in a manner that was understandable by the common citizen. Thousands of copies of the pamphlet were distributed throughout the colonies - the literate reading to the illiterate. Paine's words galvanized the citizens who were hesitant to accept separation from Britain.

When war was declared between Britain and America, Paine joined the staff of General Nathaniel Green. In 1777 he wrote the first of his famous politi-

cal appeals, *The Crisis*, addressed to the Americans at a time when the cause for Independence seemed lost. Its inspiring words, “These are the times that try men’s souls”, read to the Army, prior to the battle of Trenton, and throughout the States, aroused new courage among the Continental Army and the people.

Paine left the Army to take the position of Secretary of the Committee of Foreign Affairs, and later resigned that position to serve as Clerk of the Pennsylvania Assembly. Recognizing his service in the Revolution, the Congress awarded him \$3,000. The State of New York also granted him 300 acres of land near the town of New Rochelle, New York.

In 1787, Paine embarked for Europe, stopping first in France and then England. It was while in England that he wrote the *Rights of Man* in response to Edmund Burke’s, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. Paine’s book was so highly critical of the Monarchies and the European social institutions, that on May 21, 1792 the British Government issued a proclamation against “wicked and seditious publications”. That same day the Attorney General put Paine on trial, in absentia, as Paine had left earlier for France.

When he was safely in France, Paine was elected to the National Convention as the member from Calais. He would become one of the leading figures in the Convention. Although Paine was a strong supporter of the French Revolution, at the trial of King Louis XVI he voted against the sentence of death - proposing instead that the King should be imprisoned and then banished to the United States. This brought him into conflict with many of the radical members of the Convention. He was expelled from the Convention on the grounds that he was a “foreigner”, although he had been naturalized earlier. He was arrested by the out of control revolutionaries and imprisoned in the Luxembourg. Fortunately, before his confinement, he had finished the first part of the *Age of Reason*, a project he had been working on for four years. He gave the manuscript to his friend, Joel Barlow, who had it published in London and Paris in 1794.

After the fall of the revolutionary leader, Robespierre, Paine was released from prison, having narrowly escaped being beheaded, and again took his seat in the Convention. In 1795 the second part of his *Age*

*of Reason* was published, and the third and final part in 1807. The last part of the series, *The Age of Reason, Being an Investigation of True and Fabulous Theology*, was considered an attack on religious tenets that were believed and revered for centuries. His work changed the public’s opinion about him, and turned his friends in Europe and America against him. Paine’s last pamphlet, *Agrarian Justice*, was published in 1795-1796. He further developed ideas that were put forth in the *Rights of Man* – viz. how the institution of land ownership separated the great majority of people from their rightful natural inheritance and of independent means of survival.

In October 1802, Paine was again in America and found that his former friends had turned against him for his opinions written in his *Age of Reason*. He retired to his farm in New Rochelle, New York and died June 8, 1809 in Greenwich Village, New York and was buried on his farm. In 1819 John Cobbett, a political journalist exhumed Paine’s bones to take them England for burial befitting his contributions to mankind, but the authorities refused burial. His bones were eventually lost and scattered throughout the country.

In Spite of the controversy over Paine’s religious opinions, he was recognized for taking a leading part in the political affairs of France and the United States. Washington, Jefferson, and Franklin praised his efforts that helped gain freedom of the United States. John Adams wrote in 1805, “I know not whether any man in the world has had more influence on its inhabitant’s affairs in the last thirty years than Thomas Paine.”

**Did You Know ?**

Thomas Paine proposed the name, The United States of America , as the name of the New Nation.



Memorial to Thomas Paine. Thetford, England

Sources: *Common Sense*, *the Crisis*, by Thomas Paine, the *Encyclopedia Americana*, *Wikipedia*



## Chapter News

### **President**

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### **Newsletter**

Will Langford  
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909 792-8939

President Charlie Frye welcomed 15 members and 12 guests to the January Chapter meeting at the University Club. Following breakfast and brief Chapter business, Mr. **Daniel Slosberg**, presented a program about the origin of the National Anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner*. Mr. Slosberg is a teacher, as well as a professional musician and actor, who portrays **Dr. William Beanes**, a resident of Upper Malboro, Maryland during the War of 1812. Dr. Beanes was involved in an incident which would be instrumental in the development of our national anthem. He had arrested two drunken British soldiers for disorderly conduct as the British passed through the town returning to their transport ships following the burning Washington City. One of the jailed British soldiers escaped, caught up with his unit, and reported what happened. A detachment of soldiers were sent back to Upper Malboro to free the other soldier and arrest Dr. Beanes.

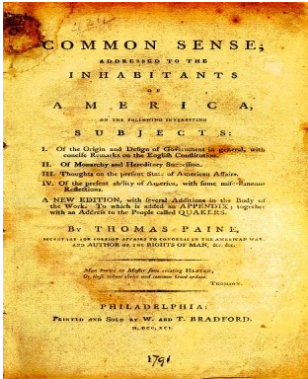
The townspeople of Upper Malboro enlisted the help of Lawyer Frances Scott Key and Colonel John Skinner to meet with the British Commanders, Major General Robert Ross and Rear Admiral George Cockburn, to plead for Dr. Beanes release. Lawyer Key and Col. Skinner were successful in obtaining the release of Dr. Beanes, but they had to remain on a British ship overnight, witnessing the intense bombardment of Fort McHenry. At first light, Francis S. Key could see the huge American flag still flying over the battered Fort McHenry.. He was inspired by the sight and wrote a poem, "*The Star Spangled Banner*". His poem was later combined with an old English melody, "*To Anacreon In Heaven*", a tune that F.S. Key liked. The patriotic song eventually became the National Anthem of the United States.

### **Committe Reports**

**Scout Chairman-** Shawn Price announced that Scout Robert Morgan of Redlands, was the winner of the State Eagle Scout Scholarship Contest. He will also compete in the National contest.

**Color Guard** - The next scheduled event is the "George Washington Massing of the Colors" on February 20 at the Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills Cemetery. Azusa Pacific Univ. History Day on March 12. **Reminder:** Call Jim James for reservations for the February 19<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting at the Univ. Club. 909 792-8939

# Significant Dates & Events of the American Revolution



**January 9, 1776** - Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" is published in Philadelphia. The 50 page pamphlet is highly critical of allegiance to the Monarchy and provides strong arguments For American Independence, stating that an Island cannot rule a continent. The pamphlet is distributed through out the colonies.



Henry Knox by Gilbert Stuart

**March 4-17, 1776** - American forces occupy Dorchester Heights which overlooks Boston harbor. Colonel Henry Knox proposes to General Washington that captured British artillery be brought from Ft. Ticonderoga to enforce the siege against the British in Boston. Using boats and special sleds constructed to carry the guns, Knox and his men move fifty-nine cannon of various sizes, 7,000 cannon shot, 2,000 muskets and several tons of musket balls which were stored in Fort Ticonderoga. The "Noble Train of Artillery" was pulled by teams of oxen



across frozen lakes and the snow covered hills and valleys of the Berkshire Mountains. By the second week of March the guns were in place on the heights overlooking Boston City and the Harbor. The stunned British are forced to evacuate Boston. The British and some 1100 Loyalist were allowed to gather their possessions and leave Boston under a flag of truce, provided that the city would not be burned. On March 17th the British sailed for Halifax, Nova Scotia. Each year, on March 17th, Bostonians celebrate both St. Patrick's Day and Evacuation Day.

**January 3, 1777** - Following his victory at Trenton, Washington out-foxes General Cornwallis again and defeats the British rear guard at Princeton and drives them back toward New Brunswick, N.J. Washington then establishes winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey. During the coldest winter of the century, Washington's army shrinks to about a thousand men as enlistments expire and deserters flee the hardships. With the arrival of new recruits in the spring, Washington's army will grow to 9000 men.



**February 6, 1778** - American and French representatives sign two treaties in Paris: a Treaty of Amity and Commerce and a Treaty of Alliance. France now officially recognizes the United States and will soon become the major supplier of military supplies to Washington's army. Both countries pledge to fight until American independence is won, with neither country concluding any truce with Britain without the other's consent, and guarantee each other's possessions in America against all other powers.

## Significant Dates and Events of the Revolution

**January 3, 1781** - Mutiny breaks out among Americans in New Jersey as troops from Pennsylvania set up camp near Princeton and choose their own representatives to negotiate with state officials back in Pennsylvania. The crisis is eventually resolved through negotiations, but over half of the mutineers abandon the army.



**January 17, 1781** - Gen. Daniel Morgan's skillful deployment of his force of Regular Army and Militia achieves a resounding victory over the British, led by the notorious General Banastre Tarleton, at the battle of Cowpens, South Carolina. The loss of his light infantry and cavalry was a serious blow to Cornwallis.

**January 20, 1781** - Mutiny breaks out among American troops at Pompton, New Jersey. The rebellion is put down seven days later by a 600-man force sent by Gen. Washington. Two of the leaders are then hanged.

**January 1, 1782** - Loyalists, sensing the eventual victory by the Americans, begin leaving America, heading north to British held Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

**January 5, 1782** - The British withdraw from North Carolina.

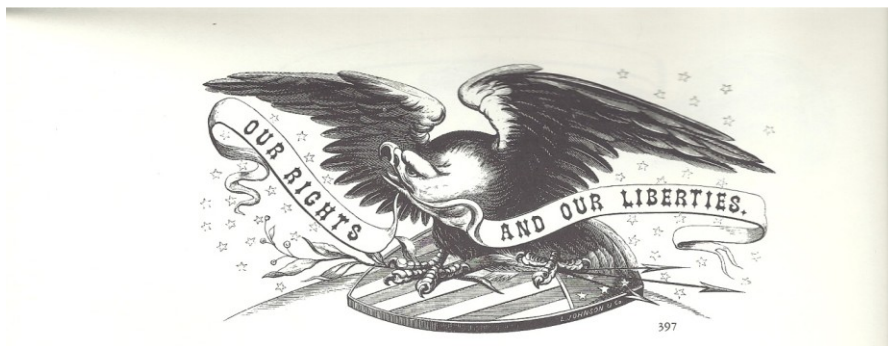
**February 27, 1782** - The British House of Commons votes to cease the war with the Americans.

**March 5, 1782** - The British Parliament empowers the King to negotiate peace with the United States.

**January 20, 1783** - England signs a preliminary peace treaty with France and Spain.

**February 3, 1783** - Spain recognizes the United States of America, followed later by Sweden, Denmark and Russia.

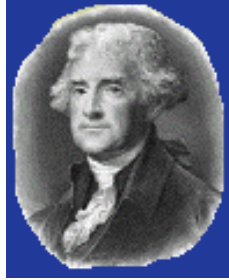
**February 4, 1783** - England officially declares an end to hostilities in America.



**Registrar's Report**

Al Rivers	Application approved
David Vogel	Application approved
Daniel Piedlow	Completing Application
Patrick Lyons	Completing Application
Nicholas Ewell	Completing Application
John Skillman	Completing Application
Zachary Tucker	Completing Application
John Flippin	Submitted App. to Registrar
John Davidson	Working on Application

**Notable Quote**



**Thomas Jefferson**

Third President of the United States

*We must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude."*

*Thomas Jefferson*

**Looking Ahead**

Feb 19	Chapter Meeting 8:30
Feb 20	Massing of the Colors*
Mar 12	Azusa Pacific History Day*
Mar 16	Directors Meet. 7:30 PM
Mar 19	Chapter Meeting 8:30
Apr 8-10	CASSAR Spring Meeting Irvine CA.
Apr 13	Directors Meet. 8:30 PM
Apr 23	Chapter Meeting 8:30 AM
May 18	Directors Meeting 8:30 PM
May 21	Chapter Meeting 8:30 AM
May 30	Memorial Day at Hillside Cemetery 9:00 AM
June	Summer Recess
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Redlands Celebration, Parade, Fireworks pre-show*

\* Color Guard Event



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~~CA-92374~~