



Utah Society
Sons of the American
Revolution

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Visit the Utah SAR website at:

www.UtahSocietySAR.org

See past issues of Utah Patriot, Calendar of Events and other Utah SAR Information.

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Utah Patriot

2019 - Issue 2

They Called Upon Providence

Did you know that most of the Founders continually petitioned God in fervent prayers, both public and private, and looked upon His divine intervention in their daily lives as a singular blessing?

George Washington was typical of the Founders in this respect. Charles Bracelen Flood discovered in his research that during the Revolutionary War there were at least sixty-seven desperate moments when Washington acknowledged that he would have suffered disaster had not the hand of God intervened in behalf of the struggle for independence.

Does not this struggle continue today? The majority of our youth are ignorant of our form of government; they are uninformed or misinformed about the values and principles the Founders relied on to create this nation. Many adults have become apathetic toward the maintenance of freedom and, lacking a firm resolve, they neglect the time and attention necessary to ensure that the light of liberty will continue to shine brightly for themselves and their posterity.

We, the Utah Society SAR officers, have undertaken a concerted effort to bring in new members and appeal to former members to rejoin our ranks. Certainly, those who have identified themselves as **Sons of the American Revolution** are good men. We feel, and our hope is, that these good men will come forward and renew that promise made in Philadelphia in 1776, and mutually pledge to each other "our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor" to preserving the values and principles of our nation's founding.

What organization is better suited for this purpose than those who call themselves the **Sons of the American Revolution**?

Several of the Utah Society SAR members and

associates have given a portion of their time to support patriotic events during 2019. The previous "Utah Patriot" recognized these efforts, and this issue will finish out the year. In 2020 we will be holding a special George Washington Birthday commemoration program and banquet on Washington's birthday, Saturday, February 22nd. Please save the date and plan to join with us.

We think it appropriate to invite you to petition our Heavenly Father to bless our efforts. If you have been doing this, please continue to do so. Pray for His influence to touch the hearts of good men to hear and respond to our appeal, inspiring these good men to join our just cause of being true **Sons of the American Revolution**. Please remember your fellow officers in your prayers and those compatriots who are striving



George Washington Valley Forge Prayer
Engraving by John C. McRae, 1866, Wikimedia.org

to hold up liberty's banner.

As our Founding Fathers sought the favor of Providence, may we do the same in seeking His hand and intervention in behalf of our country's leaders, and in our own efforts to move liberty's cause forward within the **Utah Society of the Sons of the American Revolution**.

May God bless each of you for your dedication and sacrifices made in the cause of promoting and sustaining our liberties.

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly implore His protection and favor." - George Washington, Thanksgiving Proclamation - October 3, 1789

Did you know the UtahSocietySAR.org website has a special section dedicated to the Founders' Thanksgiving proclamations? On the menu bar click "Resources," then click "Educational Resources," then click "Thanksgiving, Fasting and Prayer Proclamations of the Founders".



The Battle of Stony Point

About 30 miles north of New York City lies a triangular promontory jutting into the Hudson river. With steep rocky slopes rising up to a 150-foot summit, Stony Point boasts formidable natural defenses, virtually an island, surrounded by water on all sides but the west. This made assaulting the position a daunting task and prompted the nickname "Little Gibraltar." Today Stony Point is relatively unchanged, apart from a lighthouse and a museum, with other State Park structures atop the hill.

What is, today, a peaceful park of green grass and trees was, in July of 1779, the scene of a desperate fight to deprive the Red Coats of a strategic fortification guarding the major ferry crossing of Kings Ferry – an important place to both sides for the exchange of trade and supplies from New England to the rest of the colonies. Also, only twelve miles away was West Point. This made the Stony Point fort even more vital to the security of the region, as West Point was a key strategic fortification to the Americans for keeping control over the upper reaches of the Hudson River.

At the time of the Patriot's assault on Stony Point, it was garrisoned by the Red Coats, with elements of the 17th Regiment of Foot, under the command of Lt. Col. Henry Johnson. The 17th was reinforced by a grenadier company belonging to one of the two battalions of the 71st Regiment, and a company-strength detachment of the Loyal American Regiment (Tories). A detachment of the Royal Artillery manned fifteen field pieces that included five iron and two brass cannon, four mortars and four small howitzers. A Royal Navy gunboat was assigned to protect the river approaches to the fortifications, and the armed sloop, Vulture, was also anchored in that part of the river.

The British position at Stony Point was fortified, but it was never intended to be a true fort in the 18th century European sense of the word. No stone was used, and no walls were constructed. The defenses consisted of earthen fleches (cannon positions) and wooden abatis (felled trees sharpened to a point and placed in earthen embankments). The defenses were situated on a rocky elevation approachable only from the west, protected in the front by a watery defile and on both flanks by extensive swampy areas.

To storm the position, General George Washington formed the Corps of Light Infantry on June 12, 1779, with command assigned to Brigadier General "Mad" Anthony Wayne, commander of the Pennsylvania Line. The Corps of Light Infantry was an elite, seasonal combat organization drafted in each of the years between 1777 and 1781 from the light infantry companies of each regiment in Washington's army. The 1779 Corps was organized into a brigade of four regiments, each composed of two battalions of four companies of men from Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and North Carolina.

After a morning muster, on July 15, 1779, the Corps of Light Infantry marched from Sandy Beach, north of Fort Montgomery, beginning at noon. The land was thick with Tories, so any civilians met along the route of march were to be taken into custody to prevent them from

warning the British. The column, often forced to march single file over rough terrain and roads hardly more than paths, took a circuitous route to avoid detection by the British. The Corps began arriving at 8 p.m. at the Springsteel farm, a mile and a half west of Stony Point, and by 10 p.m. had been formed in the attack columns.

The men were given a rum ration and their orders. General Wayne announced that he would give prize bounties to the first men who entered the works, and to anyone else who distinguished himself in the action. The troops were also given pieces of white paper to pin to their hats in order to help them tell each other from the British in the darkness. The columns then moved out at 11:30 p.m. to their jump-off



Brigadier General Anthony Wayne during the Battle of Stony Point in 1779

points, diverging immediately, to begin the assault at midnight. These attack columns were led by groups of volunteer soldiers nicknamed the "forlorn hope," who were responsible for breaking holes in enemy defenses and, along with their weapons, were armed with axes and picks. To ensure the element of surprise, orders were given that the soldier's guns were to be unloaded, and they were to fight using only bayonets.

Attributed to Providence, bad weather arrived that very night, which brought aid to the Continentals. Cloud cover cut off moonlight, and high winds forced the British war ships in Haverstraw Bay to leave their posts off Stony Point and move downriver. At midnight, as scheduled, the attack began with the columns crossing the swampy flanks of the point. The southern column unexpectedly found its approach inundated in two to four feet of water and it took thirty minutes to wade to the first line of abatis, during which Major Hardy Murfree's demonstration force was spotted by British sentries and fired upon.

Because of the stealth in which the Patriot assault forces approached the British defenses on the slopes of the hill, the artillery pieces that the British had placed on the summit for just such defensive purposes were unsuccessful in repelling the attack. Due to the speed at which the Patriot infantrymen were moving, the British cannons could not be lowered to an angle low enough to sufficiently harass the men assaulting up the hill.

The first man into the British upper works was Lt. Col. Francois de Fleury, an aristocrat French engineer, commanding a battalion of the 1st Regiment. He was followed by Lt. Henry Knox, Sgt. William Baker, Sgt William Spencer and Sgt. George Donlop. As the men entered the British works they called out, "The fort's our own!" – the prearranged watchword to distinguish friend from foe. The action lasted 25 minutes and was over by 1 a.m. The Patriot's losses were 15 killed



Brigadier General "Mad" Anthony Wayne



Continued from Page 2

and 83 wounded. 546 prisoners were taken, 74 of whom were wounded. Some Patriot sources stated that there were 63 British dead.

Before dawn, General Wayne sent a brief dispatch telling Washington, "The fort and garrison, with Colonel Johnston, are ours. Our officers and men behaved like men who are determined to be free." The next day, Washington rode into the works to inspect the battlefield and congratulate the troops. For his exploits, Wayne was awarded a medal by Congress, one of the few issued during the revolution. The capturing of Stony Point was a huge victory for morale for the Continental Army and helped strengthen a positive impression among America's foreign allies.

Picture Credits:

Anthony Wayne portrait: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anthony_Wayne.jpg

General Wayne at the Battle of Stony Point: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d2/WayneAtStonyPoint1779.jpg>

400 Years In The Making!

Did you know 2020 will be the 400th year since the Mayflower Pilgrims came to the Americas? The Mayflower, The Mayflower Compact, Plymouth Rock, Plymouth Plantation, William Bradford, the Patuxet and Abenaki Indians, Squanto and Samoset



"Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor," by William Halsall, 1882 at Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA (Wikimedia)

Thanksgiving, . . . 400 years ago the Pilgrims arrived in the New World, our Founding Fathers, our ancestors of the American Revolution revered these intrepid men and woman who brought their families to obtain religious liberty, to practice self-government, to be free from the tyranny of monarchy. Plan to commemorate this most auspicious anniversary in American history!

"Almighty God, and most merciful father, who didst command the children of Israel to offer a daily sacrifice to thee, that thereby they might glory and praise thee for thy protection both night and day, receive, O Lord, my morning sacrifice which I now offer up to thee; I yield thee humble and hearty thanks that thou has preserved me from the danger of the night past, and brought me to the light of the day, and the comforts thereof, a day which is consecrated to thine own service and for thine own honor. Let my heart, therefore, Gracious God, be so affected with the glory and majesty of it, that I may not do mine own works, but wait on thee, and discharge those weighty duties thou requirest of me, and since thou art a God of pure eyes, and wilt be sanctified in all who draw near unto thee, who doest not regard the sacrifice of fools, nor hear sinners who tread in thy courts; pardon, I beseech thee, my sins, remove them from thy presence, as far as the east is from the west, and accept of me for the merits of thy son Jesus Christ, that when I come into thy temple, and compass thine altar, my prayers may come before thee as incense; and as thou wouldst hear me calling upon thee in my prayers, so give me grace to hear thee calling on me in thy word, that it may be wisdom, righteousness, reconciliation and peace to the saving of the soul in the day of the Lord Jesus. Grant that I may hear it with reverence, receive it with meekness, mingle it with faith, and that it may accomplish in me, Gracious God, the good work for which thou has sent it. Bless my family, kindred, friends and country, be our God & guide this day and for ever for his sake, who lay down in the Grave and arose again for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

— From George Washington's Prayer Journal

God, Family and Country

Recently a Compatriot of the Utah SAR told us some things about himself; we thought you might find his story of interest:

"May I tell you a story about myself? When I was younger I did not join a JROTC unit, I did not get drafted, I did not volunteer for military service. I have never run for a political office, nor have I ever been appointed to a political job for a town, city, county, state, or the nation. I do vote and try to live my life to be considerate of others. I work at being a good neighbor, buy the school kids' candy bars or pizza cards when they come to the door; and strive to be a good son, dad, and husband. I have a good job, a good education, and am a better than average provider for my family. I attend church, have a church calling and strive to live the Ten Commandments. I have hobbies and enjoy the outdoors. I like being with my family in nature and Utah offers many places where we can go and enjoy the natural wonders of the earth.

But for me there was something missing. I am grateful to our Veterans and admire those who have served our country in the Nation's military. I wondered, is there something I can do to stand for freedom, to preserve liberty, to keep alive the great gift given to us by our Founding Fathers? In doing genealogy I discovered I had ancestors who served in the American Revolutionary War. I found biographies and was able to learn about men who I descend from and the role they played in obtaining America's Independence and Freedom. Their piety, devotion to family, and love of country struck me.



Declaration of Independence, an 1819 painting by John Trumbull depicting the Committee of Five presenting their draft to the Congress on June 28, 1776 (Wikimedia)

I began to look for a way I might be able to do something to contribute to efforts to preserve what they have given me, my family, and other Americans. I learned about a Fraternity of men who are dedicated to Liberty and Patriotism—I learned about the Sons of the American Revolution. After some investigation of this Society, I



decided to dedicate myself to doing the work that would allow me to apply for membership. Once I became a member, I volunteered for service and found ways to manifest love for country. In time I truly felt that I was doing something to impact the preservation of liberty. I want to invite all who would like to show expression for their love of country to please get involved with the SAR. Please give of your talents and time to this vital organization and contribute to the cause of liberty!"



A Plea for Prayer from National SAR

This message was sent to all officers within the SAR on November 13th. The Utah SAR Board of Managers wants to share it with you and invite you to follow Chaplain Felts plea:

Brothers,

The SAR is a non-political organization. We do not take sides concerning political issues. We do follow a tradition of following and learning from the General of the Revolutionary Army and the first President of the newly formed United States of America. Please, the very next thing that you do today, and every day, pray for this great nation, pray for its leaders, pray for those who hold the offices of leadership. They are mere mortals just like you and me. They are in great need of wisdom and guidance from the Almighty Sovereign Ruler of this wondrous universe just like you and me. The Sovereign raises up and he puts down leaders as he sees fit. He has put you and me in our positions for his purpose. Please, pray for all leaders in the SAR, and at this time especially, pray for the leaders of this great nation, the leaders of the Free world. Whether you agree or disagree with the recent impeachment history and now the hearings, pray. Whether you agree or disagree with the process, pray. Perhaps the purpose of the great Sovereign Ruler of all is to get us to pray, to get us to rely on his wisdom and guidance rather than our own wisdom. That is not for me to say, but it is for me to loudly and often, call us all to prayer.

Gentlemen, it is one of the marks of a SAR Gentleman to bow humbly to authority and seek wisdom. Then we follow it.

Whatever your faith, or lack thereof, **Please Pray.**

Dave

Reverend David J. Felts
Chaplain General, NSSAR



Reverend David J. Felts
Chaplain General, NSSAR

Meet the Youngest Members of the Color Guard

The Utah Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard is very fortunate to have four active youth who enjoy providing patriotic service through participation in the color guard. In alphabetical order they are Noah Black who is a student at Olympus High School; Noah has served as a flag bearer and man-at-arms. Josh Elliott, who is home schooled, has a passion for history and has served as a flag bearer and man-at-arms. Matt Marchant, who attends South Hills Middle school, is a member of the Navy JROTC program at Providence Hall. Matt plays the fife and has also served as a flag bearer and man-at-arms. Josh and Matt have completed their SAR membership and are compatriots. Noah is currently an Associate of the Utah SAR. Sean Smith, who began affiliating with the Utah SAR when he was attending the Utah Military Academy as a member of the Air Force JROTC program, has recently moved back to Utah. Sean is a member of Utah's National Guard and is working, saving to attend college. Participating as an Associate of the Utah SAR, Sean has served as a man-at-arms and flag bearer.

In addition to parades and flag ceremonies

such as President's Day, Grizzlies Hockey and Stadium of Fire, all of the youth have supported programs such as Freedom's Light, Memorial Day at This Is The Place Heritage Park, or a Utah Patriot Camp. In this capacity they have provided patriotic service by meeting and talking with the public about the life of a Revolutionary War Soldier, the use of the flintlock and artillery, or the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence. The "old" members of the color guard are certainly happy and grateful to have the patriotic support and participation of each of these fine "younger" color guardsmen. LIBERTAS ET PATRIA!



Youngest Members of the Utah SAR Color Guard
L/R: Noah Black, Sean Smith, Joshua Elliott, Matthew Marchant

Almighty God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable ministry, sound learning, and pure manners.

Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues.

Endow with Thy spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth.

In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

— United States Book of Common Prayers - 1928

Welcome New Members!

We have one new member to welcome to the Utah SAR:

- Tanner Clark Smith - San Francisco, CA

WELCOME!



Ways to Serve in the Utah SAR

What are ways you might be able to serve in the Utah SAR?

- Pay your dues – monies are used to support the three-fold mission of the SAR.
- Attend the two annual banquets –the George Washington banquet in February and the Awards and Recognition banquet in May. Your attendance lends support and appreciation to the speakers and to those being recognized for their patriotic acts or service.
- Help with banquet setup and take down. Many hands make for short work!
- March in a parade. We need men to help carry the Utah SAR banner or Revolutionary War flags. We have extra uniforms that will probably fit you and can be used for the parade. Did you know we receive many requests, but don't have the manpower to accept all of the invitations?
- Volunteer for the September Freedom's Light program at the Bountiful City Park. A Continental Uniform is not required to serve at the SAR information booth. Or, wear a uniform or colonial outfit and tell the story of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, or something else from the Revolutionary War. Help educate the public with the principles of freedom and their inalienable rights.
- Volunteer for May's Memorial Day activity at This Is The Place Heritage Park. Again, a uniform is not required. You can help at the information booth or at one of the patriotic displays.
- Join the color guard. For a nominal fee you can rent a uniform. You

Join the Color Guard and inspire others to remember and cherish their heritage of



LIBERTY AND FREEDOM



Visit our website UtahSocietySAR.org
Click Color Guard on the Menu Bar or
Call the Utah SAR Color Guard Coordinator Today!
801-201-7731

can learn all the moves needed to parade or give demonstrations – we will help you. There's something very patriotic about wearing the uniform of the Continental Army,

- and by doing so you become a champion for liberty!
- Visit with Veterans at one of the Veteran's home in the state (Ogden, Salt Lake City, Provo, Washington County).
- Go to elementary schools and provide a brief patriotic program about the Revolutionary War. Teach principles of Freedom and Liberty to youth.
- Identify deserving citizens who are involved in patriotic endeavors for recognition. Consider firemen, law enforcement, EMTs, history schoolteachers, and average citizens who are striving to maintain the ideals of Americanism.
- Help with genealogical research. Help interested men connect with their patriot ancestors. Help these men to become members of the Sons of the American Revolution.
- In early August (or as your city/county rules for proclamations stipulate) go to your mayor and have them make a Constitution Day

Proclamation for September 17th. We have a great template.

- Serve as a committee member for the Fly the Flag Recognition



Program. It's simple. Help find people in your community who properly fly the American flag and present them with recognition certificates.

- Serve as a

leader of a Utah Society Chapter. Working with Compatriots in your area, hold a monthly meeting to plan a local celebration of Washington's birthday. Identify local patriots who you would want to recognize. Visit elementary schools and put on patriotic educational programs. Have your own chapter banquets with speakers or hold luncheon

- Award Eagle Scouts the SAR Eagle Scout certificate.



- Contribute articles to the Utah Patriot semi-annual newsletter, including Revolutionary War book reviews.
- Attend the Utah Freedom Festival in July and help man an SAR information booth. Introduce the public to the SAR and the patriotic values and principles that the organization stands for.
- Support one of the Utah Patriot Camps. Give of your time and talents to teach young people about America's founding, the Constitution and the principles of liberty and freedom.

Please take time to share with us, your experiences, as you promote and teach the principles of Freedom and Liberty within your neighborhoods and community.

"Convinced that the republican is the only form of government which is not eternally at open or secret war with the rights of mankind, my prayers & efforts shall be cordially distributed to the support of that we have so happily established. It is indeed an animating thought that, while we are securing the rights of ourselves & our posterity, we are pointing out the way to struggling nations who wish, like us, to emerge from their tyrannies also. Heaven help their struggles, and lead them, as it has done us, triumphantly thro them.

— Thomas Jefferson in a letter to the Mayor of Alexandria William Hunter, March 11, 1790
Thomas Jefferson, Jerry Holmes (2002). "Thomas Jefferson: A Chronology of His Thoughts", p.116, Rowman & Littlefield



Naturalization Ceremony

The Utah Society Sons of the American Revolution was honored to be called upon to return to the Scera Park in Orem and participate in the 2019 Naturalization Ceremony held at the Scera Theater on July 5th. The Roots of Freedom organization is the host and organizer of the program, with support from Homeland Security, the City of Orem, and other dignitaries. An invocation was offered, followed by the Utah SAR color guard presenting the colors. With the music of fife and drum, the color guard marched onto the stage and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. The National Anthem was sung by all, and then the color guard posted the colors and marched off the stage, down the aisle to the back of the theater.

Members of the Utah SAR who were sitting in the audience witnessed as individuals who had immigrated from other countries raised their right hands and took the Oath of Allegiance

for citizenship: "I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God."

The Utah SAR wishes to express their gratitude to Compatriots Scott Swain and Wade Alexander, Roots of Freedom (www.RootsOffFreedom.com) and all those Utah SAR compatriots who contributed of their time and talents to the 2019 Freedom Festival and Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony.



Utah SAR Color Guard members L/R: Josh Elliott, Doug McGregor, Jesse Black, Gregg Hansen, Matt Marchant, Trent Grandy, at 2019 Naturalization Ceremony held at the Scera Theater, Orem, Utah.

July 4th Flag Raising

The same Utah SAR Color Guardsmen who provided the Naturalization Flag Ceremony were on hand at This Is The Place Heritage Park the morning of July 4th

to provide a flag raising ceremony. The public gathered at the flagpole at 10:30 AM to watch the Color Guard march to the music of fife and drum. The

American flag was briskly run up the flag-

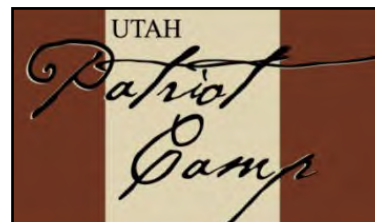
pole and the audience was led in the Pledge of Allegiance. A choral group from the Park sang "The Star-Spangled Banner". The color guard then marched off leaving the crowd to enjoy the festivities of Independence Day.



Choral group from This is The Place Heritage Park singing "The Star-Spangled Banner"

Utah Patriot Camps are Calling to You!

Did you know there are now 12 youth Patriot Camps that operate during the school summer break? They are in Hurricane, Highland, Tooele, Kaysville, Payson, Bountiful, Cache Valley, Cedar City, Draper, Murray, South Ogden, and Midway. The Utah Patriot Camp organization was formed, as stated on their website, because "many kids, especially elementary-aged children, are learning very little about our



country's history in school. Parents may not have learned much of our history either (or may need a review.) Patriot Camp involves everyone—kids, parents, and the community—coming together for the common goal of educating ourselves and our

children about our great nation." The website also says, "Patriot Camp is a way to teach kids about the founding of our country in a day-camp setting. Kids will have fun while they learn and develop an interest in our history, as well as an understanding of what makes The United States of America unique." This is a non-partisan program, focused on history and providing children with essential knowledge concerning freedom, liberty, and the importance of being an American.

Each year the Utah Patriot Camps invite the Utah SAR to participate and lend support. Due to our lack of numbers we are unable to accept all of the requests. One of the challenges is that the Patriot Camps are held on weekdays and those who have jobs are not able to get off work. This year we had Associate Gary VanDolzer, and Compatriots Wade Alexander, Jesse Black, Gregg Hansen, Doug McGregor, and Josh Elliott provide Patriot Camp service to Utah's participating youth. Thank you for your service!

For more information about the 2020 Utah Patriot Camp program in your area, visit their website: www.utahpatriotcamp.com

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor, and Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me "to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many single favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

— President George Washington Thanksgiving Proclamation – October 3, 1789



September – Remember the Constitution

It was September 17, 1789 that members of what we now call the Constitutional Convention signed the newly drafted Constitution of the United States. On a Saturday nearest to September 17th, the Freedom's Light organization holds their annual Freedom's Light program at Bountiful City Park. This year the Saturday attendance was at an all-time high, and the Utah Society Sons of the American Revolution was



Utah SAR Compatriots Lyle Gingery, Paul Nichols, and Bill Simpson converse at the Utah SAR Booth

there to meet the public, share stories of the American Revolution, and provide cannon and flintlock demonstrations.

Focusing on the threefold purpose of the SAR – Patriotism, History and Education - Utah SAR President Bill

Simpson, Gregg Hansen, Josh Elliott, Noah Black, Color Guard Commander Jesse Black and Doug McGregor set up displays, an information booth, and a shooting demonstration range for the public to visit and interact with. Visitors learned about the life of a Continental soldier by seeing a replica of an infantry tent, cooking area, daily food rations, weapons and uniforms, and by hearing stories taken from Joseph Plumb Martin's Revolutionary War diary.

At the information booth, a free cursory search to determine if a person has a patriot ancestor was offered, as well as brochures and other handouts telling about the SAR. The Freedom Festival is an ideal place for the Utah SAR to participate. There are many booths and displays throughout the park, with people portraying individuals such as Pilgrim William Bradford, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and other prominent men and women of the Founding Era. A working replica Revolutionary War era printing press, a bookstore, food booth, a patriotic musical and other events that focus on the principles of freedom and the requirements of liberty are available. The Freedom Festival will be held next year Saturday, September 19th. Plan now to attend!

School Children Remember Veteran's Day

Once again Grace Lutheran School in Sandy, Utah honored the Utah SAR color guard with an invitation to participate in their program honoring veterans of the United States. A flag presentation was provided by Compatriots Jesse Black, Josh Elliott, Greg Hansen, Trent Grandy and Doug McGregor. Utah SAR President Bill Simpson was on hand to greet school officials and take photos. The school band played our National Anthem. Compatriot Wade Alexander, dressed as Dr. Benjamin Franklin, spoke to the children and pro-



Utah SAR Color Guard members presenting the colors during Grace Lutheran School's Veteran's Day event

vided an uplifting patriotic message. A married couple serving in the Navy also provided remarks. Children provided a rendition of "My Country Tis of Thee" played with bells, and the school band played "America the Beautiful". Teachers offered remarks as well. The entire Color Guard enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared and served by the school. This parochial school for Pre-3 through 8th grade children is very much committed to patriotism and teaching its youth love for country.

Veteran's Day Observed

Saturday, November 9, 2019, members of the Utah Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard met in the city of Layton to commemorate Veteran's Day and lend support in honoring those who served in our country's military – past and present.

Color Guard Commander Jesse Black, dressed in the uniform of a captain, led the group. He was followed by Betsy Ross flag bearer Josh



Utah SAR Color Guard at the Layton Veteran's Day Parade

Elliott, and SAR flag bearer Noah Black. Associate Sean Smith and Compatriot Gregg Hansen marched with the group as men-at-arms, and Compatriot Trent Grandy provided drumming.

Several high school JROTC groups were represented, with Ben Lomond having pipers and the Utah Military Academy a brass band. A few World War II Veterans were in the parade as well as many other groups parading to honor those who served our country in the military services.

Utah SAR President Bill Simpson was on hand to lend support and take photos, and Compatriots Lyle Gingery, his wife Barbara, and Doug McGregor provided shuttle service for



those who marched in the parade. The Color Guard enjoyed burgers after the parade!

President Abraham Lincoln reminded the nation in the midst of the Civil War:
 "And whereas it is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God ... and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord [Psalm 33:12] But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace - too proud to pray to the God that made us."

— Proclamation Appointing a National Fast Day, March 30, 1863



Utah SAR President's Message

Greetings Fellow Compatriots,

I hope as you read this issue of the Utah Patriot, you can see that, on a state level, there have been quite a few activities that have taken place, many involving our Color Guard. When I attended my induction ceremony held during the Society's annual meeting and awards banquet at the Joseph Smith building, I was impressed by the number of Color Guard members (both old and young) who sharply escorted me and the other new members to the front of the room for our induction into the SAR. I could tell by how each member followed the commands of their leader that they had put in many hours practicing. Having served in the US Army, I am very aware of how much practice goes into what we referred to as "Drill & Ceremony," and how long it took us to perform each command with exactness. That induction ceremony has had a lasting impact on me, and as I have observed over my years of membership, it is our Color Guard that catches the eyes of so many whenever they are present. I am very proud of our Color Guard and applaud all those who have and are currently participating as Color Guard members. I invite you to consider becoming a member. You can get more information on how to join through our website.



Utah SAR President Bill Simpson

In July, I had the opportunity to attend my second Annual Congress held in Costa Mesa, California. The California SAR did a fantastic job in organizing this event, which included an evening cruise on the waterway around Balboa Island, optional trips to Huntington Library and Gardens, the Lyons Air Museum, the Richard Nixon Presidential Library, and a tour of the San Juan Capistrano Mission. Captain J. Charles Plumb, Annapolis graduate who flew 74 successful combat missions over North Vietnam before being shot down and held as a P.O.W. for 2,103 days, addressed Congress attendees during the Tuesday night banquet. (You can read more about the Congress in "The SAR Magazine.") One of the most impactful events held, in my opinion, is the Sunday Memorial Service which was conducted at a local church facility. The NSSAR Color Guard enters with members carrying the US, Spanish, French, and NSSAR flags, as well as all the state and other Revolutionary War flags that are posted around the chapel. It is during this event where all the SAR members who have died during the year are announced and honored one last time. Besides the business conducted during the day, I had an opportunity to see others, who I had met at my first Congress and at Leadership meetings in Louisville, KY. I was able to meet up with a few of my fellow Veterans who I met at last years congress, it was an honor to be with those who served in the US Military and are SAR members. Another special event held each Congress is the Youth Luncheon. It is at this event that honor is given to outstanding youth for oration, C.A.R. achievement, Eagle Scouts, and JROTC Cadets. Cadet Major Boston John, of Pleasant View, Utah, was the top JROTC Cadet, giving the Utah SAR the top Cadet two years in a row.

You can read about the other activities in which the Utah SAR participated in the articles of this issue of our newsletter. I urge you to take

time to reflect on the "Ways to Serve in the Utah SAR," and let us know if you have some additional ways we might become engaged within our communities. And for those living in Southern Utah, if there are things happening in your area that support the ideals of the SAR, let us know so we might be able to become more engaged in your part of the state.

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your SAR membership this year, and especially those who, for what ever reason, had been absent from our active rolls for returning. We appreciate all of you for your desire to continue to be a member of this great organization.

Yours in Liberty,

Bill Simpson
President, Utah SAR



Mark Your Calendar - Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar for these upcoming Utah SAR events

2020 George Washington's Birthday: February 22, 2020

2020 UT SAR Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet: May 16, 2020

2020 UT SAR Color Guard Memorial Day Activities

2020 Fourth of July Activities

Look for various announcements, emails regarding these events and don't forget to check the Utah SAR website for details.

Annual SAR Congress:

2020: July 9-15 - Richmond, VA

2021 - Seattle, WA

2022 - Savannah, GA

2023 - Florida

2024 - Pennsylvania

"I conjure you by all that is dear, by all that is honourable, by all that is sacred, not only that you pray, but that you act."

John Hancock, Orations Delivered At the Request of the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston
p.51, 1770

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You can contact your state officers by going to our website, UtahSocietySAR.org and from the Home page click the About Us on the Menu bar, then Utah Society SAR Officers. For Utah Patriot Newsletter contributions please contact our Utah Patriot Editor.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Do you have an interest, a request or need? Please go to the website: www.UtahSocietySAR.org; In the menu bar click "Contact Us"

You can copy and paste the Secretary's email address in your email "To", and send your message. If you have a Yahoo or Gmail email you can click the email address in blue to send an email.