

THE VALLEY COMPATRIOT



DECEMBER

1988 OFFICERS

President
D.F. BILL SEMERAU
 2908 Highridge Road
 La Crescenta, Ca 91214
 1-818-248-5387

First Vice-President
ROBERT C. EMREY
 450 Kenneth Road
 Glendale, Ca. 91202
 1-818-241-9665

Second Vice-President
JEFFERY LANE TOWERY
 2505 Canby Avenue #17
 Reseda, Ca. 91335
 1-818-345-1777

Secretary
DONALD NORMAN MORAN
 1248 Herzal Avenue
 Lancaster, Ca. 93535
 1-805-945-9071

Treasurer
CHARLES M. PITCHFORD
 6800 Chimineas Avenue
 Reseda, Ca. 91335
 1-818-345-3835

Registrar
BERNI KEITH CAMPBELL
 12806 Lorne Street
 No. Hollywood, Ca. 91605
 1-818-765-4925

Chancellor
BRUCE A. JAGGER
 7548 Stewart Avenue
 Los Angeles, Ca. 90045
 1-213-641-0259

Chaplain
LtC JAMES BELLAH, II
 19030 Mirada Street
 Tarzana, Ca. 91356

Genealogist
STEPHEN W. GREGORY
 4421 Auckland Avenue
 Toluca Lake, Ca. 91602
 1-818-760-2340

Historian
ROBERT B. WARWICK
 11611 Tampa Avenue #184
 Northridge, Ca. 91326
 1-818-360-4761

FORMER PRESIDENTS

ROGER E. ROBERTSON
 1987
Col. GEORGE A. ECKERT, JR.
 1986
GEORGE SUTHERLAND
VAN DORN
 1985
LtC JAMES BELLAH, II
 1984
DONALD NORMAN MORAN
 1981-1983

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 CALIFORNIA SOCIETY,
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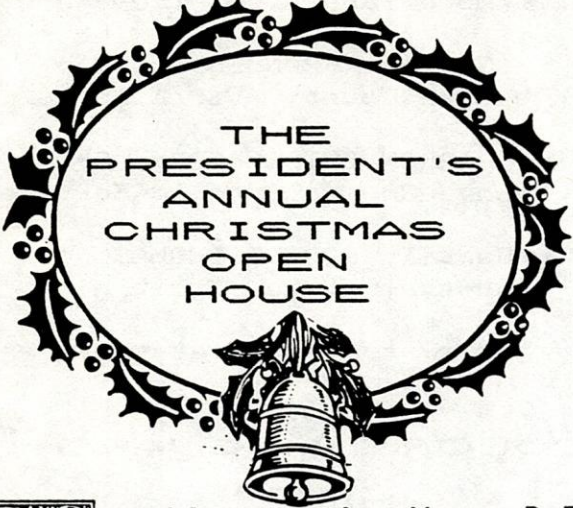
THE FRONT COVER

SOLDIERS OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY STANDING
 GUARD DUTY AT VALLEY FORGE, CHRISTMAS 1776

NOTICE

The editorial content of this publication reflects the opinions of the editor or the authors and is not necessarily the official position of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution unless so stated.

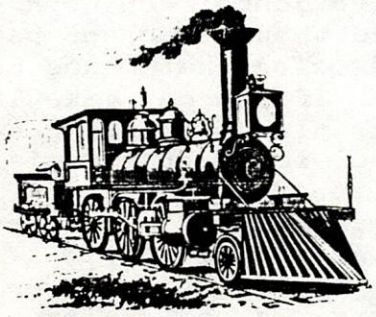
MEETING NOTICE



President and Mrs. D.F. "Bill" Semerau will host the Chapter's annual President's Open House at their ranch on Saturday, December 10th from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. All members are very much encouraged to attend for a delight holiday party. The Semerau ranch is unique in that it has it's own railroad, operating over two and one half miles of track. Bill has advised that the railroad will be operating for the entertainment of our S.A.R. members and families.

I map will be sent under separate cover to the membership.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
 and
 HAPPY NEW YEAR



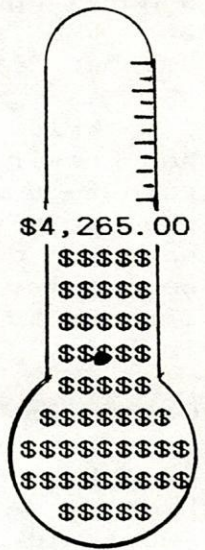
OUR CHAPTER'S PERMANENT FUND

Donations to the Chapter's Permanent Fund are Tax deductible and the interest earned from the fund will greatly assist the Chapter in continuing it's many worthwhile and patriotic programs

THE DONORS

- Anonymous
- Fr. John Bartke
- Berni K. Campbell
- Robert C. Emrey
- Col. Thomas D. Gillis
- Audel H. Hicks
- Donald R. McDowell
- James A. McKellep
- Donald Norman Moran
- Norman Philip Moran
- Charles M. Pitchford
- Roger E. Robertson
- D.F. "Bill" Semerau
- Jeffery L. Towery
- Walter G. Turnell
- Walter H. Walley
- Augustus de Zerega

THE FUND



The Sons of the American Revolution is a tax exempt organization operating under the IRS provisions 501C3. All donations to the Society are tax deductible.

The Chapter's Permanent Fund was established to provide the necessary operating funds to insure the continuation of all of our many patriotic and worthwhile programs. In 1988 the earnings from the fund were equal to fourteen members, without the usual membership expenses. This Christmas Season the Chapter asks you to consider our "Permanenet Fund" as one of your choosen charities. We are preserving our precious heritage and need your help and support.

=====end=====

**COMPATRIOTS
IN THE NEWS**



ompatriot Donald Ross McDowell received front page newspaper coverage in the October 24th edition of San Pedro's "News-Pilot", including a photograph, because of his efforts on behalf of the "Drum Barracks Civil War Museum". He also had a half page article published in the same newspaper on October 26th, 1988.

Compatriot Berni K. Campbell has retired from Los Angeles television station KTTV. Berni was one of the original Engineers and during his career has seen television grow from it's infancy to the media-giant it is today.

Compatriot Audel H. Hicks proudly advised that his grand daughter, Michele Lorraine Hicks, daughter of Compatriot Audel Hicks, Jr. is following the military tradition of her family and is now serving her Country in Korea with Military Intelligence.

BIRTHDAYS

TROY A. REED.....12/11
AUGUSTUS di ZEREGA.....12/19

ANNIVERSARIES

BILL & JACQUELINE SEMERAU
02 December 1960
COL. TOM & BILLIE GILLIS
28 December 1935

----- end -----

**SUPPLEMENTAL
SAR APPLICATIONS
APPROVED**

Compatriot Audel H. Hicks has submitted several Supplemental Applications to the S.A.R. and

on October 28th, 1988 has had three more approved. They are:

Colonel FRANCES MOORE
Orange County, Va. Militia


AARON QUISENBERRY, Sr.
Orange Co, Va. Public Service

Captain ROBERT THOMAS
Orange Co. Va. Militia

----- end -----

**OUR
COLOR GUARD**



ur Inter-Service Continental Color Guard will be one of the lead units in the annual Glendale Christmas Parade held in Montrose on Saturday Evening, December 3rd. The Color Guard, manned by members of the Van Nuys High School Junior R.O.T.C. will add that touch of patriotism and color that makes parades special. If you can make it that evening, please do and cheer our Inter-service Continental Color Guard and start off the Christmas Season in a marvelous and patriotic way.

----- end -----

GEORGE WASHINGTON AND FAMILY HISTORY

By: Donald Norman Moran

Everything one reads about George Washington and his knowledge of his family's history implies that he distained genealogy. This impression has often been given by quoting a few lines of a letter written to his nephew in which he states Genealogy was of "very little moment" to him, and continued: "I have not the least solicitude to trace our ancestry." At the time this letter was written, Washington undoubtedly had little time to indulge in a lengthy personal correspondence as he was trying to shape a new country! His terse reply was more probably intended discourage a time consuming endeavor and pesky nephew.

Unfortunately, when historians find a letter such as this, and little, if anything, to dispute it, they accept it as an absolute, rather than look for hidden motives, such as the one suggested above. We submit that George Washington had a deep reverence for his ancestry, but owing to his busy career as a planter, soldier and a politician he had little time for such time consuming endeavors

On December, 1791 Sir Isaac Heard, Garder Principal, King of Arms, serving King George III, wrote to

then President of the United States, George Washington. Sir Isaac, was responsible for all matters relating to heraldry and titles of nobility. The Garter King of Arms was also known as the King of Heralds, hence was the senior officer at the College of Arms in London, with additional quarters furnished him at Windsor Castle. He was no minor official in King George's court. Hence we can safely assume the inquiry was official in nature. Unfortunately, the letter Sir Isaac wrote no longer exists, so we can only surmise the reasons for it's having been written.

One theory is that King George, III, was attempting to establish that George Washington was a descendant of English aristocracy, hence making the loss of North America to him more acceptable to the British people.

In any case, three letters are known to exist on the subject. President Washington's response to Sir Isaac's letter, The Hon .Reverend Wykham's 15 August, 1792 response to another letter written by Sir Isaac and Washington's letter to Hannah Fairfax Washington of 24 March, 1792 All three of these letters



Washington's Silver Plate engraved with his Coat of Arms

are to be found in the collections of the famed Huntington Library in San Marino, who have given us permission reprint this Washington letter to Sir Isaac Heard. This letter reveals George Washington's real thinking on this subject which we, the members of the S.A.R. place so much importance.

"Philadelphia, May 2, 1792

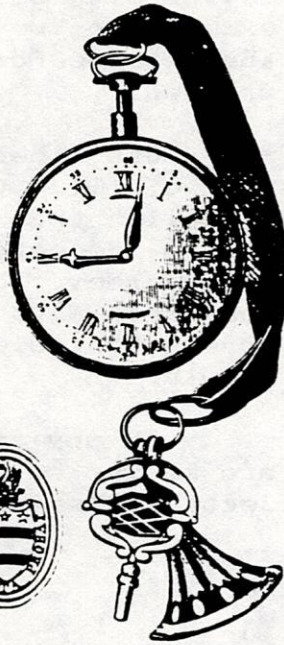
Sir Isaac Heard;

Sir, Your letter of the 7th. of December was put into my hand by Mr. Thornton; and I must request you will accept my acknowledgments as well for the polite manner in which you express your wishes for my happiness, as for the trouble you have taken in making genealogical collections relative to the family of Washington.

This is a subject to which I confess I have paid very little attention. My time has been so much occupied in the busy and active scenes of life from an early period of it that but a small portion of it could have been devoted to researches of this nature, even if my inclination of particular circumstances should have prompted the enquiry. I am therefore

apprehensive that it will not be in my power (circumstanced as I am at present) to furnish you with materials to fill up the sketch which you sent me, in so accurate a manner as you could wish. We have no Office of Record in this Country in which exact genealogical documents are preserved; and very few cases, I believe, occur where a recurrence to pedigree for any considerable distance back has been found necessary to establish such points as may frequently arise in older countries.

On comparing the Tables which you sent with such documents as are in my possession, and which I could readily obtain from another branch of the family with whom I am in the habits of correspondence I find it to be just. I have often heard others of the family, older than myself, say that our ancestors who first settled in this Country came from some one of the Northern Counties of England, but whether from Lancashire, Yorkshire or one still more northerly I do not precisely remember. The Arms enclosed in your letter are the same that are held by the family here, though I have also seen, and have used as you may perceive by the Seal to this packet a flying Griffen for the Crest. If you can derive any information from the enclosed lineage which will enable you to



WASHINGTON'S WATCH, KEY AND HERALDIC SEAL

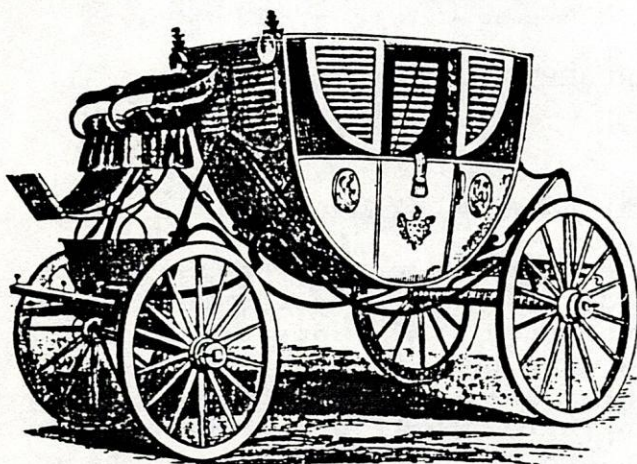


EXAMPLES OF HERALDIC SEALS USED BY PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON.

complete your Table, I shall be well pleased in having been the means to assist you in those researches which you have had the politeness to undertake, and shall be glad to informed of the result, and of the ancient pedigree of the family, some of whom I find intermixed with the Ferrers &ca.

Lawrence Washington, from whose will you enclosed an abstract was my Grand father; the other abstracts (which you sent) do not, I believe, relate to the family of Washington in Virginia; but of this I cannot speal positively. With die consideration I am &ca.

(signed) GEORGE WASHINGTON"



GEORGE WASHINGTON'S COACH WITH HIS ARMS PAINTED ON THE DOOR

The letter, in Washington's own words, explains he had very little time to devote to his families history, but his cooperation and effort to help Sir Isaac Heard, demonstrated his interest. Washington extensive use of his Arms, as illustrated in this article further demonstrate his appreciation of his family history.

===== end =====

THE CASSAR
 PRESIDENT'S AWARD
 CONTEST
 CHAPTER STATUS
 NOVEMBER

1. Publicity.....	0
2. TV or Radio.....	0
3. New Members.....	0
4. 50% attendance.....	0
5. Supplements.....	150
6. NSSAR Delegates.....	0
7. CSSAR Delegates.....	50
8. Reinstated members.....	0
9. Ladies attending.....	6
10. Auxiliary members.....	0
11. 2 Chapter functions.....	0
12. Hosting State Meeting.....	0
13. Organizing new Chapter.....	0
14. Program/Talk Given.....	0
15. Gifts to V.A. Hospital.....	0
16. Books Donated.....	2450
17. Historical Site marked.....	0
18. Awarding medals.....	0
18a. Personally presented.....	0
19. Printing roster.....	0
20. each newsletter.....	25
21. College scholarship.....	0
22a. Social gathering.....	15
22b. with prospective member....	0
23. DAR/CAR Meeting.....	0
24. Speech Contest.....	0
25. Eagle Scout Nominee.....	0
26. SAR Table.....	0
27. Donations to the SAR.....	0
28. Each New citizen.....	0
29. Report filed on time.....	50
30. Participation in Parade....	0

Monthly total (November)...2,721
 Year-to-date total: 27,882

Audel Hicks was granted 3 Supplementals for his ancestors, Rbt. Thomas, Aaron Quisenberry and Francis Moore. Berni Campbell delivered 485 books to the Wadsworth Veteran's Hospital in Brentwood. the Chapter had two delegates at the CASSAR meeting: Compatriot George Sutherland Van Dorn and Donald Norman Moran.

===== end =====

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

24 OCTOBER 1988



The San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R. held it's October, 1988 meeting at Leon's Steak House in North Hollywood, California at 6:30 P.M. on October 24th, 1988. The presiding officer: President D.F. "Bill" Semerau.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Compatriot Arthur Wm. Barrett, CASSAR Vice President-South, was the featured speaker at the October Meeting. He addressed the topics of the forthcoming National Congress in San Francisco, The new youth membership program, and congratulated the San Fernando Valley Chapter for it's outstanding preformance in the CASSAR's President Award Contest. Vice President Barrett was accompanied by his wife Helen.

1. MINUTES OF THE SEPT. MEETING

IT WAS MOVED by Compatriot James Bellah, and SECONDED by Compatriot Berni K. Campbell that the minutes of the September 26th, 1988 Meeting be accepted as submitted.

THE MOTION CARRIED.

2. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Charles M. Pitchford being ill, President D.F. Semerau gave the Treasurer's report. The Chapter is in excellant financial condition.

3. THE VETERAN'S BOOK DRIVE

Compatriot Berni K. Campbell, Chairman of the Veteran's Book Drive Committee reported that no

deliveries were made in October, however, deliveries will be made in November to the Veteran's Hospitals we support.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAPTER'S MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Compatriot Berni K. Campbell Chairman of the Chapter's Membership Committee reported three (3) applications have been approved by the National Society they are:

MATTHEW PAUL BROWN
NSSAR 131913 - CASSAR 5559

ROBERT CHARLES EMREY, II
NSSAR 131912 - CASSAR 5558

ROBERT BRECKENRIDGE WARWICK, III
NSSAR 131914 - CASSAR 5560

5. THE VALLEY COMPATRIOT REPORT

Compatriot Donald Norman Moran, Editor of the Valley Compatriot reported that Compatriot Berni K. Campbell was retiring, hence his generous contribution of printing half of each month's issue of the Valley Compatriot will end. Owing to the expense, it will be necessary to decrease the size of each issue accordingly. As information, the total regular income of the Chapter would not be adequate to offset this single expense.

6. SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER

IT WAS MOVED by Compatriot James Bellah, II, and SECONDED by Compatriot George A. Eckert, Jr. both former Chapter Presidents, that the Chapter establish the

MINUTES
 CONTINUED

position of Senior Military Officer. This would be an honorary office, in which the Chapter would recognize the contributions to our freedom by those men who have served our Country. The "S.M.O." would be seated at the head table, introduced as such, but, the office, in itself, would not be a voting position on the Board of Directors.
 THE MOTION CARRIED.

8. PROPOSED ANNUAL AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED by Secretary Donald Norman Moran and SECONDED by Compatriot Audel H. Hicks, that the following 1989 annual agenda be adopted:

- JANUARY:
 Annual Installation Banquet
- FEBRUARY
 Business Meeting
- MARCH
 Business Meeting
- APRIL
 Patriot's Day Banquet
- MAY
 Business Meeting
- JUNE
 Business Meeting
- JULY
 July 4th Celebration and a
 Business Meeting
- AUGUST
 Business Meeting
- SEPTEMBER
 Business Meeting
- OCTOBER
 Yorktown Victory Banquet
- NOVEMBER
 Business and Election of
 Officers Meeting
- DECEMBER
 President's Open House

THE MOTION CARRIED

9. NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Compatriot Roger E. Robertson reported that the Nomination Committee is placing into nomination the following Compatriots to be voted on at the November, 1989 meeting.

- President.....ROBERT C. EMREY
- 1st V.P.....AUDEL H. HICKS
- 2nd V.P.....BRUCE A. JAGGER
- Secretary.....DONALD N. MORAN
- Treasurer...CHARLES M. PITCHFORD
- Registrar.....BERNI K. CAMPBELL
- Chancellor...RICHARD W. MARSTON
- Chaplain....LtC JAMES BELLAH, II
- Genealogist...STEPHEN W, GREGORY
- Historian...ROBERT B. WARWICK, II

FOR TRUSTEE'S OF THE CHAPTER'S
 PERMANENT FUND

- Trustee.....ROBERT C. EMREY
- Trustee.....JAMES A. McKELLEP
- Trustee.....ROGER E. ROBERTSON

10. EAGLE SCOUT DISPLAY

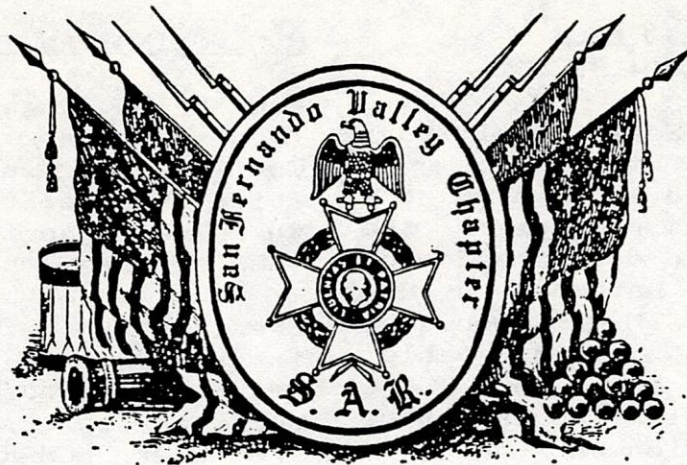
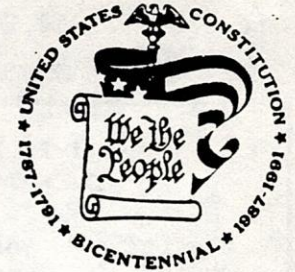
Compatriot Donald N. Moran reported that work on the Eagle Scout Scholarship Display onm going. It will be completed before the end of the year.

11. 1989 MEDALS AND AWARDS

IT WAS MOVED by Compatriot Donald N. Moran and SECONDED by Compatriot Roger E. Robertson that the Treasurer be authorized to purchase the Good Citizenship, R.O.T.C., Law Enforcement, War Service, medals, with the certificates and certificate folders. THE MOTION CARRIED

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS before the San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R., the Meeting was declared adjourned.

Donald Norman Moran, Secretary



The San Fernando Valley Chapter
SONS of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION
1248 Herzel Avenue, Lancaster, Calif. 93535

To:

First
Class

Dated Material