

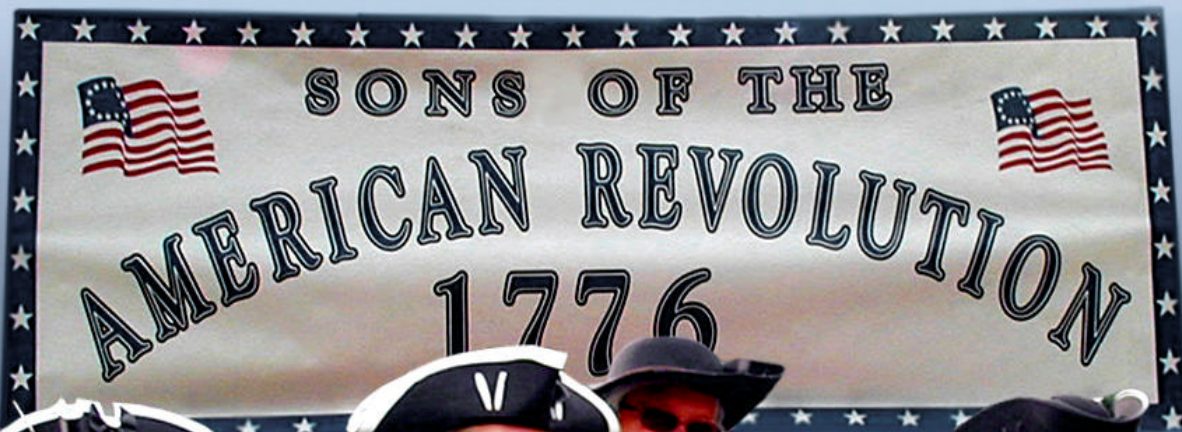
The Courier



December 2011

A PUBLICATION BY THE SACRAMENTO CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Veterans Day 2011



Sacramento Parade Photos Inside . . .

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Cover Photo

by Peter Darnall

Pictured Left to Right:

Russ Kaiser, Ron Proffer, Stephen Rainville, and
Ford Osborn.



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The Courier

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The Courier

*Is the official newsletter of the Sacramento Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.
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President's Message



Members, Spouses, and friends,

It is my assessment, looking back over the past year, that 2011 has proven to be another successful year for the Sacramento Chapter. We had many good speakers, among them were our own Sean Jones, Sacramento Police Chief Rick Braziel, Prof. Ulrich Luenemann, and FEMA Region IX Director Nancy Ward.

In October we celebrated the men and women of the Sacramento Sheriff, Fire and EMS/EMT organizations who distinguished themselves during the past year and followed that with our November Meeting where we honored Sacramento Police Officer Randy Van Dusen. I'd also like to thank Russ and Christie Kaiser for their efforts in making the Community Awards Banquet a success. The Color Guard was everywhere this year. Presidents Day at Mt. Vernon Memorial Gardens, Memorial Day at the Sacramento Yacht Club, the Fourth of July Parade in Carmichael, the October Awards Banquet, Veterans Day, and Wreaths Across America again this past weekend. The School Guard made dozens of presentations to Fifth Graders across the Sacramento region.

We welcomed new members in 2011: Robert Rectenwald, Ronald G. Foster, Raymond (Holloway) Beetz, Ramino Beetz, Ronald Carello, Robert Badger, John Griffith, Richard Tolman, Hunter DeMey (JR), Dennis Craig Anderson, Wesley Anderson, Christopher Stephenson (JR), David Scott Lawson, James Nester, Mishael Dismukes, Isaac Rex (JR), Cristian Vives (JR), Ronald Irwin Hollis, Ronald Joseph Hollis, Daniel Hollis, David Hollis (JR), John Hollis, Michael Hollis, Judd Strong, William Gunn, and Gale Nelson.

I am pleased that in the coming year we will have several of our new members step in to help this chapter in various positions. They are Russ Kaiser, Ron Carello, Craig Anderson, Bob Rectenwald and Neil Zinn. Once we get them elected and sworn in, I tell you what they are going to be working on!

It takes each one of you as members doing your part to enable to achieve our objectives and have a vibrant and meaningful Chapter. I thank each of you for what you do to make the Sacramento Chapter successful. Going forward in 2012 it is my hope and my continued commitment to work with and support the new Executive Team to involve more members in the day-to-day activities of the Chapter and to focus on growing our membership each and every month during the year.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for giving me the privilege to serve as your President for the past two years and Mary Ann and I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a wonderful and joyous holiday season and a prosperous 2012.

Don Littlefield
President

December Meeting Program

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*Our December Dinner Meeting
will be a Christmas Celebration featuring
The Auburnaires*

(More Information & Biographies on Page 11)



The Auburnaires

December 16th, 7:00 PM

Buggy Whip Restaurant

2737 Fulton Avenue

Sacramento, California

(Between El Camino and Marconi Aves.)

Menu Selections

Sirloin Steak \$24.00

Salmon \$24.00

Vegetable Plate \$24.00

(Includes beverage, dessert, tax, and tip)

Come socialize with us at 6:15 PM. The meeting will start promptly at 7:00 PM.

If the telephone committee has not taken your menu selection(s) by November 16th, please call Don Littlefield at (916) 985-6544 for reservations.

Payments must be guaranteed for each reservation made. Wives, guests and visiting compatriots are always welcome.

What's In A Name? . . .

Tea Parties - Then & Now by Peter Darnall

This article is the fourth in a series celebrating the colorful history behind the Tea Party name.

The Boston Tea Party was a pivotal event for the American colonies in their struggle for independence. Though interpretations of the event itself may vary, no one today would question the importance of the event nor the valor of men who risked everything to make a stand against British tyranny.

The Tea Party name is with us again. In the early months of 2009, a grassroots movement began to spring up across the country. American citizens, concerned with federal government policies, began to gather in local meeting facilities. The movement gained the attention of the mass media and a modern “Tea Party” has become a fixture on the daily news. A few analysts have struggled to draw parallels between the modern Tea Party and its historic namesake.

For the most part, these analysts have missed the point.

As members of the SAR, we may well have ancestors who participated in the original event. While one may empathize with the concerns of the modern Tea Party, one must also recognize that the political conditions in America today are very different from the conditions faced by the American colonists in

the mid-eighteenth century under British control. No one participating in a Tea Party activity today is considered a criminal.

Such was not the case in the colonies: Resistance to British authority was a dangerous undertaking. Men such as Sam Adams, John Hancock, and Paul Revere were fully aware of the danger. As leaders of The Sons of Liberty they were marked men. Any colonist who supported the resistance to British authority lived in the constant fear that a loyalist neighbor might report him to the authorities. Most colonists regarded themselves as loyal subjects of the King. Many were opposed to the overbearing British policies, but relatively few were willing to advocate independence from the mother country.

The Boston Tea Party was not a random act of mob violence. Everything we know of it today points to a carefully planned and meticulously executed undertaking. The number of participants in the raid on the ships is not precisely known, but most sources indicate that around fifty men participated. Some were “dressed like Indians” and many carried tomahawks. The property damage was confined to the

November Meeting Minutes & Pictures

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Jim Faulkinbury
Secretary

Photography by
Don Spradling



President Don Littlefield presents Guest Speaker, Police Chief Rick Braziel, with Certificate of Appreciation and Liberty Bell Award

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 PM by President Don Littlefield. Doug Cross gave the Invocation. He was followed by Craig Anderson, who led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Boyd Keenan then led the Pledge to the SAR.

President Littlefield recognized Tom Chilton, Jim Faulkinbury, and Jeff Goodwin as past presidents of the Sacramento Chapter. He also recognized Sacramento Chapter DAR members Marilyn Chilton, Lynn Robinson, and Jacquie Coffroth. Jacquie now lives in Seattle, Washington but was in town for the 90th birthday celebration of the Sacramento Chapter DAR. Other guests recognized included Wes Anderson, Jim Nester, Hunter De Mey. Wes, Jim, and Hunter will be recognized as new members later. President Littlefield also recognized Hunter's mother, Suzy, her friend Patrick Stevens, and Hunter's grandmother, Terri De Mey.

Special guests, representing the Sacramento Police Department were Randy Van Dusen, his wife, Lori, and Sacramento City Police Chief, Rick Braziel. Chief Braziel

will also be our speaker this evening. Randy will be presented the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal later this evening.

Citing concerns for members, President Littlefield mentioned health issues regarding Chuck Highbough, Helen Garcia, and Christie Kaiser.

Chuck is preparing for chemotherapy,

Helen is recovering from foot surgery, and Christie has undergone cancer surgery.

President Littlefield also expressed the Chapter's sympathy for Mark Stevenson, who lost both of his parents last month.

Under announcements, President Littlefield spoke of the upcoming "Wreaths Across America" program. A ceremony will be held at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon on December 10th at 9 AM. He also handed out sponsorship forms

for those who would like to purchase wreaths for the graves.

President Littlefield next presented awards for SAR members. He presented The Partners in Patriotism Certificate, which he received at the Fall Board of Managers Meeting in San Diego, to the Chapter.



Tom Chilton (Center) receives congratulations from President Don Littlefield (Left) and Jim Faulkinbury (Right) for receiving the Baron von Steuben Medal

He also presented Jim Faulkinbury and Tom Chilton with Oak Leaf Clusters for their Liberty Medals, in recognition for their achievement of each being first line signers on the petitions of ten new members. Ted Robinson was presented with the National Certificate of Patriotic Service for his service in World War II.

Jim Faulkinbury, as Chapter Color Guard Commander and CASSAR Vice Color Guard Commander, was then asked to describe the flags on display. These were the Washington Cruisers and the Bladen & Brunswick flags.

Jim Faulkinbury then awarded Tom Chilton the CASSAR Silver Von Steuben Medal for his activities in both CASSAR and NSSAR Color Guard events. Jim then awarded Ernie Garcia the CASSAR Bronze Von Steuben Medal for his activities in Chapter Color Guard events, which included the Chapter "School Guard" program. Jim also presented the NSSAR Recognition Streamer for the Chapter's contribution to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. This award was bestowed at the NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting that was held in Louisville in October.

President Littlefield then asked Tom Chilton, Wes Anderson, Jim Nester, and Hunter De Mey to come forward. Tom

(Meeting Continued on page 7)

assisted in the new members' induction into the Chapter, which was followed by the traditional handshake from the membership. Wes Anderson and Jim Nester were inducted as Regular Members. Hunter De Mey was inducted as a Junior Member.

Following the dinner, an award ceremony for Randy Van Dusen was held. Randy was the recipient of the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal. Police Chief Rick Braziel gave a



Don Littlefield & Jim Faulkinbury display the NSSAR Recognition Streamer

description of Officer Van Dusen's service supporting the department's recommendation. President Littlefield presented the medal and certificate.

Police Chief Braziel then gave a very interesting talk on the Sacramento Police Department's procedure regarding the "Occupy Sacramento" movement. The intent, Chief Braziel noted, was to avoid confrontations which would give demonstrators the media coverage they desired.

Following the Chief's presentation, President Don Littlefield presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation and Liberty Bell.

The meeting concluded with the fund-raiser, which was conducted by Mary Ann Littlefield and Marilyn Chilton. Those members donating gifts were Tom & Marilyn Chilton, Jim & Karen Faulkinbury, Vince & Jeni Gantt, Jeff & Mary Ann Goodwin, Don & Mary Ann Littlefield, Don & Donna Spradling, Mike & Lynn Wolf, and Robert Schroeder

Don thanked Mary Ann and Marilyn for their assistance with the fund-raiser. He also thanked Don Spradling for taking pictures. He then asked for a motion to adjourn. David Allmuth led the Recessional followed by Doug Cross, who led the Benediction. In honor of the country's veterans, the members sang a medley of military songs followed by *God Bless America*.

The meeting was then adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Faulkinbury
Secretary



Neil and Helen Zinn



Don Littlefield presents Ted Robinson with the National Certificate of Patriotic Service.



Jacqueline Coffroth, Donna Spradling and Marilyn Chilton

Color Guard on Parade in Sacramento

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Pictured from Left to Right: *Jim Faulkinbury, Patty Proffer, Ernie Garcia, Vince Gantt, Don Spradling, Donna Spradling, Ellen Osborn, Tom Chilton, Russ Kaiser, Ron Proffer, Steve Rainville, Ford Osborn, and Rudy Rodriguez*

Veterans Day - Our Color Guard turned out for the parade in downtown Sacramento. Historic uniforms, antique firearms, and colorful costumes celebrating our country's history.

Red, White & Blue - with a background of dark gray skies . . .



Color Guard Commander Jim Faulkinbury

Parade Photos Continued on Page 9



Ready to March: Pictured Left to Right

Jim Faulkinbury, Don Spradling, Ellen Osborn, Donna Spradling, Vince Gantt, and Tom Chilton



On Parade : Rudy Rodriquez



On Parade: Patty Proffer



On Parade: Pictured from Left to Right
Don Spradling, Vince Gantt, Donna Spradling, and Patty Proffer

destruction of the tea, which was the object of the exercise. No account of the activity recorded any property damage to the vessels or to the surrounding buildings.

Discipline was the order of the day. One individual was caught trying to stuff tea leaves into his pockets. He was apprehended and roughed up for his lapse. The entire operation took about three hours. After the entire cargo of tea on the three ships had been thrown overboard, the participants swept the decks and left the vessels in neat and orderly condition. One apocryphal tale tells of a padlock that was broken in order to gain entry to a storage area. At the end of the raid, the captain was presented with a new padlock, with apologies for any inconvenience that might have been caused.

After the destruction of the tea, all participants and onlookers returned to their homes. That night was a very quiet one in Boston, according to records.

While the Boston Tea Party played a significant role in the struggle for independence, no direct evidence has ever surfaced to identify the person or persons behind it. Certainly the Sons of Liberty played a key role and the leader of the group was Sam Adams. Adams had long been at the forefront of the movement for independence and had been termed by the British authorities as “the most dangerous man in Massachusetts.”

Sam Adams was born in Boston and graduated from Harvard. Although he came from a religious family, he was attracted to politics and became an influential member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and the Boston Town Meeting. Adams recognized the subterfuge the British Parliament had long employed using the power to tax the colonies as a wedge to increase British influence in other areas.

When the British sought to dump excess East India Company tea onto the American market by undercutting existing merchants with artificially low prices, Adams urged his followers to take action.

The Sons of Liberty confronted the captains of vessels loaded with the Company’s tea in New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston, convincing the captains to return to England without unloading the tea. Boston, however was a different matter and the Boston Tea Party changed the course of history.

Another key figure in the Boston area at the time was John Hancock. Hancock, who was one of the wealthiest men in America, had gained much of his fortune as a smuggler. He became attracted to the cause of the American patriots and became a close associate of Sam Adams. The blending of Adam’s political expertise and Hancock’s willingness to finance his activities was a very potent mixture. Local humor had it that “Sam Adams writes the letters (to government) and Johnny pays the postage.”

Prior to the Tea Party incident, John Hancock had one of his ships, the *Liberty*, impounded by British authorities for customs violations. The incident caused a near riot and the resulting court action attracted much attention. Hancock could afford the best legal advice and eventually his attorney won the case. His attorney was John Adams, who would eventually become the second president of the United States. John Adams was Sam Adams’ cousin.

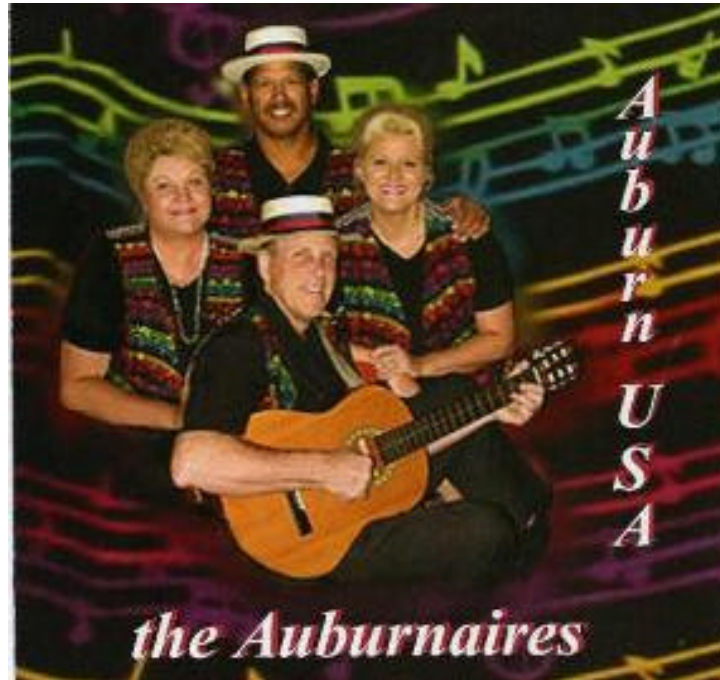
There is nothing to link either Sam Adams or John Hancock directly to the Boston Tea Party, but when the British troops descended on Boston in a clandestine raid in 1775, they carried orders to arrest both Adams and Hancock. The charge was treason and the penalty, if convicted, was death by hanging. It was a very dangerous time in the colonies.

The modern Tea Party has chosen a charismatic name. Forget the contrived comparisons with the historic namesake - times have changed. We’re seeing a grass-roots movement of concerned people who are determined to change their government. Sam Adams and John Hancock would be proud!

The Tea Party name fits.

—Peter Darnall

The Auburnaires



Meet The Auburnaires

Stuart Rawlings is the bass singer, guitar player, and leader. He works for Placer County Mental Health and is a Professor of Sociology at two Sacramento universities.

Jane Roach is the tenor and a keyboard player for Placer High School and Magnolia Middle School, as well as being the musician for the First Congregational Church.

Lesla Edlund-Varela is with her church choir, St. Dominic's in Colfax, and is a private caterer in Auburn.

Manuel Varela is an electrician, and he has special expertise in the high vocal leads of songs like *Don't Worry Baby* and *In the Still of the Night*. Manuel and Lesla were married on October 12, 2002.

Schedule of Future Meetings

Friday, January 20 - 7:00 PM
Imam Mohamed Abdul-Azeez

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REVOLUTION

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WE'RE ON THE INTERNET
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