

# ★ Hawaii Society Sons of the American Revolution ★

**SPRING 2006**

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

## **Joint Annual Luncheon a Success!**

On February 25, 2006, the joint annual luncheon of the Hawaii Society of the SAR and the Hawaii State Organization of the DAR was held at Fort Shafter, Oahu. The gathering was presided over by State Regent Mrs. George E. Madden, and SAR State President Louis Torraca, Jr. More than 100 attended the Joint DAR/SAR luncheon, including families with children.



Jeffrey Bingham Mead, HISSAR Director of Communications and Chaplain, was the keynote speaker. This year's attention was focused on the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birthday of Benjamin Franklin, the subject of Mead's oration. The text will be uploaded to the new Hawaii SAR web site. To learn more about the 2006 tercentenary of Benjamin Franklin's birthday go to <http://www.benfranklin300.org>

*"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."*

Benjamin Franklin 1706-1790

## **New HISSAR Web Site! [www.hawaiisar.org](http://www.hawaiisar.org)**

The Hawaii Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (HISSAR) is pleased to announce a new and improved web site. The new address is [www.hawaiisar.org](http://www.hawaiisar.org)/ The web site provides HISSAR members, prospective members and Society friends with ready-access to up-to-date information and many resources via the Internet.

The new web site is a collaborative effort between our communications director, Jeffrey Bingham Mead of Cyberchives.com, and Honolulu-based Web Designer Heather Wimberly of Green Rose Design.

The web site has many features available. These include links to the SAR National Society and branches; a listing of officers; Youth Programs; How to Join; Flag Etiquette; Color Guard; a Calendar of past, current and upcoming events; our Newsletter; Photo Galleries; and some information about our Hawaii State Society's history.

In development are two additional features. One is a comprehensive online-based Library with an assortment of educational and historical resources on the American Revolution. Our desire is that it will be used by our members, educators, students, historians, genealogists all over the world. The other is an online-based Bookstore which will enable everyone to purchase books, DVDs and more from one location.

What else will be available on our web site? Stay tuned, and check in often. Our web site is our link to you and a treasure-trove of information on our patriotic heritage. Spread the word!



The mission of the Hawaii Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is to preserve and perpetuate the memory of those men and women whose service and sacrifice during the American Revolution secured independence for the American people and established the United States of America; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; inspire them and their communities with a more profound reverence for the principles of the representative government; to encourage historical research and the dissemination of knowledge about the American Revolution; maintain and expand the institutions of American freedom; promote the purposes expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the preamble of the Constitution; and to foster patriotism.

The HISSAR Newsletter is published quarterly by the Hawaii Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Inc. Jeffrey Bingham Mead, director of communications, is editor. Contact him by email at [history@aloha.net](mailto:history@aloha.net) or phone at (808) 721-0306. Submissions pertaining to news and events to the HISSAR and other SAR societies elsewhere are welcomed.

## From the President's Desk

Was it Ben Franklin who said, "Time flies when you are having fun"? I am not sure, but we have been very active this year, and as 2006 continues to unfold many changes and a crowded calendar occupy our Hawaii State Society.

This year marked the 300<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations for one of our most influential and original Founders, Benjamin Franklin. We marked this important milestone in Hawaii at the joint annual meeting with the DAR ladies at Fort Shafter on Oahu.

On May 17 the Hawaii SAR had a table at the annual Military Recognition Luncheon at the

Hilton Hawaiian Village sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. It was the largest ever with over 1200 attending. Dignitaries, including Governor Lingle, addressed this important event where our active-duty soldiers –and their families- were thanked for their many sacrifices and patriotism.

Did you know that President Theodore Roosevelt, the fourth American President to join the SAR, signed the SAR's Congressional Charter 100 years ago on June 9, 1906? I am very pleased to announce that June 9, 2006 has been proclaimed "Sons of the American Revolution Day" in Hawaii by Governor Linda Lingle, Lt. Governor Aiona, and Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann. Copies of the proclamation are being made available on our new web site, and on June 9 a group of your directors will be attending a live signing ceremony at the Mayor's office in Honolulu Hale.

It was 130 years ago July 4, 1876 when the United States marked the centennial of American independence. Did you know that a "Martha Washington Tea Party" was held in Honolulu at the Hawaiian Hotel? It was attended by many dignitaries including King David Kalakaua and other members of Hawaii's royal family.

We have plans to participate in the July 4 Independence Day parade in Kailua this year. Please come out and cheer on your compatriots!

October 19, 2006 marks the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown. It was here that Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington, effectively ending military hostilities between the British and American forces.

With increased visibility, an upsurge in interest in the American Revolution, a new educational web site and a growing membership our best days are yet ahead. Thank you all for your continued interest and support of the Hawaii Sons of the American Revolution. Your encouragement and participation helps make the HISSAR what it is and what it can be.

Patriotically yours,

Lou Torraca,  
USAF Col., Retired  
Hawaii State Society President 2005-2006

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# History Channel

Presents

## THE REVOLUTION

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**THE REVOLUTION**, a new 13-part series on **THE HISTORY CHANNEL**, airs Sundays at 10pm ET/PT beginning June 4<sup>th</sup>. The following information, and more, can be found at: <http://www.historychannel.com/revolution>

**BOSTON BLOODY BOSTON:** June 4 at 10PM. A look at the controversies and conflicts leading to war, including the Stamp Act riots, the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, and Lexington and Concord. The key players of the Revolution emerge, including Samuel Adams, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Patrick Henry, Thomas Hutchinson, as well as England's King George III and British General Thomas Gage.

**REBELLION TO REVOLUTION:** June 11 at 10PM. Rebellion escalates into war with the Battle of Bunker Hill. The Continental Congress establishes an army and appoints George Washington as Commander-in-Chief. The army surrounds the British troops that occupy Boston, and Britain sends additional troops and its three best generals-- William Howe, John Burgoyne, and Henry Clinton -- to take over command. The Continental assault from Dorchester Heights forces the British and loyalists to evacuate the city.

**DECLARING INDEPENDENCE:** June 18 at 10PM. Noble ideas and dreams of independence ring out as America is born in 1776. However, dark, devastating struggles will quickly challenge these hopes and leave few believing that the glorious cause will survive.

**AMERICAN CRISIS:** June 25 at 10PM. The new nation stares at the stark realization that it could soon be dead. Desperate and determined, General Washington gambles on a brilliant yet dangerously daring stroke to save his army and America.

**TOWARD WORLD WAR:** July 2 at 10PM. Benjamin Franklin heads to Paris to seduce the

French to join the war against their common enemy, England. British General William Howe delivers a crushing blow to Washington's troops at the Battle of Brandywine, taking Philadelphia. To the North, Horatio Gates defeats British General Burgoyne at the Battle of Saratoga, a victory that convinces France to enter the fight, turning the American Revolution into a World War.

**FORGING AN ARMY:** July 9 at 10PM. As Washington's losses add up, some in Congress begin to question his leadership. Washington's concern is sustaining and rebuilding his ragged, starving and dwindling army through the frigid winter at Valley Forge. With the help of Baron Von Steuben and Nathanael Greene, the Continental Army becomes a more professional fighting force. Washington rebuilds his reputation by holding back the British at the Battle of Monmouth.

**TREASON AND BETRAYAL:** July 16 at 10PM. General Benedict Arnold turns his back on his cause and country in an act of pride, sealing forever his legacy as a traitor. Washington takes his war to the frontier, burning the Iroquois Indians out of New York State and leaving a wake of destruction and devastation.

**THE WAR HEADS SOUTH:** July 23 at 10PM. Failing to defeat Washington, the British turn their attention southward. In a last ditch effort to quell the rebellion, they lay siege to Charleston, South Carolina, the third largest city in the colonies. General Benjamin Lincoln, commander of the Southern wing of the Continental Army, braces for the attack but his outnumbered force will fall.

**FIGHT FOR THE SOUTH:** July 30 at 10PM. After the fall of Charleston, the war explodes into the Carolina backcountry. The Americans, under General Gates, suffer a humiliating defeat at Camden, forcing Congress to send Nathanael Greene to lead the southern forces. In an unconventional strategy, Greene and General Daniel Morgan split the army, leading Cornwallis on a harrowing chase, which culminates in the Battle of Guildford Courthouse.

**THE END GAME:** August 6 at 10PM. Washington faces two mutinies, Congress is broke, and the army desperately needs more help from the French. In England, the opposition

to war grows. The French are tired of supporting the war, but Franklin continues to beg for aid. The French finally send their fleet to America. Cornwallis moves his army to Yorktown, and the Allied forces close in for the last major battle of the war.

**BECOMING A NATION:** August 13 at 10PM. The news of the American victory at Yorktown spreads like wildfire around the globe. Patriots celebrate and Loyalists begin evacuating, as Washington awaits the next British move. John Adams joins Benjamin Franklin in France to negotiate the treaty of 1783. The thirteen American states convene a Constitutional Convention to hammer out a new form of government, and urge a reluctant Washington to become America's first President.

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## Flag Day

June 14, 2006

Across the United States of America and by Americans abroad, the American flag is especially honored this day. Please check the Flag Etiquette section of the web site, including some original poetry on how the American flag was honored in Hawaii as early as 1840!

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*“Never before in all our glorious history was our flag in such dire peril. Nor was there ever a time when the Stars and Stripes flew so proudly over so many battle fronts in all the far corners of the world...more than ever, it is a symbol to millions of people in lands that tremble under the thread of the oppressor’s heel that freedom is still worth fighting for...worth dying for...worth paying for.”*

Advertisement: Wing Sing Wo Co., Ltd.

Honolulu Advertiser: July 4, 1942, page 11