



Patriot Review

November 2025

President's Message

Hello SAR Yosemite Chapter Compatriots!

Christmas is just around the corner and so is 2026, which represents the 250th anniversary year of America's founding. We will have an incredibly busy year to say the least.

I expect our Color Guard will have to turn down more invitations than we can handle but I hope that won't be the case. We have two new Color guardsmen coming on board as soon as they can acquire their uniforms: Curtis Repleglo and Anthony Carpenter. We appreciate their commitment and look forward to having them join us in our many activities.

Speaking of Activities: The Color Guard will be presenting and posting the Colors at the Woodlake Cemetery for Wreaths Across America on Saturday Dec. 13th . We hope you can join us at this very special ceremony where the whole town comes out!



The huge activity for 2026, that we are in the planning stages for, is hosting the 151st Annual California State SAR meeting at the Wyndham in Visalia, CA between April 23-26. We will need help with:

Planning and logistics:

- Registration and Greeting at the Convention
- Color Guard to present, post and retrieve Colors Friday and Saturday
- Color Guard event at Grizzly Stadium Friday April 24th.
- Event set up (for convention and Friday night event)
- Will need an aide de camp to the National SAR President General during the Convention.
- Chapter representation throughout the event, especially at the Formal Gala
- Dinner on Saturday Night April 25th.

On Friday Night, April 24th , we have reserved the party deck behind 3rd base for our Friday night event associated with the Convention. Everyone who is attending will get tickets to the game plus access to the party deck for a buffet dinner and beverages (we are looking into getting a bartender). The Color guard will join forces with Color Guard members from all over the state to present the Colors for the National Anthem at Grizzlies Stadium before the game. It will be a memorable event!

Getting back to the present:

We will have a regular Chapter meeting on Saturday December 20th at the downtown Fresno Library in the Sara McCardle Room (upstairs) starting at 0930. Our speaker will be one of our own, Chapter Secretary Connor Budge, who will give a presentation on his time in the Navy as a back seater in the F/A-18 Hornet Jets. He has some great video he will be sharing.

We will also be inducting our Chapter slate of officers for 2026, and I am thrilled to announce that Bill Glover has stepped up to serve in the role of Chapter Treasurer! Bill has accounting experience and wanted to help out Randy from carrying too much responsibility. We will officially do a chapter vote for Bill on Saturday at our meeting.

2026 Officers:

President: Scott Nichols
Executive VP: Jim Riley
Secretary: Connor Budge
Registrar: Randy Dhindsa
Treasurer: Bill Glover

Appointed Officers:

Chapter Historian: John Hendon
Chapter Asst Registrar: Dan Cabe
Chapter Pastor: Robert Thompson
Chapter Color Guard Commander and Sgt at Arms: Scott Nichols

Finally, if you still need to pay 2026 Annual dues it is not too late. Please contact either me or Randy and we will get you squared away.

In Patriotic Service,

Scott Nichols

President, Yosemite Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

SAR Mission Statement

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.



**A Christmas Greeting and New Year's Message to the
Yosemite Chapter**

As the Christmas season fills our homes with warmth, light, and reflection, we pause to give thanks, for family, for fellowship, and for the blessings of liberty that define our great nation.

On behalf of the Yosemite Chapter, we extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This season invites us to reflect on the sacrifices made by our patriot ancestors, who endured hardship and uncertainty so that future generations might know freedom, self-governance, and opportunity.

Their courage was not born of comfort, but of conviction. In moments of cold, darkness, and doubt, they pressed forward, guided by faith, hope, and an unshakable belief in the promise of America. It is that same spirit which unites us today as Sons of the American Revolution.

As we look ahead to 2026 and the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, we stand at a historic threshold. The coming year offers a profound opportunity to honor our past, engage our communities, inspire our youth, and renew our commitment to the ideals of liberty, service, and patriotism.

We are deeply grateful for each of you, for your dedication to the SAR mission, your service to our chapter, and your willingness to keep the flame of the American Revolution burning brightly here in the Central Valley. Together, we will ensure that the legacy of 1776 is not only remembered, but lived.

May this Christmas bring peace to your home, joy to your heart, and renewed purpose as we enter a new year, united in heritage, strengthened in brotherhood, and inspired by the enduring promise of America.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Yosemite Chapter.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.



Yosemite Chapter to Host the 151st Annual Meeting of the California Society SAR

April 23–26, 2026 • Visalia, California • Wyndham Hotel

The Yosemite Chapter is honored to announce that we will serve as the host chapter for the 151st Annual Meeting of the California Society, Sons of the American Revolution, taking place April 23–26, 2026, at the beautiful Wyndham Visalia in the heart of the Central Valley.

This meeting will be especially meaningful for our chapter and for the entire California Society. During this historic gathering, our very own **Compatriot Randy Dhindsa will be sworn in as CASSAR President for 2026**, a tremendous honor made even more significant as he will lead the Society during the 250th anniversary year of the United States of America.

This is our chapter's event, and we want it to reflect the strength, pride, and patriot spirit of the Yosemite Chapter. We encourage all members to attend, participate, and lend your talents as we plan and execute one of the most important meetings in recent CASSAR history.

The event program will include:

- Leadership sessions & State business meetings
- Color Guard ceremonies and pageantry
- Youth awards and historical presentations
- Banquets, recognitions, and commemorative events
- Special America 250 highlights
- The formal installation of Compatriot Randy Dhindsa as CASSAR President

This will be a moment of pride not only for Randy, but for every member of the Yosemite Chapter who has supported, encouraged, and strengthened our Society over the years.

We need you!

As the host chapter, we welcome help with:

- Planning and logistics
- Registration and greeting
- Color Guard participation
- Event support and setup
- Chapter representation throughout the weekend

Your involvement will help us show the entire California Society what Yosemite strength and patriotism look like.

Save the Date — April 23–26, 2026

More details about registration, hotel accommodations, and the full agenda will be released soon.

Let us stand together as brothers committed to liberty, heritage, and the flame of the American Revolution as we host this milestone meeting and celebrate the beginning of America's 250th year.



Welcome New Members

Name Patriot Ancestor

John Arnold Jacob Arnold



New Member Information!

We have had quite a few new members join us over the past 2-3 years and we have been remiss in being effective communicators of what SAR is all about and how you as a new member can fit into SAR.

First of all, if you have not visited the National SAR Website, please do so by clicking on <https://www.sar.org/> and check out everything SAR has to offer. Please go to the “login” tab and register your name as a member so you can access the whole website.

After you have registered as a new member, please click on the “members” tab, then “new member onboarding” tab where you will see the “new member information guide” (<https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/New-Member-Info-Guide-011122.docx>) and the “SAR brochure” (<https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/New-SAR-Tri-fold-011022.docx>)

These documents are short reads about the SAR, our goals, mission statement and organization.

We also have a California State website (<https://www.californiasar.org/>) and our local Yosemite Chapter website (<https://sar-yosemite.com/>) which has had a major makeover thanks to Randy Dhindsa, our Chapter Treasurer and Registrar. Please take a look at these three websites to gain some valuable insight into the SAR.



Connor Budge

The Yosemite Chapter is proud to recognize Compatriot Connor Budge, whose service to both his country and the Sons of the American Revolution reflects the enduring patriot spirit passed down through generations of his family.

Connor Budge was inducted into the SAR in 2021 and has served as Secretary of the Yosemite Chapter since 2023, providing dedicated leadership and organizational support to the chapter.

A United States Navy veteran, Connor brings a strong sense of duty, discipline, and service to everything he does. Originally from Falcon, Colorado, he now resides in Hanford, California, with



his wife and two children, continuing a proud family tradition of patriotism and public service.

Patriot Ancestor: James Budge of Menotomy, Massachusetts

Connor traces his SAR lineage to James Budge, a Patriot whose courageous actions on the opening day of the American Revolution helped ignite the cause of independence.

James Budge was born in 1720 in the greater Boston area and spent much of his life in towns that would soon become central to Revolutionary history, including Charlestown, Menotomy (now Arlington), Medford, and Weston, Massachusetts.

In 1746, he recorded his intention to marry Elizabeth Stearns of Watertown, and together they raised four children. James passed away around 1792 in Weston, as reflected in town tax records noting his widow Elizabeth in his place. Though the location of his grave is unknown, his patriotic legacy endures.

A Brave Stand on April 19, 1775

James Budge's moment of patriotic service came on the historic morning of April 19, 1775, the same day as the battles of Lexington and Concord. As British forces moved inland and reinforcements under Lord Percy struggled to advance due to sabotage of key bridges, a vulnerable British supply convoy became separated from the main force near Menotomy.

Though too old to serve as minute-men, James Budge and a small group of local men known as the "exempts", gathered at Cooper's Tavern, determined to act. Taking position behind a stone and earth wall near the meeting house, they confronted the convoy and ordered it to surrender. When the drivers attempted to flee, the men opened fire, killing horses, wounding soldiers, and forcing the remaining British troops to scatter and surrender.

Their bold action resulted in the capture of a supply convoy and eighteen British soldiers, depriving British forces of critical provisions on the very first day of the war. A memorial stone in Arlington, Massachusetts commemorates this courageous stand, honoring the "Old Men of Menotomy" who proved that patriotism and resolve, not age, defined the defenders of liberty.

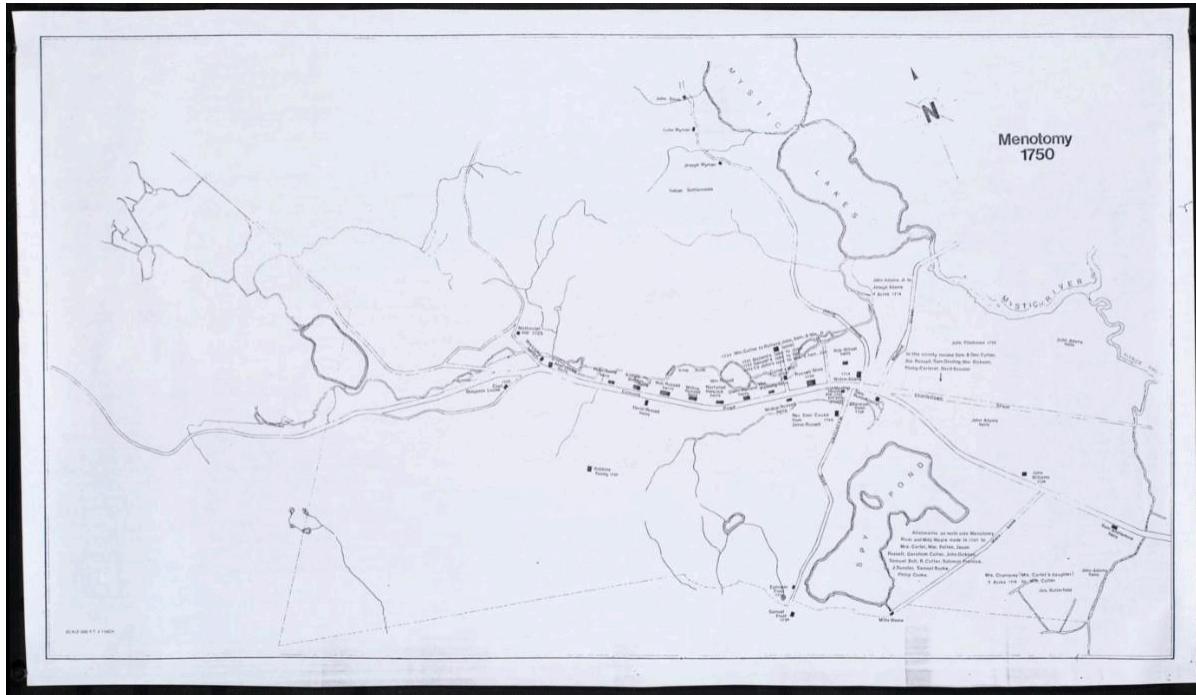
A Living Legacy of Service

From James Budge's courageous stand at Menotomy to Connor Budge's modern service in the United States Navy and leadership within the Yosemite Chapter, the Budge family story exemplifies the timeless values of duty, courage, and devotion to country.

Compatriot Connor Budge's service reminds us that the American Revolution is not only a chapter in history, it is a living legacy, carried forward by descendants who continue to serve their communities and preserve the memory of those who stood for liberty at our nation's founding.

The Yosemite Chapter is honored to count Connor Budge among its members and to recognize the enduring patriot spirit of James Budge, whose actions on April 19, 1775 helped shape the course of American independence.

Please reach out to **Randy Dhindsa** to be featured in next months Compatriot Spotlight!



America 250

America 250th Anniversary Recognition Program

The Yosemite Chapter has great representation with our America 250 program. Thank you to all our compatriots who have supported and participated in the program. Earning your award is as easy as attending a chapter meeting in person or via Zoom. **Our goal is to have every chapter member earn an award before July 4th, 2026.** for more information, please contact

[Randy Dhindsa](#)



Bronze

Conner Budge
Bert Budge, Jr.
John Cline
Stan Day
Tim Desmond
Tighe Dhindsa
Jackson Dhindsa
Randy Dhindsa
John Hendon
Bill Lee
Fred Mossman
Scott Nichols
James Riley
Jon Russell
Harlie Smith
Robert Thompson

Silver

Conner Budge
Bert Budge, Jr.
Stan Day
Tighe Dhindsa
Jackson Dhindsa
Randy Dhindsa
John Hendon
Bill Lee
Scott Nichols
James Riley
Jon Russell
Harlie Smith
Robert Thompson

Gold

Conner Budge
Randy Dhindsa
Scott Nichols
James Riley
Jon Russell
Robert
Thompson



The National Society
of the
Sons of the American Revolution®



"Know all Ye men by these Presents that pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws of the National and California Societies of the Sons of the American Revolution the aforesaid Society has certified The Yosemite Chapter of the California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Passed this 4th Day of August in the year of Our Lord 2013"



CASSAR

August 4 2013
Date

VS Harst
President
Soules Bergtholdt
Secretary

J. Dale Press
By a m - V.P.
Sarah W. Spewell Sec.
Robert C. N.C.
William Lee
Sheldon Bell
Mark KPN
Mary Kiper
Ron Barker V.P. North CASSAR
Barbara Odeh, Fresno Yosemite
DAR Honorary Chapter
Marilyn Chilton Regent
Sacramento DAR
Sacramento SAR | CASSAR LAWF
Wm H. White Jr. - Sacramento SAR

Jane Lee Press Yosemite DAR Chapter
President Spewell
Christ Dane
John Hoagberg Sec. Delta Chapter
Jeffry E. Lynn President Delta Chapter
Tom W. James Exe. VP CASSAR
Ronald G. Teller
Carol A. Herring-O'Kland
Kerry A. Adams Pres. Kern Cptn
Patricia S. H.

November Meeting Highlights: Service, Heritage, and Patriot Pride

The November meeting of the Yosemite Chapter was a meaningful evening of recognition, heritage, and celebration of the ideals that unite us as Sons of the American Revolution.

Honoring Service and Outreach

We were proud to recognize Compatriots **Dan Cabe and Curtis Reogle**, who were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their outstanding service at the SAR/DAR booth during the Fresno Fair in October. Representing the SAR with professionalism and enthusiasm, they spent countless hours answering questions, promoting the mission of the SAR, and providing information to potential new members.

Their efforts exemplify the spirit of patriot outreach and play a vital role in educating the public while strengthening the future of our Society.

Recognizing Additional Patriot Service

The chapter was also honored to present Compatriots Stan Day and Greyson Day with Supplemental Certificates, recognizing additional patriot ancestors who answered the call and served in the cause of American Independence. These supplemental recognitions remind us that the legacy of liberty often runs deep across generations, with multiple ancestors contributing to the founding of our nation.

A Symbol of Membership and Patriotism

In another special moment, Compatriot Curtis Reogle was presented with his New Member Rosette, a proud symbol of SAR membership. The rosette's colors are drawn from those worn by General George Washington, representing leadership, unity, and unwavering devotion to the cause of freedom.

The New Member Rosette signifies more than membership—it reflects the values of patriotism, service, honor, and commitment to liberty that define the Sons of the American Revolution.

Honoring Our Chapter's Foundation

The evening also included a special opportunity to view the original charter of the Yosemite Chapter SAR, officially organized on August 14, 2013. Seeing this foundational document served as a powerful reminder of our chapter's origins and the steady growth of our mission in the Central Valley.

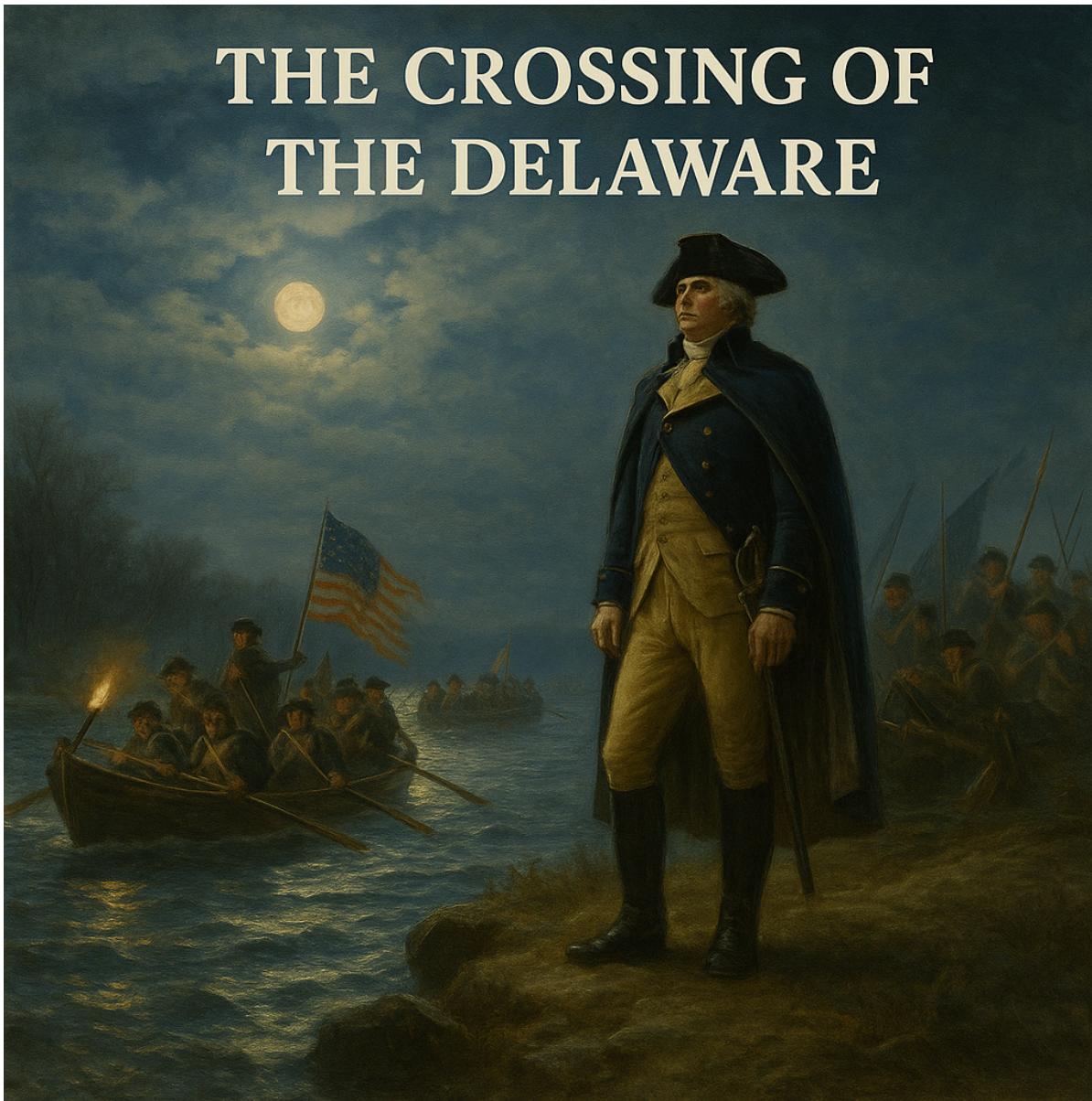
The legacy of our years of service, through education, commemoration, youth programs, and community outreach—stands as a testament to the Yosemite Chapter's enduring commitment to the mission and values of the SAR.

Carrying the Patriot Legacy Forward

The November meeting reflected the strength of our chapter: dedicated members, honored heritage, and a shared resolve to preserve the story of our nation's founding. As we look ahead to America's 250th anniversary, the Yosemite Chapter continues to stand firm in its pledge to honor our patriot ancestors and inspire future generations.

We congratulate all those recognized and thank them for their continued service to the SAR and the enduring spirit of 1776.

“Victory or Death”: Washington Crosses the Delaware and the Battle of Trenton



In the dark, icy hours of December 25–26, 1776, General George Washington led one of the most daring and consequential military operations in American history—the crossing of the Delaware River and the surprise attack on Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey. At a moment when the Patriot cause teetered on the brink of collapse, this bold action revived the Revolution and forever altered the course of the war.

A Nation at Its Lowest Hour

By late 1776, the Continental Army was battered and demoralized. Defeats in New York, dwindling enlistments, scarce supplies, and the looming expiration of soldiers' terms of service threatened to end the Revolution before it could truly begin. British and Hessian forces believed the rebellion was effectively crushed.

Washington knew that without a decisive victory, one that could restore confidence and prove the Army's resolve, the cause of independence might fail.

The Crossing: Risk Against All Odds

On Christmas night, amid freezing rain, snow, and fierce winds, Washington ordered his troops to cross the ice-choked Delaware River. The operation was perilous: overloaded boats, drifting ice, numbing cold, and exhaustion plagued the men as they ferried artillery and supplies across in darkness.

Despite delays and brutal conditions, Washington's force of roughly 2,400 men completed the crossing and began a nine-mile march to Trenton before dawn. Many soldiers marched barefoot, leaving bloody footprints in the snow, yet not a single man turned back.

It was, as Washington later wrote, a moment of absolute resolve:

"I think the game is pretty well up."

— George Washington, December 1776

Yet Washington pressed forward, determined to strike before hope was lost.





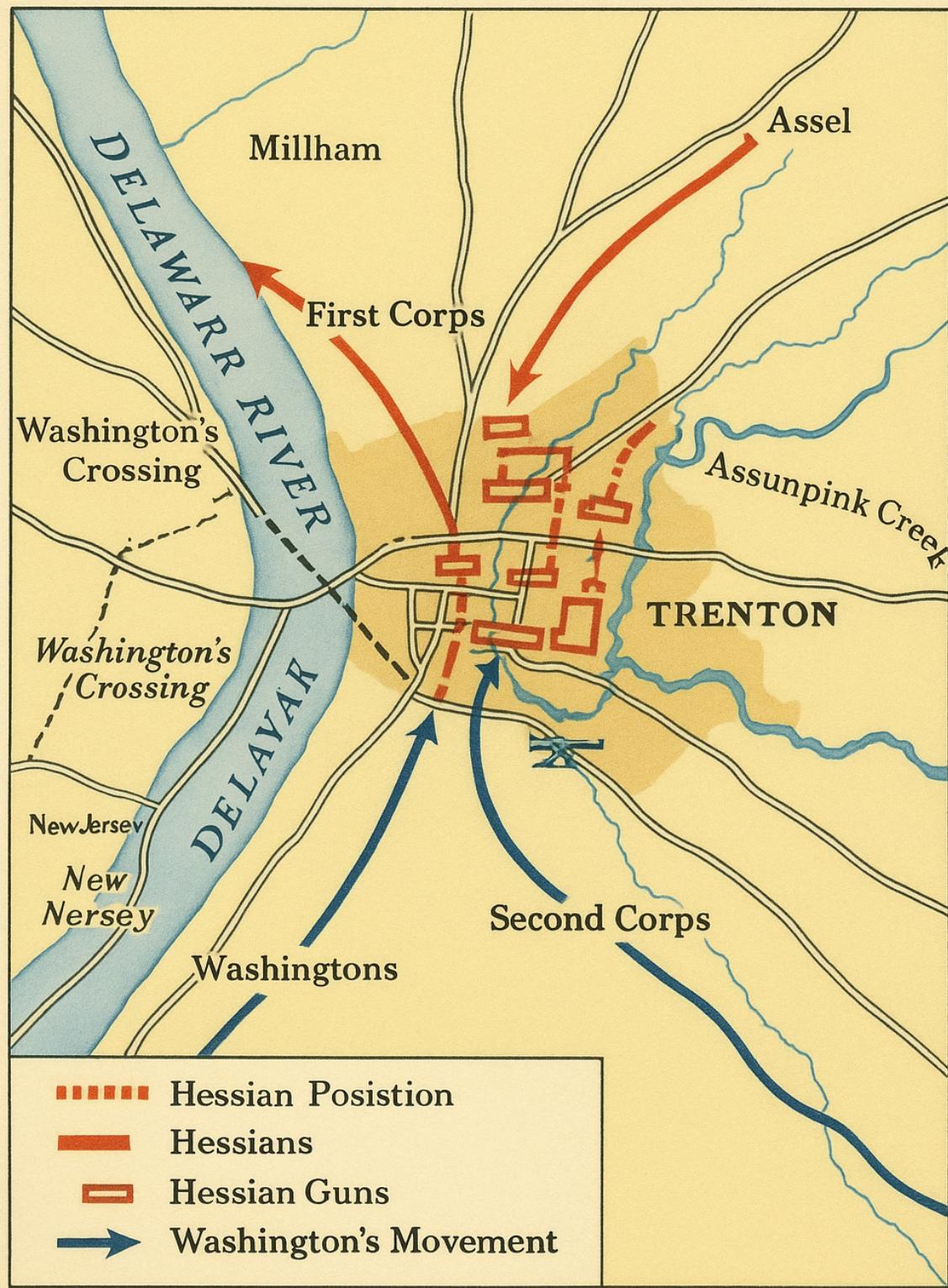
The Battle of Trenton

At dawn on December 26, 1776, the Continental Army launched a surprise attack on the Hessian garrison at Trenton. The enemy, confident and unprepared, was quickly overwhelmed. In less than an hour, Patriot forces captured nearly 1,000 Hessian soldiers, along with vital weapons and supplies.

Remarkably, the Americans suffered no combat fatalities.

The victory was not large in scale—but its impact was enormous.

BATTLE OF TRENTON



SURPRISING THE HESSIANS





A Turning Point for the Revolution

The triumph at Trenton electrified the colonies. It restored faith in Washington's leadership, reinvigorated the Continental Army, and inspired thousands to reenlist or join the Patriot cause. Just days later, Washington would follow this success with another victory at Princeton, further solidifying the momentum.

Perhaps most importantly, Trenton proved that the British and their allies were not invincible.

This moment transformed the Revolution from a struggling rebellion into a viable fight for independence.

An Enduring Legacy

The Crossing of the Delaware and the Battle of Trenton stand as enduring symbols of courage, perseverance, and leadership under impossible circumstances. Washington's willingness to risk everything, his army, his reputation, and the Revolution itself; embodied the very spirit of American independence.

For members of the Sons of the American Revolution, this event serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our patriot ancestors and the fragile

moments upon which liberty was secured.

As we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation, the legacy of Trenton calls us to remember that freedom was not won easily, but through bold action, shared sacrifice, and an unwavering belief in the cause of liberty.

Against the cold. Against the odds. Against despair.

The Revolution lived on.



Wreaths Across America: Honoring Our Heroes at Woodlake Cemetery

On Saturday, December 13, the Yosemite Chapter Color Guard will proudly present and post the Colors at Woodlake Cemetery as part of the national Wreaths Across America ceremony.

This solemn and meaningful event brings together communities across the country to honor the service and sacrifice of America's veterans.

Each December, Wreaths Across America unites towns, families, veterans, and patriotic organizations in a shared mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom.

At Woodlake, this tradition has become a powerful community gathering, as the entire town comes together to pay tribute to those who answered the call to serve our nation.

The presence of the Color Guard adds a moving and dignified element to the ceremony, connecting the legacy of the Revolutionary War patriots to the men and women who have defended liberty through every generation since. As the Colors are presented and wreaths are placed, each name spoken reminds us that these heroes are not forgotten.

We encourage all compatriots, families, and friends to join us for this very special ceremony. Whether you are standing in uniform, helping place wreaths, or simply bearing witness, your presence honors the sacrifices that secured and preserved our freedoms.

Please join us on Saturday, December 13, at Woodlake Cemetery, as we stand together in remembrance, gratitude, and patriotic pride.



Woodlake Cemetery
1000 Woodlake Drive
Woodlake, CA 93090
(559) 253-1111



Chapter Merch!

We are excited to announce that we now have chapter merchandise available for purchase! Various styles and colors are available!

We can produce shirts, coffee mugs, hats, etc. Please contact [Randy Dhindsa](#) if you are interested. The more we order, the cheaper it becomes for us.



Did you know we have a local Sons of the Union Chapter? If you have a Union Ancestor or just want to be a part of the Sons of the Union, Please reach out to [Randy Dhindsa](#)

Got submissions for our newsletter? Send them to [Randy Dhindsa](#) or [Peter Pardini](#)

CASSAR Website [HERE](#)

National Website [HERE](#)



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