

ABOUT THE AMERICAN HERITAGE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

For more than a century, the members of the Sons of the Revolution, through their patriotic spirit, love of country, and devotion to the principles on which our nation was founded, have operated and maintained the American Heritage Library and Museum as a public service for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of California.



The Library collections consist of a wide range of textual and visual materials, including over 35,000 titles, many of which are rare and unique 18th and 19th century publications, intermixed with carefully selected 20th and 21st century materials pertaining to America's early history. Many of these books represent the cultural and local history of small town America, its cities, counties and states. Others chronicle the regions' diverse political, social and economic life, ethnic and class groups within respective geopolitical neighborhoods, connecting the common man to the lives and activities of prominent political and economic leaders, and their contributions to 19th century civic, charitable and social organizations.

As the name implies, the Library is also a very practical research center for the study of the Revolutionary War, complete with books, rolls, and documents that increase and diffuse knowledge into this period of history for the enrichment of the citizens of California. The Library's catalog is available at the Society's web site and at most public libraries through OCLC.

In addition to its fine collection of books, periodicals and manuscripts, many of which are rare out-of-print editions, the library is also blessed with a great wealth of genealogical data, vital records, family histories, for those people interested in tracing their ancestry.



A magnificent showplace, the museum is operated for the purpose of acquisition, conservation, study, exhibition, and educational interpretation of historical objects and artifacts of the colonial and early periods of America's history.



Serving the public by advancing the understanding and appreciation of America's early history, exhibits also focus on key historical figures who have a connection to this period and contributed to the history of the State of California – from its earliest time to the present day.

American Heritage Library and Museum

A Revolutionary Experience



*Provided as a Public Service
for over 115 Years*

Sons of the Revolution in the State of California

600 South Central Avenue
Glendale, California 91204
(818) 240-1775

www.srcalifornia.com



Information about



THE SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

OUR PURPOSE

**To preserve
for succeeding generations
the principles of freedom
for which
our forefathers fought**

OBJECTIVES OF THE SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

THE PURPOSE OF THE SONS OF THE REVOLUTION is to preserve for succeeding generations the principles of freedom and good government for which our forefathers fought. It develops awareness of, and interest in, the beginnings of our nation, recalls the sacrifices that accompanied its birth, and underscores the wisdom which devised a system of checks and balances under which all can find an area of opportunity and achieve a full measure of freedom.

THE MEMBERS ARE DESCENDANTS OF THOSE WHO RENDERED SERVICE IN BEHALF OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DURING THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION. That service was as a military, naval, or marine officer, soldier, sailor or marine or an official of the thirteen original Colonies or States or of the National Government representing or composed of these Colonies or States. The service of such official was of sufficient importance to have rendered the official liable to arrest or imprisonment, the same as a combatant, and liable to conviction of treason against the Government of Great Britain.

THE SONS SEEK TO ENROLL THOSE WHO HAVE THIS HERITAGE AND VALUE IT HIGHLY. Over 184,000 individuals served in the American Revolution. Thus it is likely that many men could prove direct descent from one qualifying ancestor. Those who believe in God, competitive free enterprise and individual freedom with responsibility have a great deal at stake in seeing this organization is successful in carrying out its purposes, and should join it.

The rich reward of Liberty was all too bitter won.

Revere and guard that precious trust and pass it on to your son, grandson or nephew.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBLE MALES with one or more ancestors who between April 19, 1775 and April 19, 1783 actively assisted in establishing American independence by service:

- as a military, naval or marine officer, soldier, sailor or marine, or
- in the Continental Congress or the Congress of any of the thirteen colonies or states, or
- as an official under authority of such bodies rendered during the War of the Revolution, becoming thereby liable to conviction of treason against the Government of Great Britain

but remained always loyal to the authority of the Colonies or States are invited to apply for membership in any one of the State Societies or to the General Society for admission as a member-at-large without regard to race, religion or political affiliation. Prospective members file applications on forms supplied by the Society, together with the documentation proving by competent genealogical research the line of descent.

SENIOR MEMBERSHIP: Available to eligible males 18 years or older.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP: Available to male candidates from birth to age 18.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Prepays dues for life.

THE SONS HAVE PERMANENTLY PRESERVED ON MICROFICHE the ancestral records of all members. Eligibility may often be determined from documentation of a qualifying ancestor, some of whose records now also are available in the Sons' data bank, some from other lineage societies or from family records. If such records are not available, the Sons can provide a list of sources that can be pursued, including names of qualified genealogists who can do this work at nominal cost.

PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES

Those interested in joining the Sons are sometimes confused by the variety and number of organizations that have roots in the American Revolution. This summary provides perspective:

The SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI was founded in 1783 as an organization of those who held commissions in the Continental Army and Navy. Membership in that group is confined to the primogeniture succession of eldest sons.

The SONS OF THE REVOLUTION was organized in New York on December 18, 1875 primarily by leading members of the Society of the Cincinnati in order to broaden participation in preserving American heritage. At a subsequent meeting on January 15, 1876, a Constitution was approved. On December 4, 1883, at a dinner in Fraunces Tavern's Long Room celebrating the 100TH anniversary of George Washington's farewell to his officers, all present signed the Constitution approved in 1876. A Certificate of Incorporation was executed on April 29, 1884 and signed by the appropriate judge on May 2, 1884. The Society accepts male descendants, through male or female lines, of ancestors of all military rank who were called into the service of the State or the United States during the War of the Rebellion. Also accepted are descendants of civilians who, because of patriotic service to the cause of independence, were specially liable to arrest and imprisonment.

The GENERAL SOCIETY, SONS OF THE REVOLUTION was formed by the New York, Pennsylvania and District of Columbia Societies at a meeting on April 19, 1890 in Washington, DC following conferences held in 1888 to devise an organizational structure that would provide a satisfactory combination of local autonomy and national unity to the several State Societies.

SONS OF THE REVOLUTION IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

The SONS OF THE REVOLUTION IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA was founded on May 15, 1893 in Los Angeles, California. Today, it is one of the largest State Societies in the Nation.

From its first meeting, the officers of the California Society recognized the importance of the Society maintaining a permanent space in which the members and others could gather. This became even more pressing as the Society began assembling what would become the largest library of its kind in the western United States — the **American Heritage Library and Museum**. Located at 600 South Central Avenue, Glendale, for more than 115 years the American Heritage Library and Museum has been operated and maintained as a service to the community by the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Today, the Library comprises over 35,000 titles and is well known as one of the largest collections relating to the American Revolution and Colonial America in the western United States. In 2006, the Society received the AASLH Award of Merit, the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. The Library and Museum is supported by the generous donations of patriotic Americans who value our nation's heritage. The Library specializes in genealogical and early American history resources with emphasis on the Colonial and Revolutionary War period. It also has a fine collection of 18th and 19th century vital records, city, county and state histories, family histories, American military history, English genealogy, and hundreds of CD-ROM references.

An invitation to apply for membership falls within the purview of the Board of Directors of the Society. The Membership Committee is privileged to make qualified recommendations. Once an invitation to membership is extended, the candidate is provided an application which he must complete detailing his direct descent from a qualifying ancestor who served in the American Revolution. The Society does not accept the lineage papers of other societies. Our Bylaws require an application for membership be endorsed by two members of the Society.

Inquiries: Membership Committee, Sons of the Revolution, 600 South Central Ave., Glendale, CA 91204.