



Gar Schulin, presenting Francis Lay Past Chapter Presidents pin, certificate and gavel

2009 CHAPTER EAGLE SCOUT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION WINNER
 Eagle Scout Tyler Burdick has over 35 merit badges and with his brother have developed a Lamb Therapy program for their local assisted living facilities. Tyler will represent the Culpeper Minute Men Chapter in the statewide Eagle Scout Scholarship Competition contest. To enter the Scout must complete an application containing a four generation chart, and a five hundred word essay on a topic concerning the American Revolution. Points are awarded on the application for merit badges earned, public service, activities in Scouting, the community, religion and scholastic achievement. In particular, there are three merit badges that National gives great weight: American Heritage, Genealogy, and Law.



Jane Burdick, Tyler Burdick and Francis Lay, presenting the SAR Eagle Scout Medal.

The Newburgh Conspiracy

By Tyler J. Burdick - Eagle Scout Scholarship Essay

March, 1783 found the northern wing of the Continental Army encamped near Newburgh, New York. The long, bitter winter, and the state of readiness required, had exhausted the troops. The new nation owed these remarkable men six years back pay and their morale was nearly as low as their supplies. The chain of events referred to as the Newburgh Conspiracy was a pivotal point in the history of our new nation; one in which a rebellion would either yield to civil authority or devolve into a military dictatorship. The actions of one man determined the future of our nation.

Congress' failure to pay the troops was perceived by many in both the commissioned and noncommissioned ranks to indicate a paucity of gratitude for their trials and achievements. General Henry Knox sent a delegation to Congress, demanding the payment of the army, and warning that a failure to comply would have unknown consequences. The "unknown consequences" were intended to be resistance to civil authority by refusing to disband when commanded. A military dictatorship would then assume control of the new nation. The leaders of this plot knew George Washington would never accept the position of dictator, and therefore worked without his knowledge. General Horatio Gates, another respected military leader, was to become our Napoleon.

The Nationalist faction of the Continental Congress attempted to use Knox's demands as a reason to expand central government power. Their opponents stalled this effort, resulting in Alexander Hamilton, a Nationalist, writing a letter encouraging Knox to continue threatening to disobey civil authority.

General George Washington acquired a copy of Hamilton's letter, which confirmed his suspicions of a potential mutiny in his army. Washington sympathized with his troops, but he perceived their threats to the civil