

## Purpose of the Society

It being evident, from a steady decline of a proper celebration of the National holidays of the United States of America, that popular concern in the events and men of the War of the Revolution is gradually declining, and that such lack of interest is attributable not so much to the lapse of time and the rapidly increasing flood of immigration from foreign countries as to the neglect on the part of descendants of Revolutionary heroes to perform their duty in keeping before the public mind the memory of the services of their ancestors and of the times in which they lived; therefore, the Society of the Sons of the Revolution has been instituted to perpetuate the memory of the men who, in the military, naval and civil service of the colonies and of the Continental Congress, by their acts or counsel, achieved the independence of the country, and to further the proper celebration of the anniversaries of the birthday of Washington, and of prominent events connected with the War of the Revolution; to collect and secure for preservation the rolls, records and other documents relating to that period; to inspire the members of the Society with the patriotic spirit of their forefathers, and to promote the feeling of friendship among them.—*From the Constitution of the General Society of Sons of the Revolution.*

The spirit of the Society of Sons of the Revolution is not to differentiate its members from society at large, but to be useful in a patriotic way and to preserve to its members all those advantages that belong to old families and long lines of descent, with the qualities that give those advantages. Thus the members may be

stronger to assist in leavening society with those qualities that a worthy pride in clean and honorable family history and tradition contribute to the general welfare. This spirit is the spirit of morality and gentility, of fellowship and high patriotism, and not of snobbery and of narrow, selfish and conceited aristocracy. It is the spirit of aristocracy in the original and best meaning of that word, the spirit of the best citizenship. The Society's social motive is to preserve and cultivate in its members those refinements and forces of character that have distinguished the best people of all times and all nations.—*From The Book of the Sons of the Revolution in Indiana, Number Two.*

It was at Lexington that "the embattled farmers" "fired the shot heard round the world." To them life was of less value than a principle, the principle written by Cromwell on the statute book of parliament. "All just powers under God are derived from the consent of the people." Since the war of the Revolution many patriotic societies have risen in the United States. These may be typified by the association of the "Sons of the Revolution" and of the "Sons of American Wars," societies which find their inspiration in the personal descent of their members from those who fought for American independence. The assumption, well justified by facts, is that the Revolutionary fathers were a superior type of men, and that to have had such names in our personal ancestry is of itself a cause for thinking more highly of ourselves. In our little private round of peaceful duties we feel that we might have wrought the deeds of Putnam and Allen, of Marion and Greene, of our Revolutionary ancestors whoever they may have been. But if those who survived were nobler than the mass, so were those who fell.—*David Starr Jordan, in The Human Harvest.*