



A PUBLICATION BY THE
MOTHER LODGE CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

April 2013

Volume 6, Issue 4

Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



Next meeting - April 23, 2013
6:30 PM at the Denny's Restaurant

This Month's Program

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**Jim Young,
Mother Lode Past President**



**Tom Adams, Past CASSAR Youth
Activities Director**

Both Jim Young and Tom Adams attended the CASSAR Spring Meeting that was held in Ventura on April 12th and 13th. They will brief us on the what went on at the meeting, and how that may affect our Mother Lode Chapter.

The next meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at 6:30 PM, at Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Part. Wives, guests and visiting compatriots are always welcome.

Come socialize with us at 6:15PM. The meeting will start promptly at 6:30 PM.

**Denny's Restaurant
3446 Coach Lane
Cameron Park, CA.**

The President's Corner by Bob Conover

Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2013

President

Bob Conover

1st Vice President

Open

2nd Vice President

Tom Adams

Secretary

Tom Douglas

Treasurer

Tom Douglas

Registrar

Jim Young

Chaplain

Gene Myers

Dispatch Editor

Vacant

Historian

John Krahn

Webmaster

Vacant

Committee Chairmen

Eagle Scout Program

Vacant

ROTC Program

Vacant

Knight Essay Contest

Vacant

Valley Forge Program

Vacant

Law Enforcement Program

John Krahn

Flag Certificate Program

Doug Stone

Americanism Poster Contest

Tom Adams

For this month's meeting we will have Jim Young and Tom Adams speak about the Spring SAR meeting they recently attended. I have the contract for our Public Service Awards Dinner with the Cold Springs Country Club listing the date, menu, and costs for review by the Chapter.

Last Friday, April 19th, marked the 238th anniversary of the battles of Lexington and Concord (see page 6). Several states, including Massachusetts, Maine, and Wisconsin, celebrate this holiday (but on the weekend before or after the 19th, making for a long weekend). It must have taken a lot of courage to stand up to the most powerful army in the world. We are eternally indebted to those brave men and women for their service to our country.

Again we need to find a member, or members, who are willing to take over the monthly newsletter, "The Dispatch", and the web site. I'm hoping, again, that a member will stand up to the plate to fill these important positions. If we don't find someone to publish the newsletter, it will not continue. If any of you are interested in filling these positions, please call Tom Chilton or me, or contact us at our meeting so we can discuss the duties of the position.

In patriotic service,

Bob Conover



President Bob Conover

*Bob Conover can be reached at 1-530-677-8826 (cell: 530-409-8829),
or at: bobtrap@comcast.net
Mother Lode Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Tax ID #26-1428350*

Editors Note: The statements and opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Editor or of the California or National Societies, Sons of the American Revolution.

An Opinion Editorial

A Chapter in Crisis!!

When I was President of the Sacramento Chapter a number of years ago I recognized that we were not serving our members who lived on the western slope of El Dorado County. We had several members that lived in the Placerville area, but they never attended any of our meetings. There were also several other men who I knew were qualified to join the SAR, but chose not to join because of the long drive required to attend Sacramento Chapter meetings.

I had a conversation with Wayne Griswold in 2007 about this problem. I believe that Wayne was then the President of the Gold Country Chapter. He told me that they also had members living on the western slope of El Dorado County who rarely attended Gold Country meetings. I can understand why they didn't attend many Gold Country meetings, as they either had to drive across Highway 49, or come to Folsom, and then back to Auburn.

We had several discussions about the possibility of forming a SAR Chapter to serve this area. Exploratory meetings were held in the summer of 2007, and a charter was granted to the Mother Lode Chapter that fall.

At the beginning there was a lot of enthusiasm as the new chapter took hold. But over the course of the last five years we have seen a steady decline in attendance at our meetings, and very few men have chosen to join the chapter. Finding members willing to hold an elected office, or serve on one of the committees, is almost impossible. The same few men continue to serve as our officers. For the last few months there have only been six or seven **members** that attended our meetings, and most of them were the same seven men.

I am beginning to hear whispers that it is time to give up on the Mother Lode Chapter – to pull the plug, return the charter, and transfer all our members to either the Gold Country or Sacramento Chapters. I think that would be a sad day. We would still have the same problem that we had before the Mother Lode Chapter was formed, that being that both the Gold Country and Sacramento Chapters meet too far away from where most of the members of the Mother Lode Chapter live.

Why is it that most of our members do not attend our meetings? Why is it that we have so few new members? Why is it that it is so hard to find members who are willing to accept the responsibility to serve as officers or committee chairmen?

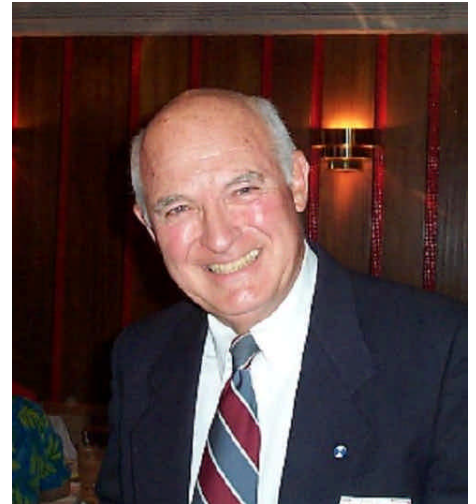
I know that your officers have worked very hard over the last five years to make Mother Lode a successful chapter. I know that Jim Young has worked very hard to complete the applications for prospective members submitted to him. But these loyal officers cannot do it alone. They need your help!

On the following page is a questionnaire. It has a list of declarative statements with places for you to record your feelings. I urge you to consider these questions carefully, record your feelings, and return the questionnaire to me.

Thank you for your help in this very important matter.

Yours in patriotic service,

Tom Chilton
1583 Loma Verde Drive
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762-3548



Mother Lode Chapter Questionnaire

1. I would attend more meetings if we had a speaker at every meeting.

Strongly disagree Disagree No opinion Agree Strongly agree

2. I would attend more meetings if we met at a different restaurant.

Strongly disagree Disagree No opinion Agree Strongly agree

3. I would attend more meetings if we met at a different time. What time? _____

Strongly disagree Disagree No opinion Agree Strongly agree

4. I would attend more meetings if we met on a different day. What day? _____

Strongly disagree Disagree No opinion Agree Strongly agree

5. I would attend more meetings if there was more opportunity to socialize with our members.

Strongly disagree Disagree No opinion Agree Strongly agree

6. I am not interested in attending SAR meetings.

Strongly disagree Disagree No opinion Agree Strongly agree

7. I would be willing to promote SAR membership to my friends and neighbors.

Strongly disagree Disagree No opinion Agree Strongly agree

8. I would be willing to serve as an officer in our Chapter.

Strongly disagree Disagree No opinion Agree Strongly agree

9. I would be willing to serve as a Committee Chairman for our Chapter

Strongly disagree Disagree No opinion Agree Strongly agree

10. I will continue my membership in the SAR even if the Mother Lode Chapter does return its charter.

Strongly disagree Disagree No opinion Agree Strongly agree

Signature (optional)

Date

George Washington Helps the Redcoats

by Carl Ahlberg

There were many contributing factors leading to the Revolutionary War. One involved the perception the English had about Colonists. The story below shows how British arrogance cost the lives of many British soldiers and had a profound effect on George Washington.

A prelude to the French and Indian War occurred when the French started to establish forts along the waterways from the Great Lakes to the Ohio Valley. England knew it would have to stop this or allow France to hold land in America. Major General Edward Braddock was selected to command troops in America *"to vindicate our just rights and Possessions in those parts."* He was a blunt, self-assured, and experienced officer. After arriving in America he met with the Governors and Ben Franklin. He was advised to change his tactics when fighting Indians because the conditions were not like Europe. George Washington joined his staff as an advisor and also gave him the same advice. But Braddock said not to worry, *"these savages may, indeed, be a formidable enemy to your raw American militia, but upon the King's regulars and disciplined troops, sir, it is impossible they should make any impression."* With that the British Army marched off with more than, *"2,200 men, an artillery train of 6 and twelve-pounder cannon, howitzers and mortars, plus shot, shells, and powder, and all the other material required by an army on the march, the general had to reckon also with enough food for those soldiers for a month and a half, plus forage for the horses, since the dense forest afforded no natural feed."* The army stretched over 4 miles long and the heavy wagons meant the small trail had to be widened for a large portion of the 110 miles they were going to travel with men wearing wool uniforms working in the summer.



Carl Ahlberg, a member of the Sacramento Chapter

On July 8, thirty-eight days after leaving Fort Cumberland at Wills Creek, with an enormously difficult and fatiguing march behind them, when men had sickened with dysentery and horses dropped dead from exhaustion and exertion, Braddock's men still had experienced not a shred of opposition and were within 10 miles of the French fort at the Forks. With drums beating and fifes tootling Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Gage led the advance guard into a clearing. Just then the scouts spotted a white man dressed as an Indian but with an officer's silver gorget at his throat, darting from one tree to another. He waved his hat in the air; the unearthly shriek of Indian war hoops shattered the silence of the dense woods, and someone shouted, "The Indians is upon us!" and Braddock's men were suddenly hit by a hail of musket balls. Within minutes the British force was surrounded on three sides, unable to advance, but the wagons and artillery kept moving forward into and among the frantic infantrymen blocking their line of retreat, and almost no one could see an enemy to shoot at. For nearly three hours the Redcoats were under continuous fire, fighting desperately, often hitting their own men in a futile effort to retaliate, until finally discipline collapsed and the survivors fled the field in wild panic. Every officer in the two grenadier companies was killed or wounded. Braddock was badly hurt; Gage was hit; Washington had two horses shot out from under him and four bullet holes in his coat. Of the fifteen hundred men who had gone into action, one thousand were casualties. Braddock died of his wounds an agonizing five days later, and to avoid having his body recovered and mutilated by Indians, Washington had him buried under the road so the boots of marching men, horses' hoofs, and wagon wheels would obliterate the site.

The Colonists thought of themselves as free Englishmen with the same rights as those living in England. England, and especially the army, did not treat the Colonists as equals. George Washington wanted to be an officer in the British Army but the British officers had a very low opinion of "colonials." Lower ranking British officers would out rank higher ranking militia officers whenever they joined forces and this caused George Washington to give up his idea of a career in the British Army. After assuming command of the Continental Army, Washington insisted that officers be promoted by deed and not by who they knew, and the story above surely had something to do with the formation of that policy. Events like this pushed both sides closer to the French and Indian War which the British won and thought the colonies should help pay for it.

Article compiled by Carl Ahlberg with information from: *Divided Loyalties* by Richard M. Ketchum

Poster Contest Report

By Tom Adams

We had a total of 123 Poster entries to the Mother Lode SAR Poster Contest from five classes out of two schools, plus one entry from C.A.R.. Of the 123, 17 posters passed the competitive culling and screening process. Eight were from each school and one entry was from the local C.A.R. Society, which SAR accepts when the C.A.R. member's school does not participate in the contest.

During judging we first chose the class winners from the school with four classes. We then chose the School's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at that school from the four class winners. Next, we chose the School's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at the school with only one class of 5th graders. From these six (6) school winners, and the one CAR entry, we chose the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in the entire Chapter.

In past years, when we had only one entry from a school (or C.A.R.), no cash award was made; however, an Honorable Mention Medallion was awarded.

A \$25 cash prize is to be awarded to the Chapter winner, and a \$25 cash prize is to be awarded for 1st place in a school. This means \$50 is the highest cash prize awarded to the entry who was chosen School Winner and then also Chapter Winner. In Mother Lode this year, a total of \$75 in cash prizes is to be awarded. A total number of 10 medallions with neck ribbons awarded. This does not include any State ribbons and/or State cash prizes that might be won by the Mother Lode contestants.

The Chapter Winner, along with his or her parents, will be invited to our Chapter Meeting in May to receive the cash prize.



"The Shot Heard 'Round the World" - 238 Years Ago, Lexington, MA

It was dawn on April 19, 1775, when the British advance troops under Maj. John Pitcairn arrived from Boston. Capt. John Parker, who was forewarned, had his militia lined up on the Lexington Common. Because he had only 77 men, Parker had no thought of impeding the 700 British soldiers. He wanted to make a display of patriot resolve. But, as the militiamen slowly obeyed Pitcairn's order to disperse, a shot was fired - it is not clear from which side - and the green British soldiers, ignoring orders to stop, began firing at will at the fleeing Americans. When Pitcairn and Smith regained control, eight Americans lay dead.

Ralph Waldo Emerson coined the phrase "the shot heard 'round the world" to describe the significance of the skirmishes that took place at Lexington and at North Bridge in Concord.

Although the British fought two small skirmishes at Lexington and Concord, they fought a battle along the road from Concord to Lexington. Some may criticize the tactics used by the Patriots in their engagements with the British along the road. However, the tactics they used can be clearly found in any military handbook. When an enemy that has attacked is turned to retreat, defense forces should pursue the retreating enemy. Not to pursue has been a mistake made, even today, by many military commanders. It is often not done because of troop exhaustion or for humanitarian reasons, but the result is often that the retreating enemy is able to recover and fight another day. There is no doubt that the sting of Lexington and Concord was on the minds of the British during their occupation of Boston. They did not launch any further penetrations into the surrounding countryside.

Minutes of the Meeting held on March 26, 2013

By Tom Douglas

I apologize for the lack of minutes for the March meeting as I was unable to attend due to illness. What is here is produced from information sent to me from a member of the chapter. There were six members, one duel member and three visitors in attendance.

No report from the secretary/treasurer as he was absent.

Registrar Jim Young reported there are two applications at national waiting for approval.

Wayne Griswold was called upon to share any information on the state and national levels. He stated the California Compatriot had been posted on the CASSAR website. He suggested all members read a copy to see the list of CASSAR nominations for state offices. He then reminded everyone that the CASSAR spring meeting would be held on April 13-14 in Ventura, CA

Community Awards Ceremony: there was considerable time spent discussing the Community Awards Ceremony. Five nominations for awards were up for discussion: two Law Enforcement, two Fire Safety, and one EMS. The motion was made to award all five nominees the respective awards. The motion passed unanimously. The month in which to hold the event was then discussed. April had been tentatively scheduled, but Tom Adams was concerned about a conflict with the chapter's youth awards. It was agreed to host the Youth Awards in May, but several people felt there was not enough time to put together a quality Community Awards ceremony in April. Bob Conover said he would check with Cold Springs to see what banquet costs might be available in September or October. It was agreed to hold an Executive Committee (Article IV of the by-laws) meeting the following morning to discuss the date of the dinner with the information Bob would obtain from Cold Springs. The results of that meeting will be discussed at the April meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was used to judge and vote on the chapter winners for this year's poster contest.

Respectfully submitted as a representation of the actual meeting,
Tom Douglas, Secretary



Tom Douglas
Secretary and Past President



Mother Lode Chapter's 2013 Calendar

May 28, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's
Youth Activities Awards

December 14, 2013 - Wreathes Across America
Sacramento Valley National Cemetery Dixon

June 25, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's
Program to be announced

December 2013 - Date and program to be announced

September 24, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's
Program to be announced

October 22, 2013 - Community Awards Banquet
Cold Springs Country Club

November 1-2, 2013 - CASSAR Fall Meeting
Hacienda Hotel, Los Angeles, CA

November 26, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's
Program to be announced

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**TO THE POSTMASTER
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