



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

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Mother Lode Dispatch



Mother Lode Speaker Series



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At the June 27th chapter meeting, Chancellor Doug Drake shared his story "From Farmer to Soldier", the story of Henry Drake - a young farmer boy from Massachusetts who was thrust into the realities of the Revolutionary War. In 1778, when Henry was just 16-years old, his father passed down his 1777 Charleville musket to take into battle. This musket was just one of some 25,000 muskets gifted by Lafayette to the Continental Army. In this story, Doug provided a thorough hands-on presentation of his Charleville musket while covering the life of young Henry and what it would have been like for him as he prepared his musket for battle. Doug demonstrated all aspects of handling the weapon including placement of the musket ball, cartridge making, the black powder recipe, and the fixing its "after-market" British made bayonet.

It is our hope that Doug can share his presentation with other service organizations in the Sacramento/Mother Lode area. We hope that Doug's presentation drums up interest from audience members in exploring the SAR.



Chapter Chancellor Doug Drake shares his story of Henry Drake, Revolutionary War soldier. Please see meeting minutes for more detail.



Denny's Restaurant
3446 Coach Lane
Cameron Park, CA.
4th Tuesday - 6:30 PM

John is a long-time resident of El Dorado County, past President of the Placerville Kiwanis Club, and past owner of Minuteman Press. John is our local expert on the history of the Studebaker Wheelbarrow Races held at the El Dorado County fairgrounds every year. The race gets its name from “Wheelbarrow Johnny” Studebaker, who came out to Placerville during the beginning of the goldrush. He was only nineteen years old and already a skilled blacksmith.

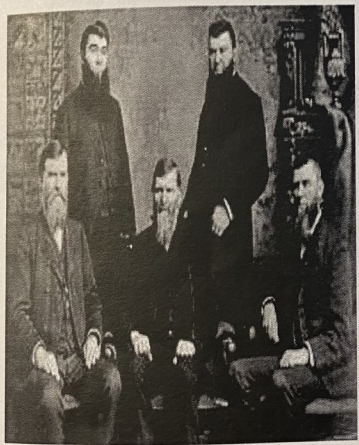
Despite coming out to California to mine for gold, he ultimately decided to make wheelbarrows. Through a series of good luck, and nearly avoiding financial disaster when someone ran off with the bank’s money, he and his brothers were able to make a small fortune, which they took back to South Bend Indiana to build wagons, buggies, and carriages.



The company eventually won a contract with the US Army to build all the wagons for the war effort, and the rest is history. In 1912, Johnny returned to Placerville to hero’s welcome, and in 1931, the Clampers founded the wheelbarrow races. In 1966, after years of increased competition and dwindling sales, Studebaker closed its doors. The list of divisions that were spun and sold off truly speak to legacy of this All-Americans success story.

~ *** ~

Little did John Zachry know that our DAR guest, Judy Metz, also very knowledgeable on the races, having had several cousins participate in the race over the years. It was fun for everyone in the room to watch and listen to the two of them share stories. Tom Douglas shared the fact that his GGG Grandmother was a Studebaker, and Bob Conover shared that he took his driving test on a 1938 four door Commander with the ingenious but since forgotten “hill holder clutch”!



Studebaker Brothers, Clement, Henry, Peter & John M. Studebaker, is in the center.

Studebaker Family History

From www.studebakerfamily.org. John Mohler Studebaker, headed to California in 1853. Stories had come back to Ohio of men quickly gaining fabulous fortunes during the 1849 gold rush. When he arrived at what is now Placerville, California, he quickly realized that all of the good claims had long been taken. He also realized that an industrious man could make a better living by serving the needs of the miners than by panning for gold. John took his wagon-making skills and began making rugged, durable wheelbarrows. His sturdy wheelbarrows quickly became popular, and he acquired the nickname, “Wheelbarrow Johnny.” When the gold boom receded, he took his profits and returned to Ohio. At home, the five brothers agreed to take John’s \$8,000 nest egg from California, expand operations as the Studebaker Wagon Corporation and begin building wagons on a large scale. The Studebaker wagons proved to be extremely durable, and the Studebaker Wagon Corporation was able to obtain contracts to build wagons for the Union army. During the Civil War, the reliability and ruggedness of the Studebaker wagons became legendary, and the Studebaker Corporation was on its way to a place in history.

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The Mother Lode thanks John for taking the time to come speak to it members. I think we all found in interesting and amusing. If you haven’t been out the races, make plans to do it next year. John will likely be the MC for the event.



Folsom's Hometown Parade

June 24th, 2023
Sacramento and
Mother Lode Chapters



Compatriots David Beach, Jim Faulkinbury, Russ Kaiser, Hande Garcia, Steve Belden, and Don Littlefield were joined later by Doug Drake to represent the Sons of The American Revolution at the annual parade down Sutter St. in Folsom.

You can watch the entire parade on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/hz5mLW-YuYE>

DAR and SAR at minute 3:00



Mother Lode Chapter Meeting Minutes – May 23, 2023 Meeting at Denny's in Cameron Park



The meeting was called to order by President Steve Belden at 6:33 PM. President Steve Belden gave the invocation, led the Pledge of Allegiance and the SAR Pledge.

There were seven (7) regular chapter members: **Steve Belden, Bob Conover, Tom Douglas, Steve Almy, Mike Metz, Randy Keith, and Doug Drake**. We were joined by DAR guests **Judy Metz** and **Diane Ellis**. Prospective member **Tim Voss** was also in attendance.

President Steve Belden began the meeting by reviewing the meeting agenda with focus on key activities and introducing our two guest speakers for the evening: **John Zachry** and Mother Lode **Chancellor Doug Drake**.

ELECTION & APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS:

Sergeant-at-Arms, and Historian remain vacant.

New business:

Review Quote from Ring of Fire. The 2023 price per head is \$39.12 vs. \$24.37 in 2022. The primary driver for the price increase is 1) inflation and 2) increasing the rib count from 1.5 per person to 4 per person.

Reviewed email from **Kevin Tierney**. He wants to address his concerns about the rising costs of youth awards. When we add up the cost of the medallion (\$10), the discs that contain the printing on the back (\$6), and the neck ribbon (\$6) we are paying \$22 per medallion. He believes we handed out about 15 to 20 medallions this year. That's somewhere between \$300 and \$400 and that doesn't include the cash prizes. He believes we should only give medallions to 1st, 2nd and 3rd at the chapter level. All other awards including school, class and honorable mentions need to be something more affordable such as ribbons or rosettes. He would like the chapter's blessing to proceed in this more frugal direction in the upcoming year. Chapter members suggested providing a lower cost certificate instead of medallions. This will be discussed again in the September meeting.



Meeting Minutes – June 27, 2023 ~ continued ~



Old business:

- Reviewed the banquet headcount from 2022 = 63 people.
- Reviewed the process for controlling entrance into the hall by using long tables and additional people to guard entrance.
- The chapter confirmed we will collect “paid tickets” or sell tickets at the door. We will mail out RSVPs to come up with the estimated head count, but only admit people who paid for a ticket.

The expected number of people to have comped tickets is 12-13 people.

Role	Agency	Name
Sponsor	Sheriff	Jeff Leikauf
Paid Guest	Sheriff's Wife	Mrs. Leikauf
Awaredee	Sheriff Civilian	TBD
Paid Guest	Sheriff Civilian Spouse	TBD
Awaredee	Sheriff Non-Officer	TBD
Paid Guest	Sheriff Non-Officer Spouse	TBD
Awaredee	Sheriff Officer	TBD
Paid Guest	Sheriff Officer Spouse	TBD
Awaredee	Placerville PD #1	TBD
Paid Guest	Placerville PD #1 Sponsor	TBD
Awaredee	Placerville PD #2	TBD
Paid Guest	Placerville PD #2 Sponsor	TBD
Awaredee	CDCR Officer	Craig Lee
Awaredee	CHP	TBD

- We confirmed 5:45pm food drop off time.
- Photographer will be likely be Michael Raffety -Mountain Democrat 530-651-3286.
- We hope to have the Mountain Democrat publish a notice of the 2023 Awards Banquet.
- Agreement for the American Legion Post 119
- **Bob Conover** gave **Mike Metz** 2 checks: \$200 for hall rental and \$115 to cover the bar. No deposit will be necessary.
- **Mike Metz** indicated his chapter bank ATM is expiring in June. **Steve Belden** should be added to the Umpqua Bank account. **Bob Conover** will need to work with **Steve Belden**.
- Reviewed the work performed by the Air Patrol and Explorers. We expect to provide a cash donation to support their work during the event.
- We discussed giving out Challenge Coins at the Awards Banquet. We will decide when we finalize the budget. We will need a 30-day order lead time.



Meeting Minutes – May 23, 2023 ~ continued ~



Zoom meetings during summer break

- Table Center Piece
- Tickets and Brochures
- Diagram for the Explorers (need when the event begins so they know how to set up)

Officer Reports:

President's Report:

- President **Steve Belden** reported on the Folsom Hometown Parade and the participation of **Steve, Doug Drake, Russ Kaiser, and Don Littlefield** in a presentation of the Color Guard. A video of the even is available at:

<https://youtu.be/hz5mLW-YuYE>.

The DAR comes into view at 3:10 of the video.

The SAR follows and is seen from 3:30 to 3:45 of the video.

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer Bob Conover reported a balance of \$3,759 less \$315 for the Hall.

Secretaries Report:

- Secretary Tom Douglas gave an update on his meeting with Tom Adams. The two of them had breakfast together and Tom A. was in good spirits and looking good. Our thoughts are with Tom and his family.



Meeting Minutes – May 23, 2023 ~ continued ~



American 250:

Invasion of Canada

On June 27, 1775, Congress authorized Major General Philip Schuyler to investigate, and, if appropriate, begin an invasion of Canada. Benedict Arnold, who was passed over for its command, went to Boston and convinced General George Washington to send a supporting force to Quebec City under his command. From <https://revolutionarywar.us/campaigns/1775-1776-invasion-quebec>

The Invasion of Quebec (June 1775 – October 1776) was the first major military initiative by the newly formed Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. The objective of the campaign was to seize the Province of Quebec (part of modern-day Canada) from Great Britain, and persuade French-speaking Canadiens to join the revolution on the side of the Thirteen Colonies. One expedition left Fort Ticonderoga under Richard Montgomery, besieged and captured Fort St. Johns, and very nearly captured British General Guy Carleton when taking Montreal. The other expedition, under Benedict Arnold, left Cambridge, Massachusetts and traveled with great difficulty through the wilderness of Maine to Quebec City. The two forces joined there, but they were defeated at the Battle of Quebec in December 1775.

Montgomery's expedition set out from Fort Ticonderoga in late August, and in mid-September began besieging Fort St. Johns, the main defensive point south of Montreal. After the fort was captured in November, Carleton abandoned Montreal, fleeing to Quebec City, and Montgomery took control of Montreal before heading for Quebec with an army much reduced in size by expiring enlistments. There he joined Arnold, who had left Cambridge in early September on an arduous trek through the wilderness that left his surviving troops starving and lacking in many supplies and equipment.





Meeting Minutes – May 23, 2023 ~ continued ~



American 250: continued

These forces joined before Quebec City in December, and they assaulted the city in a snow-storm on the last day of the year. The battle was a disastrous defeat for the Continental Army; Montgomery was killed and Arnold wounded, while the city's defenders suffered few casualties. Arnold then conducted an ineffectual siege on the city, during which successful propaganda campaigns boosted Loyalist sentiments, and General David Wooster's blunt administration of Montreal served to annoy both supporters and detractors of the Americans.

.The British sent several thousand troops under General John Burgoyne, including Hessian mercenaries, to reinforce the province in May 1776. General Carleton then launched a counter-offensive, ultimately driving the smallpox-weakened and disorganized Continental forces back to Fort Ticonderoga. The Continental Army, under Arnold's command, hindered the British advance sufficiently that an attack could not be mounted on Fort Ticonderoga in 1776. The end of the campaign set the stage for Burgoyne's 1777 campaign in the Hudson River valley. *From* [<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_of_Quebec_\(1775\)>](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_of_Quebec_(1775))





Meeting Minutes – May 23, 2023 ~ continued ~



Announcements:

The 2024 Spring Meeting (April 25-28) will be at the Burlingame Hyatt on the SF Bay. Sacramento Chapter will host. \$159 per night!

Fall Board of Manager's meeting will be held Nov 4-6. IT will be hosted by the Harbor Chapter at the Queen Mary in Long Beach CA.

Wreaths Across America & Boston Tea Party Anniversary - December 17 (1773).

SAR Recessional - led by **Steve Belden**

Benediction - led by **Steve Belden**

God Bless America - led by **Steve Belden**

Adjourn at 7:57pm

*Minutes compiled from notes provided by President **Steve Belden**.*

Respectfully edited and submitted,

Steve Belden, President