



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

December 2007

Volume 1, Issue 3

# Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



## President's Corner by Tom Douglas

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Dear Fellow Compatriots,

It was a pleasure to welcome David Gilliard to be with us for our November meeting. His presentation about the fifth grade poster contest was very informative. I have since, with help from the Sacramento Chapter SAR, been able to schedule a presentation at the Jackson Elementary School in El Dorado Hills on January 10, 2008, at 1:45 in the afternoon. The Sacramento Chapter's School Guard, coordinated by Jim Faulkinbury, will present their 5<sup>h</sup> Grade Living History Program to three classes of 5<sup>h</sup> graders on that day. After the program that highlights Molly Hay's (Pitcher's) contribution to the Revolutionary War, I will explain the contest and this year's topic, Molly Pitcher, to the students and staff.

(continued on page 2)



**Merry  
Christmas**



**Happy  
New Year**

# President's Corner - by Tom Douglas

(continued from page 1)

- Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2008**
- Tom Douglas**  
President
  - Vacant**  
Vice President
  - Vacant**  
Secretary
  - Vacant**  
Treasurer
  - Jim Young**  
Registrar
  - Vacant**  
Chaplain
  - Tom Chilton**  
Newsletter Editor
  - Mel Roush**  
Historian
- Committee Chairmen**
- Vacant**  
Eagle Scout Program
  - Vacant**  
ROTC Program
  - Vacant**  
Essay Contest
  - Vacant**  
Valley Forge Program
  - Vacant**  
Law Enforcement Program
  - Vacant**  
Flag Certificate Program
  - Vacant**  
Americanism Poster Contest

My goal as president of Mother Lode Chapter is to present these types of programs to as many fifth grade classes in our area as possible. I would invite the members of the Mother Lode Chapter to come to Jackson Elementary School on January 10<sup>th</sup>, (early at 1:00 PM to help set up) to see the enthusiasm of the teachers and children who attend the program. I believe we have a responsibility to carry on the hopes and dreams of our patriot ancestors by showing and teaching the youth of today about the sacrifices our ancestors endured.



**President Tom Douglas presents David Gilliard with a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation on the Americanism Poster Contest. Photo by Wayne Griswold.**

Because the fourth Tuesday of December falls on Christmas Day, we do not have a meeting scheduled for this month.

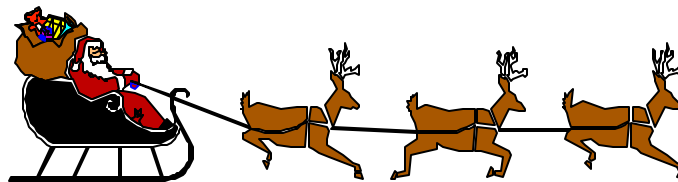
Our next regular meeting will be on January 22, 2008.

I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and the very best of New Years.

Tom Douglas  
President  
Mother Lode

Chapter, SAR

# Happy Holidays



**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.**

# The American Revolution – Month By Month - December 1777

## by Andrew J. Stough III

### *Events leading to the march into Valley Forge!*

December spelled the beginning of serious winter cold. Washington had been concerned with two things, keeping Howe from becoming complacent in Philadelphia, and providing winter supplies and shelter for the Continental Army. While there were some sorties to harass Howe, most of his endeavors were to obtain supplies for the coming winter. Despite assistance from Europe, the men were without blankets and pitifully clothed with many barefoot. Washington, forced by this lack of necessities and Congress' inability to supply them, revoked his policy on foraging. In an area heavily populated by Quakers and Loyalists, unsympathetic to the "Cause of Independence", there was little if any willingness to sell Washington anything. In this area, heavily foraged by Howe, there was little if anything left to take. In that day and time an army traveled on its feet, and in this army so many were barefoot that it was the literal truth. So many men were without shoes with no possibility of replacement that Washington offered a reward of ten dollars to anyone who could produce a shoe substitute made from hides.

On December 4, 1777, the army had been encamped for a month on a hill near Whitemarsh Township, a few miles northwest of Germantown. The army was not a real danger to Howe, but it might well have been a constant reminder of Washington's attack on Trenton in the winter of 1776. In any event, Howe set out at midnight of December 4th with almost his total force to surprise Washington's army encamped at Whitemarsh. At this point the dashing and daring figure of Captain Allan McLane appears, bursts into action, reappears occasionally, is mentioned during the second winter at Morristown, then is heard from no more. McLane and 100 mounted men charged with scouting the area, saw the British army on the move and warned Washington, who increased his campfires to indicate a much larger force than he actually possessed. Not content with simply keeping watch on Howe's army, McLane resorted to violent charges on the forward flank, breaking off each attack before the enemy could get set for defense. These continuing charges, typical of the Plains Indians almost a century later, were successful in turning Howe's direction of march.

At 3 AM on December 5th, Howe rested his troops. He had reached a hill some three miles from the Patriot army's campfires, and at daybreak could easily see Washington's encampment. At 3 AM the campfires had appeared to be serving an unbelievably massive army of perhaps fifty thousand men. By daylight its actual number could be seen. The ruse worked. Howe did not attack in darkness.

Washington was in a position to do battle as encamped. However, he had taken the precaution of striking his tents and sending the heavy baggage some miles to the rear. With the supply train secured, Brigadier General Irvine, with 600 Pennsylvanians, were sent to test Howe with disastrous results. Irvine was wounded and captured, his men driven back and routed. The armies then maintained their positions until the morning of December 7th when Howe feinted a main attack at the center while the actual main attack was an enveloping movement around one flank, the same tactic that had worked for him on Long Island and at Brandywine.

The most interesting thing about this battle was the rescue of General Joseph Reed. With his horse shot out from under him, he had been abandoned by American troops, and was about to be bayoneted by British soldiers when he was rescued by none other than the daring McLane and his valiant horsemen.

Howe was the victor in the engagement to this point, but pausing before assaulting a well defended hill camp, he reassembled his army and marched back to Philadelphia. Perhaps he remembered too well his disastrous victory at Breed's Hill [*Howe won that battle, but at a high cost of British soldier's lives.*].

On December 11th, Washington broke camp and began to move the army across the Schuylkill River over a makeshift bridge. When several divisions were across the river, a large British foraging force appeared. The forward divisions were not prepared for an attack, and were recalled, after which the bridge was destroyed. With the river between them, neither force could attack. Finally, both armies went their separate ways with Washington returning to Whitemarsh.

On December 19th, the army entered Valley Forge. Some sources say this was just the place the army needed to keep an eye on Howe and to spend the winter training for the battles in the coming year. Other sources say that Washington's most favored plan was to move the army to Wilmington, Delaware. With its



# The American Revolution – Month By Month - December 1777

by Andrew J. Stough III  
(concluded from page 4)

more moderate climate, an army could subsist and train there more comfortably, it could be more easily supplied, and troops at Wilmington would be healthier and less prone to sickness and disease, the chief killer of Revolutionary War soldiers. The only apparent drawback would be that it was not close enough to react swiftly to movements by Howe. Experience would indicate that once encamped for the winter, Howe would only make small forays. The main British army would budge only for a choice target, but none was left within a reasonable distance from Philadelphia.

Ward states that Valley Forge was chosen as a compromise due to the hue and cry raised by Pennsylvanians who wanted the army to campaign all winter and not abandon them to the mercy of Howe. Washington was indignant! He gave them a stinging response! Asking who had said that he was going to abandon them to the mercy of Howe? He then accused them of failing to do their duty to supply and provision the army, yet fully expecting the army to fight in winter's cold without proper support from the very people who asked so much..

The upshot was a compromise, that being to remain at Valley Forge for the winter. A decision that might have been pleasing to Congress and the people of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, but damned by several thousand soldiers to be wasted by death in that long winter. While the remainder survived, all suffered for lack of food, clothing, housing, and last but not least, proper sanitation. When spring came, many of survivors were unfit for duty, and those who suffered from debilitating illnesses or were crippled by over exposure or frozen feet had to be sent home, never to fight again. In retrospect, Washington and his generals were right about Wilmington, and proves once again that no matter how noble the cause, human nature is always with us, and that there will always be those who put self first. The encampment at Valley Forge in December comes at the end of the third long year of war.



Winter at Valley Forge 1777



Recreation of a cabin in which soldiers would have lived at Valley Forge

References: Encyclopedia Britannica, Ward's "The War of the Revolution."

Note: Whitmarsh does not appear on my map of Pennsylvania, but is mentioned in conjunction with Chestnut Hill a few miles northwest of Germantown, and perhaps

is now a part of the modern sprawling city of Philadelphia.

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## Report from the 132<sup>nd</sup> CASSAR Board of Managers Meeting Santa Barbara, California, 2 November 2007

by Jim Faulkinbury, Sacramento Chapter

Due to a conflict with a Parent's Weekend for the students at UCSB, the Board of Managers meeting was limited to one day at the Mar Monte Hotel, overlooking the beautiful Santa Barbara beach. It began with the morning session of the business meeting. The first order of business was guidance to the Chapters regarding the new requirements for IRS filing by all Chapters. It was recommended that the information be provided to the CASSAR Secretary who would actually file the online reports and send copies back to each Chapter. The next order of business was to accept the charter of the new Mother Lode Chapter in the Placerville area. This was followed by the CASSAR officer's reports, chapter reports, and committee reports. The SAR attendees and members of the CASSAR Ladies Auxiliary signed a proclamation honoring the Spanish settlement in Santa Barbara for its financial support provided to the new United States government during the Revolutionary War. The meeting was then recessed for lunch.



**CASSAR members in uniform for the dedication ceremony at the Presidio at Santa Barbara.  
Photo by Wayne Griswold.**

After lunch, the attendees went to the Santa Barbara Presidio and held the dedication ceremony, unveiling the plaque placed on the statue of King Carlos III in the Presidio yard recognizing the Presidio as a Revolutionary War Historical Site. The statue of King Carlos III was a gift by King Juan Carlos I, who is also a member of the NSSAR.

We then returned to the Mar Monte Hotel to continue the business meeting. Those of us involved in the 2008 NSSAR Congress Planning Committee broke off to a separate meeting to discuss the status of the Congress plans. Decisions were made for the tour packages, transportation to the host society reception, and the entertainment to be used. Direction was given to proceed with the contractual agreements for these items.

The business meetings ended by 6:00 pm and at 6:30, we attended the evening banquet. The guest speaker was Karen Schultz Anderson, Director of Education for the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.

The hotel location was beautiful, and we had an ocean view room just across the street from the beach. Unfortunately, it was foggy on the beach almost all of the time so we couldn't see too far out to sea, however it was sunny in the Presidio area and downtown Santa Barbara.

The next meeting will be held in Concord in April, 2008. We will try to have a Presidio dedication ceremony in San Francisco, the last remaining of the four Presidios that supported the war effort to be dedicated.



**Guardsmen prepare to fire their flintlock muskets at the Santa Barbara Presidio.  
Photo by Wayne Griswold.**

# Minutes of the meeting held on November 27, 2007.

by Brian Sonner, Acting Secretary

1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Tom Douglas. After the Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and SAR Pledge, the minutes for the October 23, 2007 meeting were approved as presented.

2. Reports:

a. President Tom Douglas gave a report about the 132nd Fall Managers' Meeting, held on November 2, 2007, in Santa Barbara, CA. On the first day, the first order of business was approval of the Mother Lode Chapter Charter. The vote was unanimous.

b. Treasurer's Report: The current balance is \$240. Sacramento and Gold Country Chapters transferred \$713 to the chapter. National and State Society dues were paid in the amount of \$473. The State Society will be transferring \$500 to the Chapter for start up costs. This will be placed in a savings account. By unanimous approval, President Douglas will remain the single signature on the accounts until a permanent Secretary/Treasurer is elected. The Chapter now has an EIN number: 26-1428350.

c. Registrar's Report: The Registrar Jim Young met with Tom Chilton and was brought up to speed on the duties of Registrar. John Krahn's application for membership was signed, and sent to the CASSAR Registrar.

d. Historian's Report: Historian Melvin Roush presented a book he created to contain the historical information/records of the Chapter.

3. Unfinished/Ongoing Business:

a. There were no volunteers for the Secretary/Treasurer position.

b. Youth/Community Programs: The guest speaker will discuss the SAR Poster Contest Guidelines.

c. Chartering Ceremony: Jim Young volunteered to join the committee. He indicated that he had a lead on a location in Coloma at the Grange as well as a catering organization in Rescue.

4. Guest Speaker: David Gilliard made an extensive presentation on the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest Rules and Guidelines. (A copy of the documents will be provided to the historian along with the minutes of the meeting.) Much of the ensuing discussion centered around how to get involved and the schedule of events necessary to have a successful Contest sponsored by our Chapter. Compatriot Gilliard indicated that additional information was available on the State Society website. A set of class, school, and chapter level recommended awards was presented. After the presentation, a Certification of Appreciation was presented to David Gilliard by President Douglas.

5. After the Benediction and SAR Recessional, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian C Sonner, Acting Secretary



## Chartering Ceremony

As a part of the formation of the Mother Lode Chapter, we want to have a formal Chartering Ceremony at which time a representative, or representatives, of the California State Society Sons of the American Revolution will formally present us with our SAR charter. The ceremony will probably be held in February. We are looking for a restaurant or meeting room capable of holding about 75 people for a banquet type luncheon or dinner. If anyone knows of a good location in the Placerville, Cameron Park, or El Dorado Hills areas, please contact Tom Douglas. If we do not meet in a restaurant, we will need to use the services of a caterer. If you know of a good caterer in the area, please contact Tom.

# Merry Christmas



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**TO THE POSTMASTER  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

The Mother Lode Chapter  
Sons Of The American  
Revolution

