



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

December 2008

Volume 2, Issue 11

Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



Presidents Corner by Tom Douglas

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Fellow Compatriots and Friends,

The important task of swearing in the officers that were elected at the November 25th meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 17th during our meeting. Please note the change in the day of our meeting for this month. The fourth Tuesday would fall too close to Christmas, so it was agreed to hold the meeting on Wednesday, the 17th.

The officers to be sworn in are: Tom Douglas, President and Treasurer, Tom Adams, Executive Vice President, Jim Young, 2nd Vice President and Registrar, Brian Sonner, Secretary, Gene Myers, Chaplain, and Mel Roush, Historian. Tom Chilton has agreed to continue as Editor of the Mother Lode Dispatch. Wayne Griswold, Vice President North of the California Society, will do the honors of swearing in the officers. I am grateful for those that have agreed to be officers in the Chapter.

The three gentlemen that had applications waiting to be approved by National have now been approved. We now have 20 members and three associate members. One of the new members, Roy Tougaw, will be at the meeting on the 17th, and will be welcomed into the Chapter as a new member.

Another opportunity to participate in an SAR event is the Wreaths Across America ceremony on Dec 13th, at 9:00 AM, at the new VA Cemetery in Dixon, California. There will be approximately 4800 wreaths placed on the gravesites of our country's fallen veterans. Come and join our brother and sisters from Sacramento, Gold Country, and other SAR and DAR Chapters in participating in this ceremony.

We will not have a speaker this month, however there will be enough going on with the officer swearing in and a couple of surprises I have in store for you.

In Patriotic Service,
Tom Douglas



Denny's Restaurant
3446 Coach Lane



The next meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter will be held on Wednesday , December 17, 2008, at 6:30 PM, at Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Park.

New Member - Darrell Eugene Bell

Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2008

Tom Douglas

President

Vacant

Vice President

Brian Sonner

Secretary

Tom Douglas, Acting

Treasurer

Jim Young

Registrar

Gene Myers

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

Tom Douglas

Americanism Poster Contest

Darrell Eugene "Gene" Bell was born on September 5, 1939, in Des Moines, Iowa, where he spent his childhood. He finished high school in Santa Ana, CA, after his family moved west in 1955. Gene graduated from Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, CA, and San Jose State University. He also attended UCLA, and served on the faculty of the Institute of Industrial Relations. Prior to that time, Gene worked for the City of Los Angeles for the Department of Airports (LAX) and the Port of Los Angeles. He also was the Director of Employee Relations for the League of California and the California State Association of Counties. Subsequently, Gene became a private consultant to employers in Human Resources and Labor Relations. He has taught Labor Relations courses at UC Davis Extension for the past 33 years.

Gene is married to Mary Lou Klakovich. He has one child, Matthew Jason Bell, from a previous marriage and two grandsons, Brady and Brock. Gene served in the US Navy as a Flight Radioman (AT 2) in VR-7, (MATS Squadron) flying over 2000 hours in a Super Constellation from Moffett Field, California, during 1959-1960. He became an aircraft owner in 1977, and still flies his Beechcraft Bonanza (V35B) as an instrument-rated pilot. Gene owns and operates Becker & Bell, Inc., a management-consulting firm serving mainly public agency employers in labor relations matters. He negotiates union contracts and represents employers in arbitrations and other administrative hearings. His hobbies include golf, travel, and music.

Gene's application to join the Sons of the American Revolution was approved on August 22, 2008. His patriot ancestor, Onesimus Bell, was a soldier in Quarter Masters I. M. C. while stationed at Morristown, New Jersey.



President Tom Douglas presents Gene Bell with his Membership Certificate.

Merry Christmas

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 1778 by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

December began quietly enough along the Seaboard. Cold weather in the north confined troops of both sides to the task of surviving a cold winter. Legislatures were not so affected and, on the 9th of December, the Colony of Virginia annexed all the territory recently captured by George Rogers Clark, calling it Illinois County. It would remain as a Virginia county until 1792 when it became a state.

When Virginia's charter was issued, northern and southern boundaries, with other colonies, were fixed by royal charters to Pennsylvania, Delaware, and North Carolina. Virginia's charter differed from its neighbors by being open ended as to its western boundary. This statement from the royal charter "granted the colony of Virginia, all the land between its northern and southern boundaries from sea to sea." In Hawke's words, "The Virginia Colony was the most active of all the Crown Colonies in its exploration and claiming of the Western lands beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains."

The West Indies, in 1778, was considered economically to be the most valuable area in the world and it would appear that St. Lucia was a pearl that had changed hands many times. Two fleets, which had sailed from New York and Boston, followed parallel tracks toward St. Lucia. One day apart, they never sighted each other. It was fortunate for the British, as the full fleet of French warships under d'Estaing would have sunk or captured the smaller British fleet composed mainly of transports. As fate would have it, d'Estaing arrived off St. Lucia still one day behind the British fleet commanded by Commodore Holtham. D'Estaing found Holtham safely in port, and supported by shore batteries, making it difficult to attack. D'Estaing made two unsuccessful attempts against St. Lucia, and then put his marines ashore, but they were unsuccessful against the reinforced and larger British ground forces.

D'Estaing, while unsuccessful against St. Lucia and ineffectual in the siege of Newport, was successful in capturing St. Vincent and Grenada for Louis XVI. Comte d'Estaing would appear once more in North America to attack the British in Savannah. Despite his poor showing in North America, d'Estaing had a flourishing naval career. During the French Revolution, he was named Commandant of the National Guard. He defended Marie Antoinette and paid for it with a visit to Madame Guillotine.

On December 10, the Continental Congress chose a member, New York attorney John Jay, to become its President. On December 14, the Continental Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin as a Diplomatic Representative in France, a position in which he excelled beyond all expectations.

While there was no combat of substance in the East, it was not true on the frontier and mountains beyond. Warfare there was less formal and on an immensely smaller scale, but it made up for its smaller scale by the ferocity and viciousness of British directed attacks on towns, farms, and any other form of American inhabitants of the area. In the East, warfare was basically against armed antagonists. In the west, no one, man, woman or child, was spared torture and death.

The French had used the fort and settlement of Detroit as their primary base from which they dealt with and supplied the Indians with the necessities of war. Great Britain, after their victory in the French and Indian War, assumed the same relationship. Britain believed that control of Detroit was the key to control of the entire region beyond the mountains. The same opinion was held by the Continental Congress and military leaders, but all of their efforts were required on the seaboard.



Charles Hector, Comte d'Estaing

24 November 1729 – 28 April 1794

The American Revolution – Month By Month - November 1778

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

(continued from page 3)

Col. Henry Hamilton was in overall command of the lands claimed by Britain south of Canada and all territory from the mountains to the lands claimed by Spain in the West. Harrison, disturbed by Rogers' phenomenal control over most of that territory, marched his Redcoats, some French militia, and a band of Indians from Detroit to Vincennes in bitterly cold weather. Arriving at Vincennes he found it defended only by a small cadre of Americans. The French militia and residents within the fort refused to fight. Resistance by the small American cadre was hopeless! Vincennes was retaken without a shot being fired. The inhabitants and French militia immediately swore allegiance to King George III.

Parliament, with the problems now associated with a world-wide war, and with the backing of many common people, was opposed to continuing the American Campaign. The King's ministers needed a success in regaining control of at least some of the American Colonies. They took the advice of exiles who exaggerated the number of Loyalists in the southern colonies who were ready to fight for the King. The King's ministers, looking for a quick success, began the campaign to subdue the Southern Colonies by the capture of Savannah, Georgia, from American General Robert Howe. London calculated that sending a small contingent of British troops to Georgia would rally support from Loyalists who were supposed to be predominant in the population. The ministers planned to obtain a cheap and quick victory by arming the Loyalists, who under British officers, would defeat the Rebels.

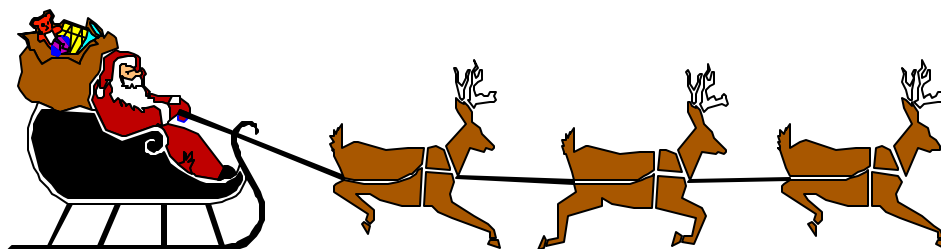
On December 23rd, Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell, with his 3,000 men, arrived at Tybee Island at the mouth of the Savannah River, 15 miles below the city of Savannah, where he was joined by 500 Tories. The American army of 700 Continentals and 150 militia, under General Robert Howe, marched 30 miles to defend Savannah, Campbell's obvious objective. The Americans believed that they had closed off the only way to Savannah. Unfortunately, British and Tory units were guided by an aged Negro on a little known path through the swamps and behind the American lines. Attacked front and rear, the American force was routed with 83 killed in battle or drowned in the swamps, and 453 were taken prisoner along with the army's entire stores of cannon, powder and supplies. The 165 men who survived the battle, and retreated through the swamps, were marched to join the Continentals in South Carolina. Savannah fell to British forces on December 29th.

The loss of Savannah caused the state government to move to Augusta, Georgia, slightly north and west and approximately 120 miles as the crow flies from Savannah. The town was available from the sea as it was "at the head of navigation on the Savannah River" at a location along the common border with South Carolina.

December was a good month for the King's ministers, who wanted to impress Parliament with success in fighting the Revolutionaries. With the help of Indians and Loyalists, Britain had reclaimed Vincennes and captured Savannah, which in essence meant that they were now in control of most of the Georgia Colony, using a minimum of British forces.

References: David F. Hawke's, *Those Shining Mountains*; *Encyclopaedia Britannica*; Higginbotham's, *The War*

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Happy New Year



Photos from the November 25, 2008, Meeting.



President Tom Douglas



Gene Bell holds the Culpeper Flag



Brian Sonner and Mel Roush



Marilyn Chilton



Joy and John Krahn



Minutes of the meeting held on November 25, 2008.

By Brian Sonner's

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 previous meeting were approved.

2. Reports:

a. Treasurer's Report: There is \$1418.14 in the Checking Account as of 11/24/2008 and \$500.68 in the Savings Account. A substantial amount of the checking account balance will be forwarded to the state and national society for dues.

b. Registrar's Report: Nothing to report.

c. Historian's Report: Nothing to report.

d. Newsletter: Tom Chilton indicated that any member may submit an article for the newsletter on subjects of interest to the Chapter.

3. Old Business:

a. The last of the nametags were handed out.

b. All dues have been received except for one member.

c. Gene Bell received his National Certificate (#172319).

4. New Business:

a. There was a report on the November Managers Meeting

1. There were revisions to the State Bylaws related to the role of the Registrar: He will review applications for genealogical acceptance and will forward any which are in question to the State Genealogist for review prior to transmitting them to National.

2. The State Society will not charge any dues for Youth Members. The Chapter decided by vote not to charge dues for Youth Members.

3. President Douglas discussed the Wreaths Across America program and encouraged members to attend the ceremony at Dixon on December 13th.

4. President Douglas provided information concerning those individuals the State Society suggested should be endorsed for National Society offices. After discussion it was agreed that President Douglas should forward a letter endorsing Judge Edward F. Butler Sr. for President General, Larry Magerkurth for Treasurer General, and J. David Sympton for Secretary General.

b. The following individuals are new members of the Mother Lode Chapter

1. Roy Tougaw 11/13/08

2. Jeff Douglas 11/14/08

3. Scott Douglas 11/14/08

c. The December meeting will be Wednesday, 17 December, at the regular time and location to eliminate conflicts with the Christmas Holidays.

5. Flag Presentation: Tom Chilton presented two flags for review by members

a. Culpeper Minute Men Flag

b. The Bucks of America Flag. This represented the Black Revolutionary Patriots.

6. Election of Officers for the next year was held. After a review of all positions and candidates the following individuals were elected for next year:

President: Tom Douglas

Executive Vice President: Tom Adams

2nd Vice President: Jim Young

Secretary: Brian Sonner

Treasurer: Tom Douglas

Registrar: Jim Young

Chaplain: Gene Myers

Historian: Mel Roush

7. After discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Committee should meet and develop a budget for presentation to the chapter for approval. Further, two members should be assigned to audit the Chapter's funds.

8. After the Benediction, SAR Recessional, and singing God Bless America, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian C Sonner, Secretary





The **Wreaths Across America** story began over 15 years ago when Worcester Wreath Company (a for-profit commercial business from Harrington, Maine) began a tradition of placing wreaths on the headstones of our Nation's fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery during the holidays. Over that period of time, Worcester Wreath has donated 90,000 wreaths, which were placed by volunteers in a wreath-laying ceremony each December. But as word spread, the mission to *Remember; Honor; and Teach* about the sacrifices made by our veterans has captured the hearts and minds of many communities across the Country. In December 2007, 286 participating locations hosted Wreaths Across America ceremonies overseeing the placement of 32,553 wreaths on the headstones of those who served and sacrificed for our freedoms.

This year, the Sacramento Chapter's Color Guard will again participate in the wreath laying ceremony to be held at the Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery in Dixon, CA, on Saturday, December 13, 2008. The ceremony starts promptly at 12:00 noon, Eastern Standard Time, (9:00 Pacific Standard Time). We invite you to join in this 2008 wreath laying ceremony. It only takes about an hour, and is well worth your time. Do wear warm clothing if you plan to attend. For more information, visit <http://www.wreaths-across-america.org/index.html>.

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Editor-Tom Chilton
916-933-6576
email: tchilton@telis.org



Brian C. Sonner
2700 Sleepy Hollow Court
Placerville, CA 95667-4222
**TO THE POSTMASTER
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

The Mother Lode Chapter
Sons Of The American
Revolution

