



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

February 2008

Volume 2, Issue 2

Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



Program - February 26, 2008

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Ted Robinson was born in Seattle, WA, and spent his childhood in Flushing, NY. After graduating from Duke University, he joined the U.S. Navy at the beginning of WW II. He volunteered to assist in the rescue of John F. Kennedy, and later served as Captain of a LST landing craft at the battles of Saipan and Okinawa.

After retiring from the Navy, Ted worked for the Pacific Bell Telephone for 36 years where he was head of Planning Engineering for Northern California, Regional Supervisor of Public Relations, and Director of the Pacific Telephone Executive Speakers Bureau.

He is a Commissioner on the Sacramento Parks and Recreation Commission, and belongs to numerous organizations, including the Navy League, Military Officers Association, Kiwanis International, the Sierra Arden United Church of Christ, and is an honorary member of the Annapolis Alumni Association. He joined the Sacramento Chapter Sons of the American Revolution in 1998.

Ted has been married to the former Carolyn Bryer for over 61 years. They have three adult daughters. Lynne is a member of the Sacramento Chapter DAR. Ted and Lynne Robinson were declared a "Community Treasure" in a proclamation read by Ira Collins, Sacramento County Supervisor, at a tribute to the Robinsons held on August 24, 2002. Other organizations that they support, or have supported, include Easter Seals, Friends of Mather Park Association, Sacramento Symphony, and the Sacramento Tree Foundation.

The title of Ted's presentation is "JFK as a Young Naval Officer - What He Was Like as my tent mate"



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

President's Corner by Tom Douglas

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

Tom Douglas

Americanism Poster Contest

Fellow Compatriots.

I am eagerly and anxiously awaiting our Charter Ceremony and Banquet on March 8th at the Cold Springs Golf & Country Club. The reservations are just starting to come in, mostly from local members. I expect more to come as the date nears. If you want to help your President sleep a little better at night, you might consider sending in your reservations earlier rather than later. The hall has been reserved, the menu set, and plenty of fliers either emailed or snail mailed to Compatriots and friends all over the state. The Mother Lode Chapter is the first new chapter to be chartered in California since 2000. I am truly looking forward to this "historic event".



At our next meeting on February 26th, we will have a very special speaker. LCDR Theodore M. Robinson, USNR-Retired has agreed to speak at our meeting. "Ted" has a number of talks he gives including an eye witness account of JFK and PT-109, and other eye witness accounts of individual courage, plus many personal accounts of a very interesting life. At our meeting his talk will be "JFK as a Young Naval Officer-What He was Like as My Tent Mate." Ted has spoken all over the state to many organizations including Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, SAR, Kiwanis, high schools, radio and TV, Scouts, Lions, Siroptomists, SIRS, and DAR. According to Ted "the only ones who won't listen to me are my kids!".

Come and enjoy friendship, fellowship, food, and a great speaker.

Tom

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.

Mother Lode Chapter

California Society, Sons of the American Revolution

CHARTER CEREMONY & BANQUET

Saturday, March 8, 2008, 7:00 to 9:00pm
 No Host Bar 6:00 to 7:00pm

AT THE

Cold Springs Golf & Country Club
 6500 Clubhouse Drive, Placerville, CA 95667-9350

Overnight guests may reserve their room at the Best Western Placerville Inn, 6850 Greenleaf Drive in Placerville, telephone (530) 622-9100. A Special Room Rate of \$99 plus tax per night applies; single or double occupancy available through February 25, 2008. Free Parking. Suites are available at additional cost. If you are making hotel reservations be sure to mention that you are with the California Society, Sons of the American Revolution. The Best Western Placerville Inn is 5 1/2 miles from the Cold Springs Golf & Country Club.

Banquet Reservations are \$35.00 per person prior to February 25, 2008, or \$40.00 per person after February 25th. All checks should be made payable to Mother Lode Chapter, SAR

Complete & mail this reservation form to: President Tom Douglas, PO Box 475, Shingle Springs, CA 95682-0475
 Questions? Call (530) 677-3905 or E-mail: tommyd@directcon.net

Name:	_____	Guest:	_____
Chapter:	_____	Title:	_____
Address:	_____	Telephone:	_____
	_____	Email:	_____

Your Reservation includes your choice of one of the following meal selections for you and your guest

- Carved Roasted Prime Rib of Beef • Fresh Atlantic Salmon with Dill Sauce • Breast of Chicken Dijon • Vegetarian Meal •
- Tax and Gratuity included*

Please mark your meal selection below

Number of Roasted Prime Rib of Beef	_____
Number of Fresh Atlantic Salmon with Dill Sauce	_____
Number of Breast of Chicken Dijon	_____
Number of Vegetarian Meals	_____

Discover California's Mother Lode and Extend Your Stay!

Check this box if you would like to receive additional information about the local area.

The American Revolution – Month By Month - February 1778

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

February was a month of great achievement on the diplomatic front. On February 6, Benjamin Franklin, America's primary diplomat, was able to effect an agreement with King Louis XVI of France to recognize the United States as a free nation, to furnish aid to America, and to begin active warfare with the British. Both sides agreed to refuse to make a separate peace with England. The news of this event was immediately known in Paris and London, but it took a long time for that information to travel across the Atlantic Ocean. A normal peacetime crossing of the Atlantic was a six-week voyage, but now at war, it took longer as American ships must elude the Royal Navy.

Ward notes that in the sense of a war that was fought all around the globe, that this was the beginning of the Second World War, with fighting occurring between the belligerents in India, the Mediterranean, the West Indies, as well as in North America. The First World War would have been the Seven Years War in which Britain was the victor, taking colonies all over the world from France, Spain, and the Netherlands, all of whom would eventually enter this Second World War against Great Britain.

The philosophy behind sending the Continental Army to Valley Forge had been to protect Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Due to the lack of almost everything to support the army in Valley Forge, it had become an army in name only. The burden of protecting the countryside was actually in the hands of local militias.

Howe, wintering in Philadelphia, was not totally inactive. Irritated by the success of foragers such as McLane and "Mad" Anthony Wayne, and unsuccessful at trapping either of the Continentals, he sent out troops to ambush or trap local militias, who had also become a thorn in his side. Lt. Col Simcoe and his Queen's Own Huzzars [Hussars], a crack unit with great esprit, was particularly active in this work. The unit had been raised primarily from Tories in New York and Connecticut for use as scouts and flying light infantry by Col. Robert Rogers, who had been of great service to the King in the French and Indian War as the leader of "Roger's Rangers". Colonel Rogers had offered his services to Congress early in the war, but those services were declined by Washington, who felt that Rogers had been too close to the British and might be a spy.

Simcoe was a man who enjoyed his work and who went about it in a particularly vicious manner. On numerous occasions, militiamen who offered to surrender were bayoneted. On one occasion, a force of 200 militiamen were trapped near the town of Salem, NJ, by a British force under Col. Mawhood who turned the Queen's own upon the trapped men. Many of the militiamen were shot outright, others cut down by the Hussars, while more men were driven into a creek and drowned. There are no records of the militia's losses in that slaughter, but the actions of the Hussars against the 200 was called a massacre, and aroused strong feelings against Tories in New Jersey.

More will be heard from Lt Col Simcoe, but now to return to Valley Forge and its problems. The winter of 1777-1778 was not unusually harsh. The problems at Valley Forge stemmed from the inadequacy of housing, supply, and the inability to maintain sanitary conditions, due primarily to crowding of 11,000 men in such close proximity. Tragic though the winter may have been, it was the crucible from which a stronger, tougher army emerged.

Washington's desire for enlistments for the duration was paying off in the sense of comradeship among men who had signed on for the duration and who, as Washington said, had become a "Band of Brothers" who would outlast all the hardships and years of war to emerge victorious.

By mid-February the worst was over. The cabins that had been drafty, and the chimneys that didn't draw, had been remedied. Supplies and rations had been increased by the diligence of General Nathaniel Greene as Quartermaster, and General Jeremiah Wadsworth as Commissary General. They personally visited every government warehouse and sent every piece of clothing, every pair of boots, all blankets and food they could find, back to Valley Forge. This added greatly to the health and eased the daily life of the soldier. This resulted in less sickness and the beginning of a return to good health and strength, which was fortunate, for at the end of the month Friedrich von Steuben would arrive to put them constructively to work. He would train the men to be a professional army that would not fail to stand its ground, even in the face of the dreaded cold steel of the bayonet, which was so much enjoyed as the weapon of choice by the soldiers of the British army.

The American Revolution – Month By Month - February 1778

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

The Conway Cabal, which had plagued Washington for months, also came to a head during the month of February. The whole affair arose from the jealousy and ambition of military officers, but primarily from foreign-born officers who had served in professional European armies. Each expected that as an experienced professional soldier that he, or at least one of them, should be the Commander-in-Chief, not some planter from Virginia, who was in their minds an amateur soldier!!

Thomas Conway was of Irish French extraction, and had served in wars with Frederick the Great. Obviously, he was not acquainted with the strength of the Continental Army as he asked Congress for command of at least 40,000 men. This request came at a time when the total complement of the entire Continental Army included, at most, 15,000 regulars.

Congress made Conway a General. Washington protested the appointment, but Congress, in its wisdom, foisted Conway upon him anyway. Another plotter was Richard Henry Lee, not to be confused with the American born Henry "Lighthouse Harry" Lee of the Continental Army, or Arthur Lee, the diplomat. (Any relationship between any of the Lee's in the Revolution appears to be nonexistent or so distant as to be inconsequential.)

Another player in this scenario was William Mifflin, a plotter with Conway. The Englishman Gates was also involved. Gates had a burning desire to lead the army, and after Saratoga, he became the logical choice of the Cabal to replace Washington. Word of their machinations leaked out creating great unrest in both the militias and the army. Even officers in the Continental Army, who previously had been critical of Washington, immediately came to his defense.

Cadwalader, always staunchly loyal to Washington, was so furious that he challenged Conway to a duel in which Conway was wounded in the neck and the mouth. Conway was disgraced when the whole affair became public. The plotters were all exposed and subjected to criticism. After the duel with Conway, Mifflin was also challenged and had to do some fancy dancing to avoid an encounter with the irate General. Gates pretended innocence, pleading that he had not even known of the affair. Due to his recent victory at Saratoga, he escaped with little criticism. Finally, there was no one who admitted to any aspirations to the Office of Commander-in-Chief. From that day on, there were no challenges to Washington's leadership of the army.

References: Andrew Stough Jan/97, Encyclopedia Britannica, Flexner's, Washington, Ward's The War of the Revolution, and TV's Liberty.

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**Happy Birthday
President George Washington**

Thoughts from Washington's Farewell Address, 19 September 1796

Excerpts by Jim Faulkinbury

"... a solicitude for your welfare, which cannot end but with my life, and the apprehension of danger, natural to that solicitude, urge me, on an occasion like the present, to offer to your solemn contemplation, and to recommend to your frequent review, some sentiments which are the result of much reflection, of no inconsiderable observation, and which appear to me all-important to the permanency of your felicity as a people.

... The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so, for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad, of your safety, of your prosperity, of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee that, from different causes and from different quarters, much pain will be taken, many artifices employed to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed, it is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union to your collective and individual happiness ...

... The name of American, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together; the independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint counsels, and joint efforts of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.

... In contemplating the causes which may disturb our Union, it occurs as a matter of serious concern that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations, Northern and Southern, Atlantic and Western, whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart burnings which spring from these misrepresentations; they tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection.



Thoughts from Washington's Farewell Address, 19 September 1796

Excerpts by Jim Faulkinbury

(continued)

... Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true liberty. The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government. But the Constitution, which at any time exists till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and the right of the people to establish government presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established government.

... Towards the preservation of your government, and the permanency of your present happy state, it is requisite, not only that you steadily discountenance irregular oppositions to its acknowledged authority, but also that you resist with care the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretexts. One method of assault may be to effect, in the forms of the Constitution, alterations which will impair the energy of the system, and thus to undermine what cannot be directly overthrown. ...

... The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation on the ruins of public liberty.

... It is important, likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. ...

... Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked: Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us, with caution, indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

... Promote then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.

... Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all. Religion and morality enjoin this conduct...

... Harmony, liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand, neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences, consulting the natural course of things, diffusing and diversifying by gentle means the streams of commerce, but forcing nothing ...

George Washington's Legacy to the 21st Century

By Robert L. Goldsmith



Let us for a few minutes reflect on George Washington, the man who gave so much for his country. Without his leadership, it is doubtful our nation would be as it is today. Let us reflect on some of the events in the life of this great man whose place in history is so unique and important.

On February 22, 1732, almost 268 years ago, George Washington entered this world. He was born to a Virginia planter's family where he learned morals, manners, and the body of knowledge required of an 18th century Virginia gentleman. George was only a boy when his father died, but he grew up fast. When he was 14, against the wishes of his mother, he wanted to go to sea, but he soon found work and remained with his family.

In his early years, he pursued two intertwined interests, military arts and western expansion. At the age of 16, he helped survey Shenandoah lands. Washington never attended college, but was one of the most prolific readers and accomplished writers of all American Presidents. He had excellent handwriting, and as a boy he practiced copying "the rules of civility and decent behavior in company and conversation." The rules, which numbered 110, were his model for good behavior and

manners when he was growing up.

Commissioned as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1754, he fought the first skirmishes of what later became the French and Indian Wars. The next year, as an aide to General Edward Braddock, he escaped injury although four bullets ripped his coat and two horses were shot out from under him.

From 1759 to the outbreak of the American Revolution, Washington managed his lands around Mount Vernon and served in Virginia's House of Burgesses. Married to a widow, Martha Dandridge Custis, he devoted himself to a busy and happy life, but, like his fellow planters, Washington felt himself exploited by British merchants and hampered by British regulations. As the quarrel with the mother country grew acute, he moderately, but firmly, voiced his resistance to the restrictions.

When the second Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia in May 1775, Washington, a Virginia delegate, was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. In July, at Cambridge, Massachusetts, he took command of the poorly trained continental troops and embarked upon a war that was to last six grueling years. Finally, in 1781, with the aid of the French allies, he forced the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia.

Though Washington longed to retire to his beloved Mount Vernon, he soon realized that the nation under the Articles of Confederation was not functioning, so he became a prime mover in the steps leading to the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia in 1787. When the new Constitution was ratified, the Electoral College unanimously elected Washington as President in 1789. His presidency lasted for eight years, but his longed-for retirement at Mount Vernon lasted less than three years before he died in 1799.

The Order of Purple Heart for Military Merit, an American honor commonly called the Purple Heart, is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use, and it was established by order of General George Washington. It is the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. Surviving records show the honor was granted to only three men during the Revolution, all of them noncommissioned officers. Appropriately, a bust of Washington forms the center of the Purple Heart and Washington's coat-of-arms is at the decorations top.

Washington's life was the best example of unselfish leadership our nation has ever known. All of his qualities were founded on the basis of pure morality. By his example, he taught us that men of integrity and sound moral principles make the best leaders of armies.

In Washington's famous farewell address on his retirement from public life, he emphasized that the responsibility for America's destiny rests upon its citizens. He urged Americans to forge a nation of high principles and to cultivate peace and harmony with all.

Now more than ever American needs men like George Washington, men with patriotism, honesty, courage, and, most of all, character. Much more could be said about this great man and American to the 21st century. However, there could be no greater tribute than the words of Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee. In a resolution, which appropriately has been paid to Washington time and time again over the last 200 years, Lee said:

"To the memory of the Man: first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen".

Minutes of the meeting held on January 22, 2008.

by Brian Sonner, Acting Secretary

The Mother Lode Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution

1. The meeting was called to order by President Tom Douglas at 6:30 pm. After the Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and SAR Pledge, the subject of precinct workers was added to New Business.
2. Perspective member Tom Adams was welcomed. He has put together his application and will include applications for his two sons.
3. The minutes of the November 27, 2007 were approved.
4. Reports:
 - a. Treasurer's Report: The balance in the checking account is \$251.26.
The balance in the savings account is \$500.12.
 - b. Registrar's Report: Nothing to report.
 - c. School Presentation: President Tom Douglas made a poster presentation at Jackson Elementary School in El Dorado Hills. The presentation was supported by the attendance of members of the Sacramento Chapter and members of The Daughters of the American Revolution.
5. Unfinished Business:
 - a. Need for Chapter Secretary/Treasurer: No volunteers
 - b. Chartering Dinner Date and Place: The date selected is March 8, 2008 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. There were three potential locations discussed: Shingle Springs Elks Lodge, Cameron Park Country Club, and Cold Springs Country Club. After a discussion of the costs and catering possibilities, the Cold Springs Country Club was selected. The room rental will be \$100. The cost per meal for reservations made before February 25th would be \$35. After that date it will be \$40. There is a varied menu including a vegetarian option. The Placerville Best Western Inn will reserve a block of 10 rooms for attendees at a rate of \$99.00 plus tax. After some discussion, the Announcement/Reservations Document was approved. President Douglas will invite the Sacramento and Gold Country Chapters Color Guards to support the event. He will also phone and invite all SAR chapters within 100 miles of Placerville as well as the Sacramento and El Dorado Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution. For press coverage, Tom Chilton will contact the Village Life, and Around Here. Wayne Griswold will contact the Mountain Democrat. The members approved a \$175.00 deposit for the Cold Springs Country Club.
6. New Business:
 - a. Speaker Arrangements: President Douglas asked for support in obtaining speakers for future meetings.
 - b. Phone Tree: Lee Wolary said that he would spearhead the phone tree system.
 - c. Essay Contest Judge: John Krahn volunteered to be a judge for the Essay Contest. There will be about 10 essays to be judged between 20 February and 1 March.
 - d. Precinct Work: Manning voting precincts on election days require training and dedication of time but it is a way to generated money for the chapter. Other chapters have been successful in creating considerable income for the chapter by volunteering and having the income given to the chapter. There were no volunteers at this time. This is a project which we should readdress in sufficient time to allow members to plan for the training and voting day effort.
7. After the Benediction and SAR Recessional, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian C Sonner,
Acting Secretary

Bud Walker Awarded the Hero Medal

At 4 PM on December 3, 2007, Claude "Bud" Walker IV was traveling east on Highway 80 in Roseville when he witnessed a horrific accident. A truck had lost control, rolled over, and had burst into flames. Rushing to the flame-engulfed cab that was lying on its side, Walker pulled the driver out of the wreckage through the broken windshield, and dragged him more than 100 feet to safety. After dragging the driver to safety, he looked back and saw that the cab had completely melted down. His actions clearly saved the man's life. The driver of the truck was treated at Sutter Roseville Hospital, and later arrested by the CHP on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. After the rescue, Walker said he didn't give his actions a second thought. The CHP called Walker a hero for his daring rescue.

The Sacramento Chapter Sons of the American Revolution presented Claude "Bud" Walker IV the SAR Medal for Heroism on January 18, 2008.



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION
BY THE
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AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Editor-Tom Chilton
916-933-6576



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The Mother Lode Chapter
Sons Of The American
Revolution

