



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

February 2011

Volume 5 Issue 2

# Mother Lode Dispatch



## Calling All Compatriots



## February 2011 Program

Inside this issue:

- February Program** 1
- President's Corner** 2
- The Revolution - Month By Month - Feb. 1781** 3
- The Revolution - Month by Month - Feb. 1781 (cont.)** 4
- Poster presentation Photos** 5
- More poster presentation photos** 6
- Still more poster presentation photos** 7
- Commendation Medal recipients** 8
- Minutes** 9
- Calendar of events** 10

1 The Mother Lode Chapter, at the February meeting, will have the privilege to honor two of our local heroes.

2  
3 El Dorado County Deputy Sheriff William Turnbull and Placerville Police Department Detective Ricky Brown  
4 will be with us to receive the Sons of the American Revolution Law Enforcement Medal.

5 We hope to have a great turnout to show the recipients  
6 and their families how much we appreciate their efforts.  
7



8  
9  
10

See page 8 for additional information on our recipients



**Denny's Restaurant  
3446 Coach Lane  
Cameron Park, CA.  
6:30 PM**

## The President's Corner by Jim Young

### Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2010

**President**

Jim Young

**1st Vice President**

Bob Conover

**2nd Vice President**

Tom Adams

**Secretary**

Tom Douglas

**Treasurer**

Roy Tougaw

**Registrar**

Jim Young (acting)

**Chaplain**

Gene Myers

**Dispatch Editor**

Tom Douglas

**Historian**

Mel Roush

### Committee Chairmen

**Eagle Scout Program**

Tom Douglas

**ROTC Program**

Vacant

**Knight Essay Contest**

Tom Douglas

**Valley Forge Program**

Vacant

**Law Enforcement Program**

John Krahn

**Flag Certificate Program**

Vacant

**Americanism Poster Contest**

Tom Adams

Here we are; it's February. The birth month of the father of our country, General George Washington.

As always, the Sacramento Chapter has extended an invitation for all to attend their color guard presentation, Monday February 21st, at Mount Vernon Memorial Park located at 8201 Greenback Lane in Fair Oaks. It will start at 10:00 a.m. sharp. If you have not seen a Flintlock rifle fired, this is your chance.



The Mother Lode Chapter's first annual recognition of Law Enforcement Officer's will be Tuesday, February 22nd, 2011 at Denny's restaurant in Cameron Park at 6:30 P.M. We will be honoring Law Enforcement Officer's from our community. We hope to see all of you share in the festivities.

In Patriotic Service,

Jim Young

*Jim Young can be reached at 530-622-6389,  
or at: [jwyong1776@directcon.net](mailto:jwyong1776@directcon.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.**

# The American Revolution Month By Month - February, 1781

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

*(Editor's Note: Nathaniel Greene had been placed in command of all troops from Delaware to Georgia by George Washington. Brig. Gen. Isaac Huger of the South Carolina Continentals was appointed his second in command. Daniel Morgan commanded a light infantry corps.)*

In the Carolinas, the rivers generally run to the southeast. Such a mass of water creates many low lying swampy areas, but the terrain is heavily wooded. Bridges are rare and most river crossings are made at fords. In the winter months, the rivers, swollen with rain water, are often not fordable. Roads, for the most part mere tracks, become a quagmire of mud with wagons sinking up to their hubs. Frequent night marches were a nightmare of frozen ruts for American soldiers. Uniforms had become rags and shoes were almost non-existent. Empty bellies plagued everyone. Considering the conditions under which the Continental army lived and fought it is remarkable that they could even remain in the field to fight a war hardened, well equipped British army.

Following the forced march to escape the overwhelming force of Cornwallis' British troops, Morgan's men rested on the east side of the Catawba River. Greene learned that Cornwallis, intent on destroying the American army, was burning all but his essential equipment and supplies in preparation for a rapid move and decisive strike. Greene knew there was no time to be lost and considered Morgan's encampment on the Catawba River untenable. If Morgan's troops were forced to retreat into the mountains, Greene would probably lose his most experienced and dependable men. Such a loss, Greene knew, would jeopardize the entire Southern force.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, Morgan broke camp. Greene instructed Morgan to proceed northward toward the main army, assuming that Cornwallis would pursue him. He should move just fast enough to coax Cornwallis to follow; drawing the British ever farther away from their source of supply. Morgan, however, would be moving closer to his base of supply and expected reinforcements.

After giving orders to Gen. Huger to move all prisoners from Hillsborough and Salisbury to a safe place in Virginia, Greene prepared for a possible retreat by ordering Tadeusz Kościuszko, the Chief of Engineers for the Southern Department, to seize all boats on the Dan River. The North Carolina militia, under the command of Gen. William Davidson, remained to guard the four river crossings in the area.

Cornwallis had divided his force in an attempt to allow a flanking and encircling movement which had been successful against the Americans in the past. While a diversionary force marched toward Beattie's Ford, the largest of the four fords in the area. Cornwallis' real objective was Cowan's Ford, which lay about six miles downriver from Beattie's Ford.

At about one o'clock in the morning of February 2nd, led by a Tory guide named Frederick Hager, Cornwallis' troops began the crossing. Cowan's Ford was actually two separate fords. The deeper course, which was suitable for wagons, was the shorter of the two. The shallower alternative for horses was longer and not as direct. The two exits on the north side were about a quarter of a mile apart.

For some reason, Frederic Hager, the Tory guide, had disappeared before reaching the fork and the British attack was made from the horse crossing. Poor visibility and the sound of rushing water masked the British approach and the militia guards, caught by surprise, were slow to respond with gunfire. General Davidson, a quarter mile away at the wagon crossing, heard the firing and rushed to the scene with reinforcements only to find that the first redcoats were already across and driving back the militia. After ordering the militia to fall back in an orderly retreat, he was then fatally struck by a bullet. The militia broke and ran in panic.

Although the rout was a setback, Morgan and his troops (Cornwallis' real target) had left their camp the day before and marched through the day and night in heavy rain. By the time Cornwallis' troops were across the river in force, Morgan was safe some thirty miles away.

Greene had remained behind at Morgan's abandoned camp with a few men, intending to rendezvous with Davidson's militia and then move with them to join Morgan. He waited at the campsite until a messenger came bringing news that Cornwallis had successfully crossed the Catawba. He also learned of Davidson's death and the dispersal of the militia.

One source reports that the messenger then rode alone to Salisbury stopping at Steele's Tavern. When greeted and asked if he were alone he responded "Yes, alone, tired, hungry and without a penny." On his departure Mrs. Steele reportedly brought him two small bags of hard cash saying: "You need these more than I do." At that moment the two bags of coins probably represented the total finances of the Southern Army.

## The American Revolution – Month By Month - , February 1781

(continued)

On February 3rd, Morgan passed Salisbury only to find the Yadkin River impossible to ford. Fortunately, with Greene's foresight, Tadeusz Kościuszko had found boats to move men and supplies. The cavalymen were able to swim their horses across the river. When British general O'Hara arrived at the Yadkin he found the wagons which had been abandoned by Morgan but the boats were gone. He was effectively stopped on the south side of the river while Morgan's men had set up camp on the far shore. O'Hara opened fire on the American camp with field pieces but little damage was done since Morgan had set up camp behind a low hill which protected the men from cannon fire. The Americans were unable to return fire since they had no field pieces.

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, Greene arrived at Guilford Courthouse where he was joined by Huger's division. At this time, Cornwallis was about 25 miles away at Salem. Greene decided that if he received the expected reinforcements of Continentals from Virginia to add to the troops in place from Delaware and Maryland that he could make a decisive stand and confront the British at Guilford Courthouse. Unfortunately, the expected troops did not appear and Greene was left in a quandry: to continue the retreat could lead to depression on the part of his troops and could also encourage Tories to rise up for the king. The alternative, to stand and fight against the overwhelming odds, would be an invitation to final defeat for the underdog American forces..

Greene decided split his forces. On the evening of February 8<sup>th</sup>, Colonel Otho Williams of Maryland left to march toward Salem and the upper Dan River, destroying bridges and providing harassing cover fire to slow Cornwallis' troops. Williams moved at a rapid pace, sleeping only 6 hours a night to stay ahead of Cornwallis. Lee's Legion, under the command of Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, formed the rear guard for Williams' force.

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, Lee's men encountered Colonel John Pyle with a mounted contingent coming in the opposite direction. Pyle, a loyalist, was bringing fresh Tory troops to reinforce Cornwallis. He mistook Lee and his cavalry for Tarleton's Legion since Tarleton and Lee wore similar uniforms. As the two units passed each other, Lee congratulated Pyle's men on their loyalty. By this ruse, he hoped to challenge them when solidly abreast and requite them to surrender. As usual, someone at the end of the American file did not get word of the plan and gave the signal that this was enemy cavalry. An attack began with the confused loyalists shouting "You are killing your own men".

The engagement lasted only a quarter of an hour. Lee had planned at the proper time to reveal his true identity and demand Pyle's surrender, but the premature alarm precluded any further exchange of information. From then on it was kill or be killed. Loyalists, who tried to escape, were cut off by American militia and by Catawba Indians, unseen as they moved through the trees alongside the road. Colonel Pyle hid in a nearby pond until nightfall keeping only his nose above water. It was yet another telling blow to the morale and recruitment of Loyalists.

Lee's Legion clashed briefly with the advance guard of Banastre Tarleton's British Legion near the New Garden Meeting House. In the fight Tarleton lost 18 men and was put to flight. Cornwallis had also taken the same route and was close behind the advance guard. Williams, deciding that he had led Cornwallis far enough astray, broke away to join Greene and the main force.

Williams pushed on through the night arriving at the Dan River barely ahead of Cornwallis. Tadeusz Kościuszko, again, had boats waiting to ferry the men while the horses swam across the river. Cornwallis, without boats, was left on the south side with no way of crossing the Dan. Greene's entire army had escaped.

Safe in Virginia Greene went into camp to rest and restore his command but, his troubles were not over. Many of the militia were nearing the end of their enlistment and cantonment life was fraught with morale problems among the Continentals. Nathaniel Greene again called for the promised Virginia Continentals. In March, he received the promised reinforcements would move back into the Carolinas to face Cornwallis.

On the Atlantic Ocean, John Paul Jones had taken an indirect route on his return to the United States to avoid the British Navy. However, he did engage in one skirmish with the British privateer *Triumph*. Jones forced the *Triumph* to surrender but as he was putting a prize crew in the water *Triumph* suddenly set sail and, being faster and more maneuverable than *Ariel* she escaped. This incident would be Jones final engagement as an officer in the navy. He arrived at Philadelphia on February 18th

*References: Schlessinger's "Almanac of American History"; Wards "The War of the Revolution"; Lancaster's "The American Revolution"; Utley and Washburn's "Indian Wars"; Galloway's "The American Revolution in Indian Country." ; Higginbotham's "The War of American Independence"; Lancaster's "The American Revolution."*

**Not for sale or republication. The American Revolution, Month by Month series was written by Compatriot Andrew J. Stough, III, and is published solely for the benefit of the members of the Gold Country Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Permission to republish this series has been granted to the Mother Lode Chapter, SAR. The original text has been slightly edited by Compatriot Thomas Chilton.**



At the Mother Lode Chapters presentation on the Battle at Cowpens at Schenll School the group stood for a photo with members of the Children of the American Revolution and one of its leaders..

L-R Mother Lode Chapter President Jim Young, Mother Lode and CASSAR Director of Youth Activities, Tom Adams, Sacramento Chapter member and CASSAR Registrar, Tom Chilton, Wayne Griswold, Mother Lode Member and CASSAR President, Tom Douglas, role player and Mother Lode Secretary and Jeannette Barrett, CAR Leader. In the front row are CAR members Damian and Dariana Barrett.



A portion of Compatriot Wayne Griswold's collection of Revolutionary War artifacts



Compatriot Griswold shows a copy of the Dunlop Broadside

### Photos from the Mother Lode Chapters presentation of the Battle of Cowpens



Compatriot Tom Adams explains the rules of the poster contest to 5th grade students at Jackson Elementary School



Tom Douglas aka James Curry tells of the importance of the Battle at Cowpens



Mountain Man Tom tells his story of why he was willing to fight for the cause of freedom



Mountain Man Tom is adamant about fighting for the Revolution





Compatriot Tom Adams explains the rules of the Poster Contest



Compatriot Wayne Griswold shows some of his Revolutionary War Artifacts.

Compatriot Tom Chilton explains the borders of the thirteen colonies



Compatriot Tom Douglas talks about the Battle of Cowpens and how it affected the war in the Southern Colonies.

Detective **Ricky Brown** has been assigned to the investigations bureau for nearly four years. Due to staffing shortages and budget shortfalls, Detective Brown has been the lone investigator for this department for most of the four years of his assignment. He handles a case load that three detectives could keep busy with. He has successfully investigated homicides many sexual assaults and other serious felonies with minimal assistance from other personnel. He regularly is forced to work many extra hours to maintain his caseload and provides a high quality product for the community for which he serves. Despite his tremendous caseload, I personally have never heard him complain. His response is always, "Yes sir", with a positive attitude.

This community is very fortunate to have such a hard working, selfless and dedicated Detective working for them.

From Captain Mike Scott, Placerville Police Department

Deputy **William Turnbull** is always prepared and willing to assist where needed. In May 2010, while on his to work, Deputy Turnbull observed an oncoming vehicle fail to negotiate a curve in the roadway. The oncoming vehicle crossed the double yellow lines and struck a motorcycle in front of Turnbull's vehicle. As he was stopping to assist with the accident, the suspect vehicle fled the scene and in the process of leaving, struck Deputy Turnbull's personal vehicle. After quickly assessing the situation and ensuring the injured motorcyclist was being cared for, Turnbull proceeded to follow the suspect vehicle. Turnbull was able to provide information regarding the collision, injury, vehicle description and direction of travel. While following the suspect vehicle until on-duty units could arrive. The suspect pulled into a driveway, exited his vehicle and became confrontational with Turnbull. Turnbull was able to safely detain the suspect who was ultimately arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol causing injury as well as hit and run with injury. Turnbull was not only prepared with necessary equipment while off-duty, he remained cool, calm and in control of the situation, preventing additional injury or property damage. This is only one example that demonstrates the quality service Deputy Turnbull provides this agency and community.

From El Dorado County Sheriffs Office



The minutes for the January meeting will be available for approval in the March Dispatch.

Please forgive my forgetfulness.

Tom Douglas, Secretary



# Mother Lode Chapter's 2011 Calendar of Events

January 25– Regular Meeting/Brochure voting

February 4– First poster presentation

February 22-Regular meeting/Washington's Birthday  
Law Enforcement awards program

March 22– Regular meeting/Poster voting

April 4-8—136th CASSAR Spring Membership Meeting  
Irving, CA

April 26—Regular meeting

May 24– Regular meeting/ Youth Awards Program

June 28– Regular meeting

July– No Meeting/ Celebrate the 4th

August—No Meeting

September 27– Regular Meeting

October 25– Regular Meeting

November-Regular Meeting  
Board of Manager's Meeting

December 27– Regular Meeting  
Wreaths across America

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

Editor-Tom Douglas  
530-677-3905  
Email: [tommyd@cal.net](mailto:tommyd@cal.net)



The Mother Lode Chapter  
Sons Of The American  
Revolution

