



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

June 2009

Volume 3, Issue 6

Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots

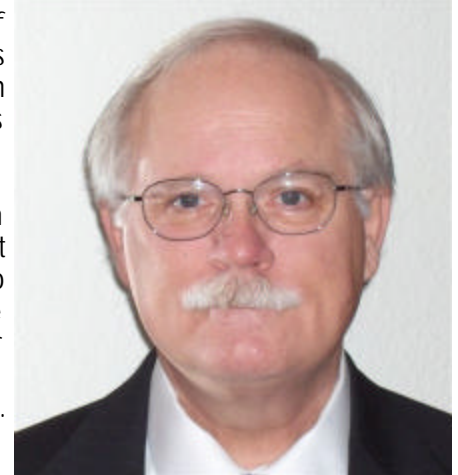


June 23, 2009 Meeting

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How many people do you know who will jump out of a perfectly good airplane? Next Tuesday's speaker is one of them. **Thomas Harris** was born in Washington State, but spent his youth in many places because his father was in the Air Force. Thomas joined the U.S. Army in 1965, attended basic training in Ft. Benning, GA, and went on to basic medical training in Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. Upon graduation, he learned that parachute pay was an additional \$50.00 a month, so he immediately returned to Ft. Benning and became jump certified. He received orders to the 101st Air Born Division in Viet Nam where he served as the medic for the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol. (LRRP). During his tour he was wounded once, and hospitalized three times with malaria.



Upon returning to the U.S., he transferred to the 82nd Air Born Division at Ft. Bragg, NC. After being there only a few months, his unit was sent overnight to Hue, Viet Nam, during the 1968 TET offensive. After being discharged from the U.S. Army in October, 1968, Thomas joined the U.S. Navy in February 1969, and was given orders to SEAL Team Two in Little Creek, VA, where he attended SEAL training. He was then sent to SEAL Team One in Coronado, CA, and later deployed to Viet Nam with Zulu Platoon of SEAL Team One for a six month tour. Thomas did not have malaria on this tour, but did manage to get shot three times. Of his platoon of 14 men, 10 were wounded, seven by gunshot and three by shrapnel. Fortunately, none were killed in action.

Thomas retired from the Navy in 1985. He has worked in Child and Adult Protective Services in Sacramento County, as a reserve Policeman in Waldport, Oregon, and as a reserve County Sheriff in Kings County, CA.

Thomas Harris is retired, and currently lives with his wife, Emily, in El Dorado Hills. The subject of Thomas' presentation is "The Physiological Effects of the Viet Nam War."



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

The next meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at 6:30 PM, at Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Park.



Presidents Corner by Tom Douglas

Fellow Compatriots and friends,

I thought the youth recognition meeting went extremely well. It was a pleasure to have not only the youth but the families as well. Thank you all for making them feel welcome.

I received a note from Mia, the poster contest winner, thanking us for all the honors she has received. She said she enjoyed participating in the competition and learning about Paul Revere during that period in history.

On Thursday, May 28th, Tom Adams and I had the pleasure of presenting the 5th grade students at Jackson Elementary School in El Dorado Hills the ribbons they won for the posters they entered in our poster contest. Katina Vail, Roisin Kenny, and Cameron Yee Cespedes all won ribbons for the posters they entered (see pictures). It was, again, a pleasure to see the excitement it brought to the classmates of the winners and they looks we got from those that won a ribbon.

I also received a note from the Family History Center thanking us for being a part of their symposium in March. We are making a difference in the community and in the schools.

Last year we did not meet in July or August. I know there will be a lot of folks away during the summer and expect to do the same this year. Also, last year we put out a summer edition of the Dispatch and plan for the same this year, with the editor's approval.

In Patriotic Service,
Tom

*Tom Douglas can be reached at 530-677-3905, or at
tommyd@directcon.net*

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Tom Douglas
 Americanism Poster Contest

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.

Photos from the Jackson Elementary School Americanism Poster Awards Presentation



Cameron Yee Cespedes receives ribbons for placing 1st in his class, and 3rd at Jackson Elementary



Jackson fifth grade teacher Jennifer Lang was awarded the SAR Certificate of Appreciation for her support of the Poster Contest.



Roisin Kenny receives ribbons for 1st in her class, 2nd at Jackson, and 3rd in the Chapter Contest.



Katina Vail won 1st place at Jackson School and 2nd place at the Chapter level. She received a \$25 check for school winner.



Jackson fifth grade teacher Susan Macaluso is awarded the SAR Certificate of Appreciation for her support of the Poster Contest.



Jackson fifth grade teacher Jennifer Hedman is awarded the SAR Certificate of Appreciation for her support of the Poster Contest.

The American Revolution – Month By Month - June 1779 by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

General Clinton felt that the Virginia expedition in May was a significant success. He had burned and pillaged the most productive towns of the colony, reducing its capability to financially aid the Congress, or to supply the Continental Army.

Previously Clinton had been reluctant to move troops against the Continental Army, but with the return of the victorious Virginia Expeditionary force, he was emboldened to mount an expedition using the Hudson River to attack forts along the way. The reduction of West Point, key to control of the Hudson, was his major objective. If he could break through the forts on the Hudson and West Point, he could secure the fertile Hudson valley all the way to Albany.

West Point sits high above the Hudson, jutting out in such a manner that its guns can fire down upon the river from three sides. It must be silenced to afford a water passage to Albany! If the forts including West Point could not be taken, it would deny Clinton the support of naval vessels for firepower and to transport troops and supplies. Without naval support, the expedition could not be supplied and the mission would be aborted. Previously all plans to split the colonies had presumed an expedition from Canada as well as from New York City. Clinton, in a single pronged attack, did not plan a major confrontation on land without naval support. If the forts could be silenced or taken, there would be relatively little opposition for the naval armada the rest of the way to Albany. If such a strategy succeeded, the southern colonies would be split from New England. Such a feat would not only be a victory militarily, but psychologically, and might be the key to defeating the insurrection..

On May 30, Clinton embarked 6,000 of his best troops and sailed up the Hudson in a large armada of ships. On June 1st, he landed ground forces on both sides of the river below West Point, capturing and manning an unfinished fort at Stony Point and the completed and manned Fort Lafayette on the opposite side of the river at Verplanck's Point. A strategic location, the two forts guarded a main ferry across the Hudson as well as denying use of the river. Control of the two forts was a significant advantage as it controlled the Hudson from New York City to Stony Point.

Washington reacted by placing a large force between West Point and the two forts. Clinton, who had started out so boldly, for some reason did not press his advantage in men and materiel by engaging Washington. Nor did he attack West Point and its lesser forts with naval bombardment. In addition, there was a massive iron chain supported by a log boom across the Hudson, which denied passage to ships of the British navy.

The forging and placement of the log chain across the Hudson was done under the direction of French engineer, Major Charles Pierre L'Enfant, who proved many times over the value of those foreign officers who came, not for personal advantage, but to bring knowledge, experience, and dedication to the American Army, and for the ideals of the American Revolution*

General Prevost had made a foray into South Carolina in late April and early May to lure American General Lincoln from his march on Augusta, Georgia. The ruse worked too well. Charleston was endangered, but rescued by the impending return of Lincoln's forces. Fearful of being caught between General Moultrie's militia and Lincoln's army, General Prevost fortified a position at Stono Ferry. On June 16, he withdrew most of his troops by boats to Savannah leaving behind a regiment of Hessians, a battalion of Scots, and a Tory regiment of 900 men. Lincoln, having returned, moved on June 20th to attack the British. Through a series of events, the Battle of Stono Ferry was led by General Moultrie with 1,200 militia against 900 British and Hessian regulars. The militia was no match for British regulars in open combat.

Casualties were 146 killed or wounded, and 155 missing Americans as opposed to 26 killed, and 103 missing for the British force. While no great victory was achieved, General Lincoln's foray yielded a great deal of valuables from the inhabitants, and a voluntary arrival of slaves, of whom 3,000 were taken with the army and later sold in the West Indies.

After what must have seemed like an eternity to John Paul Jones, the appearance in France of Major General Lafayette of the Continental Army was a turning point in the creation of Jones's naval squadron. Lafayette secured three ships from the French Navy, as well as obtaining the *Alliance*, an American built frigate equaling the *Richard* in fire power, from Congress. Several expeditions, using Jones naval force and a ground force under Lafayette, were proposed for a



Stony Point & Verplanck's Point - Ca 1780

The American Revolution – Month By Month - June 1779

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

(continued from page 4)

five ship squadron to harry English shipping, but primarily to mount an amphibious assault on Liverpool, England. Nothing came of the planned expeditions, but it gave Jones command of a fighting squadron - at least on paper it was a fighting squadron. Jones had been struggling for months to get a squadron assembled, and to make the *Richard* battle worthy. He had problems finding money, equipment, supplies, and seamen to man the ships. The seamen and several ship Captains were his most serious problem. He turned to any seaman that he could find, and 60 French volunteers picked up from the street turned out to be useless. Men from a regiment of Irish mercenaries employed by France volunteered to serve hoping to strike a blow at mighty England. For some reason they were not used, but English prisoners, who had been captured at sea, and American deserters looking for a way home, were employed with poor results.

On the 12th or 19th of June (sources vary) John Paul Jones finally sailed, leading his mixed squadron from L'Orient to convoy merchant ships to ports on the Bay of Biscay. For Jones, it became a shakedown cruise to check the sea worthiness of the ships and test the effectiveness of the squadron working together before challenging the British Home Fleet. Captain Jones encountered more problems from his crews and ships than from British intervention. On this short voyage, as individual British ships of war discovered the size of Jones squadron, they elected to run rather than fight against the apparent odds. To Jones' dismay, he discovered not only the weakness of his crew but also that *Bonhomme Richard* was too slow to force the British to fight, nor could the *Richard* maneuver well enough to engage a British ship of the line.

One big problem for Jones would be the incompetence or insubordination of the Captains of his supporting ships. Captain Landais, recently of the French Navy, was commissioned in the Continental Navy by Congress on the basis of his presentation of a recommendation by Silas Dean of the American Diplomatic Corps in France, and his own presentation of his experience and abilities to that body. Landais, frustrated by his lack of progress in the French Navy, had resigned his commission believing that he would be given a command in the Continental Navy commensurate with his opinion of himself. He was at first appeased by being placed in command of *Alliance*, an American built ship with equal firepower, but greater speed, than the *Richard*. Landais felt insulted by Congress for having made him a subordinate to a man younger than he, both in age and experience. On this voyage he refused to obey a signal from the flagship (*Richard*) to give way, causing the two ships to collide, resulting in minor damage to both ships. Landais would become more of a problem to Jones than the Royal Navy. When the squadron returned to L'Orient on July 1st, Jones not only had to make repairs to his ships, but found even bigger troubles waiting him with local authorities and creditors.

France, Spain, and the Netherlands composed the greater maritime nations of Europe's west coast, and had felt the greatest losses in Britain's climb to empire status. French diplomats were busy in all of the Courts of Europe, seeking allies to support them in the war with England. Spain, still smarting from the loss to Britain of Gibraltar, Florida, and other territories, seemed the most vulnerable to the entreaties of French diplomats. Using this sentiment of loss as an argument, French diplomats were able to convince Spain that the time was right and that it was in Spain's best interest to enter the war, and with French assistance, recover her lost territories. Spain entered into an alliance with France with the expectation that the two allies could wrest Gibraltar, Florida, and some other lesser territories from British rule. It would also relieve the pressure of British naval ships and privateers on the Spanish treasure fleet from the Americas, the main source of Spain's wealth.

Spain officially entered the war against Britain on June 16, 1779. While not formally committed to the Americans, Spain's entry in the war provided additional military action against Britain, creating a greater requirement for Britain's resources away from North America. All of which relieved the pressure on the Revolutionary government and its military forces, giving the new United States a stronger position in the war and in foreign affairs.

While no Americans were involved in the negotiations before Spain's entry into the war, John Jay was sent to Spain in the autumn of 1779 to attempt an alliance similar to the one between France and Spain. Unfortunately he was unable to affect any agreement to a direct alliance or assistance to the American Cause. He later joined Franklin and other American diplomats in France to forge the treaty of peace with Britain.

* "In 1782 only one in fourteen officers in the Corps [of Engineers] was an American."

References: Schlessinger's "Almanac of American History"; Ward's "The War of the American Revolution"; Higginbotham's "The War of American Independence"; Morrison's "John Paul Jones."

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A Patriot's Perspective

The Battle for Popular Opinion

By Michael G. Lucas

One of the ongoing debates is America's treatment of its prisoners in the Middle East. Unfortunately, there have been some isolated, yet widely publicized, mistakes at Abu Ghraib Prison that have hurt our image. Guantánamo and redefining torture such as water-boarding, in the opinion of some, is also hurting the image of our country, and is producing even more enemies. However, others argue that these are necessary tools against enemies unlike any we've ever seen; without all available resources against these enemies, Americans are placed at an unacceptable risk. I am confident that our nation will always find the delicate balance between human rights and protection of its citizens.

Just as today, the topic of prisoner treatment was debated during the Revolutionary War. The approach, which was ultimately adopted, was called the "Policy of Humanity" by John Adams, and it won over many Americans as well as its enemies. America's conduct of warfare and prisoner treatment contrasted markedly with the British/Hessian. Often the Hessians were under orders to take no prisoners at all, and the British treatment of American prisoners was horrific, shocking the American citizenry. In spite of these atrocities, America refused to lower itself to these levels and, as a result, amazed its enemies.

Strangely enough, a nation's military force becomes one of its ambassadors. General Washington wisely realized that the war was a contest for popular opinion; he issued instructions that prisoners were to be so treated that "when they returned to their homelands, they may open the Eyes of their Countrymen." Hessian prisoners could not comprehend their humane treatment. This policy had such an impact that about one-fourth of the surviving Hessian soldiers remained in America after the war. Additionally, many Hessians, who initially returned to Germany, later came back to America. (Some of the Hessians were rejected by their country and were not given the opportunity to return, but most who chose to stay in America did so voluntarily.)

For the most part, America has been able to win the battle for popular opinion of those living on our soil. Karl-Heinz Kamp, the security policy coordinator at Germany's prestigious Konrad Adenauer Research Center, feels this is one of the reasons that America has avoided a terrorist attack since 9/11, unlike Europe. Kamp stated, "America is still the land of opportunity to the whole world. The people moving there believe the American dream of social mobility. In Europe, we've historically treated our immigrants as hired help."

Certainly we have a strong message to convey to the world. To women, America can show opportunity. To the illiterate, America offers education. To the discriminated, America displays equality. To the impoverished, America demonstrates hope. To the oppressed, America exhibits liberty. To the discouraged, America manifests dreams.

Like our forefathers, we can be successful in the battle for popular opinion. I hope we can make greater progress in our effort to sell America to the world. Al Qaida is using tireless efforts and sophisticated tools to gain their new recruits. Terrorist groups like Hezbollah are gaining influence by meeting the physical needs of impoverished people. Today's war against terrorism will ultimately be more a battle of ideology rather than a battle of weaponry. Thomas Jefferson wrote President Madison, "It has a great effect on the opinion of our people and the world to have the moral right on our side." I am confident that America's morality and ethic of warfare will always contrast with its enemies. Just like our Statue of Liberty displays the symbol of freedom brightly in New York harbor, America's justice and humanity on and off the battlefield must shine brightly throughout the world. We can continue to sway our enemies today just as we have in the past.



Michael Lucas
Gold Country Chapter

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National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Proclamation

Memorial Day

May 25, 2009

The celebration of President Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday this year reminds us of why he chose to go to Gettysburg on November 19, 1863. The words in his Gettysburg Address that we might paraphrase for this Memorial event are as relevant today as they were 145 years ago.

It is fitting that we, the living, have come here to rededicate ourselves at this, and I quote, "final resting place for those here who gave their lives that [our] nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this."

The origins of Decoration Day, as this celebration was once known, are lost to history. A group of women in the South began decorating veteran's graves before the end of the Civil War. This day became official in May 1966 at Waterloo, New York by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

We Americans who are here today are the beneficiaries of that legacy, regardless of our own heritage and ethnic origins. It would be fitting of us to remember a loved one or perhaps an ancestor who made the sacrifice that brought honor and peace to our nation.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution continues its efforts to mark the graves of our Revolutionary War patriots, wherever their final resting place is located. The ceremony today represents one of over 350 locations across the nation where Americans have gathered together to honor our fallen heroes. We are proud to be a part of all Americans who have come here today to remember these patriotic men and women.

God bless America,

Col. David N. Appleby
President General (2008-2009)



President-General David Appleby

Photos at the Brook's Elementary School's School Guard Program



Mountain Man Tom (aka Tom Chilton) and Nancy Hart (aka Verona Mhoon) discuss whether or not they saw one of the girls with the British soldiers.



Captain Jim (aka Jim Faulkinbury) has just announced that he saw Mrs. Harry (aka the teacher) passing papers to the British Soldiers. "What shall we do with her?" The students shout "Hang Her!!"



Captain Jim describes the use of the musket. More British soldiers were killed with the bayonet than by a musket ball.



Nancy Hart describes what it was like for the children during the time of the Revolutionary War.



Mountain Man Tom shows the boys (British) how to line up for battle.



"We have a wounded soldier." Lucky for him, there were two good doctors available. For a while, it looked like they would have to cut off his arm, but good medicine saved the day!

Photos from the May 2009 Mother Lode Meeting



Mia Bonini wears the SAR Americanism Poster Medallion, awarded to her by President Tom Douglas for her winning poster.



The Bonini Family with President Tom Douglas. Front row, L-R: Matthew, Mia, and John, Jr. Rear: JoAnn and John Bonini, and Tom Douglas.



President Tom Douglas presents SarahAnn Potter with the Knight Essay Contest Medallion for her winning essay.



L-R: Jeff, Bridget and SarahAnn Potter, and President Tom Douglas.



President Tom Douglas presents Toni Schleslinger, who was representing her son, Matthew Schleslinger, with the Eagle Scout Award.



Mia Bonini's award winning Americanism Poster, "Paul Revere's Ride."

More Photos from the May 2009 Mother Lode Meeting



Roy Tougaw



President Tom Douglas



Vice President Tom Adams



Vice President and Registrar Jim Young



Gene and Mary Lou Bell
(It sure looks good to me!!)



Minutes of the meeting held on May 26, 2009.

By Brian Sonner

President Tom Douglas called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. Tom asked about cares and concerns for absent members, and said that John (Jack) Kloeckner had health problems. The Invocation was given by Gene Myers, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Gene Bell, and the SAR Pledge led by Tom Adams.

Introductions were made: Mia Bonini, the Chapter Poster Contest winner, was present with her parents, JoAnn and John, and her brothers, Matthew and John, Jr., SarahAnn Potter, the Chapter Knight Essay Contest winner, was present with her parents, Bridget and Jeff, and Toni Schlesinger, who was representing her son, Morgan, the Chapter Eagle Scout winner, was present. Morgan is attending SMU in Texas and was unable to attend the meeting. Sacramento Chapter DAR member, Marilyn Chilton, and Joy Krahn, and Mary Lou Bell were also recognized, as well as Associate Member and Newsletter Editor, Tom Chilton.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April meeting was made by Gene Bell, and seconded by John Krahn.

As Treasurer, Tom Douglas reported that there was \$1238 in the checking account, and \$500 in a savings account, but that the cost of ribbons and awards had not yet been deducted, so that would reduce the balance.

There were no reports from Registrar Jim Young, Historian Mel Roush, or Secretary Brian Sonner, who was not present. Newsletter Editor, Tom Chilton, said that he would be happy to accept and print any article about the Revolutionary War from members. There is a new article in the newsletter written by Mike Lucas from the Gold Country Chapter.

Tom Chilton then discussed the flag history of the Revolutionary War for the guests who were present. The Sacramento Chapter CASSAR has 28 Revolutionary War flags of the approximate 100 that were used at that time. He brought and described two of them: the Bunker Hill, and the Bedford.

President Tom Douglas then presented the Chapter awards to three youth who participated in the Chapter contests. Mia Bonini was presented with an award in her classroom, but President Douglas gave her an additional medal, a check for \$50 for being the Chapter winner, and a check for \$50 for being the third place winner at the state level. Morgan Schlesinger, the Eagle Scout winner, was represented by his mother, Mrs. Toni Schlesinger, who received his certificate and a \$50 check. She read his award-winning essay.

SarahAnn Potter, the Knight Essay Contest winner, received a certificate and a check for \$50, and she read her excellent award-winning essay.

Following dinner and many photographs, the Benediction was given by Gene Myers, "God Bless America" was sung, and the SAR Recessional was recited. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

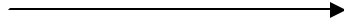
Marilyn Chilton, Acting Secretary



Sacramento - Gold Country Color Guards at National Cemetery



Sacramento Chapter President Jeff Goodwin reads President-General David Appleby's Proclamation.



Members of the Sacramento and Gold Country Chapter's Color Guards joined together to escort and present a wreath at a Memorial Day program held at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon on Monday, May 25, 2009. Approximately 1000 people attended the program. Sacramento Chapter President Jeff Goodwin read a proclamation by NSSAR President-General David Applebee. This proclamation was to be read at all the National Cemeteries. (See proclamation on page 7.)

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BY THE
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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

