



# Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



## Program - March 25, 2008

### Inside this issue:

Program	1
President's Corner	2
A message from VP North Wayne Griswold	3
The Revolution - Month by Month	4
The Revolution - Month by Month (continued)	5
Military Service Medal	6
Photos from the Chartering Ceremony	7 8
Minutes from the meeting held on February 26th.	9
The Boston Massacre	10

**Officer Sean Ricci** was born in Boston, MA, and spent most of his youth in the Los Angeles area. After graduating from High School, and attending the local college in the San Fernando Valley, he joined the United States Air Force, where he served for four years. He later joined the US Army, serving for six years.

Sean joined the California Highway Patrol in 1990, and has been stationed in Los Angeles, Riverside, Sacramento, Amador, and South Sacramento. He is currently assigned to the Placerville office, where he is Public Affairs Officer.

Sean has been married to his wife, Patty, for almost 25 years. They have three children, ages seven to nineteen. His hobbies include hot rods, motorcycles, building models, and coaching his children in various sports, including Little League.

Sean's presentation will be informal, answering any and all questions that we may have about traffic laws, and discussing general traffic safety.



Officer Sean Ricci helps the Cub Scout load toys that were collected at the Placerville CHP Office as part of the CHiPs for Kids Program.



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

**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

Fellow Compatriots,

I hope you had as good a time as I did at the Chartering Dinner last Saturday night. It was great to have California Society Officers there as well as Sacramento and Gold Country Officers. The combined Color Guard was as good as it gets as far as I am concerned. They put together a great presentation in a very short time. The talks by Jim Faulkinbury and Wayne Griswold were pertinent to the time and occasion. The Membership Certificate and Rosette for John Krahn was another fine moment. I would be remiss in my duties if I did not mention the attendance and support of the ladies of the DAR and California Society Ladies Auxiliary. I appreciate all of the members and prospective members of The Mother Lode Chapter

and their wives for giving the evening their full support. The signing ceremony could not have gone any better, but I am glad it is now in the history books.

We had a great speaker at our last meeting. LCDR Ted Robinson spoke about some of the times he spent with John F. Kennedy while they were recuperating together. I hope to have Ted back soon to give us his "hour-long talk" as he mentioned a number of times. *[Ted Robinson is a member of the Sacramento Chapter.]*

At the meeting to be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, our speaker will be Officer Sean Ricci, the Public Information Officer for the Placerville Office of the California Highway Patrol. Officer Ricci has been at the Placerville Office for six years. Sean's presentation will be informal, answering any and all questions that we may have about traffic laws, and discussing general traffic safety.

I will not be with you on the 25<sup>th</sup> as I am taking my wife on a cruise to the Sea of Cortez for her birthday. Jim Young, your Registrar, will be the Presiding Officer. Have a good meeting, and I will see you in April.

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.

## A Message from Wayne Griswold, CASSAR VP North

I am writing to you from Louisville, KY on Saturday, February 23, 2008. Today is a truly historic day for the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Following considerable debate, the National Society's Trustees passed three motions presented by the National Executive Committee concerning an initiative to move our National Headquarters to the West Main Street area of downtown Louisville, KY. The following motions passed by a ¾ majority:

1. Exercise the Purchase Option on the Fulton Conway Building.
2. Defer the start of the build out until sufficient funds have been raised, including tax credits to fund it.
3. When the build out is complete, sell our current property and place the proceeds into an endowment for outreach education and operation of the new building.

The National Executive Committee will report its continued progress to the Trustees and SAR Membership at the 118th Congress in Sacramento this July 5 to 9, 2008. There you will see detailed reports and designs as well as more refined cost projections. Critical to the success of this project is member support, and I am hopeful all of you will realize the benefits of moving our National Headquarters to this historic, downtown location. The Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory is directly across the street, and the Frazier Historic Arms Museum is only three doors down. A \$380 million Museum Plaza project is underway and its location is approximately three blocks from what will become our National Headquarters. This 61-story Museum Plaza project will contain a contemporary art museum, restaurants and retail stores, 85 luxury condominiums, 150 lofts, a 300-room hotel, office space, and a 1,100-car underground parking garage. Its architecture will add a contemporary landmark to the downtown Louisville area when it is completed in 2010.

Louisville is the 16th largest city in the United States and is home to the 2nd most iron front buildings in the country. The Kentucky Horse Park, which is located in nearby Lexington, claims 75% of the entire U.S. population lives within a day's drive of their facility. This means that three-quarters of the U.S. population will also be within easy driving distance from our new headquarters. Numerous other attractions abound, including the Louisville Science Museum and the Mohammed Ali Center.



## New NSSAR Headquarters - The Fulton Conway Building located in the



**One architectural rendering of the Fulton Conway Building opening its doors as "The Center for Advancing America's Heritage." The Fulton Conway Building is the center building. (For more information, visit the SAR website at [www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org).)**

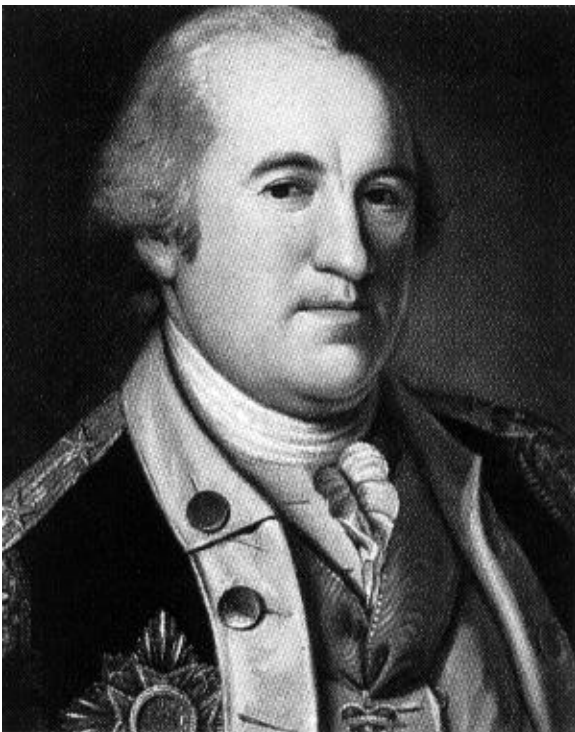
# The American Revolution – Month By Month - March 1778

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

By March there was a new enthusiasm as the weather moderated and signs of spring began to appear. The crisis had passed; more supplies and new enlistees were coming to Valley Forge. In previous years it would have been time to build a new army around the few veterans remaining. This year it was only necessary to further train the old soldiers and incorporate the new recruits.

France, as well as Washington, believed that until the Americans could openly and decisively defeat a major British army on the open field, that total victory could not be assured and that independence could not be obtained from Britain.

In 1777, Count St. Germain, French Minister of War, persuaded a professional soldier, Count Von Steuben, to come to America to help Washington build an army which could stand up to the British army in open combat. He volunteered to serve the American army, asking only to be accepted on his own experience and merit to improve the quality of the army. He was approved and recommended to Congress by Benjamin Franklin as an excellent teacher of Prussian military tactics, an outstanding recommendation as Prussia was noted for its military excellence.



**Friedrich Von Steuben**

Washington had just seen the end of the Conway Cabal and was leery of any new appointments for foreign officers, but Von Steuben was unique and his credentials were impressive. He was born into a family of lesser Prussian nobility, which for years had produced soldiers of merit. He led a soldier's life from his 14th birthday becoming an aide-de-camp to King Frederick throughout the Seven Years War; for the next ten years he was Chamberlain for the Prince of Hohenzollern-Hechingen.

By the first of March he had begun to train the Continental Army. A tireless taskmaster, he personally drilled the men, even in the snow. Previously officers had not concerned themselves with drill or training; that was a duty for sergeants. Von Steuben insisted that officers train and drill their men so that everyone could understand and obey commands. He trained small units first, and then the small units trained larger units until the day came when the entire army moved as one. In European armies when an order was given it was obeyed without question. Von Steuben found that Americans had to be told why an order or maneuver was necessary, then they responded cheerfully. Under his tutelage the soldiers learned to understand military commands and to execute complicated battle maneuvers. The result was a more orderly,

better-disciplined army that was prepared to meet the enemy on his own terms, not only to withstand, but also to win a battle against the charge of British professionals using the cold steel of bayonets on an open field

Washington was delighted with Von Steuben and his results. Not only did he teach the army to drill and fight in the European manner, but he wrote the first set of military regulations to govern the actions of the army. The soldiers liked the "Old German" both for his results and his antics. He was ecstatic when the troops responded properly, flew into tirades when they failed, but was loved by all for his gruffness that masked a great affection and concern for the men. At first they resented the foreigner who needed an American to translate his French into instructions they could understand. In time the soldiers realized the improvement he had made in their ability as soldiers. The drills in the snow were forgotten, and the men now looked forward to the mass drills and parades, each unit trying to out-do the other. It was the beginning of an esprit-de-corps not to be exceeded by any European army, and the men felt that they owed it all to the "Old Dutchman."

It was just the beginning of Von Steuben's devoted service to the United States of America. After Gate's defeat at Camden in 1780, he was placed in command of the District of Virginia with the mission of training

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recruits for the Southern Army. He remained in that command until 1781 when he was succeeded by General Lafayette. For his service, Congress, in 1784, gave him a vote of thanks, a gold hilted sword, and later on a pension of 2,500 dollars. New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia gave him grants of land for his services in training their soldiers. Retiring from the army after the war, he spent the rest of his life in the town named for him, Steubenville, NY, where he died in 1794.

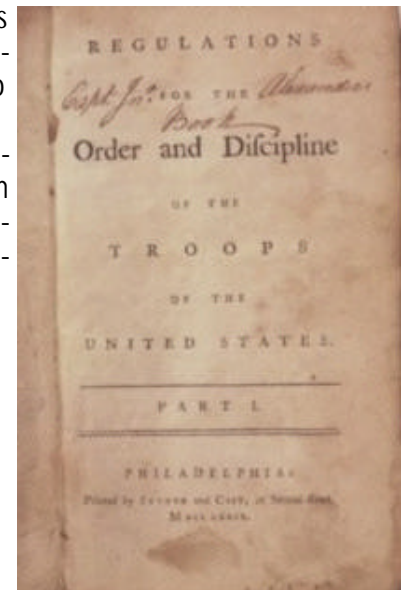
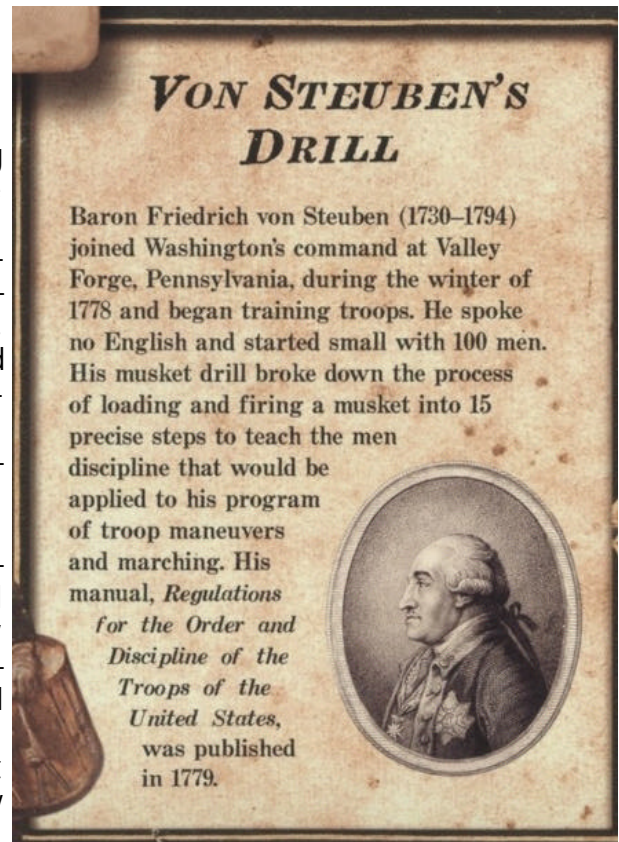
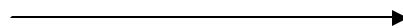
Von Steuben wasn't the only one responsible for this turnaround in the Continental Army. First there was the tough, resilient bodies and spirit of the common soldier and their officers, the result of living in, and coping with, life in this mostly new and raw land. Under such conditions only the strong survived. Couple that with an unswerving desire for independence and you have an army that could and did survive the rigors of that winter at Valley Forge. Finally, there was Washington!

The differences in feelings the Army had for Von Steuben and Washington might be summed up as the difference between gratitude and a liking for Von Steuben's earthiness and training ability. They respected Washington's ability, and they were confident in his character and leadership. He had nurtured and led this army through good times and bad. He had never asked his men to do what he would not do, nor had he ever needlessly sacrificed men in battles that he did not expect to win. He had always gone into battle confident that the army could win. When the army faltered as it did at Princeton, he entered the forefront of the fray encouraging and urging them on to victory. His troops appreciated the fact that Howe could not pin him down, and that Washington always had a safe way out planned and available to lead his men to safety in event their position became untenable.

Note: The names of the ministers for war, Germain from Britain and St. Germaine of France, are purely coincidental. The similarity of names may stem from the numerous invasions of England, particularly the invasion and subjection of England by the Norman French under William the Conqueror in 1066, and the continued reign of William over both England and his previous Norman possessions in France.

References: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Ward's War of the Revolution, and Flexner's Washington.

**“Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States”,  
by Baron Von Steuben**



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# The Military Service Medal is Now Available

by Jim Faulkinbury

On page 3 of the April 2006 issue of the Sacramento Chapter's newsletter, the Courier ([www.sarsac.org/Courier/Courier\\_Apr\\_2006.pdf](http://www.sarsac.org/Courier/Courier_Apr_2006.pdf)), the SAR **War Service Medal** and the criteria for wearing it were described. It is only available for those who served in a combat zone for at least 30 days and received a military campaign medal for that service. Since other members who served in the military did not qualify for the War Service Medal, in 2006, the SAR authorized the new **Military Service Medal** "for those members who served in the Armed Forces of the United States, Coast Guard, or a country that was an ally of the United States, or in a United Nations Peace Keeping Force, who otherwise did not qualify for the SAR War Service Medal." The Military Service Medal ranks the same in order of precedence as the War Service Medal (#5 after the Minuteman Award and the Gold Good Citizenship Medal). The ribbon is of the same color and size as the War Service Medal. Members **may NOT** wear both the Military Service Medal and the War Service Medal.

The **Military Service Medal** is now available for purchase for those who qualify. The Mother Lode Chapter encourages all members who are qualified to receive recognition of their wartime or military service. Members can order medals through the SAR Merchandise Center online at <http://store.sar.org>, or by calling 502-589-1776, and asking for the Merchandise Center. The cost of either Medal and the accompanying certificate is \$20 plus handling. The SAR Handbook indicates that the recipient have the necessary documentation in the form of a report of separation or other military documentation before ordering. The SAR Merchandise Center does not require submission of this documentation with the order and thus the honor system is being used. To determine your eligibility, the most commonly used documentation would be your report of separation. In recent years, this has been the DD Form 214. Before January 1, 1950, several similar forms were used by the military services, including the WD AGO 53, WD AGO 55, WD AGO 53-55, NAVPERS 553, NAVMC 78PD, and the NAVCG 553. Both SAR medals are also available in miniature.



The Military Service Medal

*[This article has been edited by Tom Chilton as appropriate for the Mother Lode Chapter.]*



# Photos from the Mother Lode Chapter's Chartering Ceremony

Photos by Wayne Griswold and Marilyn Chilton



CASSAR President Karl Jacobs during the Chartering Ceremony. President Tom Douglas is on the right.



Dale Ross (GC) signs the Charter as Dart Winship (S) looks on. Standing behind them are Earl Young (L)(GC) and Keith Bigbee (R)(GC). Executive VP Steve Renouf and CASSAR President Karl Jacobs are seated.



Registrar Jim Young introduces new member John Krahn.



CASSAR Treasurer Earl Young (GC) and Tom Chilton (S) discuss the presentation of the Colors (or is it fishing??).



Guardsmen Tom Chilton and Dart Winship stand at Present Arms as the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag is given.



Our ladies were also invited to sign the Charter. Here we see Ann Young as she signs it.

# More Photos from the Mother Lode Chapter's Chartering Ceremony

Photos by Wayne Griswold, and Marilyn Chilton



CASSAR President Karl Jacobs (center) presents Jack Krahn (right) with his SAR membership certificate as Jim Young (left), Mother Lode Registrar, looks on.



Mother Lode Chapter President Tom Douglas conducts the meeting.



Jim Faulkinbury, a member of the Sacramento Chapter, gave a very interesting presentation on the origins of the SAR.



Wayne Griswold signs the Mother Lode Charter as Brian Sonner looks on.



The Color Guard, made up of Jim Faulkinbury (S), Tom Chilton (S), Dart Winship (S), Keith Bigbee (GC), Ernie McPherson (GC), Dave Ross (GC), and Earl Young (GC) wait to present the Colors.

S = Sacramento Chapter  
GC = Gold Country Chapter



# Minutes of the meeting held on February 26, 2008.

by Tom Douglas, Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Douglas at 6:30 PM. The Invocation was given, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the Pledge to the SAR. Sixteen members and guests attended the meeting

The minutes of the January 22, 2008 were approved as written.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Checking account balance including Chartering Dinner reservations is \$1,430. Savings Account balance is \$500.12

Registrar: No report

There will be a planning meeting for the Chartering Dinner at 9:00 AM on Feb 29 at the Bella Bru Cafe. Those planning to attend this meeting are Tom Douglas, Tom Chilton, Wayne Griswold and Jim Young. We have 38 reservations for the ceremony and dinner. The Country Club has a minimum of 40 guests.

John Krahn has been approved as a new member of the SAR Mother Lode Chapter. He will be installed at the Chartering Dinner.

Wayne Griswold recently returned from a Leadership Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. He gave a brief and informative talk on the progress of the new National SAR building to be built on "Museum Row" in Louisville.

Ted Robinson, Sacramento Chapter SAR member and retired Navy Reserve LCDR, was the guest speaker. Ted served on a PT Boat at the same time John Kennedy served. They spent time together recuperating in the same tent and became good friends. Ted's talk was about the 12 questions he was most frequently asked about John Kennedy. Ted was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his talk.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Douglas, President and Acting Secretary



President Tom Douglas (right) presents Ted Robinson, the February speaker, with the SAR Certificate of Appreciation.  
Photo by Wayne Griswold



L-R Mel Roush, Les Wolary, and Tom Chilton listen to the proceedings.  
Photo by Wayne Griswold

# The Boston Massacre, March 5, 1770

On a snowy day in Boston on March 5, 1770, the crowd turned ugly. It all started when a young apprentice shouted an insult at a British officer. A soldier on duty in front of the symbol of royal authority, the custom house, gave the apprentice a knock on the ear with the butt of his musket. The boy howled for help, and an unruly crowd gathered. Someone rang the bells on a nearby church, attracting more people into the street. The sentry found himself confronting an angry mob, and called for the main guard. Six men, led by a corporal, responded. The crowd grew to over 400 men, and they started pelting the soldiers with snowballs and pieces of ice. Led by a huge mulatto named Crispus Attucks, the mob surged to within inches of the soldiers, daring them to fire. Someone in the crowd struck the soldier with a club, knocking him to the ground. He sprang to his feet, and was struck again by a club thrown from a distance. He leveled his musket, and pulled the trigger. The mob fled. When the smoke had cleared, Crispus Attucks and four others were dead.



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

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



Brian C. Sonner  
2077 Sleepy Hollow Court  
Placerville, CA 95667-4222  
**TO THE POSTMASTER  
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