



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

March 2010

Volume 4, Issue 3

Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



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March 2010 Program

Melinda Peak is a Sacramento native who became interested in archeology at a young age. She was fortunate enough to start working in the field while still in high school, with her mother getting a degree at the time in archeology. Ms. Peak completed her bachelor's degree in Anthropology at UC Berkeley, and later completed a master's degree in History at Sacramento State. She is a specialist in site-specific historical research, and has completed studies on all types of historic properties including bridges, buildings, ranches, cemeteries and ditches. She has worked all over California on a variety of types of archeological and historical projects. Her firm, Peak & Associates of El Dorado Hills, provides consulting services in cultural research management, completing field studies, excavations, site evaluations, construction monitoring and management plans for cultural resources. Ms. Peak is currently vice-president of the Clarksville Region Historical Society, and continues to research the history of the western El Dorado County.



Melinda Peak with husband John and daughter Alyssa



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

The next meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2010, at 6:30 PM, at Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Park.

The President's Corner by Jim Young

Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2010

Jim Young

President

Tom Adams

Executive Vice President

Vacant

2nd Vice President

Tom Douglas

Secretary

Roy Tougaw

Treasurer

Jim Young

Registrar

Gene Myers

Chaplain

Tom Chilton

Newsletter Editor

Mel Roush

Historian

Committee Chairmen

Vacant

Eagle Scout Program

Vacant

ROTC Program

John Krahn

Essay Contest

Vacant

Valley Forge Program

John Krahn

Law Enforcement Program

Vacant

Flag Certificate Program

Tom Douglas

Americanism Poster Contest

Fellow Compatriots and friends:

As you may recall, presentations were made at two El Dorado Hills Elementary Schools, Holy Trinity School in Cameron Park, and Gold Oak in Pleasant Valley, in support of the SAR Americanism Poster Contest. We are in full swing, collecting posters from the students who participated. These posters will be judged during our March 23rd meeting.

April 9th & 10th is the 135th CSSAR Annual Meeting, to be held in Sacramento. Registration forms may be found in this addition of the Mother Lode Dispatch. Remember, you don't have to reserve a room to participate in the meeting as most of us reside locally. See pages 8 and 9 for more information and the registration form.

I look forward to a great turnout from the Mother Lode Chapter, as our very own Wayne Griswold and Tom Chilton will be sworn in as State President and State Registrar respectively. Hope to see you there.

In Patriotic Service,

Jim Young



*Jim Young can be reached at 530-622-6389,
or at: 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.

Sacramento Chapter Presents Silver Good Citizenship Medal to Daniel Rodriguez, New York City's Singing Policeman

[Editor's note. You might ask why a story about the Sacramento Chapter is in the Mother Lode Chapter's newsletter. I feel this story is about more than just the Sacramento Chapter. It is about the SAR, a heroic policeman, and what patriotism means to him.]

At a recent concert held in Folsom, Don Littlefield, Sacramento Chapter President, presented Daniel Rodriguez with the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal. Daniel Rodriguez's musical career took on a new meaning after 9/11. His meteoric rise in the music world has been sparked by his beautiful singing of our National Anthem and God Bless America.

Born in 1964 to a family of musicians, Daniel Rodriguez was well on his way to a classical music career when his mentor decided that Daniel was not serious about music, and withdrew his financial support. By that time, Daniel was married, and he and his wife had a son to support. Depressed, Daniel gave up music, and worked a number of jobs including short order cook, taxi driver, truck driver, and postal worker, before finally joining the New York City Police Department in 1995. He began singing again, and was chosen as one of the designated National Anthem singers in the NYPD's ceremonial division.

He was driving to work over the Verrazano Bridge in New York City at the time of the September 11th terrorist attack, and was two blocks away from the World Trade Center when it collapsed. "I lived the horrors of 9/11 and made peace with God several times that day, and said goodbye to my family once or twice, and realized I was meant to stick around and do something positive with my life", he said. He would spend the next several months working at Ground Zero, interrupted only by requests to sing at official functions, memorials, and media events. Performing at many post 9/11 events, he received much media attention for his performances of "God Bless America". With his emerging success as a singer of both popular and classical music, he retired from the New York City Police Department in May 2004, to pursue music as his full time career.

His philanthropic and charitable works are too numerous to list in their entirety. To list a few, Daniel Rodriguez has made appearances for the City of Hope National Medical Center and Duke University Hospital Children's Center, and he is a "regular" at fundraising events for the Jimmy V Foundation for cancer research, and the Hilton Head Celebrity Golf Tournament to benefit children's charities. He has performed for the annual New York Tunnel to Towers Run to benefit the Stephen Siller Children's Foundation, and the Community Mayors Organization to benefit disabled children, where he is an honorary board member. He is a regular performer at Loma Linda University Medical Center Children's Hospital's annual fundraisers, and in 2009 performed in concert with Broadway soprano Laurie Gayle Stephenson.

Daniel Rodriguez starred in a concert titled, "Spirit of America", which was recorded at Caesars in Atlantic City. The concert, a benefit for the Scoliosis Care Foundation, was later broadcast on PBS in August 2002. Guest performers included Linda Eder, Arturo Sandoval, Phoebe Snow, and Aprile Mollo.

He has been a long time supporter of the United Service Organization (USO) with appearances at fundraisers, as well as visiting troops at military hospitals. In 2005, he began a project called "Songs for the Soldiers" to provide music in USO care packages for American troops overseas. He has donated thousands of

his CDs, and raises funds for this effort by producing his own concerts. He also volunteers at the USO warehouses filling care packages, and distributing them to the departing troops.

To enhance the patriotic ambiance of this concert, the Sacramento Chapter displayed their Revolutionary War flags, 28 in all, around the room. The photo at the left shows President Littlefield congratulating Daniel Rodriguez while standing in front of the Bennington and Gadsden flags. Note that Mr. Rodriguez is wearing the SAR Silver Good Citizenship Medal

The concert was presented by the Folsom Lake Community Concert Association. For more information about their concerts, visit their web site at www.flcca.org.



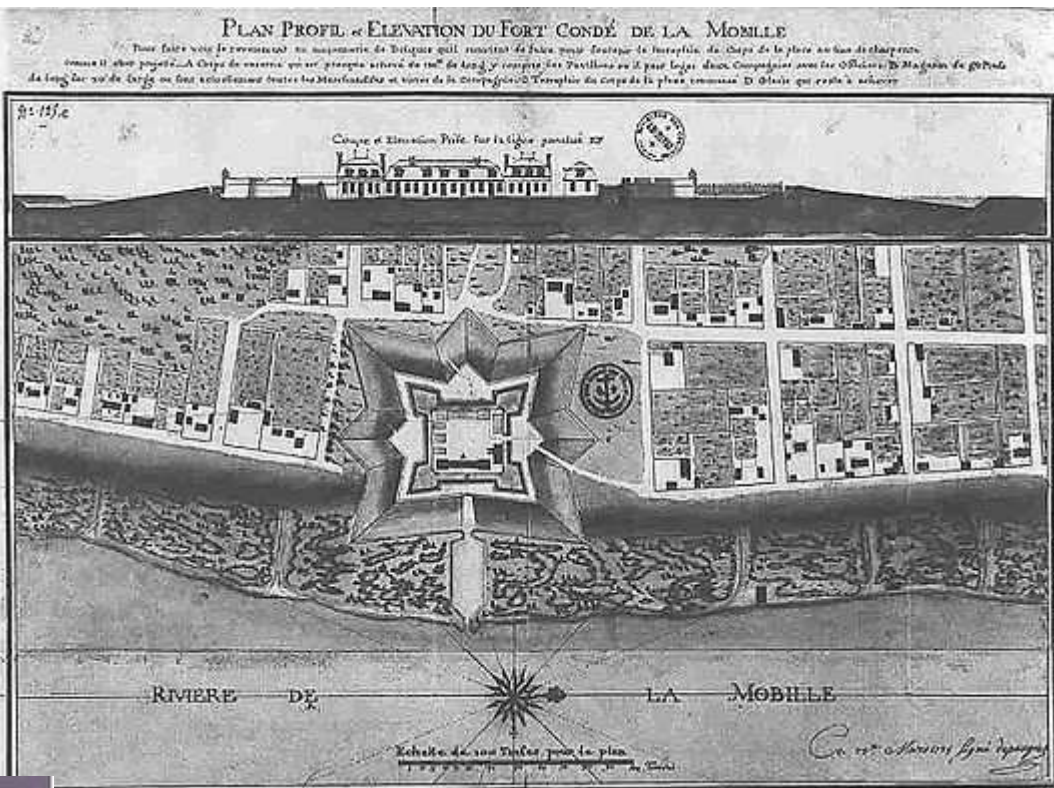
Photo by Allan Gray, NewsBlaze.

The American Revolution – Month By Month - March, 1780

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

The February installment spoke of Admiral Galvez, and his title as addressed in Utey and Washburn’s book Indian Wars. Additional reading would indicate that this is the only time that he would be referred to as an Admiral. Other references address him as General, which is his military background, or as Acting Governor or Governor of Louisiana. Originally a French colony, Louisiana was captivated by Galvez, who improved the economy and brought greater and better administrative policies than had been exercised by the French who preceded him. He also gained greater acceptance and prestige by his marriage to a local French beauty. The Louisiana colony was supportive of this Spanish soldier and statesman to the extent that a part of his besieging force at Mobile are Native Indians and French from Louisiana.

The siege of Fort Charlotte at Mobile began on February 10th, 1780, pitting Galvez against his old acquaintance, British Captain Elias Durnford. Galvez received reinforcements from Havana late in February. General John Campbell came from Pensacola with reinforcements just prior to the fall of Mobile. Realizing that it was too late to save Mobile, he returned with his troops and Indian allies to protect Pensacola. It was not only a victory for Spain when Fort Charlotte capitulated on March 14, but a significant gain of territory east of Louisiana.



Map of "Mobile" from 1725, showing Fort Condé in form of a 7-pointed star along the Mobile River. During 1763 to 1780, England was in possession of the region, and Fort Condé was renamed Fort Charlotte in honor of King George III’s wife.



Bernardo de Gálvez

With Mobile secured, Galvez proceeded toward Pensacola 55 miles southeast of Mobile (as the crow flies) with the purpose of capturing Fort George and occupying the town of Pensacola, the capital of British West Florida. Fort George was better fortified and supported than Fort Charlotte, leading Galvez to employ his previous tactic of bombarding and starving the garrison. This time it is a different story, as the Creek Indians (native to lower Georgia and Florida) supported General Campbell with 2,000 of their 3,500 warriors. Creeks are one of the Civilized Tribes, but are less dependent on Europeans to support their culture, and are more warlike than the Cherokee to their north. Unlike the Cherokee, who later agree to move from their homelands to allow settlement by Europeans, the Creeks were not

The American Revolution – Month By Month - March, 1780

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subdued until defeated and forced to move by General Andrew Jackson in 1813. The Seminole branch of the Creek Nation was never subdued, remaining to this day in what were the swamps and wilds of Florida.

On March 7th, Clinton moved up to the Ashley River, approaching Charleston by land where it was most vulnerable. Clinton's long delay had given the garrison of Charleston much needed time to shore up the landward defenses by the usual ditches and abates, as well as numerous small forts giving the Americans the belief that they could withstand a British attack by land. The waterside was equally well defended, not only by waterfront batteries, but by the reconstitution of Forts Moultrie and Johnson and six vessels carrying a total of 244 guns. This, and the demand by the citizens of Charleston that Lincoln must stay to defend the city, would be the undoing of Charleston for both its citizens and its defenders. The garrison numbered some 5,000 men, made up of Continentals, Dragoons, what was left of Pulaski's Legion, and several thousand Carolina Militia, to oppose Clinton, who had 10,000 soldiers at Charleston. On March 29th, he crossed the Ashley River and the siege was on.

Perhaps it is time for us to return to John Paul Jones, whom we left on New Years Eve, 1779. From aboard of Ushant on New Year's Day, Jones sailed South as far as Cape Finisterre. Having found no prizes to be had by mid January, he put into the Spanish port of Corunna. The Alliance's mixed crew (Alliance's own plus Richard's crew) were in a constant state of bickering, which set the stage for more serious problems. The voyage south found the crew becoming more and more disgruntled, but it was the delay at Corunna which brought things to a head, and a near mutiny developed. The crew had been promised a quick return to Lorient, where it was expected that prize money from the voyage around the British Isles would be distributed. Instead, they were in Corunna to take on supplies, do some re-rigging, and to careen the Alliance. The upshot was a refusal by the crew to work, but it lasted only a day. Still, it was a barometer of the crew's mood, and a forerunner of things to come.

Undaunted by the near mutiny, Jones planned another cruise in search of prizes, but his officers, who were more in tune with the temper of the crew, prevailed upon him to return to Lorient. Even then he did not go directly to Lorient. The Alliance would finally arrive in Lorient on February 19th. Jones was a difficult taskmaster for both officers and crew, driving them endlessly to improve the ships he commanded. Once docked, Jones left the officers and crew to improve the Alliance while he went to visit Doctor Franklin in Passy. His purpose was to gain money from sale of the prize ships to pay the crew, and money from Franklin and the French to make what he saw as the necessary changes that needed to be made to the Alliance. While it was true that all those things were needed, Franklin gave up when Jones made his final request – a copper bottom to obviate the necessity of constantly careening, and to improve the speed and maneuverability of the Alliance.

The crew of the Alliance had not been paid since departing America almost a year earlier. Nor had they received any money from the prizes captured and sent to port for auction. The crews dissatisfaction would be only one of many difficulties Jones would face in the coming months.

References: Schlessinger's "Almanac of American History"; Wards "The War of the Revolution"; Morison's "John Paul Jones"; Utlely and Washburn's "Indian Wars"; Galloway's "The American Revolution in Indian Country" Yenne and Garratt's "North American Indians."



**John Paul Jones Memorial
in Washington, D.C.**

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A Patriot's Perspective

Tea Parties

By Michael G. Lucas

It's been estimated that on April 15, 2009, more than a million Americans participated in over one thousand T.E.A. (Taxed Enough Already) Parties across the nation. Organizers claim that America is on the brink of a new revolution. Participants were protesting huge new government programs which will reach deep into their pockets. They believe that these programs have created an economic burden on American families which threatens their welfare now and well into the future. Time will tell whether these protests were a temporary means of venting anger or the beginning of a movement which permanently changes the landscape of our nation.

There does appear to be some parallels between the actions and attitudes of government today and those of Great Britain prior to the Boston Tea Party of 1773. Like the British government of the 18th century, there seems to be an insatiable appetite for revenue to feed a large government bureaucracy, a willingness to bend the rules to raise revenue, and an inflexibility resulting in reluctance to compromise.

Excessive borrowing by our federal and state governments has reached an incomprehensible level that cannot be sustained indefinitely. Our state government has become so desperate in its quest for funds that it has even proposed the sale of prisons and facilities, including the Los Angeles Coliseum and Cal Expo. The same desperation faced the British government. After the overthrow of King James II in 1688, a large British bureaucracy emerged; expenses soared and an unprecedented national debt was incurred. Up until the early 1700's, taxes on land adequately provided the revenue needs for Britain; after that, more revenue sources had to be found. Excise taxes eventually replaced land as the greatest source of revenue. Customs duties on commerce were soon added. Even these sources became insufficient and the government soon grew increasingly dependent upon borrowing. The Seven Years War resulted in Britain having to service a huge debt along with the ongoing expense of administering the newly acquired North American territory. The British national debt exploded from £75,000 in 1756 to over £130,000,000 by 1764. A permanent force of 10,000 British troops, at the cost of £200,000 per year, was stationed in America for the stated purpose of preventing hostilities between the Colonists and the Indians. George Grenville, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, set a goal of making the colonies bear a cost of £78,000 per year through the Stamp Act of 1765. Grenville defended his act with the following statement: "This nation has run itself into an immense debt to give them protection; and now they are called upon to contribute a small share..." This act required official stamps for documents such as deeds, mortgages, and newspapers. The ensuing colonial boycott caused the economically depressed British merchants to pressure Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act. Parliament repealed it without a single stamp having ever been affixed to a colonial document. Parliament passed the Townshend Acts in 1767 which placed duties on imported goods such as glass, paint, oil, lead, paper, and tea. The goal of the Townshend Acts was to raise £40,000 per year. Again, due to the colonial boycotts, Parliament repealed the Townshend Acts with the exception of tax on tea. The goal was to raise £16,000 on tea. Our founding fathers knew full well that these taxes were the tip of the iceberg and they would never be able to satisfy the relentless revenue demands of London. The subsequent Boston Tea Party resulted in £18,000 worth of tea being hurled into the sea. In its aftermath, Parliament passed the Coercive Acts, known by the colonists as the Intolerable Acts. It closed Boston Harbor, restricted free assembly, limited democracy, established martial law, allowed British troops to be quartered in private buildings, and limited the colonial judicial system. The result was, of course, the American Revolutionary War.

Governments in recent years have become willing to play loose with the rules and have become driven by the philosophy that the ends justify the means. For example, California legislators recently proposed renaming taxes as fees so they could circumvent the law and easily pass a tax increase. At the federal level, our government seems to have forgotten our founding principle that there can be no taxation without representation. Yet we are saddling an unbelievable tax burden upon an unrepresented segment of the population – unborn Americans and children who cannot vote. Likewise, the British government played loose with the rules. The British people, in the Magna Charta of 1215, gained the right that they could only be taxed by their elected representatives. However, when the American Colonists protested that they were being taxed without representation, the British government justified it on the grounds that they had been given "virtual representation" in Parliament, whatever that meant. In addition, in 1688 the British Crown lost the



A Patriot's Perspective

Tea Parties

By Michael G. Lucas

right to convene and dissolve legislatures, to veto legislation, to create courts, and to appoint and remove judges. However, in the colonies, the Crown's appointed Royal governors were given such rights. The willingness of the British government to sidestep the rule of law ultimately resulted in war between our nations.

Americans are unhappy with an intransigence of the political parties and a lack of cooperation with each other. The chief criticism of the May 2009 propositions was that Californians wanted the legislature to work together to resolve the budget shortfall rather than using the expensive proposition approach. Most Americans seem to want the parties to tone down their rhetoric and somewhat soften their rigid reliance on party dogma. Likewise, the British government was unwilling to compromise one bit with the American colonists. The prevalent attitude was that Britain was the stern parent and America was the rebellious child. Whenever the child got out of line, harsh punishment would be the prescribed course. America took every possible step to avoid military action against the British Crown, but to no avail. The Second Continental Congress decided that the most prudent course of action was to make one last attempt at reconciliation with the British Crown. The Olive Branch Petition was written by Thomas Jefferson and John Dickinson. The document was approved on July 5, 1775, and sent to the King three days later. The petition humbly stated that the colonies desired fair taxes rather than independence. Various alternatives for reconciliation were presented. However, King George III arrogantly refused to even accept the document. As a result, the delegates had no choice but to ratify the Declaration of Independence and lead the nation to war.

As the saying goes, "Those who ignore history are bound to repeat it". I can only trust that our representatives become students of history and stay true to the principles of our founders. The pockets of America's taxpayers do have a bottom and there is a limit to the extent of debt that can be passed on to younger generations. Government cannot continue to grow year after year well beyond population increases and inflation rates. Americans will demand change to a government which plays loose with the rules and tramples their liberty.

About the Author: Michael Lucas is a retired electronics engineer and accountant, and is the editor and webmaster for the Gold Country Chapter SAR. Because of the influence of the SAR, he developed a love of American history and enjoys sharing it. He has graciously given his permission to reprint his articles in the Sacramento Chapter's Courier.

Flags Displayed at the February Meeting



Philadelphia Light Horse Troop



First Navy Jack



The 135th Annual Meeting of the Membership
of the
California Society
Sons of the American Revolution
April 9th - 10th, 2010
Hosted by the
Gold Country Chapter
at the
Embassy Suites Hotel - Sacramento Riverfront Promenade

100 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, California 95814 - - Reservations: 1.916.326.5000

SAR members will receive a special rate of \$ 99.00, plus tax, for single or double occupancy. Your hotel accommodations include a spacious two-room suite, complimentary fully cooked-to-order breakfast, manager's reception from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., the daily newspaper and a free airport shuttle. Hotel parking is \$24.00 per night, but we are negotiating with nearby lots to reduce this fee. You should make your reservations with the hotel no later than March 19th, 2010. Reservations after this date will be on a space and rate available basis. When reserving your room be sure to mention that you are with the Sons of the American Revolution.



Embassy Suites Hotel, Sacramento - - Riverfront Promenade is in the heart of Sacramento with many nearby attractions!

The Hotel is located on the Sacramento River, directly across the street from Historic Old Sacramento and offers many spectacular views of the river and the State Capitol Building. The hotel is within easy walking distance to charming restaurants on the Riverside Promenade, shops, museums, and other local attractions. The following list is a sampling of nearby places to visit.

Crocker Art Museum - 1 block
Old Sacramento - 1 block
California Military Museum - 3 blocks
Towle Ford Museum - 3 blocks

California State Railroad Museum - .2 miles
Downtown Plaza Mall - .2 miles
Hard Rock Cafe - 6 blocks
Sutter's Fort & Indian Museum - 1 miles

*For more information contact Wayne Griswold at wagris@att.net or call 1.916.985.3756
Also see additional updates posted online at www.California.SAR.org*

The 135th Annual Meeting of the Membership
of the
California Society
Sons of the American Revolution
April 9th - 10th, 2010
Registration Form

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest: _____
Chapter: _____ Title: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone No. _____ E-mail: _____

My planned time of arrival is: Thursday, April 8th - Friday, April 9th - Saturday, April 10th

Registration is \$130.00 per person on or before March 19th, 2010, or \$140.00 per person after March 19th. Your Registration fee covers all meetings, Friday luncheon, Saturday luncheon, and the Saturday banquet.

My Registration for \$130.00 Spouse/Guest Registration for \$130.00 Other Registration for \$130.00
Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____ Make your check payable to Gold Country Chapter, SAR

Mail completed Registration to: Wayne A. Griswold, 283 Randall Drive, Folsom, California 95630-4926
For more information call 1.916.985.3756

Mark your Friday Luncheon Meal Selection Below:

Chicken Caesar Salad Roast Beef Sandwich Vegetarian

Mark your Saturday Luncheon Meal Selection Below:

Cobb Salad Three Cheese Ravoili Vegetarian

Mark your Saturday Banquet Meal Selection Below:

Herb Roasted Chicken Sliced London Broil Vegetarian

Meal Prices for Non-Registered Members and Guests are listed below:

Non-Registered Friday luncheon at \$40.00 Non-Registered Saturday luncheon at 40.00
Non-Registered Saturday Banquet at \$60.00
Total cost of non-Registered meals \$_____

More Photos from the Americanism Poster Contest Kickoff



Tom Chilton describes his experiences (as Simeon Choate) at the Battle of Bunker Hill.



Jim Faulkinbury describes his experiences (as Caleb Gibbs) at the Battle of Bunker Hill.



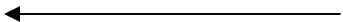
Tom Douglas describes his experiences (as Benijah Holcomb) at the Battle of Bunker Hill.



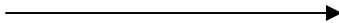
Another photo of Jim Faulkinbury.



Tom Adams explains the contest rules.



Another photo of Tom Douglas.



Minutes of the meeting held on February 23, 2010.

By Tom Douglas, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Young at 6:30 PM. After the Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and SAR Pledge, the minutes for the January meeting were approved as presented. There were 9 chapter members, 2 associate members, one DAR guest, one CASSAR LAUX, and one additional guest.

President Young told everyone that Compatriot Gene Bell had suffered a stroke, but is doing well and recovering at his home.



Reports;

Treasurer: the check book balance is \$1508.14. The savings account balance is \$501.00

Registrar: the application for Merv Purdy needs some additional information

Historian: no report, Tom Douglas turned over two issues of the Dispatch for the files

Youth: Tom Adams reported on the activities of the chapter including Poster Contest presentations. The chapter has made a total of eight presentations in four schools.

There was a lengthy discussion about the Chapter obtaining artifacts, original and reproduced, to make our presentations more interesting to the youth. The artifacts would be used in poster contest presentations and living history programs.

Chapter friend and associate member, Wayne Griswold, gave a report on the upcoming CASSAR Spring Meeting in Sacramento.

Chapter friend and associate member, Tom Chilton, presented two flags from the Sacramento flag collection: the Philadelphia Light Horse Troop, and the First Navy Jack.

After the Benediction, the singing of "God Bless America" and the SAR Recessional, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Douglas, Secretary

Mother Lode Chapter's 2010 Calendar of Events

January 22 - Poster Contest presentation at Jackson and Holly Trinity Schools in El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park

July - No meeting

January 26 - Regular meeting at Denny's

August - No meeting

February 23 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

September 28 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

March 23 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

October 26 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

April 9 & 10 - CASSAR Annual Meeting Embassy Suites Hotel in Sacramento

November 12 & 13 - CASSAR Fall Manager's Meeting Location to be determined.

April 27 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

November 23 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

May 25 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

December 11 - Wreaths Across America Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon

June 22 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

December 28 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

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MOTHER LODE CHAPTER OF
THE SONS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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The Mother Lode Chapter
Sons Of The American
Revolution

