



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

March 2011

Volume 5, Issue 3

Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



The President's Corner by Jim Young

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1 Due to winter storms and falling trees
 2 President Young is in a corner but unable
 3 to write one. He asks that all members of
 4 Mother Lode that can be there come to the
 5 meeting on the 22nd to vote for your
 6 favorite posters.

Tom Douglas, Secretary



Next Meeting
Tuesday March 22, 2011 at
Denny's Restaurant
3446 Coach Lane
Cameron Park, CA.
6:30 PM

Commentary on the Pledge of Allegiance

by Red Skelton

As a schoolboy, one of Red Skelton's teachers explained the words and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to his class. Skelton later wrote down, and eventually recorded, his recollection of this lecture. It is followed by an observation of his own.

I - - Me; an individual; a committee of one.

Pledge - - Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance - - My love and my devotion.

To the Flag - - Our standard; Old Glory; a symbol of Freedom; wherever she waves there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, Freedom is everybody's job.

United - - That means that we have all come together.

States - - Individual communities that have united into forty-eight great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose. All divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that is love for country.

And to the Republic - - Republic--a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands

One Nation - - One Nation--meaning, so blessed by God.

Indivisible - - Incapable of being divided.

With Liberty - - Which is Freedom; the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation.

And Justice - - The principle, or qualities, of dealing fairly with others.

For All - - For All--which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

And now, boys and girls, let me hear you recite the Pledge of Allegiance:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic, for which it stands; one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: Under God. Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said that is a prayer, and that would be eliminated from schools, too?

Red Skelton

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Mother Lode Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Tax ID #26-1428350

Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2010

President

Jim Young

1st Vice President

Bob Conovor

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

Vacant

Valley Forge Program

Vacant

Law Enforcement Program

John Krahn

Flag Certificate Program

Doug Stone

Americanism Poster Contest

Tom Adams

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

March, 1781

Editor's Note: Nathanael Greene had been placed in command of all troops from Delaware to Georgia by George Washington. Rather than risk annihilation by Cornwallis' overwhelming strength, Greene decided to withdraw his forces across the Dan River at Irving ferry in Halifax County to safety in Virginia.

The Dan River was in winter flood and could not be forded. Tadeusz Kościuszko, the Chief of Engineers for the Southern Department, had secured every available boat for use by the American forces. Once across the Dan, Green was safe. Denied any contact with Greene, Cornwallis took stock of his own situation.

In his haste to catch and destroy Greene, Cornwallis had violated a basic military concept of the British Army by destroying his supply train and any other non-essentials at Ramsour's Mill. His nearest location for supplies and reinforcement lay in Wilmington, North Carolina – over 200 miles of poor roads and swollen rivers to the south. He could not live off the land since all available cattle and other foodstuffs had already been seized, arousing much bitterness among the population. However, to turn back from his encampment at Hillsborough, North Carolina, without confronting Greene would be tantamount to admitting defeat. He would stand to lose the faith of the Tories in the South, who made up much of his scattered occupation force of approximately 8,000 men in the three southern states.

Nathanael Greene also had problems. If he remained inactive for an extended period of time, he would face the loss of most of his militia. His men were signed up for a six week tour of duty. Actual combat effective time, however, was only about twenty-three days out the six week enlistment. This unfortunate situation was due to the consideration that militia travel to the battle zone and return to home was to be included in the enlistment.

With less than fifteen hundred men, Greene crossed into North Carolina proceeding toward Cornwallis at Hillsborough, where, to the annoyance of Cornwallis, he did a provocative little dance reminiscent of the child's game "Catch me if you can.." He constantly changed position, moving first toward then away from Cornwallis' encampment. British Lt. Col Banastre Tarleton, annoyed by the lack of action, decided to determine what Greene was up to and, if possible, to engage and inflict any punishment that he could on the American forces.

On the night of the March fifth, American Colonel Otho Williams' men were encamped at Wetzell's Mills several miles from Greene's main force. They detected movement toward the American lines, which was followed during the day of the sixth by Cornwallis' main army. The British planned to draw Greene into combat and to defeat the Southern Army while the force was small.

Forewarned, the Americans under Williams were able to escape after a short skirmish in which both sides lost about twenty men. Greene did not take the bait and was not affected. Cornwallis, frustrated by the failure to draw out Greene, withdrew to his encampment.

General Greene's forces were increasing. Andrew Pickens raised 700 militia and was harassing Cornwallis together with Richard Caswell and Otho Williams. Their combined efforts served to keep watch on Cornwallis and to prevent Torry locals from assisting him in any way. In addition, Maj. Gen. Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben sent 400 newly trained Virginia Continentals into battle. North Carolina sent more than 1,000 militia and Virginia sent over 1,600 militia. The numbers were impressive but the quality of the new troops was unknown; none having had any major combat experience. In addition to the new recruits, Greene retained the tried and true Continentals from Delaware and Maryland and the cavalries of Lee and Washington.

Both generals knew that the time had come for a showdown. Greene took the initiative and set up camp at Guilford Courthouse on March fourteenth. Cornwallis, eager to recoup his reputation, intended to destroy the Southern Army, which now consisted of about 4,400 men. However, of those, 4,400 troops only 1,490 men were Continentals and of those only 630 from Maryland and Delaware had ever seen combat. Cornwallis force of 1,900 men was smaller in total number but all troops were well trained and seasoned battle veterans. In addition the British had better artillery support.

The first event of the day was an action that took place on March fifteenth between Lee and Tarleton's cavalry. Maj. Henry (Light Horse Harry) Lee, watching the advance of the enemy, was accosted by Tarleton who was in advance of the main body. At first Lee retreated, and then turned on Tarleton, driving him back almost to the head of the British van. Lee then departed hastily to notify Greene of the approaching army. Results were inconclusive other than an initial drubbing of Tarleton and Lee's report to Greene.



General Nathanael Green

The American Revolution – Month by Month

March, 1781

(Cont.)

In the meantime, Greene was positioning his troops in three lines. First came the North Carolina militia. A second line, composed of Virginia militia, was set up three hundred yards to the rear. A third line, composed of Maryland militia, was drawn up around the courthouse that stood on a small hill. Cavalry was stationed to the left and right of the Continentals along with some battle tested irregulars. When all lines were established, Greene went among the militia telling the first line to hold for three firings, then to retreat behind the second line. The second line would perform the same way and fall back on the third line. Every man would be in the line of fire. There would be no reserve units. It would be a case of fight or die.

Early in the afternoon the British began their assault marching resolutely, as if on parade. The long red line extended all the way across an open area and into the woods. When the British came within range, the militia fired as one man, tearing gaping holes in the British line. The British continued to advance as if nothing had occurred. When within musket range, the British line fired following with a bayonet charge against the first American line. The charge was stopped when it became apparent that the first line was lying behind a rail fence with rifles aimed and waiting. There was a pause until British Colonel Webster urged his men to advance. The charge was resumed amidst a devastating fire. When the militia's task was completed, they ran through the second line to safety.

The British were now beyond the cleared ground and the fighting took place in the woods. Unlike most recollections, not all militia fled. One company of North Carolinians led by Captain Forbes joined Lee on the left, while Virginia Continentals, led by Col. Richard Campbell held their position. Campbell, Lee and Forbes were finally pushed up onto high ground to the south of the main battleground, and remained separated until the end of the battle.

The third line, Capt. John Gunby's Maryland Regiment, was also pushed back and threatened on two fronts. Gunby ordered a fierce charge and swept Webster's forces from the field. He then wheeled his troops to face the oncoming guards unit. After a brief exchange of musket fire, in which Gunby's horse was shot from under him, Gunby called for bayonets and charged the Guards unit. The enemy was driven down into a ravine and up the other side in total disarray. Webster's troops had been beaten and were now in disorder.

Towards evening Greene began a strategic retreat. He was not the victor who held the field, but the general who had paid the lesser price of battle. Greene lost 78 killed and 183 wounded out of a total of 3,000. Cornwallis with 1,900 men had lost 93 killed and 439 wounded. The toll upon British and Hessian officers was devastating, 29 killed or wounded. Of the British wounded many died during the night in the midst of a soaking rain.

Greene lost the battle at Guilford Court House, but won the southern campaign as Cornwallis abandoned the Carolinas, eventually moving on to Virginia. The southern campaign was not over; Eight thousand British, Hessians and Tories in the three states. Greene's next move would be to eliminate these scattered garrisons.

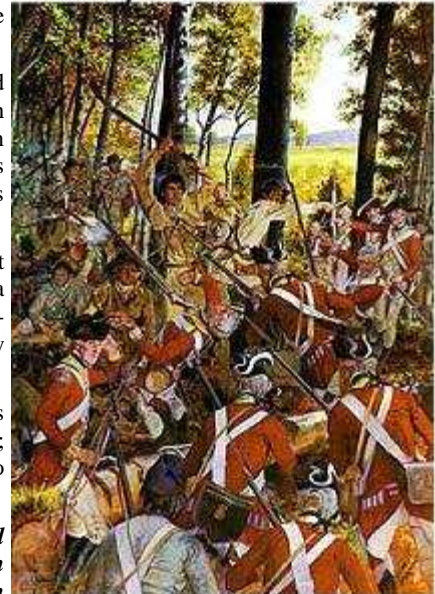
(Editor's Note: Greene's option to send in the cavalry and destroy the British army at Guilford Courthouse was not comparable to Morgan's decision to send in the cavalry to rout the British forces at Cowpens. Morgan could afford to risk his entire force; had he lost his army, both Huger's and Greene's armies would have remained to continue the fight against the British in the south. At Guilford Courthouse, had Greene risked and lost his army, no American forces would have remained to prevent the British domination of the south.)

March 11, 1781, Admiral Don Bernardo de Galvez arrived off Pensacola, Florida with a force of approximately 4,000 men. He intended to capture Fort George, which was commanded by the same General John Campbell who had previously lost Mobile to Galvez. The landing was not accomplished until March 17. Since the fort could not be immediately taken, a siege was established. It would be May before the fort surrendered.

References: *Encyclopedia Britannica, The American Revolution*, Lancaster, B.; *The War of the American Revolution*, Ward, C.; *SAR Magazine*, fall-1996; *SAR Magazine*, spring-1997; *Indian Wars*, Utey, R.M. and Washburn, W.E.; *The War of American Independence*, Higginbotham, D.

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Guilford Courthouse



The British Attack

Photos of the Mother Lode Chapter's Law enforcement Appreciation meeting February 22, 2011

For more pictures from the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal presentations go to our web site at www.motherlodesar.com



PHOTO DISCRIPTIONS

Top Left/President Jim Young presents the Law Enforcement Medal and Certificate to Deputy Sheriff William Turnbull as Capt. Andy Wishart and El Dorado County Sheriff John D'Agostini look on.

Top Right/President Young presents Law Enforcement Medal and Certificate to Placerville Police Detective Ricky Brown as Placerville Police Lt. Kim Nida looks on.

Center Left/ Law Enforcement Chairman Compatriot John Krahn and Lt. Kim Nida.

Center Right/ Lt. Nida pins the Law Enforcement Medal on Detective Ricky Brown.

Bottom Right/ El Dorado County Sheriffs enjoy the evening



I had the privilege of participating with the Sacramento Chapter at the 2011 President's Day Celebration at Mt. Vernon Memorial Park. Along with Sacramento's presentation they let me do my interpretation of the Battle of Cowpens according to my Patriot Ancestor James Curry of the 8th Battalion of the Virginia Continental Line. The highlight of the day, of course, was being close to the firing of the muskets.

Tom Douglas, Mother Lode Chapter (pictures courtesy of Dell McCardell, Sacramento Chapter, CASSAR)



FIRING LINE

Left to Right

- Tom Douglas
- Ford Osborn
- Ron Proffer
- Steve Rainville
- Vince Gantt
- Russ Kaiser
- Tom Chilton
- Capt. Jim Faulkinbury

AT REST

Left to Right

- Capt. Jim Faulkinbury
- Ron Proffer
- Ford Osborn
- Steve Rainville
- Tom Chilton
- Vince Gantt
- Russ Kaiser
- Tom Douglas



**Mother Lode Chapter
Minutes for the meeting of February 22, 2010**

The meeting was called to by President Jim Young at 6:30PM.

After requesting prayers for Roy Tougaw and Ken Gibson, the Invocation was given by Secretary Tom Douglas; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gene Bell and the SAR Pledge was led by Tom Chilton.

President Young acknowledged the many visitors in attendance for the First Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Presentations. The guests included El Dorado County Sheriff John D'Agostini, Capt. Andy Wishart and Medal recipient Deputy William Turnbull. Also in attendance was Medal recipient Placerville Police Detective Ricky Brown and his presenter Lt. Kim Nida. Family and friends of the recipients were there to support the recipients. Marilyn Chilton, DAR, Joy Krahn, LAUX, Joyce Douglas and Sandy Tougaw were there as they are regularly. In all there were over 20 Guests not counting the children that were there. There were nine Mother Lode Members in attendance.



The Minutes of the January meeting were not available. Secretary Douglas said they would be in the March Dispatch.

The reports were short because of the special meeting. Dispatch Editor Tom Douglas requested articles from members. Treasurer Roy Tougaw reported a checking balance of \$1791. \$1491 as general fund and \$150 for youth programs. Tom Adams gave a report on the ongoing youth activities, 5th grade posters, high school essay and 8th grade brochure.

Tom Chilton described six flags he brought from the Sacramento Chapter's collection for this special evening.

Dinner was served.....

The remaining meeting time was used to present the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medals to El Dorado County Deputy William Turnbull and Placerville Police Detective Ricky Brown.

The Benediction was given by Secretary Tom Douglas, the SAR Recessional was led by Tom Adams and after the singing of God Bless America the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Douglas, Secretary

Mother Lode Chapter's 2011 Calendar of Events

January 25- Regular Meeting/Brochure Voting

February 4- First Poster Contest Presentation

February 22-Regular Meeting/Washington's Birthday
Law Enforcement awards presentations

March 22- Regular Meeting/ Poster Voting

April 7-9 CASSAR Spring Membership Meeting, Irving, CA

April 26- Regular Meeting

May 24- Regular Meeting/ Youth Awards Program

June 28- Regular Meeting

July- No Meeting

August- No Meeting

September 27- Regular Meeting

October 25- Regular Meeting

November-Date TBD

December—Wreaths Across America

December 27- Regular Meeting

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BY THE
MOTHER LODE CHAPTER OF
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**The Mother Lode Chapter
Sons Of The American
Revolution**

