



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

May 2008

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Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



Program for May 27, 2008

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A native of Waynesburg, PA, **Bob Wiley** received a presidential appointment to the Naval Academy, and graduated in June 1959. (His father was killed in action in Normandy during World War II.) Bob's sea duty assignments began in O'Hare (DDR-889), and continued in the commissioning crew of Lawrence (DDG-4) as a division officer, and then operations officer. Later assignments included executive officer in Southerland (DD-743), and in command of Pivot (MSO-463) and John King (DDG-3). During these sea assignments, he made many deployments to the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, and the Western Pacific.



Shore duty assignments included teaching navigation and operations at the Navy ROTC unit, then at Harvard, before a short-fused transfer to Coronado to organize training for the PCF (Swift Boat) crews prior to their deployment to Vietnam. Later he attended the Naval Warfare Course at the Naval War College, remaining in Newport as executive assistant to the President, and as an anti-air warfare instructor. Bob also served on the Third Fleet staff as current operations office, and Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans. During Washington tours he served in Officer Placement for Cruisers and Destroyers as Executive Secretary to the CNO Executive Board, and as a branch head in the Naval Warfare Directorate of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

After completion of active service, Bob's initial civilian employment was with Presearch Inc., a defense support contractor based in Vienna, VA. After five years at Presearch, he and his family relocated to the Sacramento area to be closer to two married children. In Sacramento, he was successfully employed in sales for BG Products, Inc., a manufacturer of automotive chemicals. After retirement, he and his wife served in full-time capacities in support of the Sacramento Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and continue to be actively engaged in church, community, and family activities.



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

President's Corner by Tom

- 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

Presidents Message for May

It was a pleasure to present three 5th grade students at Jackson Elementary School their ribbons for their Molly Pitcher posters. The class was attentive and polite while I explained who I was and what I was doing there. They enthusiastically applauded their classmates when I called them up to get their ribbons. The three posters our Chapter received from this class were submitted by Austin Laut, Grant Laut, and Sabrina Laut of Jennifer Hedman's fifth grade class at Jackson Elementary School in El Dorado Hills. The three fifth graders are triplets. I also presented Ms. Hedman a Certificate of Appreciation for her support of the Americanism Poster Contest. The fifth grade teacher I first approached, and opened the door for us to do the school presentation, has already talked to me about next year's contest. She said she is going to do her best to increase the number of students that will do posters. I am looking forward to expanding Mother Lode's participation in this important educational tool.



Coming up in July is the 118th National Congress in Sacramento, July 5-9, 2008. If you would like to participate as a worker on one or more days, let me know and I will help you get involved. If you want to register for the Congress, I will have forms at the next meeting. Wayne Griswold is the Assistant CASSAR Host Chairman, and will be able to answer your questions at our meeting.

In Patriotic Service,

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.

Americanism Poster Contest

President Douglas Recognizes Poster Contest Winners

On May 15, 2008, President Douglas presented awards to the winners of this year's Americanism Poster Contest. The first place ribbon and a check for \$25.00 went to Austin Laut. The second place ribbon was awarded to Grant Laut, and the third place ribbon was awarded to Sabrina Laut. Austin, Grant, and Jennifer are triplets, and are all students in Ms. Hedman's fifth grade class at Jackson Elementary School, in El Dorado Hills.



Tom Douglas presents Ms. Hedman with the SAR Certificate of Appreciation.



Tom Douglas presents Austin Laut with a first Blue Ribbon and a check for \$25.00.



Tom Douglas presents Sabrina Laut with the third place White Ribbon.



Tom Douglas presents Grant Laut with the second place Red Ribbon.



Austin Laut's prize winning poster.



The American Revolution – Month By Month - May 1778

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

On the first of May, word from Congress informed George Washington that King Louis XVI of France had signed a solemn treaty of alliance and support with the United States on February 6, 1778. The agreement acknowledged the United States to be a free and sovereign nation. France pledged to begin hostilities with Great Britain, and support the new nation with finances and military support including arms, men and munitions. Naval support would also be furnished. Additionally it was agreed that neither nation would conclude a separate peace treaty with Britain. Any treaty would be jointly concluded and signed.



George Washington [1777] by Charles Peale Polk

Reacting to this wonderful news, Washington ordered a day of rejoicing beginning with a time of prayer, to be followed by a parade and revue of the 11,000 man Continental Army. This would be followed by games, feasting, and other events in celebration of the occasion.

On May 5th, Col. Ethan Allen was swapped in a prisoner of war exchange. He was given a hero's welcome and a promotion to Brigadier General of Vermont Militia. Unable to function militarily because brutal treatment in British prisons had destroyed his health, he spent the rest of his days with his brother Ira as a political leader seeking statehood for Vermont.

After three years of war, General Howe was frustrated. He was no closer to victory in Philadelphia than when he was first appointed to

command of all British forces in North America in the now abandoned city of Boston. As far back as November of 1777, he had requested that he be allowed to resign as Commander-in-Chief of British Forces in America. He gave as the reason for this request that, under his tenure, he had not been successful in putting down the American rebellion. He also requested that he be allowed to return to England as it was approaching three years since his departure from England and his arrival in Boston in 1775.

In February of 1778 his resignation was accepted, and General Sir Henry Clinton was appointed Commander of British Forces in North America. A formal change of command ceremony occurred May 8, installing Clinton as Commander-in-Chief. Clinton had been directed by London to abandon Philadelphia and return to New York where some of his forces were to be deployed to other theaters. This was done to counter attacks by the French in the widening war, which would soon encompass the Spanish and Netherlands forces in an attempt to regain lost possessions. A simple uprising in remote North American colonies had become an onerous burden on the Crown, leading to a new challenge by old enemies to take back possessions which had been lost to Britain in the Seven Years War.

Saratoga had been a turning point in the attitude and respect of European nations concerning the American Revolution and its government. The planned abandonment of Philadelphia by Britain signaled to European leaders a failed policy and a change in attitude by the King and his ministers.

Lafayette, whom we have come to regard as a hero of the Revolution, was as yet to win such recognition. He had served well at Brandywine, but not in a manner that satisfied his desire to distinguish himself. He pressured Congress, without consulting Washington, for an invasion of Canada to be led by himself and other French officers. Congress granted him the authority, and he made his way to Albany in the dead of winter to assume command and begin the invasion. Albany had not been notified of a planned invasion. Not that it would have made any difference, as the army there was under-manned and lacking in all things necessary to mount an invasion. The men were in a deplorable condition,

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scantily clad, lacking in food, military supplies, and ordnance. They, like the army at Valley Forge, would be fortunate to survive the winter, let alone march through the snow-covered wilderness to Canada and fight a well-fed and equipped professional army. Lafayette was not only disappointed, but also disgusted, that he appeared to have been made a fool.

The invasion was doomed from its inception. Congress had again authorized, but not funded or coordinated a military project which they themselves had directed. Embarrassed, they quickly shifted responsibility to Washington by assigning the project to him to determine what should be done. It did not take him long to make a decision. On March 13, he rescinded the order for the invasion of Canada and ordered Lafayette to return to Valley Forge, posthaste.

Lafayette, although chagrined by the affair, looked around for a new command. He convinced Washington that a forward force was needed for the safety of the general area and Valley Forge. On May 18, he was placed in charge of 2,200 men with the purpose of reconnaissance, and to secure Valley Forge against attack. Departing the same day, he took up a position on Barren Hill, halfway between Valley Forge and Philadelphia.

British patrols reported the encampment to Clinton on the 19th, and he determined to surprise and destroy Lafayette's force with an attack at dawn on the 20th. Clinton thought that this would not only destroy part of Washington's force, but would embarrass French officers and France before the American people, perhaps even ending the alliance. On the same night (19 May) 7,000 Redcoats marched from Philadelphia to surround and surprise Lafayette. General Grant, with 5,000 men, and 15 cannon made good progress, obtaining his desired position before daybreak. Clinton and Gen. Sir Richard Howe (who remained during a transition period) with General Grey and 2,000 Grenadiers were not as successful. The American Captain McLane and his scouts, early in the British march, captured three Britons who revealed the details of Clinton's plan, which he sent on to Lafayette. McLane, with 150 horsemen and 40 Oneida Indians, then intercepted and delayed Grey.

Lafayette, realizing that he could not hold his position against such odds, particularly against 15 cannon, chose a line of retreat that concealed his movements. He remained with a rear guard to support enough activity to deceive the British into thinking that they had entrapped the entire American force. As the British forces approached, the rear guard quietly slipped away by the only route not blocked. At full daybreak, General Grant arrived at the encampment from the north, while General Clinton arrived at the other end only to find their quarry gone.

After a night of marching to Barren Hill, the British had the rest of the day to march back to Philadelphia - empty handed. Instead of embarrassing the French and Americans, Clinton was chagrined that on his first mission in charge he had let the Frenchman and 2,000 men slip through his fingers.

Washington deemed it inadvisable to strike back at Clinton in Philadelphia, where street fighting would be costly and to the advantage of the defenders. He would wait for Clinton to abandon the city of Philadelphia and move to the countryside, as it was now known that orders from London required abandonment of Philadelphia. This was a move to consolidate forces in New York and support a new strategy of invading the southern colonies, and support a wider war.

When orders were finally given by Clinton to evacuate Philadelphia, the civilian population began to panic. Loyalists, who had been so joyful at Howe's coming and so cooperative during his stay, now feared to remain in the city under Patriot rule. Those who could, departed for New York with Admiral Earl Richard Howe's fleet. The long train departing the city of Philadelphia with the ground forces was burdened, not only with the trappings of the army, but also by a horde of Tory loyalists who could not leave with the fleet. Their baggage would swell the size of an already bloated wagon train, further slowing the movement of the army toward New York.

An overlooked or forgotten facet of British occupation during the Revolution was the large number of slaves who answered a British call to freedom. In November 1775, Lord Dunmore offered

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by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

freedom to slaves who would leave their masters and join the British forces at Norfolk, Virginia. Over the course of the war, it is believed that at least 20% of all American slaves responded to the British call. While both sides employed black soldiers, fewer fought on the American side because neither the states nor Congress wanted slaves for soldiers, fearing an armed revolt.

While some slaves did find freedom with the British, many were abandoned in the departure from Philadelphia. At the end of the war, and under the terms of the Treaty of Paris, many more were remanded back to American authorities.

While the British offered freedom to those who came to them, it also encouraged riots and mischief making among others, which injured or discommoded white American settlers. It also spurred slaves to take advantage of the situation by running away to settle in the wilderness of the Western Lands, while others sought refuge with the Cherokee and Creek Indians. Some were accepted by the Indian tribes, while others found themselves bound right back into slavery by the Indians.

Neither the King, his ministers, nor Sir Richard Howe had ever understood the American people. The colonists were a new breed, unlike Europeans, where, after princes and kings had risen or fallen, the

people merely bowed beneath the new yoke and went on with their lives. Never having felt the yoke, Americans were not going to submit meekly.

Americans came from independent European stock that left the security of Europe to brave a new world, growing into a strong and self-reliant people. In the past century they had not had much government, nor had they felt the need for one. Therefore, they were not easily deterred by a government and an army that offered them nothing more than what they saw at worst as slavery, and at best as serfdom. Life had never been easy in America, and it would take more than the King's army to subject them to what they saw as tyranny.

The war would go on! Patriots would lose more battles than they would win. But, in the long run they would win, both the war, and their independence.

Andrew J. Stough, April 1998

References: *Encyclopedia Britannica*;

Speigelman's, *Valley Forge*; Ward's, *War of the Revolution*; Nash, et al, *The American People*.

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The History of Memorial day

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in the service to our Nation. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. There is also evidence that organized womens' groups in the South were decorating graves before the end of the Civil War. A hymn published in 1867, "Kneel Where Our Loves are Sleeping" by Nella L. Sweet, carried the dedication "To The Ladies of the South Who Are Decorating the Graves of the Confederate Dead". (Source: Duke University's Historic American Sheet Music, 1850-1920)

While Waterloo, N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day. It is more likely that it had many separate beginnings; each of those towns, and every planned or spontaneous gathering of people to honor the war dead in the 1860's, tapped into the general human need to honor our dead, and each contributed honorably to the growing movement that culminated in Gen Logan giving his official proclamation in 1868. It is not important who was the very first; what is important is that Memorial Day was established. Memorial Day is not about division. It is about reconciliation; it is about coming together to honor those who gave their all.



General John A. Morgan

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971-P.L. 90 - 363) to ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays), though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas, April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

*We cherish to the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.*

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael, and when she returned to France, made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later, and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help. Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell

The History of Memorial Day

poppies. Two years later their "Buddy" Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948, the US Post Office honored Ms Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

Traditional observance of Memorial day has diminished over the years. Many Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. At many cemeteries, the graves of the fallen are increasingly ignored and neglected. Most people no longer remember the proper flag etiquette for the day. While there are towns and cities that still hold Memorial Day parades, many have not held a parade in decades. Some people think the day is for honoring any and all dead, and not just those fallen in service to our country.

There are a few notable exceptions. Since the late 50's on the Thursday before Memorial Day, the 1,200 soldiers of the 3d U.S. Infantry place small American flags at each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They then patrol 24 hours a day during the weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing. In 1951, the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of St. Louis began placing flags on the 150,000 graves at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery as an annual Good Turn, a practice that continues to this day. More recently, beginning in 1998, on the Saturday before the observed day for Memorial Day, the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts place a candle at each of approximately 15,300 grave sites of soldiers buried at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park on Marye's Heights (the Luminaria Program). And in 2004, Washington D.C. held its first Memorial Day parade in over 60 years.

To help re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to 'Taps'."

The Moment of Remembrance is a step in the right direction to returning the meaning back to the day. What is needed is a full return to the original day of observance. Set aside one day out of the year for the nation to get together to remember, reflect, and honor those who have given their all in service to their country.

But what may be needed to return the solemn, and even sacred, spirit back to Memorial Day is for a return to its traditional day of observance. Many feel that when Congress made the day into a three-day weekend in the National Holiday Act of 1971, it made it all the easier for people to be distracted from the spirit and meaning of the day. As the VFW stated in its 2002 Memorial Day address: "Changing the date merely to create three-day weekends has undermined the very meaning of the day. No doubt, this has contributed greatly to the general public's nonchalant observance of Memorial Day."

On January 19, 1999, Senator Inouye introduced bill S 189 to the Senate, which proposes to restore the traditional day of observance of Memorial Day back to May 30th instead of "the last Monday in May". On April 19, 1999, Representative Gibbons introduced the bill to the House (H.R. 1474). The bills were referred the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Government Reform.



**Tomb of the Unknowns
Arlington National Cemetery**

Minutes of the meeting held on April 29, 2008.

by Tom Douglas, Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Douglas at 6:30 PM. The invocation was given by Chaplin Myers and the Pledge of Allegiance and SAR Pledge were recited.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved

Treasures report: The chapter took in \$1,355.00 for reservations for the March 8, 2008 Chartering Dinner. We paid to the Cold Springs Golf and Country Club \$1264.16. We have a check book balance as of March 31, 2008 of \$268.87 and a savings account balance of \$500.39. It was moved and seconded and to pay Wayne Griswold \$74.20 for items he purchased in Louisville for the chapter (rosettes, certificates and certificate covers).

Registrars report: No report, but, Jim Young introduced visitors Vince Adams and Bill Hickman. Bill gave us some history on his family.

Historian's report: No report, but Tom Douglas turned over some items. Chartering dinner sign in sheet, originals from Craig Johnson, National Finance Director, regarding our 501(C)(3) approval, and our first IRS Form 990N approval.

133rd Spring CASSAR report: Wayne Griswold and Tom Douglas reported on the Spring Meeting in April at Concord.

Unfinished business: No response to the need for chapter officers

New business: There was a discussion regarding ways to keep the meetings interesting. Suggestions ranged from watching historical presentations on DVD to discussing books. Continuing the speaker format seemed to be the most popular.

The benediction was given by Chaplin Myers, and the SAR pledge was recited.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Douglas, Acting Secretary



Let Us Never Forget!! American Cemetery, Normandy, France



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