



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

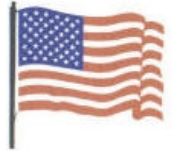
November 2009

Volume 3, Issue 10

Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



Presidents Corner by Tom Douglas

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Fellow Compatriots and Friends,
VP Jim Young, Youth Coordinator Tom Adams, and I attended the 134th CASSAR Board of Managers meeting at the Mission Inn in Riverside, CA, over the November 13-14 weekend. The hotel is a fantastic historical building with beautiful courtyards, and many hallways and staircases that seemed to go on forever and some to nowhere.

The meetings were well attended, and the members enthusiastically participated in the discussions and voting. If you are interested in the growth of the Society and the reasons we are really in existence, I encourage, no, I urge you, to become involved as a Mother Lode Chapter Officer and begin to participate in the California State Society meetings. I guarantee you will meet men and women at these meetings that stand behind the purpose of the Sons of the American Revolution, to perpetuate the memory of Revolutionary War Patriots, foster true patriotism, and educate the youth of America in the true history of this wonderful country of ours. There were a number of national officers that attended this meeting from other states, such as Texas, Virginia, and Florida. It is always enjoyable to meet and talk to these gentlemen and hear how others are doing in the Society.



(Continued on page 2.)



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

The next meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2009, at 6:30 PM, at Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Park.

Presidents Corner by Tom Douglas

At our meeting this month, we will be nominating and electing our officers for the next year (2010). We are in need of Compatriots to step up as First and Second Vice Presidents. Our Registrar is becoming our President, so we need someone to become the new Registrar. I have completed two years as the Chapter President. I have been kept busy, but have not been overwhelmed by making myself available. There will always be someone there to answer questions you might have about your duties. We have had a very encouraging first two years as a chapter. Without you to fill the vacancies we have, I am afraid we will lose the momentum we have generated and the participation with which we have been blessed. Keep the Mother Lode Chapter a viable and important part of the California Society Sons of the American Revolution.

Tom

Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2009

Tom Douglas

President

Tom Adams

Executive Vice President

Jim Young

2nd Vice President

Brian Sonner

Secretary

Tom Douglas

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



Night view of the Mission Inn Hotel.

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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 Patriot's Perspective

Answering the Call to Duty

By Michael G. Lucas

Veterans Day is a time to honor and thank all Americans who have answered their nation's call to duty. America remains strong and free because of those who, throughout our nation's history, have selflessly served in the military. After the Revolutionary War, President George Washington stated that "we owe these veterans a debt of gratitude, indeed a debt of honor". President John Kennedy honored the nation's veterans when he stated, "Since this country was founded, each generation of Americans has been summoned to give testimony to its national loyalty. The graves of young Americans who answered the call to service surround the globe. Now the trumpet summons us again. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it...and the glow from that fire can truly light the world."

Americans today enjoy freedom and protection from tyranny because of those who set the pattern by answering the first call to duty over two hundred years ago. America's sons and daughters struggled and fought to give birth to a new nation, founded on the principle of self-government. Those early veterans answered the call to duty and ignited a firestorm, forever changing the course of world history. A generation of patriots banded together to fight for an unprecedented set of ideals. Armed with little more than hunting muskets and facing insurmountable odds, they responded to a call to duty.

In the predawn hours of April 19, 1775, church bells and beating drums proclaimed a call to duty for about seventy Lexington militiamen. Hundreds of battle hardened Redcoats were approaching their town. Captain John Parker was their commander, and he had every reason to decline his call to duty. He was suffering from tuberculosis, which would end his life in a few months. However, he unselfishly answered the call without regard for his own health. His personal health became insignificant compared to the health of his new nation. Parker was ready for the British both at Lexington Green and hours later at Pine Hill where he wounded two British officers. Captain Parker's call to duty on that fateful day gave birth to a new nation of free men and women.

On December 30, 1776, the soldiers in the Continental Army heard the call of their country and had every reason to decline. Their enlistments were slated to expire the next day. They had already sacrificed enormously for their country and it was time for them to return home. It was now someone else's turn to sacrifice. General Washington entreated his men to reenlist for another six weeks. He addressed his men, "My brave fellows, you have done all I asked you to do, and more than could be reasonably expected, but your country is at stake: your wives, your houses, and all that you hold dear. You have worn yourselves out with fatigues and hardships, but we know not how to spare you. If you will consent to stay...you will render that service to the cause of liberty and to your country which you probably never can do under any other circumstances. The present is emphatically the crisis which is to decide our destiny." Almost fifteen hundred men answered the General's call to duty and extended their service to the army. Within a few weeks nearly half of those volunteers would be dead from wounds or disease.

Deborah Samson heard the call to duty and had every reason to turn a deaf ear. She wanted to fight for her country but that was not permitted. She impersonated a man and joined the Fourth Massachusetts Regiment as Robert Shurtleff. She fought and was wounded three times. In order to guard her secret, she refused to have a musket ball removed from her leg. As a result, her leg never healed properly. Her service to the nation through combat was ended only because her identity was finally uncovered. At long last the doctors discovered her secret when she was admitted into a hospital to receive treatment for a life-threatening fever.

Nathanael Greene had a number of reasons for disregarding the call to duty. He was a member of the Quakers, a pacifist group who rejected warfare. Joining the military resulted in rejection by his community. In addition, he walked with a limp. After joining a militia unit as a private, he was told that he was unfit and unworthy for duty. They considered his limp to be a blemish on the company. Greene would not be deterred from his call to duty. In eight months he went from being a spurned private to becoming a General in the Continental Army. He became General Washington's most gifted and steadfast officer, serving faithfully for the duration of the entire war.



Michael Lucas
Gold Country Chapter

(Continued on page 12.)

Photos from the Fall Manager's Meeting

November 13 - 14, 2009, Mission Inn Hotel, Riverside, CA



Tom Adams and Jim Young at the Saturday luncheon and Valley Forge Teacher presentation.



Joyce and Tom Douglas at the Saturday luncheon and Valley Forge Teacher presentation.



Tom Adams, Jim Young, and Tom and Marilyn Chilton at the Saturday evening banquet.



CASSAR President Lou Carlson presents Jim Young with his George Washington Fellow Certificate



Yoncie and Wayne Griswold, (CASSAR Exec. VP), and Keith Bigbee (CASSAR VP North) at the Saturday luncheon and Valley Forge Teacher presentation.



CASSAR President Lou Carlson presents Shirley Judy, the Valley Forge Teacher Contest winner, with a Outstanding Citizenship Certificate.

More photos from the Fall Manager's Meeting

November 13 - 14, 2009, Mission Inn Hotel, Riverside, CA



Tom Adams, Jim Young, Tom Chilton, and Tom Douglas at the Saturday evening banquet.



Joyce and Tom Douglas at the Saturday evening banquet.



CASSAR President Lou Carlson (L), and NSSAR President-General Ed Butler at the Saturday evening banquet.



Barbara and Larry Magerkurth at the Saturday evening banquet. Larry is NSSAR Secretary-General.



L-R: NSSAR Genealogist-General Joe Dooley, and CASSAR Color Guard Commander Don Moran, at the Saturday evening banquet.



NSSAR Vice President-General J. David Sympson, and his wife, Marcia, at the Saturday evening banquet.

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

In October, General Prevost had commanded two forces. Those defending Savannah, and the unit holding Port Royal. With the Royal Navy busy elsewhere, and the two British garrisons miles apart, General Lincoln and his staff felt the time was ripe for an attack on Savannah. Their reasoning was that if Admiral d'Estaing could be persuaded to support the Americans, it would require no more than 10 days to defeat Prevost. If Savannah was regained, d'Estaing could bring his naval and ground forces to assist Washington in an assault on New York City. It was 4 years and 7 months since that day in 1775 at Lexington and Concord when the first shot had been fired in what would become the American War for Independence. The nation was war weary, especially so since the loss of the siege at Savannah. Jones' victory, and the expedition against the Indians, were the only bright spots in what had become a dreary year even for the Tories, who if anyone, had a reason to rejoice at the fortunes of war. Winter approached, and Washington had badly needed a victory at one or both places to encourage both the army and civilian population to look forward to a better year in 1780.

On the books, Clinton had a victory at Savannah in as much as Prevost had not lost the siege, still there was no clear cut victory. General Lincoln had not been driven away, he simply had picked up and gone home. In the North, Clinton was suffering from the constant drain on his resources. What resources he had were divided, and neither New York nor Newport had the assured capability of successfully resisting a possible attack by Washington. Additionally, both were too far apart to support the other. Washington desperately wanted to retake New York. He even considered attempting the assault without naval support. Clinton must have read Washington's mind, or had intelligence through Tories, that Washington planned a move against him. By withdrawing all naval and ground forces from Newport, Rhode Island, to New York, he bolstered his troop strength in New York City to a point where he could reasonably expect to be capable of withstanding such an assault.

After the long siege at Savannah, General Lincoln returned his army to Charleston, leaving Savannah and Port Royal safely in Prevost's hands. The northward movement of Admiral Byron's West Indies fleet caused d'Estaing to withdraw from the Georgia coast, splitting his fleet. He sent some ships to the West Indies while he set sail for France with the remainder. The defeat of Lincoln, and the dual liability of d'Estaing's departure and the arrival of Admiral Byron in the area, dashed any hope that an offensive against New York could succeed. Reluctantly, Washington gave up plans for an offensive in the North, and proceeded to move toward winter camp at Morristown.

The winter of 1778-79 had been unusually mild and gave no hint as to what was to come. The winter of 1779-1780 would abound with problems for the northern army. Not only would the winter be unusually severe (New York harbor froze over), but quarters were not available to protect the men from the cold. Nor was there adequate food, clothing, or even blankets on hand, nor was there the hard cash to purchase these items locally. The result was poor morale, frost bite, sickness and death, and some mutinous actions.

Disposition of the Patriot Armies for the winter was made by Washington in the North and Lincoln in the South. The main army under Washington went to Morristown. A lesser force was assigned to Danbury, Connecticut, for the winter. They were to protect the area from seaborne ground forces as had previously been used at New Haven and other coastal towns. A third force remained to protect West Point and the river passage, while Lincoln remained in Charleston with his army.

Let us now return to Holland where Jones was still trying to repair the *Serapis* despite the refusal of Dutch ship carpenters to work due to the cold and stormy weather off the North Sea during the early part of November.

Having previously spoken of Captain Conyngham and his capture and incarceration as a pirate, he again enters our story. Jones had been holding Captain Pearson of the *Serapis* as an exchange for Captain Conyngham, however this became a moot subject as sometime in October, Conyngham had "Dug his way out" of Mill Prison in England. He arrived in Holland in November. Jones, jubilant at his escape, put him aboard the *Alliance* to serve temporarily during Landais' absence in Paris, or until another command could be found for him.

The American Revolution – Month By Month - October 1779 by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers (continued from page 6)

Britain constantly pressured the Netherlands to return the *Serapis* and the *Countess* to England, and to force Jones to sea. In response, the Netherlands pressured Jones to leave Texel. To avoid any British claim to any of the ships, the French government placed all ships in Jones' Squadron except the *Alliance* under French responsibility and its flag. Left without a ship, Jones transferred to the *Alliance*, along with his personal belongings, and some equipment from the *Serapis*. Jones left the *Serapis* reluctantly as it was the fastest and most responsive ship that he had sailed in. It was of a new design, and fresh from the builder who had installed what at that time was a newly discovered, anti-barnacle bottom, created by sheathing her from the water line down with copper.

Jones transferred his crew, along with himself, creating a double crew on the *Alliance*. Landais had been as sloppy in his ship's administration as he had been insolent to the Commodore. He left the *Alliance* a "Pig Pen" under ship's officers who were no more responsible than Landais. The crew had grown accustomed to the filth, although many were sick from the unsanitary conditions. Jones immediately set about to bring about the spit and polish routine that was typical of ships under his command. It didn't make the holdover officers happy to have a new Captain, nor were they pleased with his methods. Jones found the *Alliance's* officers a drunken and surly lot, who resisted taking orders from Jones or the officers brought over from the *Serapis*. The problems with the crew, while remaining in port, was a bad omen for the *Alliance's* coming voyage.

On the 12th day of November, Jones was instructed by the French Ambassador NOT to sail until further notice. Later the same day the Netherlands' government ordered him to sail as soon as he had favorable weather. On the 17th of November, the Netherlands government voted to force Jones to put to sea. Finding the weather unfavorable and a British Squadron patrolling offshore, Jones bade his time. The people of Holland might consider Jones a hero and welcome to a haven at Texel, but their government found him a liability. Holland's position as a neutral was profitable. The Dutch government was, at that time, unwilling to offend Britain for fear of losing their neutral status. To show their cooperation with Britain, the government decided on a show of force to push Jones out to sea*. The *Alliance* was then surrounded by a Dutch squadron in an attempt to coerce him into leaving Texel. Jones refused to leave until conditions were at least reasonable for a successful escape.

The *Serapis*, the *Countess*, and the *Vengeance*, all now under the French flag, took their orders directly from the French ambassador. Jones, unhappy with the way things had gone so far, was even more disturbed when the *Vengeance* was selected, in the company of two French Cutters, to transport 191 of his prisoners to England. Jones had intended an exchange of English prisoners captured on September 23rd for American seamen. He was even more deeply disturbed when he learned that the exchange had been made for French prisoners instead of Americans.

November neared a close, but not before Congress' decision to stop printing paper money was implemented. On November 29, the presses finally stopped after a last printing of 10 million more Continental dollars. The total dollars printed since the first printing order had been given in 1775, had now reached 242 million.

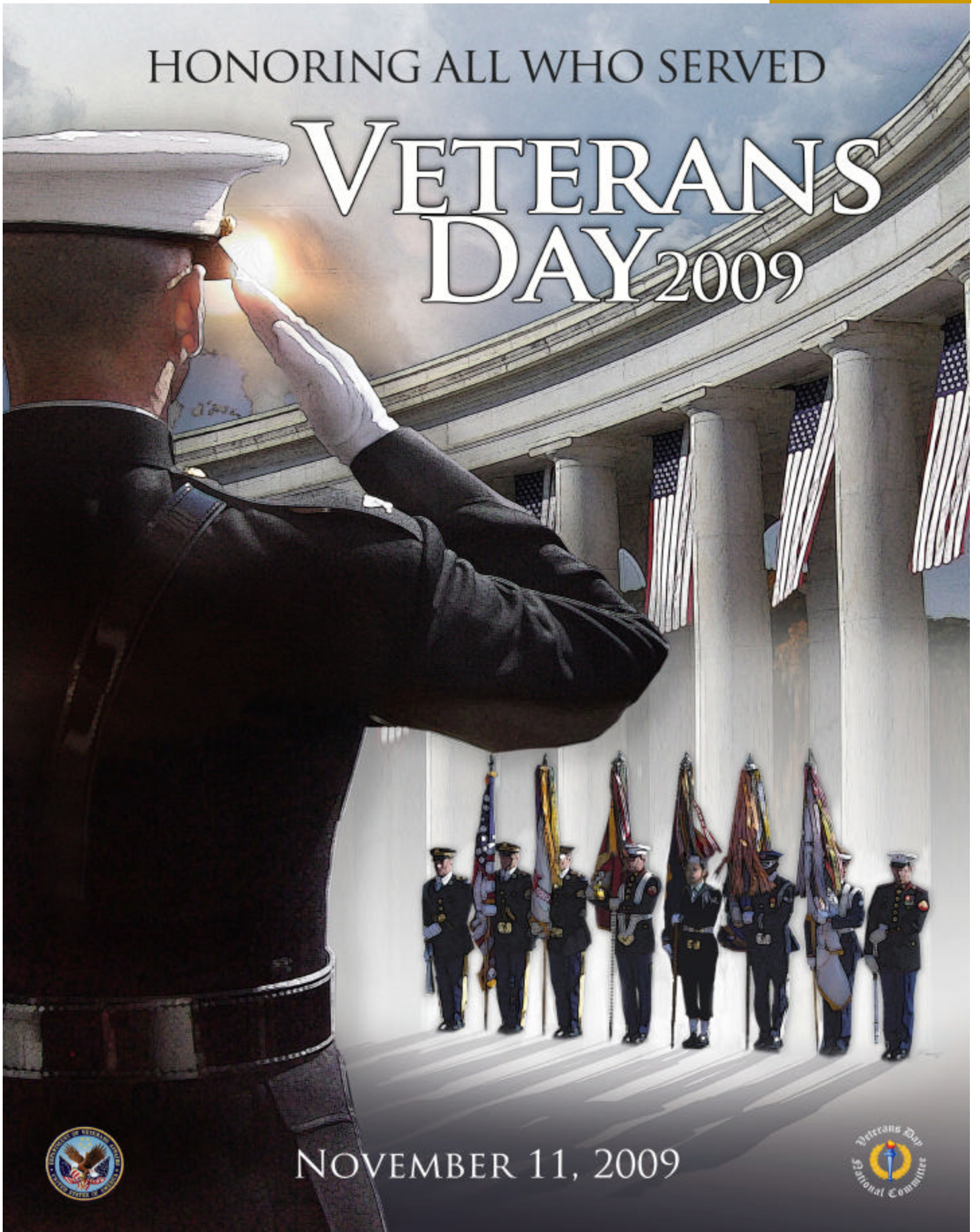
* Britain appears not to have minded the other ships remaining under a French flag in a neutral port. The only purpose of harassing the Netherlands government appears to have been "to get Jones."

References: Encyclopedia Britannica; Ward's "The War of the American Revolution"; Morison's "John Paul Jones"; Schlesinger's "The Almanac of American History."

Not for sale or republication. The American Revolution, Month by Month series was written by Compatriot Andrew J. Stough, III, and is published solely for the benefit of the members of the Gold Country Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Permission to republish this series has been granted to the Mother Lode Chapter, SAR. The original text has been slightly edited by Compatriot Thomas Chilton.

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

VETERANS DAY 2009



NOVEMBER 11, 2009



Photos from the September, 2009, Mother Lode Meeting



Ginger DeGregory tells of the restoration of the American flag .



President Tom Douglas presents Ginger DeGregory with the SAR Certificate of Appreciation.



President Tom Douglas presents Jim Young with his recently approved Supplemental Application for Walter Hewitt.



President Tom Douglas presents Mel Roush with his recently approved Supplemental Application for Philip Roush.



Fred and Ginger DeGregory.



Bob and Marcia Conover.

More Photos from the September, 2009, Mother Lode Meeting



CASSAR Exec. VP Wayne Griswold and Exec. VP Tom Adams



President Tom Douglas leads in singing *God Bless America*.



Jeanie and Gene Myers



Brian Sonner



President Tom Douglas and Bob Conover hold the American Flag flown over the ship, the Oliver Cromwell, during the American Revolution as Jim Young looks on.

Minutes of the meeting held on October 27, 2009.

By Brian C. Sonner

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM by President Tom Douglas. After the Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and SAR Pledge, the minutes for the September 22, 2009, meeting were approved as presented. There were 8 chapter members present, one associate member, and 7 guests (including three DAR members).

2. Reports:

a. Member concerns: John Krahn is unwell and our thoughts are with him.

b. Treasurer's Report: The current balance in the checking account is \$1148.14 and the savings account balance is \$500.92.

c. Registrar's Report: No new activity

d. Historian's Report: Nothing to report.

e. Youth Program: Tom Adams reported that after exploring various potential programs for a national level middle school program, preparation of a brochure by students appears to have the best potential for success. The program would have middle school students prepare a brochure on 8 ½ X11 paper with tri-fold on a subject to be provided.

Wayne Griswold took the recommendations to National and it was approved. The current effort is to develop a proper scoring methodology, appropriate release forms, and a methodology for funding the awards. A teacher training program is being developed for the spring so that teachers will be ready in the fall.

Tom also reported that the CAR is alive and well in El Dorado County. There is an active program with quite a few members.

3. Unfinished/Ongoing Business:

a. Chapter elections for 2010 are coming soon. President Douglas requested volunteers to assume some of the duties currently required by the bylaws.

b. Tom Chilton presented information about two flags from the Sacramento Chapter collection:

1) Rhode Island Regiment

2) 2nd Pennsylvania Rifles

c. Bob Conover (currently awaiting reactivation and transfer of membership to the Mother Lode Chapter) displayed and discussed a flag which has been handed down in his family for generations. The tradition is that it flew aboard the Oliver Cromwell on which Bob's ancestor (Hezekiah Goffe) served during the Revolution. It is quite delicate. He is interested in having experts evaluate the flag.

4. Induction:

a. Mel Roush received a certificate for his first supplemental

b. Jim Young received a certificate for his 5th supplemental

5. Guest Speaker: Virginia DeGregory presented a history of the Star Spangled Banner. The Garrison Flag (30' X 42'), made by Mary Young Pickersfield, has been restored through private donations by the Smithsonian at a cost of approximately \$15 million. The restoration is complete and the flag is again on display. After the presentation, a Certification of Appreciation was presented to Mrs. DeGregory by President Douglas.

6. After the Benediction, the singing of "God Bless America", and the SAR Recessional, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian C. Sonner, Secretary



A Patriot's Perspective

(Continued from page 3.)

Charles and James Peale heard the call to duty and could have ignored it. The Peale brothers were the preeminent artists in America. Most of the portraits of our Founders were painted by Charles Willson Peale and James Peale. They could have argued that the nation needed their artistic talents more than their combat skills, but after the call to duty went out, neither hesitated to answer. Often a patriot's commitment to his country became tested by very difficult circumstances. During the retreat from New York, Charles watched the sick, exhausted, starving, and naked army and described it as "the most hellish scene I ever beheld". He encountered a soldier who had lost his clothes in the rush to escape. He was in an old dirty blanket jacket with a long beard, and his face so full of sores that it couldn't even be washed. Only when the man spoke did Charles realize, from the sound of his voice, that it was his own beloved brother James. Charles later fought in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. James went on to fight in the battles of Trenton, Brandywine, Germantown, Princeton, and Monmouth. They both set aside their lofty status and careers to answer the nation's call.

If anyone had a reason to ignore the call to duty, it would have been Peter Salem. Salem was a black man and a victim of humiliating discrimination. Lacking most rights, he was not a real stakeholder in the country. But Peter Salem heard the call and answered anyway. He became one of the Minutemen heroes at Concord. He also fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill where he shot and killed British Major John Pitcairn. White soldiers raised money to reward him, and he was presented to General Washington as the man who killed Pitcairn. He later fought at Saratoga and Stony Point. The nation did not always continue to show its appreciation to those who answered the call to duty. For Peter Salem, glory was short lived and he died in a poorhouse.

Our nation celebrates Veterans Day because our Revolutionary Patriots placed the welfare of the entire country above their own. They created the first nation in human history where power resided with its citizens. The veterans of each subsequent generation have continued to safeguard it by putting the welfare of the nation above their own. We honor America's veterans and express our thanks to each and every one of them for answering the call to duty! Unfortunately the expression of a simple thank you can never convey our overwhelming gratitude for the many sacrifices made by our veterans so that we can live as a free people.

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.

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