



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

September 2008

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Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



Let Us Never Forget 9-11-2001

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Denny's Restaurant
3446 Coach Lane
Cameron Park, CA.
6:30 PM

The next meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter will be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, at 6:30 PM, at Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Park.

President's Corner By Tom Douglas

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Program

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Flag Certificate Program

Tom Douglas

Americanism Poster Contest

Fellow Compatriots and friends,

Summer is about over and it is time to get back into the swing of things. Our next meeting is Tuesday September 23, 2008 at Denny's on Coach Lane, starting at 6:30.

Our speaker this month is Cecilia Wolary who carried the Olympic Torch for the Summer Games in Los Angeles in 1984.

The next state meeting is the 133rd Fall Board of Managers Meeting, November 7th and 8th, in Burlingame, California. There is still time for you to register if you are interested. I will have registration forms at the meeting.

We will be welcoming Tom Adams, and his sons, Vince and Matt Adams into our Chapter with the presentation of their membership certificates. One year ago, when we applied for our Charter, we had ten members, and now, with additional transfers and new members, we have sixteen members with at least three more in the process. Thank you for your steadfastness in attending meetings and supporting the Mother Lode Chapter.

In Patriotic Service,

Tom Douglas,

President



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.

Program for September 23, 2008

Cecilia Wolary ran in her first 10k race after she was 40 years old. She was working at Raytheon Semiconductor in Mountain View at the time (1980), and practiced running on her lunch hour. She chaired the Raytheon running team, which participated in many of the long distance running events in the area.

The 1984 Summer Olympics were held in Los Angeles. The Torch Run, bringing the Olympic flame from Greece to Los Angeles, was a charity run, with local businesses and private persons sponsoring runners, and then making donations to their favorite charity. Raytheon chose the local YMCA as their charity. The flame was passed from torch to torch, eventually finding its way to Los Angeles.

Raytheon had originally asked one of the men on their running team to carry the flame, but when he could not do so, they asked Cecilia. "Oh Happy Day", she said!! To train for the big event, she continued to run at lunchtime, and started running with a 3-pound weight in one hand to simulate the weight of the torch. Her portion of the Torch Run was one kilometer in length from El Camino Real in Los Altos to Mountain View at the corner of El Camino and Mountain View's main street. The runner prior to her was a young Japanese girl, who could not speak English. It was almost midnight when she lit Cecilia's torch with her flame. Lee helped the Japanese girl put her torch out while Cecilia ran on to her destination.

Cecilia's family members were there to cheer her on, and even gave her a bouquet of roses when she finished. It was a very special evening. Little kids came up and held her hand while their parents took pictures, flashbulbs everywhere, all before the flame actually arrived. She spent the next day showing the torch in each department at Raytheon.

Cecilia did not stop running after the Torch Run. Those 10Ks became Half Marathons, and then full Marathons (26 miles). She and her sister ran in the first Big Sur International Marathon

Cecilia Wolary retired from Raytheon Semiconductor in 1999 after 20 years of service. While at Raytheon, she obtained her Aerobic Instructor Certificate, and teaches classes to seniors as part of El Dorado County's Senior Health Education Program (SHEP). She and Lee celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary in August, and have had many wonderful times together. But that day in July 1984 will never be forgotten.

Cecilia will tell us about her experience running in the Torch Run for the 1984 Olympics.



The 1984 Olympic Torch

The American Revolution – Month By Month - September 1778 by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

London had a new plan for the colonies - London's instructions were to hold what they had in the North while sending troops to support the other operations now that the war had become a worldwide war. The main effort in North America would be in the South, where Britain had a greater following, particularly among the Scots in the Carolinas. Secondly, they would transfer troops from North America to the West Indies to fight against the French who might attack there as well as India. Of particular significance in this change of policy were the Sugar Islands of the West Indies. Sugar represented a cash asset as well as a much desired commodity in every household in England. Sugar appeared at that time to be more valuable to the Empire than anything the American Colonies had ever offered. Therefore, the Sugar Islands and the product itself must be protected and transported to Britain. Transportation to guarantee delivery of the sugar was a severe problem as there was a shortage of fighting ships and men to man them.

The entrance of France into the war allowed Privateers to openly use French ports both on the continent and its possessions. This resulted in Privateers increasingly joining in the activity around the British Isles. Shipping insurance became prohibitive, deterring commerce, and England lived by its commerce. Not only was there pressure from shippers, public sentiment was near hysteria, demanding more protection and relief from "Pirates." In response, the Royal Navy was required to assign more ships to the defense of the British Isles to try and still the populace. The growing conflict had brought an expansion of privateers and ships of both the French and American Navies, who now roamed the previously inviolate waters around the British Isles.

While most people in the American States suffered financially from the war, Privateers made large fortunes. They were supposed to sell the ships and cargoes captured with half the proceeds going to the captain and crew, and the balance deposited to the account of Congress for the payment of debts. The reality was that the Privateers usually retained all of the prize money building large fortunes. The U.S. Navy Captains were required to turn over all proceeds to Congress, drawing on those funds only to pay operating expenses and a small bounty to



Captain Gustavus Conyngham

themselves and crew. This dedicated group of Navy Captains and seamen were willing to accept the financial loss in the name of Independence. Among them was Captain Gustavus Conyngham, less known and less celebrated than John Paul Jones, but one who has been named by historian S. E. Morrison as "the most successful destroyer of commerce in the United States Navy, and the most unfortunate." His exploits rivaled those of John Paul Jones, yet he has not been accorded a place in history.

Revolutionary officers on both land and sea were required to carry their commissions on their person (Privateers also carried commissions from Congress) to prove that they were Military Officers legally engaged in acts of war, not piracy, for which they could be hanged. Conyngham and his crew were eventually captured while legally engaged in an act of war, but, by an act of chicanery, he was imprisoned as a pirate. After surrendering, his commission was taken from his person by British authorities, who then accused him of piracy and imprisoned him as such. Perhaps his imprisonment on trumped up charges is the reason he received so little recognition by his contemporary public and historians. To have hanged him would have created a precedent that any regular Navy Officer relieved of his commission by his captors could have been hanged.

The American Revolution – Month By Month - September 1778

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

(continued from page 4)

Considering his depredations against Great Britain's commerce, it may be that it was widely known that he held a commission in the U.S. Navy. If an American Captain could be hanged after having his commission removed by his captors, then it followed that it could become a "Rule of the Sea." The fact that his commissioned status was known both militarily and diplomatically may be all that saved him from the hangman's noose.

The Continental Army had one notable encounter in early September when it was noted that Clinton appeared to be making preparations for a major operation. Washington thought that it could be intended against the Continentals in the Hudson Highlands, or against the French fleet which was being refitted in Boston. The end result was that Clinton was sending out two large foraging parties: Cornwallis with 5,000 men on the west bank of the Hudson, and Knyphausen with 3,000 men on the east side. This was a considerable force for a foraging expedition, but perhaps experience in past years had taught the Redcoats that foraging in America was not to be taken lightly and would be resisted by both the militia and individuals, as well as the Continental Army. Washington recognized the dual expedition for what it was and sent only token forces of mixed militia and Continentals to harass and check its movements.

General Wind was in charge of a militia unit when he learned that Gen. Grey with Lt. Col. Simcoe and his dreaded Queen's Rangers had been detached from the east bank force and planned a night attack against his command. General Wind ordered a hasty retreat without notifying anyone else. Wind stood between Grey's attacking force and Colonel George Baylor's Continental 3rd Light Dragoons. Failure to warn Baylor of the impending attack, or of his own retreat, had disastrous results. Grey, finding no resistance from the militia unit, moved silently against Baylor's encampment. The Queen's Rangers encountered the perimeter guard of a dozen men and bayoneted them without a sound being heard. Silently they surrounded three barns where Baylor's

men were sleeping, and fell upon the men of the 4th troop, 3rd Dragoons with a silent fury, bayoneting 36 men, and taking 40 prisoner. Only by the intervention of one of Grey's captains was the 4th troop saved from the Ranger's bayonets.

Beyond that, there was little action beyond minor parrying and thrusting between the opposing forces in the New York area. Still there was great activity within the British lines. Washington was puzzled – what was Clinton up to? Washington could not know that with the entrance of France into the war that the priority had changed. It was no longer in North America, but at sea, and in Britain's far flung empire. Washington also could not know of the shift in the revolutionary struggle to the Southern Colonies, with a dependence on raising troops from Loyalist ranks to replace those withdrawn from New York.

During the summer of 1778, Washington's army reached its all time peak with almost 17,000 troops present and fit for duty. There was now a sufficient force capable of meeting Clinton in open battle, but there failed to be an enemy to engage. However, there was an old and persistent enemy, one that could not be defeated by force of arms. It was the usual lack of supplies, worse yet, inflation was gathering steam to further decrease Washington's ability to even feed and clothe the army through the coming winter, which promised to be even more harsh than the previous winter at Valley Forge.

There was plenty of money, Congress and its printing presses assured that. It was simply that there was a growing reluctance to trade goods and victuals for a paper money that was becoming less valuable by the day. True there was also new money and supplies coming with the entrance of France into the war. However, as in any bureaucracy, either it was consumed before it reached the army, was lost, or was just damnably slow in reaching the lower echelon.

References: Flexner's "Washington"; "The Retired Officer" magazine for May, 1998; Wards "War of the Revolution."

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Cliff Robertson's Keynote Address at the 2008 Congress

As I am sure you all know, Cliff Robertson presented the keynote address at the 2008 NSSAR Congress held in Sacramento in July. I thought you might like to see what Cliff had to say. He has graciously consented to allow us to print his speech in its entirety.

SCOTTISH ROOTS REVISITED

Some 3000 miles east of us here tonight a lady holds aloft a torch, above the leaden Manhattan waters. Her left hand holds a tablet. At its base is a poem that reads "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to be free". A nineteenth century tribute from France by the sculptor Frederick Bartholdi.

Some 250 years before that statue was shipped in pieces to New York, indeed long before the granite was cut from those hills, and before America severed her English cord, a Scottish family landed in Virginia and imbedded its proud roots in that fertile soil. A soil that would nourish not only their crops and livestock, but also their Scottish culture with its fierce love of freedom and independence. The year was 1740 - before the infamous clearances of the Highlands. Indeed, before Bonnie Prince Charles' abortive return. This proud clan was not in debt, indentured, or in irons. No famine, persecutions, or sheriff's writs caused these brave Scots to cross the Atlantic. They crossed their "Rubicon" because "it was there" - a rare opportunity to appraise a new land, and its opportunities. The Highlander's innate love of nature and its space - its freedom. Indeed, independence and freedom are indigenous to Scottish culture. Little surprise that years later William Robertson's sons volunteered to fight the war for Independence.

Jonathan, my ancestor, served as a Lt. Adjutant with the 10th Virginia Regiment, lost an arm, but gained honors, commendations, and land grants at the end of hostilities. Thus continuing a long line of gentlemen farmers, horse breeders, doctors, lawyers, an astronomer, and the occasional preacher. No horse thieves soil the family tree, and not until this **speaker, did actors ever appear upon the scene**. Truth be known that in spite of the family's obdurate Scottish pride, some English blood threatened our ethnic roots. A few marital misadventures can happen to any family - after all, nobody's perfect!

To many Americans, the "typical Scot", whatever that may mean, or indeed is, is an individual of dour personality - yet a do-er in the productive sense. A thrifty spender, yet a nifty bender. Dependant on himself, with a wee help from above, if necessary. A pragmatic man inclined to wear kilts with stubborn pride. Well, yes, that image is true enough, but not enough.

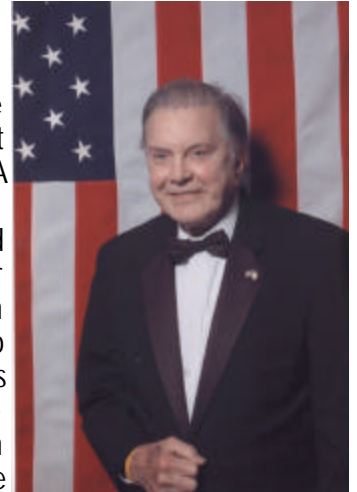
Like many Americans of Scottish descent, my pride of heritage has often been diffused in a cloak of ambiguity. Not ambiguous as to the honor of being linked by a biological D.N.A. chain to our glorious homeland, but rather ambiguous as to the specifics of my pride. What specifically gave me pride in being "a Scot"? My ignorance and illiteracy was, and is, an embarrassment.

What does it mean to be a Scot? What characteristics do we share that are identifiable? And are they shared by our history? A history studded with oppression, wars, and poverty, and above all, courage and pride. And what of that courage? Was it reckless?

William Wallace wouldn't say aye, and certainly not even to the English at Stirling Bridge. And that pride, is it foolish? Bonnie Prince Charles wouldn't say aye. Not those brave Highlanders who followed him in battle against the British, nearly all the way to the gates of London. Indeed, no other army has come so close to victory before or since. A justified pride indeed.

My ancestors stood up - they stood up to George III, to imperialism, to tyranny. They stood up to the difficulties of a burgeoning nation. They did not stand down to hardship. They stood up and were counted as Scottish - Americans - proud of their Scottish past.

Proud of their American future.



Flags of the American Revolution . . .



The Bennington Flag

This flag flew over the military stores in Bennington, Vermont, on August 16, 1777. The American militia led by General John Stark, defeated a large British raiding force, thus protecting the military supplies at Bennington. Note that this flag begins with a white stripe.



The Culpeper Flag

This flag represented a group of about one hundred minutemen from Culpeper, Virginia. The group formed part of Colonel Patrick Henry's First Virginia Regiment of 1775. In October-November 1775 three hundred such minutemen, led by Colonel Stevens, assembled at Culpeper Court House and marched for Williamsburg. Their unusual dress alarmed the people as they marched through the country. The word "LIBERTY OR DEATH" were in large white letters on the breast of their hunting shirts. They had bucks' tails in their hats and in their belts, tomahawks and scalping knives.

Light Infantry Company, 4th Massachusetts Regiment Continental Line, 1781-1782

It is unusual that the best description of the uniform of the Light Infantry Company of the 4th Massachusetts during the period it garrisoned the Hudson Valley and fought at Yorktown is provided with a woman who served with the unit! Posing as a man, Deborah Sampson of Plympton, Massachusetts, joined the Regiment at West Point and was assigned to Captain George Webb's Light Infantry Company. Although there are questions as to the exact period of her enlistment and although one may wonder at the patriotic innocence of her exploit, there is no doubt that she did serve with this Company in 1782.

The light infantry - one picked company in each Continental infantry regiment - were the elite of the United States Army. (Deborah must have been a tall, strapping lass!) On campaign, they normally were detached from their parent regiments for special missions and were regrouped into provisional light infantry battalions after the British custom. Brigadier General Anthony Wayne led this "Corps of Light Infantry" to capture Stony Point in 1777. In 1781, as the "Light Division", it served under Major General de Lafayette in Virginia.

The clothing and equipment issued Deborah is described by her biographer as a French fusee, a knapsack, cartridge-box, and thirty cartridges. Her garb was exchanged for a uniform peculiar to the infantry. It consisted of a blue coat lined with white, white wings on the shoulders, cords on the arms and pockets, a white waistcoat, breeches or overhauls and stockings with black straps about the knees, half boots, a black velvet stock, and a cap with variegated cockade on one side, a plume tipped with red on the other, and a white sash about the crown. Her martial apparatus, exclusive of those in marches, were a gun and bayonet, a cartridge-box, and hanger with white belts.

This uniform was, in general, that prescribed by George Washington for the New England Line on October 2, 1779. It was set forth in instructions issued by the Massachusetts Bay government in January 1781 since Massachusetts, at that time, was responsible for clothing and equipping its units serving with the Continental Line. The "cords" or braiding, a non-regulation item, as shown in this plate, are based upon the contemporary French uniform style. "Wings", traditionally the mark of an elite unit, are of the type shown in the sketch of a light infantry officer of the 2nd Massachusetts Regiment drawn by Colonel Thaddeus Doscusko. The three soldiers shown in the plate wear "overalls", long trousers cut snug to the leg and shaped to fit over the top of the shoe like a gaiter. Properly fitted, overalls provided freedom of action and more protection than the knee breeches and stockings worn earlier in the war. The drummer wears the regulation "reversed colors", a white coat with blue facings. A number of such drummers' coats were included in a shipment of blue-and-white uniforms sent from France to Virginia in 1782.

The light infantry caps shown are modeled on those worn by four light infantry officers on the far right side of John Trumbull's first painting of the British surrender at Yorktown. Deborah's "variegated cockade" was the "Union Cockade" worn by American troops of this period, which combined the United States black cockade with the French white. The tall black-and-red plumes are probably those brought from France by Lafayette for wear by the light infantry. A French officer noted these at Yorktown, flaunted above rags and bare feet.

The company officer in the plate is distinguished by his silver epaulette and crimson sash. He is armed with an espointon and a hanger. The latter was a short cutting sword. Its issue to enlisted men at this time seems unusual based upon present knowledge. However, the hanger was carried by elite chasseur and grenadier companies of the French infantry, and may have been adopted by American light infantry units as another symbol of their similar status.

The 4th Massachusetts Regiment, originally Colonel Ebenezer Learned's Massachusetts Battalion, was one of twelve such units formed by the state on May 19, 1775. The Regiment entered Continental Service on June 15 to serve until December 31, 1775. The Regiment was mustered out on January 2, 1776. Learned at once reorganized the unit as the 3rd Continental Regiment. On January 1, 1777, the Regiment was again reorganized and redesignated the 4th Massachusetts, and as such it fought under William Shepard through 1782. In January 1783, Colonel Henry Jackson assumed command, and the Regiment was disbanded on November 3. Jackson formed the 1st American Regiment, the last infantry unit of the Continental Line, the same day. Seventeen of his officers and many men of the 4th went with him.

Uniform of the Massachusetts 4th Regiment



2009 Entertainment Books are Available for the Sacramento Area

The Mother Lode Chapter will again be selling 2009 Entertainment Books for the Sacramento area this year. For those of you who are familiar with the books, you already know that if you go out to eat two or three times at any of the fine dining restaurants listed in the book, you will most likely save the cost of the book. After that, it is all gravy!! There are some really great restaurants on the list this year including Fulton's Prime Rib in Old Sacramento, the Slocum House and La Boheme in Fair Oaks, La Provence in Roseville, and the Scott's Seafood Grill in Sacramento.

But there is more!! There are coupon savings for golf, movie theaters, fast food restaurants, \$20 savings at Safeway, and a host of other things.

The books cost just \$40 each. In combination with the Sacramento Chapter, if we sell ten or more books, the chapters make \$8 per book sold. You can pick up your copy at the September, October, or November chapter meetings. Call Tom Chilton at 933-6576 for more information.



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