



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

September 2009

Volume 3, Issue 7

Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots

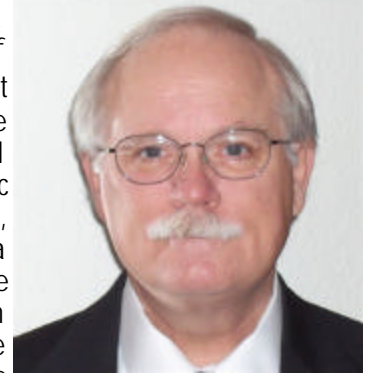


September 22, 2009 Meeting

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How many people do you know who will jump out of a perfectly good airplane? Next Tuesday's speaker is one of them. **Thomas Harris** was born in Washington State, but spent his youth in many places because his father was in the Air Force. Thomas joined the U.S. Army in 1965, attended basic training in Ft. Benning, GA, and went on to basic medical training in Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. Upon graduation, he learned that parachute pay was an additional \$50.00 a month, so he immediately returned to Ft. Benning and became jump certified. He received orders to the 101st Air Born Division in Viet Nam where he served as the medic for the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol. (LRRP). During his tour he was wounded once, and hospitalized three times with malaria.



Upon returning to the U.S., he transferred to the 82nd Air Born Division at Ft. Bragg, NC. After being there only a few months, his unit was sent overnight to Hue, Viet Nam, during the 1968 TET offensive. After being discharged from the U.S. Army in October, 1968, Thomas joined the U.S. Navy in February 1969, and was given orders to SEAL Team Two in Little Creek, VA, where he attended SEAL training. He was then sent to SEAL Team One in Coronado, CA, and later deployed to Viet Nam with Zulu Platoon of SEAL Team One for a six month tour. Thomas did not have malaria on this tour, but did manage to get shot three times. Of his platoon of 14 men, 10 were wounded, seven by gunshot and three by shrapnel. Fortunately, none were killed in action.

Thomas retired from the Navy in 1985. He has worked in Child and Adult Protective Services in Sacramento County, as a reserve Policeman in Waldport, Oregon, and as a reserve County Sheriff in Kings County, CA.

Thomas Harris is retired, and currently lives with his wife, Emily, in El Dorado Hills. The subject of Thomas' presentation is "The Physiological Effects of the Viet Nam War."

[If this looks familiar to you, it is because Thomas Harris was to speak at the June meeting. He was unable to attend that meeting, with will speak at the September meeting.]



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

The next meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, at 6:30 PM, at Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Park.

Presidents Corner by Tom Douglas

Fellow Compatriots and Friends,



Another summer is about over and we are moving into a more normal way of life once again. I hope that this time has been fruitful and reenergizing for you. I miss our monthly meetings during this break time and look forward to getting back together.

We need to start thinking about the nominations and elections of officers that will happen in November. There will be opportunities to serve the chapter in a number of different capacities that we can talk about at our meeting this month.

The next meeting of the California State Society is the 135th Board of Managers meeting, to be held November 12th-14th at the Mission Inn in Riverside. I will be attending along with VP Jim Young. There is still time for you to register and become involved in the workings of the state society. There are a number of Bylaw changes we will be voting on during the business meetings. There will be copies available at the meeting. Please read them and let me know how you want me to represent you with the chapters vote.

We have three new members to install into the chapter. Two new SAR members, Robert Schamber and Edward Sheffler and one transfer, Douglas Stone. I am looking forward to meeting these new members and welcoming them into the Mother Lode Chapter.

Again, I am looking forward to seeing you all Tuesday, the 22nd at Denny's.

In Patriotic Service,

Tom

Tom Douglas can be reached at 530-677-3905, or at tommyd@directcon.net

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

- Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2008**
Tom Douglas
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Tom Adams
 Executive Vice President
Jim Young
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Brian Sonner
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 ROTC Program
Vacant
 Essay Contest
Vacant
 Valley Forge Program
Vacant
 Law Enforcement Program
Vacant
 Flag Certificate Program
Tom Douglas
 Americanism Poster Contest

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 135th Board of Managers Annual Meeting

Registration Form

The California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution will be given a special room rate of \$109.00 per night, single or double occupancy. This special rate is only available until October 1st, 2009, and only for a limited number of rooms. There is an \$8.00 fee to park at the hotel. The nearest airport is Ontario International Airport, approximately 25 miles from the hotel. Make your reservations directly with the Mission Inn.

There is a tour of the Mission Inn on Thursday Evening, November 12th, for \$15.00 per person.

Compatriot: _____ *Title:* _____

Chapter: _____ *Guest:* _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ *E-mail:* _____



Arrival Time: *Thursday, Nov. 12th* *Friday, Nov. 13th* *Saturday Nov. 14th.*

Registration is \$130.00 per person on or before October 1st, 2009, or \$140.00 after October 2nd, 2009. Registration fee includes all meetings, Saturday luncheon and Saturday Banquet, including tax and gratuity.

Number of Registrants: ____ *@ \$130.00* *Late Registrants:* ____ *@ \$140.00* *Total:* \$ _____

Non-Registrant Friday Luncheon (Old Spaghetti Factory @ \$20.00) *Total:* \$ _____

Non-Registrant Saturday Luncheon @ \$35.00 *Total:* \$ _____

Non-Registrant Saturday Banquet @ \$65.00 *Total:* \$ _____

Number _____ *for Ladies Local Tour and Tea @ \$20.00* *Total:* \$ _____
(Local tour and tea to be held Friday at 2:00 p.m.)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ 0.00

Saturday Evening Banquet (check choice): *Chicken* *Beef* *Vegetarian*

Mail complete form and check made out to the Riverside Chapter, SAR to:

*Compatriot Charles Gentis
1063 Elmhurst Drive, Corona, California 92880
Telephone Number: 1-951-371-5895 -- E-mail: gentis061@sbcglobal.net*

[If you plan to attend this meeting, I urge you to make your hotel reservations now, as the hotel holds only a limited number of rooms for the CASSAR at this rate. Tom]

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

The month of August begins with a holdover, the Penobscot Expedition, which began on a disputed date in the latter half of July. The Massachusetts fleet was commanded by Dudley Saltonstall, a former privateer, who had been given orders to dislodge the 700 man British force from the fort under construction at Castine. Arriving at the site, Saltonstall (for a reason not known) did not immediately attack. The ground force commanders, Generals Solomon Lovell and Peleg Wadsworth, put 200 of the two or three thousand ground troops ashore. One wonders why such a small number of the available force was used and were not properly supported by the artillery commanded by Paul Revere.

Nothing significant occurred until August 14, when British reinforcements consisting of seven ships with 204 guns and 1,530 ground troops arrived from Halifax, Nova Scotia. The American forces then withdrew up-river some thirty or forty miles to the settlement of Kenduskeag (present day Bangor), where they ran their ships ashore and burned them. The survivors then walked back to Boston, where Saltonstall was dismissed for his actions at Castine and Bangor, and Revere was court-martialed for disobeying the orders of a superior officer. He was acquitted. Is this our Paul Revere of the Midnight Ride? Yes! Revere had risen from a midnight messenger to a Lt. Col. of Artillery. The Penobscot Expedition was the largest naval force formed and deployed for combat during the entire Revolutionary War. It was also the greatest naval defeat of the Revolution!

While the Penobscot Expedition was finding its place in history as a disaster, the Sullivan and Brodhead expeditions were burning the western frontier. The Sullivan expedition began with Sullivan in Easton, Pennsylvania (near present day Allentown), while Brigadier James Clinton was at Canajoharie; the two forces joining at Tioga in late August. They then moved north with the purpose of capturing hostages and destroying the settlements of the Six Nations (the Iroquois League) in New York's Genesee Valley.

On the way to Tioga, Clinton destroyed an empty Indian village of 30 to 40 substantial homes, a meeting house, and chapel, along with extensive gardens and fields of corn. He then destroyed the significant Indian town of Onanquaga on the Susquehanna River, burning a substantial number of houses, a church, and fields of corn, vegetables, and vast fruit orchards. Leaving a small body of men to guard the town, the combined force proceeded up the Chemung River, by their noisy march negating the objective of securing prisoners.

On August 29th, there was a sharp, but short fight at Newtown (near Elmira, NY) between Sullivan and the Tory forces of Col. John Butler and Joseph Brant and his Indians. Unable to stand against a 1400 man American force, Butler and Brant left the field to Sullivan. Shortly after the battle, Sullivan destroyed a substantial town of English style houses, large orchards, and crops, including 150 acres of fine corn. The only defeat of the expedition occurred on September 13, when a small party of Morgan's rifles was ambushed. Twenty-two men were killed outright, and the Lieutenant and his Sergeant were captured and taken to Beard's town, where they were tortured and eventually beheaded. As a final act, Sullivan put the torch to the old town of Genesee, along with its large orchards and gardens.

The expedition retraced its steps, burning anything overlooked on the march north. On September 30th the expedition was at Wyoming, and by October 15th had returned to its origin, Easton, Pennsylvania. Brodhead's 600 man expedition occurred about the same time, operating in the Alleghany River Valley with results similar to those of Sullivan. The commanders of both expeditions received commendations from Congress and the Commander-in-Chief for their actions.

The Indians, their towns and crops destroyed, were forced in humiliation to retreat to Niagara to be housed and fed by the British for the winter. With the return of warmer weather, the Indians, seething with a desire for revenge, accelerated their raiding, which continued with unabated fury during, and after the end of the Revolutionary War.

While all of this was going on, Major Henry Lee Jr. (Light Horse Harry) convinced Washington that he could push the British from their last remaining major outpost in New Jersey, Powles or Paulus Hook



Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee
1756 - 1818

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

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(the origin of Jersey City, NJ). McLane and his horsemen had been scouting the entire area prior to the capture of Stony Point, and was now called on to brief Lee on the fort's defenses, and then lead the way into the fort where he and his men acted heroically.

As at Stony Point, there was a swamp to cross and an abatis to infiltrate. The garrison, alerted by sounds of splashing water, opened fire, but it was too late. The Americans, as at Stony Point, made the bayonet the weapon of the day, capturing the fort without a shot being fired. The only Briton not killed or captured was a small force of Hessians in a blockhouse who refused to surrender. Time and probable casualties did not allow for an attack on the Blockhouse.

There had been no intention of holding the fort, only the capture of the garrison, spiking of the cannon, and blowing-up the powder magazine. Retreat from the Hook had to be immediate, and was perilous due to the arrival of reinforcements from New York City. Boats pre-positioned to take them back to the main force had been withdrawn and it became necessary to split the force and return by several different routes to Washington's Command. The affair of Paulus Hook on August 19th was the last encounter between Washington and Clinton in 1779. Schlessinger notes that on " August 14, 1779 - Congress approves a peace plan that contains the stipulation of independence, specifically defined minimum boundaries, complete evacuation of the American territories and free navigation on the Mississippi River." I find no reference to this in any other document available to me, but it is interesting that Congress is plugging away, and still confident that the new nation will overcome British rule and gain true independence.

Captain John Paul Jones U.S. Navy, with a courtesy rank of Commodore, set sail on August 14th on a voyage around the British Isles in his flagship *Bonhomme Richard*, accompanied by frigates *Alliance* and *Las Pallas* and four lesser vessels, *La Vengeance*, *Le Cerf*, *Monsieur*, and *Granville*, the latter two being privateers who departed the task force shortly after leaving port.

The officers of the *Richard* were American, French, and Irish, and were intensely loyal to the Commodore. The crew which had been formed and reformed before sailing was a mixed lot of eleven nationalities including Americans. On board were 137 French Marines, who were to perform nobly. Morison notes "Jones now had a hard core of professional seamen who wanted to fight and recognized their Captain as the great seaman and leader that he was." A crew far different from any on his preceding cruises.

On August 18th, the privateer *Monsieur* took a prize off Lands End and left the fleet with the prize. On August 9th and 20th, a large ship was chased but escaped, on August 21st, the cargo ship *Mayflower* was captured and sent to Lorient with a prize crew. On August 23rd, the becalmed Brig *Fortune* was captured by two boats from *Richard* and sent to Nantes under a prize crew. Still becalmed and in fog off Ireland, a boat was put out to keep *Richard* from grounding on a reef. The crew chosen were all dissident Irishmen who shortly cut the towing hawser, deserted, and set off for shore. Chase was given, but it was fruitless.

On August 24th, Captain Landais came aboard the flagship, and in front of *Richard's* officers addressed Jones "in the most gross and insulting terms" because Jones had denied him permission to chase a vessel close in to shore where there was danger from rocks. Landais announced that from now on he would chase when and where he pleased and act on his own. Landais then departed and was not seen again until late August.

The Irish deserters alarmed the countryside with stories of Jones' plan to burn and pillage. Newspapers spread the stories far and wide. To calm fears of the populace, two of His Majesty's Ships were put to sea to find and defeat Jones. Use of newspaper accounts of Jones' location resulted in the search being made in the wrong direction. Nothing of importance occurred until August 30th, when the cargo ship *Union* was captured and sent as a prize.

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

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

September 1779 was a busy month. Congress was struggling with inflation of the currency. Boonesborough, Kentucky, came under siege by Indians, while the Sullivan and Broadhead expeditions approached an end. On September 30, the Sullivan Expedition returned to Wyoming. The war in Georgia flared up with an attack on Savannah by land and Naval forces. Spanish Governor Galvez of Louisiana captured three British forts, and finally, last but not least, was the sea battle between Britain's Serapis and the Bonhomme Richard.

By the end of summer, 1779, hyper-inflation stalked the land. The Continental dollar had depreciated to the point that it no longer had value, giving rise to the expression "Worthless as a Continental." Congress had issued \$200 million in Continental paper money with little or nothing to back it up. The amount alone was so staggering that it was difficult for the common man to even imagine so much money. On September 3, to remedy the situation and to return it to the realm of believability, Congress stopped printing money and did what governments have done before and since: devalued the dollar so that the debt was reduced to a more believable \$5 million. Not only was Congress' debt of staggering proportions, but currency issued by the individual states was generally as inflated as the Continental dollar. To offset the need to create more currency, Congress now asked (it could not require) the states to take on more of the burden of supporting the war with hard goods rather than money.

Kentucky had been fought over by the Cherokee and Iroquois as long as anyone could remember, and was known to the Indians as the "Dark and bloody ground" due to the continuing wars between the two tribes over possession of the land. This apt description continued during the Revolution as Britain and its Indian allies attacked white settlements. Daniel Boone, who served as a wagoneer and blacksmith in Braddock's Expedition, went on to found the settlement of Boonesborough. Settlers in Kentucky were forced to fend for themselves as they received little or no support from Virginia before or during the Revolutionary War.

Encroachment of Europeans into Indian lands beyond the mountains and the entire length of the Atlantic Coast resulted in Indian attacks on settlers who tried to occupy the land. Boonesborough had previously been attacked in 1777 and 1778. On September 7, 1779, the Shawnee, a loose ally of the Cherokee, laid siege to Boonesborough. Unable to capture the town in ten days they gave up, departing on September 17th. While noting the Indian attack on Boonesborough, we must also remember that the Sullivan and Broadhead expeditions were punishing Indians in the lands further north.

After Stono Ferry, the war in Georgia reached a stalemate with Britain holding Port Royal and Savannah while the coastal area in between was secured by the presence of the Royal Navy. Governor Rutledge of South Carolina and General Moultrie felt that if the French fleet in the West Indies could engage the Britons off the coast, it would be possible for land forces to engage either Port Royal or Savannah without interference or reinforcement from the other garrison.

Comte or Count d'Estaing was contacted in the West Indies, and agreed to support the Patriots. The French fleet defeated and captured a supply convoy and its armed escorts (also bound for Savannah) while enroute. d'Estaing arrived at the mouth of the Savannah River on September 8th, where he was joined by several armed American ships. British ships were on the river, safe from the French whose ships were too large to cross a bar to engage the local fleet before reinforcements could arrive from New York City.

September 12, d'Estaing landed 3,500 men south of the city. On September 15th, they were joined by Pulaski's Legion. General Lincoln's army arrived on the 16th. d'Estaing demanded that Prevost surrender, however, the General knew that reinforcements were coming and asked for a 24 hour delay. While waiting for reinforcements, he continued to strengthen his defenses. Prevost was joined during this time by 800 men, who had evaded General Lincoln's Army as it moved south.

With the arrival of reinforcements, Prevost informed d'Estaing that he would defend the city. An attack was launched, but Prevost had completed his defenses and the attack failed. A British officer later recalled that if d'Estaing had attacked immediately, the city would have fallen. By waiting, he allowed the available cannon to be increased from 23 to more than 100. With the works completed, Savannah was impregnable to attack by the forces available. The Americans and French dug in, but it would be October 3, before the Patriots and their allies would be ready to attack again.

Spanish Governor Galvez of Louisiana captured Manchac on September 6th, Baton Rouge on the 21st, and later, Natchez, further up the Mississippi followed. By his action, further navigation on the river was denied to Britain. See the SAR Magazine for fall 1996 for a better description of these events.

By September 30th, Sullivan was at Wyoming on the way to termination at Easton.

Jones continued his cruise around the British Isles. On the first day of September Landais, in the Alliance, appeared with a prize ship (*Betsy*). Summoned again to the flagship, he was again most disrespectful to the Commodore. Time wore on with additional prizes captured and sent off with prize crews, but no action occurred with a capital ship.

The American Revolution – Month By Month - September 1779

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

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On September 16th, a boat approached the flagship explaining that Sir John Anstruther, who lived nearby, had a small brass cannon to protect his home from the terrible Paul Jones, but no powder. Realizing that the men thought it was a British ship, Jones kept the pilot on board, but sent the rest off with a cask of gunpowder for Sir John. Late that afternoon panic broke out ashore when it was recognized that the pirate Jones was in the area.

In the days to follow, Jones was alone with the exception of the cutter *Vengeance*. During this time, some ships were captured, but it would be September 23rd that made Jones famous. On the 23rd, Captain Landais deigned to rejoin the squadron as did frigate *Pallas*. Jones now had four ships under his command, and the Grand Day had arrived. A convoy of 41 ships appeared toward sundown, protected by the *Serapis* with 50 guns (officially 44), and the 20 gun *Countess of Scarborough*.

The *Serapis* and *Countess*, falling back to defend their convoy, signaled the other ships to stay close to shore, but make full sail ahead toward port. Jones came within hailing distance without a shot being fired. *Serapis* demanded that the intruder identify himself or be fired upon. Jones held off long enough to come within firing range to get in the first broadside. The two fired simultaneously, but on the first or second firing, two of Jones 18 pounders blew-up, destroying the entire 18 pound battery and the deck above.

The two ships began to maneuver to gain a bow or stern position to rake the other. Jones, realizing that he could not match tactics, acted to bring the ships together to lash and board *Serapis*. The maneuver failed as the boarders were repulsed, and Jones pulled away. *Serapis* then attempted to cross Richard's bow, but Jones rammed his ship into *Serapis* stern. At this point, Captain Pearson of *Serapis* called out "Has your ship struck", and Jones replied, "**I have not yet begun to fight.**"

More maneuvering without success for either ship ended when the two ships collided from opposite directions. The fluke of *Serapis*' anchor brought them together. Grappling hooks then bound them as one. Like two heavyweight boxers, the two ships slugged it out, muzzle to muzzle. Pearson, realizing that he could not effectively bring his guns to bear, ordered the ropes on the grappling hooks cut. As fast as *Serapis*' seamen approached the hawsers, they were shot down by Richard's marines in the fighting tops.

At 8:30, the moon, almost at full, gave light to the battle, which continued for two more hours. Both ships' sails caught fire and the battle stopped for damage control on both ships. Finally, Jones had only three 9 pounders which could fire, while *Serapis*' continues to blast Richard with her 18 pounders. Jones had but one advantage, the accuracy of the French marines on deck, while his seamen went into the fighting tops dropping grenades on *Serapis*, and firing anything that would shoot. *Serapis* seamen were either killed or driven below deck, where they had to fight fires as well as man the guns, which they continued to fire into Richard's stout hull. Lashed together, *Serapis* could not dismast Richard from which her seamen kept up a steady hail of shot and combustibles. The spars overlapped, and Richard's seamen moved out on the spars driving *Serapis*' top-men below deck. They were then able to drop their grenades directly down onto *Serapis*' deck and into the hatches.

During this time *Vengeance* stood off, while *Pallas* engaged the *Countess*. Landais in *Alliance* circled the two ships, firing only at Richard with the hope that Richard would sink and he could take *Serapis* as his prize and receive all of the glory. Landais further jeopardized Richard by holing her below the waterline with one broadside. Around 10 PM, Landais drew away and maintained a safe distance from the fight.

Later several seamen decided that Richard was about to sink, and called for Quarter! Some sources say that Jones shot and killed the man who called for Quarter. Morison says Jones threw a pistol at him and knocked him out. Pearson responded with an allowance of Quarter, but Jones refused. Pearson then called for a boarding party to take Richard, but the attempt failed. The bloody battle continued another thirty minutes until 10:30 PM, when Pearson, after losing his mainmast, struck his colors and the battle was over.

The *Countess of Scarborough* had surrendered to the French ship *Pallas* before the fall of *Serapis*. *Pallas*, like the *Richard* had suffered several broadsides from Captain Landais in *Alliance*, who seemed not to know whose side he was on. Meanwhile the convoy sailed on to safety. Jones transferred to the *Serapis* as the *Richard*, barely holding together, was cut loose to be towed. Twenty four hours later at 10 PM, September 24, the *Bonhomme Richard* was ordered abandoned and sank to a watery grave shortly after 11 AM on the 25th day of September.

By this time the chase was on to capture Jones and his squadron, but the British were unable to determine where he had gone. Jones brought his battered squadron to port at Texel in the Netherlands, where he was reluctantly accepted. Prizes brought to port at Bergen were released to British authorities by Denmark. Britain claimed that Jones, claiming to represent a few rebellious colonies, was a pirate and should be hung as such. Jones kept a close rein on Captain Pearson, whom he wished to exchange for Captain Coyngham of the U.S. Navy, who was being held in Britain as a pirate.

Landais travelled to Paris, where he was suspended by Franklin. He later protested his dismissal with the assistance of diplomat Arthur Lee in Paris. Thus ends September 1779.

CASSAR Presents Proclamation at San Francisco Presidio

By Karl Jacobs

Compatriots, Gentlemen, Friends:

What a glorious day to be in my hometown, San Francisco. A beautiful blue sky, low 70's, just enough wind to keep the flags waving, an audience of over 100, two TV stations, PBS and a local channel, covering the activities - who could ask for anything more?

Saturday, June 27th, 2009, marked the Celebration of San Francisco's 233rd birthday and the arrival of the first soldiers and settlers to found the San Francisco Presidio and Mission Dolores - held on Pershing Square, Presidio of San Francisco.

The California Society SAR's Vice President Western District-elect, Karl Jacobs, read the proclamation written by the CASSAR, and presented the proclamation to the Executive Director of the Presidio Trust, the Los Californianos Society, and to the CASSAR Historian, Jim Blauer. The proclamation will be framed and proudly displayed in the Presidio Museum by The Presidio Trust.

A goodly number of Color Guardsmen, under the direction of Commander Compatriot Jim Faulkinbury, flanked Karl as he presented the proclamation.

Representing the Redwood Empire, Thomas Jefferson, Harbor, Sacramento, South Coast, and Gold Country Chapters of the SAR, uniformed members of the CASSAR certainly made an impression on the many City and State representatives present.

Our thanks and appreciation are hereby extended to Mr. Lance Beeson of the Los Californianos, Mr. Craig Middleton, Executive Director of The Presidio Trust, the Soldados organization, The Amigos de Anza, The National Park Service Mounted Police, and The Castle Rock Arabians Mounted Units for making up the procession.

This event now completes the CASSAR recognition of the many Patriots who served the cause of the American Revolution while in the Presidios and Missions in what is



Karl Jacobs - CASSAR Past-President and NSSAR Western District Vice-President.

now the State of California. We have previously recognized the Patriots of the Presidios of Monterey, San Diego, and Santa Barbara in the State of California.

Our thanks and appreciation are hereby extended to CASSAR President Louis V. Carlson, Compatriots Leroy Martinez, Ernie Garcia, and our Color Guardsmen, Photographer and CASSAR Executive VP Wayne Griswold (among others) - who put this all together to make this a most successful event. A job well done!

The City of San Francisco, along with our National Society and California Societies, may be certainly proud of this event.

Respectfully submitted,
Karl Jacobs



L-R: Dale Ross, Terry Briggs, Barry Hopkins, Keith Bigbee, Jim Faulkinbury, Leroy Martinez, and Steve Renouf.



L-R: Jim Faulkinbury, Wayne Griswold, Steve Renouf, Leroy Martinez, Keith Bigbee, Barry Hopkins, not identified, Larry Martinez, Dale Ross, and Terry Briggs.

A Patriot's Perspective

Real Men Do Cry

By Michael G. Lucas

Life is just not fair for men. Society has put some unreasonable restrictions upon us. We're taught, for example, that real men don't eat quiche and they don't cry. Well, I have a confession. I love quiche and am easily moved to tears when hearing about patriotism, faith, and sacrifice. But I've always felt compelled to hide it with a fake runny nose.

I was recently pleased to read that America's ultimate leader, George Washington, was actually capable of shedding tears. (By the way, I'm still looking for proof that quiche was a favorite at Mount Vernon; I'm still researching this). We usually think of Washington as this stoic character, lacking any emotions other than occasional anger, and never willing to show any vulnerability. He was always aware that the office he held was much bigger than him. He carried an air of dignity and distance which hid much of his humanity. Washington always tried to convey an image that he was in total control of his emotions. Even at the Battle of Monmouth, his furious rage towards General Charles Lee was a controlled anger and he was immediately able to take control of the battlefield. His ability to control his emotions during the attempts to remove him as commander-in-chief was masterful. Even upon his deathbed we're told that his emotions were in check. But the following are two examples of George Washington's inability to control his emotions.

Upon his resignation as Commander-in-Chief, George Washington was honored at numerous dinners and receptions. In New York City, Washington said good-bye to some of his generals and officers. In bidding them farewell, his hands trembled, his eyes filled with tears, and his voice was so thick with emotion that it was barely audible. After finishing, he began to cry. His guests were so moved that they also cried and nobody was able to speak. Undoubtedly, at that moment, his appreciation of the sacrifices and loyalty of his compatriots touched him very deeply. They all were overcome with emotion at the realization that they had accomplished a miracle against overwhelming odds. The audience knew that this miracle could not have happened without General Washington. He had sacrificed much and risked everything.

After his resignation in New York City, Washington went on to Annapolis in order to resign to the Continental Congress. He read a speech praising the officers and soldiers of the Continental Army. He then commended "our dear country to the protection of Almighty God." As he said this, his voice broke and tears streamed down his face. It took him a full minute to regain his composure. He had spoken often of his reliance upon Providence. Perhaps now he was brought to tears when he recalled the mighty deeds of his God, and he now realized that hereafter Providence was directing the affairs of this new nation.

I now feel vindicated that if George Washington can shed tears, it's permissible for me to do the same. It's encouraging to me to know that some things are so wonderful and sacred that tears can be the only response. The hearts of strong men and leaders are not made of stone. They bleed, weep, and show their feelings like all mortal men. So just to warn you, if moved by an inspiring speaker at a future Gold Country SAR chapter meeting, don't be surprised to see tears well up in my eyes; but now I won't feel obliged to hide them. Now if I can only get Lou LaBonte's to add quiche to their breakfast menu. [*Gold County Chapter meets the third Saturday of each month (except April, September, and December) at the Lou LaBonte's Restaurant in Auburn.*]



Michael Lucas
Gold Country Chapter

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.

Photos from the June 2009 Mother Lode Meeting



President Tom and Joyce Douglas



Gene Myers and Cecilia Wolary



Jim Young and CASSAR Executive Vice-President Wayne Griswold



Vice President and Registrar Jim Young displays the Serapis flag.



CASSAR Executive Vice-President Wayne Griswold



Tom Adams & Marilyn Chilton

The Serapis Flag



The Serapis Flag is named for the British ship H.M.S. "Serapis" that John Paul Jones captured in one of the most famous sea battles of the Revolution on the 23rd of September 1779. In winning the battle, Jones's own ship, the "Bon-Homme Richard" was so badly damaged that he was forced to abandon his sinking ship and transfer to the "Serapis". It was this flag that flew above the "Serapis" when it sailed into the Dutch port of Texel.

Nathan Hale

During the Battle of Long Island, which led to British victory and the capture of New York City, Nathan Hale volunteered on September 8, 1776, to go behind enemy lines and report on British troop movements. During his mission, New York City fell to British forces on September 15, and Washington was forced to retreat to the island's northern tip in Harlem Heights. On September 21, a quarter of the lower portion of Manhattan burned in the Great New York Fire of 1776 [See page 12]. The fire was later widely thought to have been started by American saboteurs to keep the city from falling into British hands, though Washington and Congress had already rejected this idea.

An account of Nathan Hale's capture was written by Consider Tiffany, a Connecticut shopkeeper and Loyalist, and obtained by the Library of Congress. In Tiffany's account, Major Robert Rogers of the Queen's Rangers saw Hale in a tavern and recognized him despite his disguise. After luring Hale into betraying himself by pretending to be a patriot himself, Rogers and his Rangers apprehended Hale near Flushing Bay, in Queens, New York.



Nathan Hale

British General William Howe had established his headquarters in the Beekman House in a rural part of Manhattan, on a rise between 50th and 51st Streets between First and Second Avenue. Hale reportedly was questioned by Howe, and physical evidence was found on him. Rogers provided information about the case. According to tradition, Hale spent the night in a greenhouse at the mansion. He requested a Bible; his request was denied. Sometime later, he requested a clergyman. Again, the request was denied.

According to the standards of the time, spies were hanged as illegal combatants. On the morning of September 22, 1776, Hale was marched along Post Road to the Park of Artillery, which was next to a public house called the Dove Tavern (at modern day 66th Street and Third Avenue), and hanged. He was 21 years old.

By all accounts, Hale comported himself eloquently before the hanging. He is best remembered for saying:

"I only regret that I have but one life to give my country."

Great Fire of New York -1776

On September 21, 1776, British forces under General William Howe occupied New York City. In the early hours of September 21, fire broke out in the city, most likely in the Fighting Cocks Tavern on Whitehall Street. Strong winds quickly spread the flames among tightly packed homes and businesses. Residents poured into the streets, clutching what possessions they could, and found refuge only on the grassy town commons. The fire raged into the daylight hours and eventually consumed between 400 and 500 buildings — about one-quarter of the city. Among the buildings destroyed was Trinity Church. However St. Paul's Chapel was to survive. British naval personnel fought the fire with some success. Afterwards, the British interrogated more than 200 suspects, but none were convicted and all were released.

Nathan Hale was arrested in Queens for spying that same day. [See page 3.] Unsubstantiated rumors have since attempted to link him to the fires, but there is nothing indicating he was arrested for anything other than espionage.

Major General James Robertson confiscated surviving uninhabited homes of known Patriots and assigned them to British officers. Non-Church of England churches were converted into prisons or infirmaries for the sick. Some of the common soldiers were billeted with civilian families. There was a great influx of Loyalist refugees into the city resulting in further overcrowding. The fire convinced the British to put the city under martial law rather than returning it to civilian authorities. With resources being diverted to the occupying military force and favored Loyalist collaborators, many residents were unable to adequately recover from the devastation, and forced to live in squalor.



Artist's interpretation of the fire.

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