



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

Summer 2010 Issue

Volume 4, Issue 7

# Mother Lode Dispatch



## Calling All Compatriots



### FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

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1 You may recall, our Poster Contest Winner placed third in the State. The State Winner, from neighboring Gold Country Chapter (Auburn), went on to compete at the National Congress in June in Cleveland, Ohio – where she took first place at the National level! This coming school year we'll be at it again, promoting our Poster Contest – this year the theme is the "*The Battle of Cowpens.*"

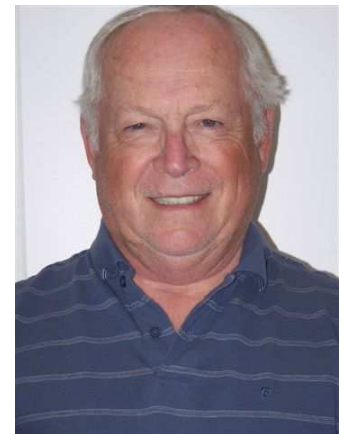
2 Remember in our very first year we received 2 posters, the next year 33 posters, and this last year we had 71. Let's keep growing. If you know a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher, or home schooler with a 5<sup>th</sup> grader, let me know.

3 This next year we will be introducing a whole new contest, the Brochure Contest for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders. If you know an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher, or home schooler with an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, please let me know. We need teachers to offer this program.

4 One of the most popular educational activities in schools is the living history story telling presentation. Sacramento SAR Chapter, with Tom Chilton and others from the Sacramento Chapter, came into three schools in El Dorado County this last year. The children love their 80 minute show and we thank them! (They had to turn down five El Dorado County schools because they could not fit them into their very busy schedule. ... Would you consider doing this in El Dorado County? ... You're in great demand!

5 One of the things we've learned during the presentations for the poster contest, and the living history presentations, is that if we have items to pass around, replica of artifacts, they are a big hit. ...Would you consider acquiring a replica or two for the Chapter to have to pass around in the classrooms? ...

In closing I want to mention a terrific joint project Mother Lode and the Sacramento SAR Chapter had with the local Children of the American Revolution (CAR) Society. We rebuilt a CAR dedicated bench at the Historical Sacramento City Cemetery this summer. This Chapter's donations of \$25 helped pay for the restoration materials. Well done folks.



Denny's Restaurant

3446 Coach Lane

Cameron Park

The next meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter

Will be held at Denny's at 11:30 AM on Wednesday, September 22, 2010

### Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2010

**President**

Jim Young

**1st Vice President**

Vacant

**2nd Vice President**

Tom Adams

**Secretary**

Tom Douglas

**Treasurer**

Roy Tougaw

**Registrar**

Jim Young (acting)

**Chaplain**

Gene Myers

**Dispatch Editor**

Tom Douglas

**Historian**

Mel Roush

### Committee Chairmen

**Eagle Scout Program**

Tom Douglas

**ROTC Program**

Vacant

**Knight Essay Contest**

Tom Douglas

**Valley Forge Program**

Vacant

**Law Enforcement Program**

John Krahn

**Flag Certificate Program**

Vacant

**Americanism Poster Contest**

Tom Adams

## C.A.R. Summer Workshop



**Tom Adams, Jeannette Barrett, Jim Young**

Jim Young, Mother Lode Chapter President and Tom Adams, Youth Activities Director for the Mother Lode Chapter and the CASSAR, along with Jeannette Barrett, Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R) Sacramento Society President, attended the C.A.R. Northern California Summer workshop in Pleasanton. Compatriots Adams and Young are also C.A.R. Senior Officers. They were also on a mission from CASSAR President Wayne Griswold to encourage cooperation with the C.A.R. Society and find ways we can work together to improve the historical knowledge and patriotic awareness of young children throughout California

**Editors Note: The statements and opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Editor or of the California or National Societies, Sons of the American Revolution.**

# The American Revolution – Month By Month - July 1780

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

In the light of continued losses to the British, it is easy to realize that in July of 1780 the Continental Army, Congress, and the very life of the new nation was perhaps at its most dangerous period of the five year old war. It is ironic with victory at Yorktown so near (October 19, 1781), that morale should be so low for both the Army and civilians. Lack of supplies and pay, combined with poor living conditions and what appeared to be a lack of ability to defeat the British on any front, discouraged the desperately needed recruitment of replacements for the Continental Army.

Not only was morale in the standing army low, but economic conditions in the United States were deteriorating rapidly, leading to additional unrest among the civilian population. Benedict Arnold's performance in Philadelphia (described below) helped set the stage for the loss of the common man's faith in public officials. If you couldn't trust an honored war hero like Arnold, then who could you trust?

The public was angry. If it could not have victories on the battlefield and prosperity at home, then it needed someone to blame for the sad state of affairs. Robert Morris, a wealthy Philadelphia banker, was in charge of finances for prosecution of the war and the support of Congress. It had been rumored on the street that he was making a fortune out of the sale of government flour while American soldiers were starving for lack of food. When things are looking bad and morale is low, the public must find a scapegoat to appease its anger. In this case they found Robert Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The same Morris who, implored by General George Washington at an earlier time, had raised \$50,000 in paper money using his own credit. In 1781, it was his efforts that allowed Washington to move his army from Dobbs Ferry to Yorktown by requisitions on the states, arranging loans from the French, and finally supplementing that money by funds from his own pocket and loans against his personal credit.

Morris was accused and charged in court of making money at government and public expense. After presentation of evidence, he was acquitted of any wrong doing. In fact, it was clear that if anything, he had endangered his personal fortune to assure the United States victory and independence. Like many of his contemporaries who signed the Declaration of Independence, he lost his fortune. He then became bankrupt and spent over three years (1798-1801) in debtors' prison. Born in Liverpool, England, in 1734, he died penniless in 1806, and was buried in a pauper's grave in Philadelphia.

Arnold, probably the best tactician in the American army, had been relieved of his command in Philadelphia, and would be given command of the fort at West Point. He had also renewed his correspondence with British Major Andre regarding a betrayal of secrets concerning the Continental Army and the possibility of the betrayal of a command. This time he made concrete demands, including a general's rank in the British army as compensation for his betrayal. As military governor of Philadelphia, Arnold lived like a king, far beyond his means, even drawing excessive amounts against his military pay and expenses to allow him to entertain Loyalists in a grand style. He lived high and extravagantly, using American soldiers as footmen and servants in his luxurious mansion. During this time he met Peggy Shippen, the 18 year old daughter of a leading Tory. Arnold had acquired Peggy's dad as a confidant and friend. Enamored by the young socialite, he divorced his wife and married Peggy, strengthening his ties with Loyalists in the city. There was much talk and gossip about his social and financial affairs.

Many people wondered how even a General in the American Army could afford to live in such a high and grand manner. The City Council hated him for the way he treated them, and the merchants of the city in what they considered military racketeering at the expense of the good citizens and merchants of Philadelphia. He was formally accused of abusing his office as military commander of Philadelphia by using his station to make secret financial dealings to support his extravagances. At the time, if it had been known, he could also have been accused of having secret dealings with the British.

During the month of July, the civil charges were dropped and he was ordered to stand trial by a Court Martial. Found guilty of some minor charges, it was required of Washington that a reprimand be given. Mild as the reprimand was, it was seen by Arnold as further proof that he was being unfairly treated by both Congress and the military. Returning to active duty at Headquarters, Arnold moped around and complained that his leg wound, while well enough for limited duty, was not ready for the rigors of a combat arm. What he requested was a more sedentary and administrative position commensurate with his rank – in fact, he boldly asked for command of the fort at West Point. If given that position, he could easily communicate with Andre and arrange for the turnover of the fort with little or no effort on the part of British Commander-in-Chief General Sir Henry Clinton.

(Continued on page 4)

# The American Revolution – Month By Month - July 1780

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

(Continued from page 3)

Congress believed that it should be the appointing authority for Field Commanders and had appointed English born Virginia planter Major General Horatio Gates (who had gained fame at Saratoga -See Note) as Commander of the Southern Army. This overrode Washington's appointment of the self-styled Baron de Kalb as Commander. De Kalb, like Baron Von Steuben, was a veteran of European wars and now was a long time tactical commander in the Continental Army. De Kalb had proven his worth many times over. A look at his career would indicate that had he been left in command, the Battle of Camden might have had a different ending. At any rate, Gates returning from inactive duty at his plantation, took command of the Southern Army on July 25th.

July of 1780 also saw the beginning of the end of John Paul Jones' odyssey in European waters, and the beginning of his return voyage to the United States. Morison states that there were rumors that Jones was secretly pleased to leave the *Alliance* in the hands of Landais and Lee. This eliminated the havoc of traveling across the Atlantic with the two conspirators and a mixed and divided crew. It also left him free to continue his pleadings at court to allow him command of a French fleet for an invasion of the British Isles. He was not to get his wish. His original successes at court had been due primarily to the influence of Lafayette, who had returned to the states. With Lafayette gone there was little support in France for his dream. French authorities put him off by saying that there was too great a shortage of crewmen to continue the naval war in other parts of the world and at the same time mount a successful invasion of England.

On July 10th, two events occurred. First, 6,000 French soldiers, well equipped and battle ready, were put ashore at Newport, Rhode Island, under General Jean Baptise, Comte de Rochambeau. An able soldier, Rochambeau and his troops were to remain in Newport until shortly before the siege of Yorktown. The second event is the assignment of John Paul Jones to command the sloop of war, the *Ariel*. It was hardly what Jones wanted, but he was ordered to load the 300 tons of military arms and supplies left behind when Landais departed in the *Alliance*. He was also charged with the requirement to sail as soon as possible, and this time, without delay. Without a doubt both Benjamin Franklin and the French government had seen quite enough of John Paul Jones regardless of his successes about the British Isles.

It took some time to convert the sloop *Ariel* from a military vessel to a transport. Loading of the cargo took a few days, but the necessary supplies to put to sea were not loaded. The heat was on for Jones to get to sea and on July 18th, the *Ariel* finally began loading supplies. The *Ariel* was ready to sail on July 25th, but Jones lingered in port. He would sail, but not before he arranged a farewell party aboard ship in September. While pushed by Franklin and the French to get to sea, he would spend August partying, and at one point becoming caught in a compromising, but not desperate, position with the comely 17 year old wife of a supplier. So ends July, 1780.

Note: Gates is seen in different ways by different historians. Some see him as the true victor at Saratoga. However, most historians attribute the groundwork laid by General Schuyler and the on-scene tactical officers, such as Benedict Arnold, who by their leadership and valor saved the day and the victory for Gates. Gates was a favorite of many in Congress and was seen by them as the best choice to lead the Southern Army to victory.

References: Arthur Meier Schlesinger's "*Almanac of American History*"; Christopher Ward's "*The War of the Revolution*"; Samuel Elliot Morison's "*John Paul Jones*"; Bruce Lancaster's "*The American Revolution*"; James Thomas Flexner's "*Washington, The Indispensable Man*."

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# June Meeting Program with Mother Lode Chapter Member Compatriot Robert Conover showing the workings of his 18th century rifle







Mother Lode President presents Compatriot Conover a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation during the June luncheon meeting.



President Young presents Compatriot Tom Douglas with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service as President of the Mother Lode Chapter 2007-2009. Compatriot Douglas also received the Meritorious Service Medal

### More June meeting pictures



Mother Lode Registrar Mel Roush and Joyce Douglas enjoy the lunch and presentations



President Young holds the Culpeper Minute Men Flag while Tom Chilton describes it.



President Young holds the Light Horse Flag, Philadelphia, also known as the First Army Flag. Compatriot Chilton brings two from the Sacramento Chapter Collection to each of the Mother Lode Chapter meetings.

**By Henry Holcomb Bennett**  
**THE FLAG IS PASSING BY**

Along the street there comes  
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums,  
A flash of color beneath the sky

**Hats off!!**

The flag is passing by!  
Blue and red and white it shines,  
Over the steel-tipped ordered lines.

**Hats Off!!**

The colors before us fly.

But more than the flag is passing by:  
Sea-fights and land-fights, grim and great,  
Fought to make and to save our State:  
Weary marches and sinking ships;  
Cheers of victory on dying lips;  
Days of plenty and years of peace;  
March of a strong land's swift increase;  
Equal justice, right and law,  
Stately honor and revered awe;  
Sign of a nation great and strong  
To ward her people from foreign wrong;  
Pride and glory and honor – all  
Live in the colors to stand or fall.

Along the street there comes  
A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums;  
And loyal hearts are beating high:

**Hats off!!**

The flag is passing by!!



## Minutes of the meeting held on June 23, 2010.

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Young at 11:40 AM.

After the Invocation by Gene Myers, the Pledge of Allegiance (John Krahn) and the Pledge to the SAR (Jim Young) the guests for the evening were introduced. Sam Bradley was introduced as a prospective member. Other guests included Tom and Marilyn Chilton, Joyce Douglas and Marcia Conover. There were 8 members present at our first luncheon meeting of the year.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved.

Reports:

**Secretary**, Tom Douglas reported he was successful in getting articles in two El Dorado Hills news papers, the Village Life and the Telegraph regarding the chapter's recent poster contest and its winner, Matthew Maloney.

**Treasurer** Roy Tougaw reported a balance of \$1143.00 in the checking account

**Historian**; no report

**Youth activates**; Tom Adams is out of town

**Law Enforcement Committee** John Krahn has contacted all of the agencies in El Dorado County but has not heard back from any of them as of this date.

**Registrar (acting)** Jim Young reported California Society recruitment is down this year. Texas has a huge edge on us in recruiting. Tom Chilton, CASSAR Registrar, confirmed that applications were down, and there did not seem to be a concrete reason why. Also the chapter needs someone to step up to take the registrar position.

Tom Chilton showed two flags from the Sacramento Chapter's collection. The Culpeper Flag from Culpeper County Virginia and the Light Horse Flag from Philadelphia, also known as the First Army Flag.

Lunch was served!

Compatriot Bob Conover gave his presentation on black powder weapons of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and demonstrated with a replica 1763 Long Rifle.

After Compatriot Conover's presentation he was presented a Certificate of Appreciation.

Past President Tom Douglas was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service as president for the years 2007-2009. Compatriot Douglas was also presented the Distinguished Service Medal.

After the Benediction and SAR Recessional the meeting was closed at approximately 1:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Douglas, Secretary



# Mother Lode Chapter's 2010 Calendar of Events

January 22 - Poster Contest presentation at Jackson and Holly Trinity Schools in El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park

January 26 - Regular meeting at Denny's

February 23 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

March 23 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

April 9 & 10 - CASSAR Annual Meeting  
Embassy Suites Hotel in Sacramento

April 27 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

May 25 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

June 23 - Special Lunch Meeting at Denny's

July - No meeting

August - No meeting

September 22 - 11:30 AM Regular Meeting at Denny's

October 27- 11:30 AM Regular Meeting at Denny's

November 5 & 6 - CASSAR Fall Manager's Meeting  
Location to be determined.

November - Regular Meeting at Denny's

December 11 - Wreaths Across America  
Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon

December - Regular Meeting at Denny's

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