



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

February 2013

Volume 6, Issue 2

# Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



Next meeting - February 26, 2013  
6:30 PM at the Denny's Restaurant

February Speaker - Bob Charny  
on the "*Bill of Rights*"  
and Other Matters Worth Talking About

### Inside this issue:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| February's meeting.                                    | 1  |
| Vice President's Corner                                | 2  |
| Poster Contest   | 3  |
| George Washington's<br>Legacy into the 21st<br>Century | 4  |
| George Washington's<br>Legacy (continued)              | 5  |
| Martha Washington                                      | 6  |
| Martha Washington<br>(continued)                       | 7  |
| About Bob Charny                                       | 8  |
| Minutes of the January<br>2013 meeting                 | 9  |
| Mother Lode Chapter's<br>2013 Calendar                 | 10 |



Please see page 7 for more about Bob Charny.

The next meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter will be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at 6:30 PM, at Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Part. Wives, guests and visiting compatriots are always welcome.

Come socialize with us at 6:15PM. The meeting will start promptly at 6:30 PM.

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

## The Vice-President's Corner

by Tom Adams

### Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2013

#### President

Bob Conover

#### 1st Vice President

Open

#### 2nd Vice President

Tom Adams

#### Secretary

Tom Douglas

#### Treasurer

Tom Douglas

#### Registrar

Jim Young

#### Chaplain

Gene Myers

#### Dispatch Editor

Vacant

#### Historian

John Krahn

#### Webmaster

Vacant

### Committee Chairmen

#### Eagle Scout Program

Vacant

#### ROTC Program

Vacant

#### Knight Essay Contest

Vacant

#### Valley Forge Program

Vacant

#### Law Enforcement Program

John Krahn

#### Flag Certificate Program

Doug Stone

#### Americanism Poster Contest

Tom Adams

President Bob Conover was unable to attend our January Meeting, so after talking to Bob, and as his Vice President, I will fill in for him this month.

Our January Meeting was dominated by our Chapter members and guests reviewing twenty-five very competitive **brochures** from five classes of 8<sup>th</sup> graders coming from Rolling Hills and Holy Trinity Schools in El Dorado Hills. We selected Class Winners, School Winners and the Chapter Winner, which will be entered into the State Contest in April in Ventura. It has been a Chapter tradition not to announce any of the winners until after the State Contest – so stay tuned!

Chapter members have been very busy this month launching our **Poster Contest**. Tommy Douglas, Tom Chilton (both in uniform), and Jim Young, Bob Leach and Wayne Griswold (as contemporary “civilians” to explain the contest) were in seven classrooms of 5<sup>th</sup> Graders at Jackson Elementary, Green Valley Elementary and Holy Trinity. Talking to our county's young people about their American Heritage is always a rewarding experience! This year's poster contest theme is “The Declaration of Independence”. We will be judging the posters at our March meeting.

This month's meeting is going to be enjoyable, informative, and entertaining. Our guest speaker is **Rob Charny**, whom some of you may know. Rob is known as the “Old Guy Tech (on) TV.” His web site is: [www.TheOGT.tv](http://www.TheOGT.tv) Paraphrasing Rob's own words, “He is here to bring us the latest in a way we can understand in this technology challenging world. He'll also bring us community news, politics, and social happenings...” Try to go to Rob's web site before our meeting. ... go to: [www.TheOGT.tv](http://www.TheOGT.tv) ...

We have included Rob's full bio as an article on page 8. Enjoy! ... Get ready to enjoy his talk Tuesday Night.

*Tom Adams*



**Tom Adams**  
2nd Vice President

*Bob Conover can be reached at 1-530-677-8826 (cell: 530-409-8829),  
or at: bobtrap@comcast.net  
Mother Lode Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Tax ID #26-1428350*

**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.

# 2013 Poster Contest

## Mother Lode Team Visits Holy Trinity School

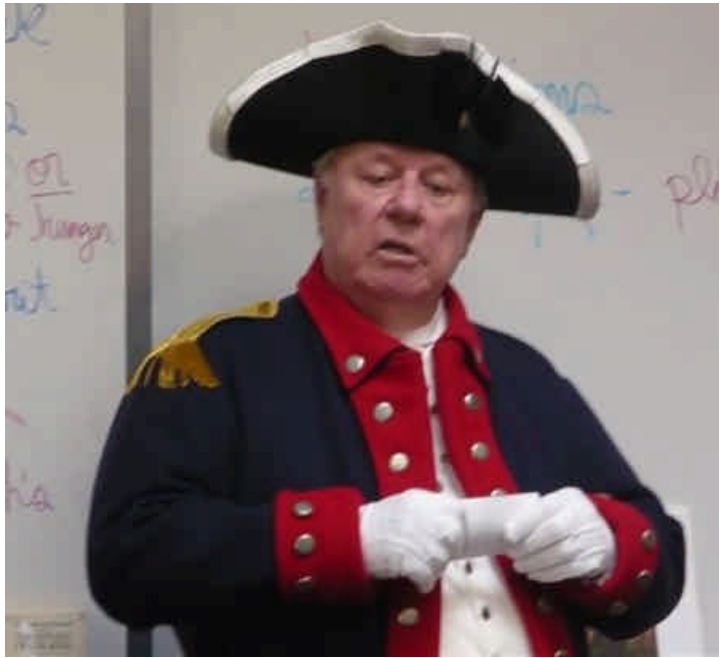
Jim Young, Tom Douglas, Wayne Griswold, and Tom Chilton visited Mr. Jeremy Roderick's fifth grade class at Holy Trinity Elementary School on Monday, February 6th, where they introduced the SAR Poster Contest to his students. Jim Young explained the contest, and detailed the rules. Tom Chilton, portraying John Hancock, gave a short bio of Hancock, and explained why such a successful man would want to sign the Declaration of Independence. Tom Douglas, portraying James Curry, told about some of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Wayne Griswold brought some of his Revolutionary War artifacts, and showed them to the students. The program was well received by everyone.



Wayne Griswold tells about the artifacts he brought to show to the students at Holy Trinity.



Tom Chilton, portraying John Hancock, told the students why he signed the Declaration of Independence using such large letters.



Tom Douglas, portraying James Curry, told the students about serving during the war, and about some of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

# GEORGE WASHINGTON'S LEGACY TO THE 21st CENTURY

by Robert L. Goldsmith

I would like to take a few minutes to reflect on George Washington, the man who gave so much for his country. Without his leadership, it is doubtful our nation would be as it is today.

On February 22, 1732, some 281 years ago, George Washington entered this world. He was born to a Virginia planter's family where he learned morals, manners, and the body of knowledge required of an 18th century Virginia gentleman. George was only a boy when his father died, but he grew up fast. When he was 14, against the wishes of his mother, he wanted to go to sea, but he soon found work and remained with his family.

In his early years, he pursued two intertwined interests, military arts and western expansion. At the age of 16, he helped survey Shenandoah lands. Washington never attended college, but was one of the most prolific readers and accomplished writers of all American Presidents. He had excellent handwriting, and as a boy he practiced copying "the rules of civility and decent behavior in company and conversation." The rules, which numbered 110, were his model for good behavior and manners when he was growing up.

Commissioned as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1754, he fought the first skirmishes of what later became the French and Indian Wars. The next year, as an aide to General Edward Braddock, he escaped injury although four bullets ripped his coat and two horses were shot from under him.

From 1759 to the outbreak of the American Revolution, Washington managed his lands around Mount Vernon and served in Virginia's House of Burgesses. Married to a widow, Martha Dandridge Custis, he devoted himself to a busy and happy life, but, like his fellow planters, Washington felt himself exploited by British merchants and hampered by British regulations. As the quarrel with the mother country grew acute, he moderately, but firmly, voiced his resistance to the restrictions.

When the second Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia in May, 1775, Washington, a delegate from Virginia, was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. In July, at Cambridge, Massachusetts, he took command of the poorly trained continental troops and embarked upon a war that was to last six grueling years. Finally, in 1781, with the aid of the French allies, he forced the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia.

The Order of Purple Heart for Military Merit, an American honor commonly called the Purple Heart, is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use, and it was established by order of General George Washington. It is the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. Surviving records show the honor was granted to only three men during the Revolution, all of them noncommissioned officers. Appropriately, a bust of Washington forms the center of the Purple Heart and Washington's coat-of-arms is at the decorations top.

Though Washington longed to retire to his beloved Mount Vernon, he soon realized that the nation under the Articles of Confederation was not functioning, so he became a prime mover in the steps leading to the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia in 1787. When the new Constitution was ratified, the Electoral College unanimously elected Washington as President in 1789. His presidency lasted for eight years, but his longed-for retirement at Mount Vernon lasted less than three years before he died in 1799.

Washington's life was the best example of unselfish leadership our nation has ever known. All of his qualities were founded on the basis of pure morality. By his example, he taught us that men of integrity and



# GEORGE WASHINGTON'S LEGACY TO THE 21st CENTURY

by Robert L. Goldsmith  
(continued from page 4)

sound moral principles make the best leaders of armies.

In Washington's famous farewell address on his retirement from public life, he emphasized that the responsibility for America's destiny rests upon its citizens. He urged Americans to forge a nation of high principles and to cultivate peace and harmony with all.

Now more than ever American needs men like George Washington, men with patriotism, honesty, courage, and, most of all, character. Much more could be said about this great man and American to us in the 21st century. However, there could be no greater tribute than the words of Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee. In a resolution presented to the House of Representatives in December 1799 on the death of Washington, a tribute that appropriately has been paid to Washington time and time again over the last 200 years, Lee said: "To the memory of the Man, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."



## Martha Dandridge Custis Washington A True Patriot

Martha Dandridge was born on June 2, 1731, on her parents' plantation, Chestnut Grove, in the British colony, Province of Virginia. She was the oldest daughter of John Dandridge (1700–1756), a Virginia planter and English immigrant, and Frances Jones (1710–1785) of English and Welsh descent. On May 15, 1750, at age 18, Martha married Daniel Parke Custis, a rich planter two decades her senior. They lived at White House Plantation on the south shore of the Pamunkey River, a few miles upriver from Chestnut Grove. She had four children with him. Her husband's death in 1757 left Martha a rich young widow at age 25, with independent control over a dower inheritance for her lifetime.

Martha Dandridge Custis, aged 27, and George Washington, aged nearly 27, married on January 6, 1759, at the White House plantation. As a man of the area, Washington likely knew both Martha and her late husband for some time before his death. In March 1758 he visited her twice at White House; the second time he came away with either an engagement of marriage or at least her promise to think about his proposal.

The coming of the American Revolution permanently changed the trajectory of Martha Washington's life. When she married George Washington, she had no doubt anticipated a relatively quiet life as a wealthy planter's wife. Once George Washington assumed command of the Continental Army, however, she too became a public person and an active participant in the fight for independence against Great Britain.

After Washington left Mount Vernon in 1775, he would not return again for over six years. Every year, during the long winter months when the fighting was at a standstill, the General asked Martha to join him at his winter encampment.

Every year she made the arduous journey to his camp, whether it was at Cambridge, Valley Forge, Philadelphia, Morristown, Newburgh, or elsewhere. She stayed with him for months at a time. In fact, during the period from April 1775 until December 1783 Martha was able to be with her husband for almost half the time he was away. The General regarded his wife's presence as so essential to the cause that he sought reimbursement from Congress for her traveling expenses.

Before she could make the first trip, however, Martha had to undergo her own ordeal. She had to be inoculated for smallpox. Smallpox was one of the most deadly enemies soldiers faced during wartime. After successfully weathering the inoculation, Martha could then travel to the soldiers' camp without fear of contracting the disease or transmitting it to others.



**Martha Dandridge Custis  
1757**

# Martha Dandridge Custis Washington

## A True Patriot

(continued from page 6)

Martha was far from being the only woman at camp. In the eighteenth century, women were a visible part of any part of army encampment. Some of these women were the wives of soldiers who simply trailed along, having nowhere else to go. Other women offered their services for pay, as cooks, washerwomen, nurses, or seamstresses.

At the winter encampments, Martha often associated with the wives of other officers. She was especially fond of Lucy Knox, wife of General Henry Knox, and Kitty Greene, wife of General Nathanael Greene. They became good friends, helping each other through difficult times by talking, singing, and doing needlework together.

As the wife of the Commander-in-Chief, Martha had more responsibility than the other wives. She was the General's sounding board and closest confidant. She acted as his secretary and representative, copying letters and representing him at official functions. She comforted sick or wounded soldiers and sponsored social activities that brightened the darkness of the long winter days. Her presence not only fortified her husband, but helped boost the morale of the entire camp.

Martha's residence also became the camp's social center. Acting as hostess, Martha received innumerable guests, including political leaders, foreign dignitaries, Indian chiefs, and military officials. Although social life conducted under the cloud of war was much more restrained than social life at Mount Vernon, Washington's headquarters was known as a haven of warmth, good food, and lively conversation.

Martha also acted as an intermediary between the General and individuals who asked for his assistance in a variety of matters. In April 1778, for example, four Quaker women from Philadelphia visited Washington's headquarters at Valley Forge. They presented Washington with a petition seeking the release from exile of a group of Quaker men who had been sent to Virginia for their failure to take a loyalty oath.

Martha conversed with the women and served them dinner. Although Washington did not immediately grant their petition, he signed a pass that allowed them journey unmolested through American lines. Pennsylvania's Supreme Executive Council interpreted this gesture as a sign that Washington was favorably disposed toward their cause and eventually granted their request. Martha's attitude made both sides more comfortable in dealing with one another.

These trips were Martha's first excursions outside of her native Virginia. She found the journeys exhausting and the horrors of war depressing. She missed the routines of her daily life at Mount Vernon. Most of all, she missed her son, Jacky, and his growing brood of children. In 1781, she would lose Jacky himself to the war. In making these sacrifices, however, Martha demonstrated that she, no less than her husband, was committed to the success of the patriot cause.

Lady Washington was a true patriot!



**Martha Dandridge Custis Washington**  
(1731 - 1802)

## February Speaker Bob Charny on the "*Bill of Rights*" and Other Matters Worth Talking About

Twenty-seven amendments have been ratified since the original signing of the Constitution, the first ten of which are known collectively as the Bill of Rights.

The First, Second and 4th are what I consider the most important to me personally. But, by no means does that make the 24 other amendments any less important.

Many people feel it is important to put one's opinions into a box such as you're a Republican or Democrat or one of the many other parties that we have in our county.

I am an enigma to many, having a belief with a foot in many different boxes. I consider myself a constitutionalist if you have to put me into a box. However, I may be financially conservative, but socially liberal. I believe in freedom of speech, religion, press, and the right to bear arms without hesitation.

I believe that a woman has the right to do what they wish with their bodies without government interference. The government doesn't tell men that they can't have a vasectomy and I don't think that government should tell a woman that she can't have an abortion.

I believe in gay rights as long as their opinions don't conflict with my limited government view. I don't so much believe that homosexuals should call their union a marriage since I personally believe a marriage is between a man and a woman. But I still believe that their union should have all the rights that a marriage between a man and woman has. In reflection as to why I feel this way has to do mostly with my age. I grew up in a time where marriage was only between a man & woman and some things are hard to change.

Another conundrum is my view on unions. I grew up in a union family. Had it not been for the union, I don't think my parents would have lived the "American Dream" of owning a home and living a middle-class blue-collar life style. However, now I'm seeing roadblocks that unions are putting up protecting their "turf" without consideration for America as a whole. Unions were very important, but I'm not so sure that's true today. Unions are not without merit, but would we be able to put more people to work with unions? Yes and no, so maybe another day we'll have this discussion.

I have been involved with computers and technology since I started working with computers in the 1970's using punch-cards to program computers, and have been using technology in my personal and professional life for over 50 years. I don't consider myself anything other than a normal guy with some experience using different technologies, and helping my friends and family using electronics and the most current technologies in their daily lives.

It seems to me that we have all kinds of technology "how-to" and pundits that offer great advice to those who already have a pretty good idea or expertise with a given technology and electronics. But what about that rest of us?

So this got me thinking about how best to provide some advice to us old guys and gals. Please don't take offence to the term "old". It just means to me that I have some life experiences without talking so far over our heads that it just seems like gibberish. Also, I wear a few different hats and wanted to provide a way to see my different web sites. In these difficult times we have to keep all our options open.

*Rob Charny*

Source: <http://www.theogt.tv/about/>



# Minutes of the Meeting held on January 22, 2013

By Tom Douglas

The meeting was called to order by Past President/Registrar Jim Young at 6:30 PM at Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Park, California. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Gene Myers, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Krahn, and the SAR Pledge was led by Wayne Griswold. Our only guest for the evening was Jackie Purdy, El Dorado DAR. John Krahn mentioned his wife and regular attendee, Joy Krahn, was home because she has a broken leg. There were seven members present.

Reports; **Secretary** Tom Douglas reported on the Annual Reconciliation Report to the State Secretary. We started the year with 29 members and we now have a membership of 30. Although we installed three new members and had one transfer in, we dropped three due to non-payment of dues. It was reported the chapter was carrying three members who have not paid their dues but promised to have them paid by the December meeting. These three members have still not paid their dues and this report stimulated some discussion on the subject. There was no vote taken but the consensus was we should not carry members that have not paid by the December deadline. The secretary was encouraged to get the check paid to the state back and write a new one reflecting dropping these three members for non-payment.

**Treasurer** Tom Douglas reported a balance of \$3028.00 in the checking account, \$2594.40 in the general fund, and the remainder in youth and community service award funds. The raffle at the December combined meeting with the Sacramento Chapter produced \$328.00. The success of the raffle was primarily due to the efforts of LAUX member Joy Krahn.

**Registrar** Jim Young reported working on two applications, Rob Smith, son of member Chuck Smith, and Kevin Tierney, a teacher who has been active in chapter youth programs.

**Historian** John Krahn had no report

**Youth Activities Coordinator Tom Adams** reported on the recently completed brochure contest. Three schools with five classes produced 43 brochures, 25 of which were competitive. Compatriot Adams asked the membership to relieve him of some of his duties as Youth Coordinator. The time he spends on the youth programs for the chapter and state has taken a toll on his health. He would like to pare down the poster contest to include only one school, Holy Trinity, as it was the easiest class to do. Compatriot Adams made a motion that the "chapter present the poster contest to Holy Trinity only, until we can get more members active in the contest presentations". The motion was seconded and passed with no nay votes. Compatriot Adams wanted to make sure that the schools which we were not going to invite to participate in this year's contest were contacted and told we would continue our presentations next year after a bit of reorganization. He also wanted to make sure we did not leave Compatriot Tom Chilton without help in any presentation in which he wanted assistance from us. Compatriot Tom Douglas said he would be willing to help if needed. The remainder of the meeting was taken up by the membership voting on the brochures that Tom Adams brought to the meeting.

The Benediction was given by Chaplain Gene Myers, and the SAR Recessional was led by Compatriot Merv Purdy. After singing "God Bless America" the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM by Past President Young.



Tom Douglas  
Secretary and Past President

Respectfully submitted,

# Mother Lode Chapter's 2013 Calendar

February 26, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's  
Speaker - Rob Charny

September 24, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's  
Program to be announced

March 26, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's  
Program to be announced

October 22, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's  
Program to be announced

April 12 - 13, 2013 - CASSAR 138th Spring Meeting  
Sheraton Hotel, Ventura, CA

November 1 -2, 2013 - CASSAR Fall Meeting  
To be announced

April 23, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's  
Program to be announced

November 26, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's  
Program to be announced

May 28, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's  
Program to be announced

December 14, 2013 - Wreathes Across America  
Sacramento Valley National Cemetery Dixon

June 25, 2013 - Regular meeting at Denny's  
Program to be announced

December 2013 - Date and program to be announced

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