



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

April 2008

Volume 2, Issue 4

Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



President's Corner by Tom Douglas

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Fellow Compatriots,

Vacations are nice but it is also always good to get home. Jim Young updated me on all the goings on like the poster contest voting and the fact Denny's picked the fourth Tuesday of the month to paint our meeting room. Jim reserved the room for the fifth (last) Tuesday in April, April 29th. Hopefully the word gets to all the members and prospective members of the change.

It was a very busy weekend at the 133rd Annual Meeting of the California Society, Sons of the American Revolution, in Concord California, April 17th through April 19th. We elected officers for the state society and had planning meetings for the National Congress in July in Sacramento. There were a number of issues discussed that Wayne Griswold and I will do our best to bring you up to date on at the chapter meeting April 29th.

I took our chapter winning poster to the poster contest to be voted on by all at the meeting. Unfortunately our poster did not do so well. Gold Country had two of the three winners. Gold Country also had over 300 posters submitted at the chapter level. A chapter could bring two posters to the state. We, Mother Lode, were one of only four chapters state wide that submitted posters at the state meeting.



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

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

- Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2008**
- Tom Douglas**
President
 - Vacant**
Vice President
 - Vacant**
Secretary
 - Vacant**
Treasurer
 - Jim Young**
Registrar
 - Gene Myers**
Chaplain
 - Tom Chilton**
Newsletter Editor
 - Mel Roush**
Historian

 - Committee Chairmen**
 - Vacant**
Eagle Scout Program
 - Vacant**
ROTC Program
 - Vacant**
Essay Contest
 - Vacant**
Valley Forge Program
 - Vacant**
Law Enforcement Program
 - Vacant**
Flag Certificate Program
 - Tom Douglas**
Americanism Poster Contest

Mother Lode was the only small chapter to submit monthly reports for the best chapter contest. Because we only submitted for the months of November and December 2007 (the only months we were in existence), we were not eligible for the best contest award. Maybe next year.

It was an honor representing the Mother Lode Chapter at the Annual Meeting,

In Patriotic service,

Tom



Tom and Joyce Douglas at the 133rd CASSAR Annual Spring Meeting Installation Banquet.

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.

More Photos from the 133rd CASSAR Annual Spring Meeting Installation Banquet.



Wayne Griswold (left) receives the Patriot Medal from CASSAR President Karl Jacobs.



Past CASSAR President Stan Henderson and his wife, Linda. Linda is a Past President of the Ladies Auxiliary.



Executive Vice-President Lou Carlson and his wife, Karen.



Incoming President Steve Renoff (left) and outgoing President Karl Jacobs.

Our speaker, Craig MacDonald, gave a very interesting presentation.



More Photos from the 133rd CASSAR Annual Spring Meeting Installation Banquet.



L-R: Richard Fowler, Karl Dreher, Earl Young, Marilyn and Tom Chilton, Jim and Karen Faulkinbury. Fowler, Dreher, and Young are from the Gold Country Chapter. Chilton and Faulkinbury are from the Sacramento Chapter. Fowler and Dreher were awarded the Robert E. Burt Boy Scout Volunteer Award Medal.



Joy Javellana, and Yoncie and Wayne Griswold



The new CASSAR officers for the 2008-2009 year are sword in by Registrar-General Charles Bragg (right).



Registrar-General Charles (Chuck) Bragg

Mother Lode Chapter's Americanism Poster Contest Winner

1

Molly Pitcher was born on Oct. 13, 1754. On 1789, Molly found her husband, William Hays, lying on the ground during battle. He had been shot that day during the Revolutionary War.

2

Molly was very sad, but she could not lose. She grabbed the swab and started to swab the cannon. Not much later, Molly found a cannon ball behind her. It turns out that somebody from the other side had shot a cannon ball at her. She found a big hole in her clothes because apparently, they shot it right through her legs.

3

Soon later, they found out that the other side was retreating and that they had won the battle. After the battle, General Washington heard about what had happened, so he named Molly Pitcher. Sergeant Molly.

4

From there on, her life was not that good. She got married to another person that treated her as a slave. One good thing was that on 1822 the legislator of Pennsylvania awarded her by giving her an annuity for life to repay her for her acts of kindness. Sergeant Molly died on January 22, 1832. She was a real hero.

Three students from the Jackson Elementary School in El Dorado Hills entered posters in the NSSAR Americanism Poster Contest this year. This year's topic was Molly Pitcher. The judging for the best poster submitted to the Mother Lode Chapter was held at the March meeting. It was a tough choice between three very good posters, but after some deliberation the members present judged the poster prepared by Austin Laut to be the winner. The poster was carried to the CASSAR State meeting in Concord, where it competed with the posters submitted by other fifth graders from around the state. Austin will be awarded a check for twenty-five dollars, and a first place winner's ribbon. The teacher will be awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for her support of the program. These awards will be made at Jackson Elementary School during the month of May.



The American Revolution – Month By Month - April 1778

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

March of 1778 had come in like a lion, but its roaring winds and cold soon subsided bringing false hopes of spring and relief from many of the rigors of life in the cramped encampment at Valley Forge. It was so warm by month's end that many believed that winter had gone with the passing of the Vernal Equinox (about March 21st).

April arrived deceptively warm, and then suddenly winter returned in a blast of snow and cold that froze the Schuylkill River. Biting winds and cold again confined the soldiers to their cabins when they were not required to drill and march under the stern tutelage of von Steuben.

Washington felt that Howe would attack across the iced over river, but an attack never came. The sudden return of winter was short lived. Warm winds soon came again, the ice and snow melted, and spring blooms burst forth in all their glory.

Friendly farmers soon spread the word that at month's end it would be time for a shad run in the river. What a feast! For the first time at Valley Forge every man had all that he could eat. Not only did they feast on shad, but also they caught and stored salted shad to supply the army in future days.

With a lack of hostilities in the month of April 1778 between the major land forces of Britain and the Continental Army, it is time to look at the Continental Navy, which was authorized October 13 of 1775. It had now become officially the United States Navy. [Although in historical writings the two names appear to be used interchangeably]

When hostilities first began, privateers were authorized by all thirteen states. In nine of the thirteen original colonies, there was also a state navy. Additionally, there was a merchant fleet of long standing and experience in coastal and deep-water trade. Trade had required arming of vessels to stand off pirates.

In previous wars, colonial ships supported the Royal Navy in American waters. As economic problems with Britain progressed toward 1775, there was an increased utilization of merchant vessels to supply the colonies with needed goods beyond those available or economically desired from Britain. This gave rise to a strong-armed merchant marine, particularly in the New England colonies.

The entrance of France into the war in February 1778, followed by Spain in 1779, and the Netherlands in 1780, was an important factor in the naval aspect of the war. The Spanish and the Dutch were not particularly active, but their role in keeping British naval forces tied down in Europe was significant. The British navy could not maintain an effective blockade of both the American coast and their European enemies' ports.

If action was lacking between the land forces in April of 1778, there was plenty of action at sea by American privateers and the fledgling U. S. Navy. Both were making a name for themselves, not only on the high seas, but also on English soil as well. England had long boasted that no enemy could breach its wooden wall of ships and attack the English homeland. During this month of April, not only would the homeland be defiled by the tread of hostile feet, but also the enemy would go unpunished to the embarrassment of the Royal Navy.

Congress had authorized several ships to be built in a shipyard near Portsmouth, NH. One was the *Hampshire*, a sloop of war with twenty guns. After the *Hampshire* was launched, its name was changed to the *Ranger* and its guns reduced to eighteen. Command was given to a proven Captain of the United States Navy. The Captain, previously not generally known by either the American or British public, would within the month of April 1778, rise from obscurity to instant fame. From this time on, both he and the sloop would be known by every soul in America and Great Britain. Regardless of one's opinion, this Captain, whatever he might be called, hero, rascal, rebel, pirate, patriot, or showman, would become a permanent fixture in the annals of the United States Navy.

Slipping out of the French harbor of Brest in early April, the Captain was bent on taking prisoners and destroying shipping in the British Isles. Anything that threatened Britain's sea borne commerce threatened the lifeline of the Empire. Britain had always depended on her sea trade to import needed raw materials and to export finished goods. Therefore, captured seamen were considered rebels and/or pirates to be confined in English prisons without benefit of exchange. Conversely, prisoner exchange was common in North America between the two armies. At this time, no seaman taken prisoner during the Revolution had ever been released or exchanged by Britain.

The Captain proposed, through interruption of British commerce and the capture of British seaman, to influence Britain to exchange American seaman. On April 14, the Brigantine *Dolphin* was captured, its crew made prisoner, and the ship sunk. The ship and its cargo were not worth the loss of the crew members to send it back to port as a prize. Three days later the *Lord Chatham* was captured. A better ship with a valuable cargo, it was sent back to Brest with a prize crew.

The next morning the armed wherry [a long, light boat], the *Hussar*, was sighted and given chase. After some maneuvering the *Hussar* escaped to spread the word that an American raider was in British home waters. The next day a Scots coastal schooner was captured, its crew taken prisoner and the ship sunk.

The following day, the Captain sighted the twenty gun Royal Navy sloop *Drake* at anchor in a protective cove. The

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American sloop had left Brest short handed and had further weakened its crew by sending off prize crews. The *Drake* was obviously fully manned and in a protected location. Therefore, a surprise night attack would be advantageous to the American ship with its reduced crew. It was decided to wait for darkness to attack the *Drake*. That night an approach to the ship was made, but the attempt was spoiled by the ineptness of the ship's Quartermaster in maneuvering the American vessel. While a disappointment, it would not be the end of encounters with the *Drake*.

Since the beginning of the Revolution, it had been common practice of both the British Army and Navy to plunder American towns, and then put them to the torch. This practice was especially true of the Royal Navy, which made a practice of invading coastal towns and burning both the town and its shipping.

Destroying Britain's commerce, but not the burning of towns, was a mission of the United States Navy. Therefore, the English port of Whitehaven, a town with a large merchant fleet, was a prime target for the sloop and its Captain. Burning or scuttling the merchant fleet in its harbor would cause more damage to British shipping in one night than had been done by all the privateers and naval ships since the beginning of the war.

On April 22, a night attempt to enter Whitehaven Harbor and set fire to the considerable shipping was delayed by refusal of part of the crew to respond. They had signed on for prize money, not to burn ships! Asking for volunteers, the captain manned two boats and set out to set fire to ships in the harbor. Two things now occurred. One boat and its crew fell into the nearest pub and proceeded to carouse. Second, David Freeman, an Irishman who apparently had signed on in an attempt to return to Ireland, began to run from house to house warning inhabitants to turn out to save their ships and homes from pirates. Due to the hue and cry caused by Freeman, and lack of the second crew, only one ship was set afire. As a naval attack it was of little value and could have been a disaster; it was far from the potential that could have been realized if it were not for the behavior of Freeman and the second boat's crew. Politically, it was a rousing success! The whole of the British Isles was upset that such a thing could happen. Economically it was also a success as shipping rates and marine insurance rose to prohibitive heights.

Until now the name of John Paul Jones and the sloop "Ranger" were not known in England. Both instantly became famous, Jones was denounced as a pirate by the deserter David Freeman, and the damage to property exaggerated by the press. The result of greatest importance was the shattering of the myth that English seaports could not be raided. It was the first time in over 100 years that an English town had been raided. The last time had been in 1667 when the Dutch raided and burned the town of Sheerness.

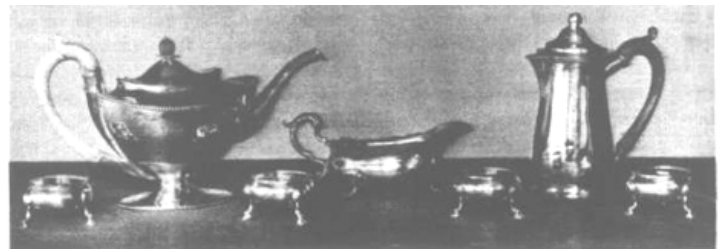
On the 23rd of April, Jones landed on St. Mary's Isle planning to capture the Earl of Selkirk and use him as a bargaining chip for the release of American prisoners in English Jails. He invaded the Earl's home, but found he was not there; only the Countess and servants were present. The crew having had enough of fighting without obtaining any thing for prize money was determined on taking something from the Selkirk house that could be sold.

Jones realized that he could lose control over the crew if he refused the seizure of at least the family silver. Reluctantly, he allowed the crew to take the family silver, but had the Countess sign an inventory of the silver taken. Jones bought the silver service from the crew when it was put up for sale upon return to France. He then returned the silver service unharmed to the Countess of Selkirk with his apology.

The *Drake* was taken, but only after a brutal battle lasting over an hour, ending only when the *Drake's* Captain was killed by a Marine rifleman from *Ranger's* fighting top. The *Drake* had lost its mast, and many of its crew were dead or wounded.



John Paul Jones



LADY SELKIRK'S "SILVER" STILL BELONGS TO THE SELKIRK FAMILY, HAVING BEEN RETURNED BY JONES

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by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

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Unable to sail on its own, the *Drake* was taken in tow. By April 28, the ship was again made seaworthy and sent off with a prize crew. The Capture of the *Drake*, the first British warship to be defeated and captured by Americans, increased the furor over all the dastardly actions of the Americans from Whitehaven to the capture of *Drake*.

Jones and the crew of the *Ranger* had not even begun to visit on the people of Britain the devastation which the British army and navy had routinely visited on the American states and the people; nor was the damage that great. It was the psychological shock that such things could happen in England that upset the people and the government.

These deeds were the last straw for both the English people and their government. There was fear and near hysteria by the public, and outrage by the government and Royal Navy. Parliament debated if Jones and his crew should be declared pirates to be hung upon their capture. The entire British Isles were alarmed! Militias were called out! The Royal Navy bombarded with inquiries! Even "Gentlemen" were asked to volunteer to guard the homeland from the pirate Jones and his crew. Whitehaven, St. Mary's Isle, and the capture of the *Drake* were not the end of Jones exploits, but from that time on, his name was a household word in Britain and America.

References: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Ward's "War of the Revolution," Van Doren's Benjamin Franklin" and Morison's "John Paul Jones."

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Guilford Court House March 15, 1781

Shortly past noon on Thursday, March 15, 1781, a fierce two-hour battle broke out around the hamlet called Guilford Court House, seat of government for eighteenth-century Guilford County, North Carolina. The keystone of the Revolutionary War's decisive Southern Campaign, and the only engagement in which the campaign's principal antagonists, American Major General Nathanael Greene and British Commander Lord Charles, Second Earl of Cornwallis were present and directing events. Guilford Courthouse was a pyrrhic victory [*a victory or goal achieved at too great a cost*] for the Redcoats. So costly was this "triumph" that Cornwallis's troops could neither pursue the defeated rebels nor remain in North Carolina as an army of occupation. After two days spent caring for the wounded and burying the dead, the nominal victors turned their backs on the doleful field of Guilford Courthouse and marched away on the first leg of the journey that would lead them to final defeat at Yorktown, an outcome fore-shadowed by the serious loss of British manpower suffered seven months earlier at Guilford Courthouse. For a brief period following the battle, local residents left the area complaining of foul odors, and the presence of spirits moving about the battlefield. They gradually returned and began the process of expanding their subsistence farms by clearing the virgin forest that covered three-quarters of the battlefield's one thousand acres. Technically the village of Guilford Courthouse ceased to exist in 1785 when the North Carolina General Assembly chartered the new community called "Martinville" at the old county seat. To the disappointment of Guilford County's first generation of land developers, Martinville failed to thrive. When the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions was moved to newly chartered Greensboro in 1809, Martinville began a half-century slide to extinction.



General Nathaniel Greene

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

Minutes of the meeting held on March 25, 2008.

by Brian Sonner, Acting Secretary

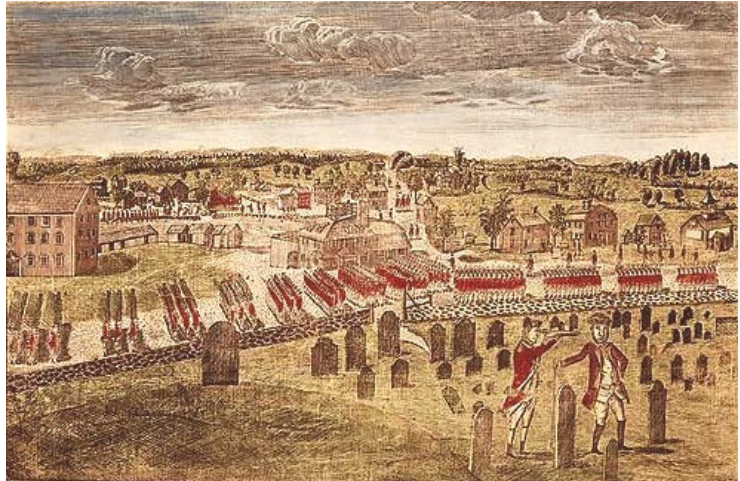
1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Registrar Jim Young. After the invocation, pledge of allegiance, and SAR pledge, the minutes for the previous meeting were approved as presented.
2. Reports:
 - a. President Tom Douglas was out of town.
 - b. Treasurer's Report: There was no report.
 - c. Registrar's Report: Mr. William "Bill" Hickman is interested in joining. He is a retired college professor living in Cameron Park. He has DAR documentation so the process should be straightforward. Congratulations to John Krahn for receiving his membership documentation at the chapter chartering party.
 - d. Historian's Report: There was no report.
3. Unfinished/Ongoing Business:
 - a. There were no volunteers for the Secretary/Treasurer position.
 - b. Youth/Community Programs: The top three candidates for the SAR Poster Contest were judged by those members in attendance. The Posters were submitted by members of the Jackson School in El Dorado Hills. The subject was Molly Pitcher. Tom Chiltern gave a quick background of Molly Pitcher which was useful in judging the posters. The winner was poster was Austin Laut, a fifth grade student at Jackson School in El Dorado Hills.
4. Guest Speaker: Guest speaker was California Highway Patrol officer Sean Ricci. As the Public Information Officer he is responsible for fielding questions from the public. He provided a comprehensive description of CHP resources, responsibilities, and operations in the region. It was impressive to recognize the vast geographical region and the limited resources available to the CHP. Officer Ricci described the techniques for coordinating operations with other law enforcement in the area. They are force multipliers and without such well structured and coordinated operations the safety of citizens would be substantially reduced.
5. There was a discussion of a way to make money for the chapter. Volunteers can work in voting locations within the county and the income earned donated to the chapter. This approach has been successful for other chapters. There did not appear to be significant interest at this time.
6. The State Society conference will be held 18, 19 April in Concord.
7. Tom Chiltern discussed ways to increase the chapter membership. Fundamentally, there are a number of people living in the area who are eligible and should be contacted. The best way is one-on-one assistance.
8. After the Benediction and SAR Recessional, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian C Sonner, Acting Secretary



The British March on Concord April 18, 1775

On the night of April 18, 1775, General Gage sent 700 men to seize the munitions stored by the Colonial Militia at Concord, Massachusetts. Riders, including Paul Revere, alerted the countryside. When the British troops entered Lexington on the morning of April 19, they found 77 Minutemen formed up on the village green. Shots were exchanged, killing several Minutemen. The British moved on to Concord, where a detachment of three companies was engaged and routed at the North Bridge by a force of 500 Minutemen. As the British retreated back to Boston, thousands of Militiamen attacked them along the roads, inflicting great damage before timely British reinforcements prevented a total disaster. With the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the war had begun.



The British Army marching to Concord,
April 18, 1775

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