



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

December 2009

Volume 3, Issue 11

Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



Presidents Corner by Tom Douglas

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Fellow Compatriots and Friends,

We had our chapter elections during the November meeting as planned. As President, I appreciate all the members that came forward to accept positions as chapter officers. There are still a couple of important positions that need filling. One is that of First Vice President. The First Vice President usually moves up to the President's position when the President steps down. He is also in charge of getting monthly speakers and taking over when the sitting President is unable to attend. One other position open is that of Registrar. The Registrar is responsible for checking and verifying that an applicant's paper work is in order before sending it to the State Registrar. If any of you feel the call to fill either of these positions, or any other vacancy, please let it be known at the meeting on December 16th (note the date change) at Denny's. A list of the officers, chairmen, and vacancies is listed in the minutes.



It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the first President of the Mother Lode Chapter. I will carry many fine memories of chapter and state meetings as your President. We accomplished a lot in the two years we have been together and I know you will all help Jim Young as your next President to maintain the momentum we have.

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

**Notice - This month's meeting will be held
on Wednesday, December 16, 2009**



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

The next meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, at 6:30 PM, at Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Park.

SAR Middle School Program The Brochure Contest

by Tom Adams, Youth Activities Director

Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2009

Tom Douglas

President

Tom Adams

Executive Vice President

Jim Young

2nd Vice President

Brian Sonner

Secretary

Tom Douglas

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

The Charge and the Challenge

On May 1, 2009 I was appointed Youth Activities Director for the California Society Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) by President Lou Carlson. At the time of my appointment, President Carlson charged me to "... expand school based programs like the Knight Essay Contest into the lower grades." As we know the Knight Essay Contest is open to young people in the 10th, 11th and 12th grade of high school. The SAR also offers the Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest to elementary school 5th graders. My challenge was then to create a contest for middle school age children. (6th, 7th, 8th graders)

The Proposal and Its Acceptance

I immediately began looking at contest alternatives. Someone had suggested a contest to develop digital videos for the Internet, like on *YouTube.com*. I was able to attend a meeting with a local Children of the American Revolution (CAR) society of mainly elementary and middle school age children where I conducted a 'brainstorming' session to generate more ideas. Then I contacted 8th grade history teachers and asked what they felt would be successful. I was very fortunate to connect with middle school teacher Kevin Tierney from the Rolling Hills Middle School in El Dorado Hills in El Dorado County. Kevin and I met several times to evaluate some very creative alternatives among them: digital video, poetry, student written lyrics to a popular tune, CD labels where the 'Song Selection' tells a story, brochures, short stories that are all published in a book, and short essays. We chose the Brochure Contest as the best option for the SAR Middle School Contest option and the option I proposed. The brochure is a tri-fold 8½" x 11". Here is the rationale:

- o A brochure in a bridging project (contest) between the poster contest and the essay contest - part drawing, part writing
- o The rules for the brochure can be specific enabling fair competition
- o Standard criteria can be created assuring fair and consistent judging
- o How to create a brochure can be taught by a SAR representative coming into the classroom in about 20 minutes. – **No additional work for teachers!**
- o It works ... Kevin has already tried this medium in his classes – every child can do it. I have personally seen a sample of a brochure by an 8th grade student - impressive.

On June 5, 2009 I submitted a proposal to the President Lou Carlson and Executive Committee requesting that I be approved to pursue the American History Brochure Contest for Middle School children and develop a plan for testing the concept in the coming 2009-10 school year. I was granted permission to continue and further develop the program. Work on guidelines for the proposal continued, and on June 30, 2009, Colleen Wilson, former Director of Education, now Director of The Center for Advancing America's Heritage at National, approved the proposal to be presented to the Americanism Committee and also the Patriotic Education

(continued on page 3)

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.

SAR Middle School Program – The Brochure Contest by Tom Adams, Youth Activities Director

(continued from page 2)

Committee. On September 25, 2009, Executive Vice President, Wayne Griswold, in Louisville to attend the Fall Leadership (Trustees) Meeting presented the Middle School Brochure Contest proposal to the Americanism Committee. After discussion, the Committee accepted the Brochure Contest as the National Middle School program for SAR beginning in 2010-11. On November 14, 2009, I shared the Brochure Contest model with the attendees of SAR Board of Managers Meeting in Riverside.

The Brochure

The SAR Brochure contest is for 8th grade students (in California) who create a tri-fold brochure depicting the theme chosen by the National Society's Americanism Committee of the Son of the American Revolution. The topic for 2009 - 2010 school year's contest is: "The Battle of Bunker Hill." This is the same topic as the Elementary level Poster Contest (5th Grade students in California). The brochure should exhibit a knowledge and understanding of American history as well as a personal interpretation concerning the ways in which that history affects contemporary society. The objective is for the students to truly internalize and understand the event and be able to interpret meaning that is relevant in their own life or in contemporary society in general. The brochures must be made from a single 8 ½" x 11" piece of blank printer paper. The paper must be folded according to the instructions provided for the contest. The content of the various panels of the brochure should align with the instructions provided. Guidelines also govern: paper thickness, paper color, artwork (all artwork must be hand drawn), and written text (text may be typed or handwritten but must be original text written by the student – not clipped from magazines, books or taken off the Internet).

Brochures will be judged using a scoring rubric which focuses on: Content; Creativity / Neatness; and Correctness.

Contest Awards

Here are the suggested Contest Awards at the **National** Level:

1st Place \$500 Savings Bond

2nd Place \$300 Savings Bond

3rd Place \$200 Savings Bond

Here are the Contest Awards at the **State** Level:

1st Place \$600 Savings Bond

2nd Place \$400 Savings Bond

Here is a suggested Contest Award scheme for the Local **Chapter** Level: Where as the strategy in setting the National and State awards is to have as large a monetary amount as possible to attract attention to the contest, the goal for the local Chapter awards should be to have as many 'Winners' as possible. The awards can be cash, Savings Bonds, metals, ribbons, or certificates. The more, the better. I suggest 1st Place and Runner Up (2nd Place) Winners at the Classroom level, at the School Level and at the Chapter level. Certificates are good – almost required, but we've learned children are accustomed to receiving certificates, even though they are appreciated. What we learned is that ribbons are special! Metals are of course even more impressive if your budget can afford it.

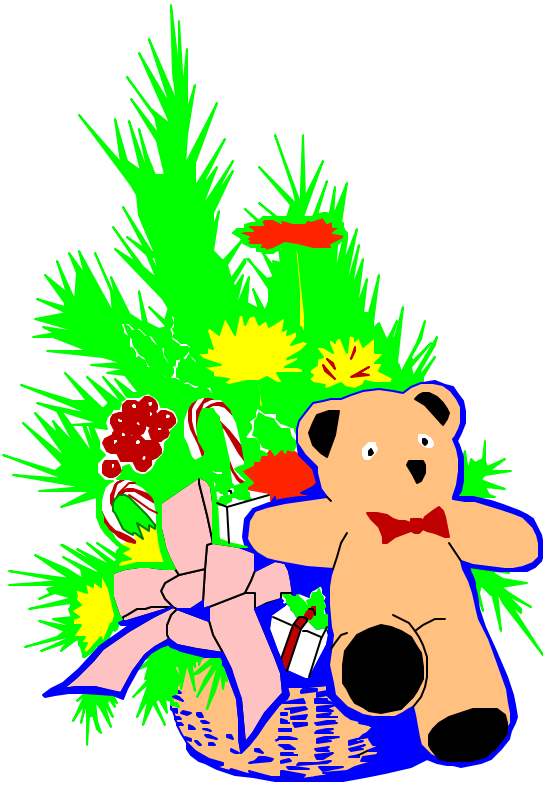
Challenge for School Year 2010-11

Here in California, it is our intention to launch the program in the next School Year. It turns out; American History is taught in the first month of a school year in many schools. Consequently, our challenge is to implement the program in the spring of this current school year 2009-10 to prepare teachers to offer the program the following year. The experience I have gathered thus far in school activities based contests, is that working one-on-one with a teacher gives us the best hope for success. This applies to the Poster Contest in elementary schools and should apply to this Brochure Contest in the middle school level as well. If you can reach an individual teacher you have a chance. Do you know a 5th and 8th grade teacher? Excellent intermediaries are the parents and guardians of 5th graders (for the Poster Contest) and 8th graders (for the Brochure Contest.) Do you have a child or grandchild who is, or will soon be in the 5th or the 8th grade? That's a great entry point. If you'd like to try launching the Brochure Contest this coming school year in your Chapter, please contact me. I'd love to explore the opportunities. This is a great opening for us to bring our message of the importance of the events of the American Revolution in the lives of all Americans today.

Tom Adams, tomadams@iname.com (916) 600-7211 cell

(Examples of the brochures can be found on pages 4 and 5)

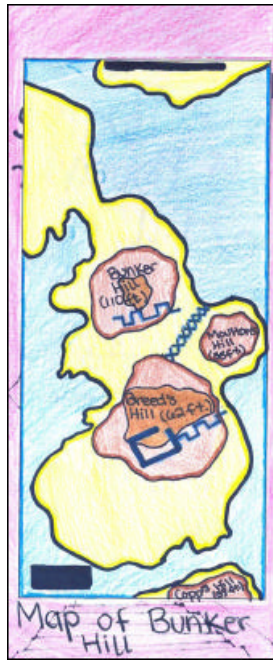
An example of a student brochure.



Introduction

The battle of Bunker Hill took place on June 17, 1775 in Bredas Hill. This battle was known as the third American Revolutionary war that occurred. This war was fought by the British soldier and the colonist of Bunker's Hill. The colonist fought in this war not because they were angered or afraid; but because they wanted to show that the British troops weren't unstoppable. This battle resembles the American value of never giving up. The colonists were greatly outnumbered in this war but they held their ground and refused to give up. The colonist took a stand and protected their land and freedom.

Christina C. Onanile
 Buckeye Union School
 District
 Rolling Hills Middle
 School
 8th Grade 2009-10
 Mr. Tenney



The Battle

The Battle of Bunker's Hill was one of the most important victories in an America's fight for Independence. The battle represented the strength of the colonist and the courage to fight for their freedom. The war was staged at Bredas Hill where 1,200 American colonists built a fort that was 160 by 30 feet tall. The British awoke the next day and opened fire on the fort. The British continued to fire at the fort and at 5:00pm British commander Thomas Gage ordered the red coats to control the fort. The red coats marched up the hill expecting to see scared colonist. Although what they saw was the complete opposite. They saw men standing before them ready with weapons to proclaim a victory. As the British fired their equipped weapons at the colonist many men died. The colonist may have been outnumbered by thousands of soldiers but the British suffered a number of deaths.

The colonists preserved and never showed that they were afraid or willing to give up. The British won the war but could not enjoy their victory because they had lost many men. George Washington began another war against the British at Bunker's Hill and the British lost shamefully. The colonist soon regained their territory once again. For the colonist this war wasn't about winning it was about their land and freedom.



Another example of a student brochure

Introduction:

The Battle of Bunker Hill, also known as Breed's Hill, took place on June 17th, 1775. The setting of the war was on the Charlestown Peninsula on the North side of the Boston harbor. Charlestown used to be its own separate town, but on January 5th, 1874, it became part of the city of Boston. The battle was fought between the British and the Americans. The British wore redcoats, bearskin hats and caps with three chains on them, and carried many weapons. The Americans, however, had no special uniform. The British were being lead by General William Howe, and the Americans were being lead by General Israel Putnam and Colonial William Prescott. The Battle of Bunker Hill was thought of as an American defeat, but it was a battle well fought.

Alexandra N. Greer
 Buckeye Union School District
 Rolling Hills Middle School
 California- 8th Grade
 Mr. Tierney

The Battle of Bunker Hill

Conclusion:

Overall the Battle of Bunker Hill was known as an American defeat. It took the British three times to break through the center of the Americans, but they eventually did it, killing or wounding about 450 of them. This battle in one way or another helped the Americans and British in getting a better military and learning how to attack. Even though the Americans lost, the Battle of Bunker Hill most likely helped them in future battles.

The Battle of Bunker Hill was a battle between the British and the Americans. When the Americans learned that the British were coming and were planning on setting certain heights around the city, General Ward ordered that the Americans set up the Battle of Bunker Hill on the Charlestown Peninsula. The British soon began to attack. General Putnam told his soldiers, "Don't until you see the whites of their eyes! Then fire low!", so they wouldn't miss. The British had 6,400 troops while the Americans only had 16,000 New England volunteers. General Howe first began with 1,600 men to try and dislodge the Americans, but soon had to send back to get 600 more men. Once the 600 men got there he tried to attack along the Mystic river, but was soon turned around because of the Americans. After General Howe attacked a third time he finally broke through the center of the American soldiers. Several hours later after tons of blood was shed the Americans were defeated.

A Patriot's Perspective

A Soldier's Christmas

By Michael G. Lucas

Every year American soldiers serve around the world and will not be able to spend Christmas with their loved ones. Americans in the military have served their nation in difficult circumstances and in faraway places. While they sacrifice for our country, they often have to spend Christmas on battlefields, in foxholes, in prisons, or enduring other miserable conditions. They join a long tradition of sacrifice dating back to the Revolutionary War.

It was Christmas Eve 1783. Mount Vernon was just around the next bend. General Washington was returning to his beloved home. During the war he fully expected that he'd never see Mount Vernon again. Several years earlier, the British sloop HMS *Savage* had threatened Mount Vernon with its guns trained on the house. Benedict Arnold had ravaged Virginia; Washington had expected that the traitor would have sought revenge by destroying Mount Vernon. Now it was almost Christmas and, undoubtedly, George Washington's mind was filled with thoughts of the last nine Christmases. He had been made commander of the Continental Army on June 15, 1775. He informed Martha three days later of his appointment and promised her that he'd finish up his work and be home before Christmas.



Instead of enjoying the Christmas of 1775 in the comforts of Mount Vernon, he found himself looking down on the British who were snug in the comforts of Boston. He would not make it home for this Christmas... but perhaps next year.

His thoughts would have moved on to that following Christmas. Washington's army had just been run out of New York and morale had hit rock bottom. Enlistments were about to end and Washington would soon watch his army walk away like whipped dogs. Against the advice of his officers, Washington ordered a crossing of the frozen Delaware River on Christmas Day 1776. He boldly attacked the Hessians garrisoned at Trenton; his success turned the tide and changed the outcome of the war. Christmas at Mount Vernon would have to wait... perhaps next year.

The next Christmas would find Washington at Valley Forge. His army would be refined in the crucible of suffering. Undernourished and poorly clothed while living in crowded, cold, damp quarters, the army was ravaged by sickness and disease. As many as two thousand men died that winter. His soldiers needed him to stay with them both to fight Congress for provisions and to encourage them to persevere. Mount Vernon would have to wait... perhaps next year.

In the years ahead, in order to maintain his army, he would spend Christmas at Middlebrook, New Windsor, Newburgh, and Morristown, where he endured the worst winter of the 18th century along with mutiny, lack of pay for his soldiers, and crippling inflation. Washington had hoped to spend Christmas 1782 at home, but instead he had to again spend it with his army. His officer corps was on the verge of insurrection and he had no choice but to stay. Anger had been brewing among his officers because they had not received their pay as promised. They finally met together to plan a move against Congress. He begged the officers to do nothing "that would tarnish the reputation of an army which is celebrated throughout Europe for its fortitude and patriotism." His emotional appeal averted a mutiny attempt. What had been achieved on the battlefield could have easily been erased without his personal intervention. James Thomas Flexner, in *George Washington in the American Revolution*, concluded that "Americans can never be adequately grateful that George Washington possessed the power and the will to intervene effectively in what may well have been the most dangerous hour the United States has ever known." Christmas after Christmas the nation needed him; he would be unable to keep that promise made to Martha. Martha learned that, if she wanted to spend Christmas with her husband, she would have to come to him. Finally, after eight long years of war and unbelievable sacrifices, George Washington would keep his promise. He was going home for Christmas.

(Continued on page 5)

A Patriot's Perspective

A Soldier's Christmas

By Michael G. Lucas
(Continued from page 4.)

Mount Vernon was just up ahead and a sense of peace must have enveloped the General. Washington's trip home for Christmas was the culmination of an amazing month. What had just occurred over the last three weeks changed the course of world history just as much as had all the victories on the battlefield.

On December 4th, Washington crossed the Hudson River on his trip south to Mount Vernon. He had just left Fraunces Tavern in New York City. It was an emotional farewell to his officers who had served with him for so many years.

General Washington's trip home progressed slowly. It took four days to cross New Jersey. There were celebrations in each town. Houses were decorated with flags and bunting; towns held banquets and public addresses. In Philadelphia the celebrations lasted for days. The General reached Annapolis, the capital, on December 19th and a public dinner was held on the 22nd. It was a grand event with hundreds in attendance. There were thirteen toasts in honor of those responsible for victory. On the following day, Washington walked to the state house where Congress was meeting. He addressed members of Congress, "I now have the honor of offering ... myself before ... [Congress] to surrender ... the trust committed to me, and to claim the indulgence of retiring from the service of my country." General Washington took from his coat a parchment copy of his appointment as commander in chief. "Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theater of action and bidding farewell to this august body under whom I have long acted, I here offer my commission and take leave of all the employments of public life." He then handed the document to the President of Congress, Thomas Mifflin. Ironically, Washington was now surrendering his authority to the same man who had been largely responsible for the deprivations at Valley Forge and had been part of the efforts to remove him as commander.

As stated so well by Thomas Fleming in *The Perils of Peace*, "This was - is - the most important moment in American history. The man who could have been King George I of America, or President General for Life after dispersing a feckless Congress and obtaining for himself and his officers riches worthy of their courage, was renouncing absolute power to become a private citizen, at the mercy of politicians over whom he had no control. This visible incontrovertible act did more to affirm America's faith in the government of the people than a thousand declarations by legislatures and treatises by philosophers. No one put it better than Thomas Jefferson, who was an eyewitness: 'The moderation and virtue of a single character probably prevented this revolution from being closed, as most others have been, by a subversion of that liberty it was intended to establish.'

"In Europe, Washington's resignation restored America's battered prestige. It was reported with awe and amazement in newspapers from London to Vienna. The Connecticut painter John Trumbull, studying in England, wrote that it had earned the 'astonishment and admiration of this part of the world.' No one was more surprised than George III. When he heard about it, His Majesty stuttered disbelievingly: 'If he d-d-does that, he will become the g-g-greatest m-m-man in the world.'"

After his resignation, he left Annapolis. On the morning of Christmas Eve, he crossed the Potomac below Alexandria and rode towards Mount Vernon. The sun was now beginning to set on Christmas Eve 1783. Mount Vernon was finally in Washington's view straight ahead. He was now home for Christmas, and hopefully there to stay. Little did he know that the nation would soon call on him once again. As in the past, he would answer its call and he would leave the comforts of Mount Vernon. Once again, he would tell Martha that he must go but he'd be home for Christmas.

That promise undoubtedly will continue to be repeated generation after generation. We honor those who have sacrificed so much for their country, many who must forego spending Christmas with their loved ones. We especially honor those who sacrificed their all, those who will "remain forever on duty in the cause of freedom" **and** will never be going home for Christmas.

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

Washington's army moved into winter quarters at Morristown in an area called "Jockey Hollow" (another author describes the camp as being at Morristown Heights). By whatever name it was known, it was located a few miles southwest of Morristown at a location surrounded by natural defenses. Morristown represented another winter of unplanned accommodations for the Continental Army. Washington preferred to be on the offensive in order to determine the time and place of events. He was constrained by lack of resources, therefore with the weaker force and even weaker finances and supply, he was generally forced into a defensive position, unable to choose when and where he would fight or even to preplan and ready a place to spend the winter. The lack of such a capability resulted in the hardships of Valley Forge being repeated, only this time the ordeal was much more severe.

The winter of 1778-79 had found Patriot forces spread out in a crescent around New York City, allowing for a simpler problem of housing, supply, and maintenance. Additionally, there had been more financial resources at the time. Admittedly the Continental dollar was on its last legs, but it was not yet moribund. The pinch had always existed where supply was concerned, but it was rapidly worsening. While in 1778-79 the army was scattered, the main army wintered at Middlebrook, near Morristown, and even during an unusually mild winter, there was great suffering by the soldiers who slept under canvas until cabins could be built from hardwoods which abounded in the area. There were also shortages of clothing and rations for the men, and forage for the horses. Plagued by shortages and unable to make purchases locally due to the decline in value of the dollar, Washington complained to Congress in April of '79, as follows: ". . . a wagon full of money will scarcely purchase a wagon load of provisions". With the dollar worth about a penny in English money, there was few who were willing to sell anything if it was to be paid for with Congress' paper money. By using English hard cash, Clinton had plenty of supplies from nearby areas.

With no ability to purchase supplies, hard times had already taken the army into its grasp even before arriving at Jockey Hollow. By mid-November, the camp went on half rations, and by the end of the year the encampment had been on half rations for six weeks. The daytime work of building cabins from hardwoods would be taxing enough for a well-fed, well-dressed army. Under conditions of barely enough food to survive, ragged clothing, a shortage of blankets, and some soldiers without even a tent for shelter, it took forever to build cabins. So short was the supply of clothes, blankets, and even tents, many men resorted to hastily contrived brush lean-tos facing a fire. For blankets they used more brush to cover themselves during the long winter nights. Commenting on the deprivations at Jockey Hollow and previous winter camps, Private Joe Plumb wrote in a letter, "The Revolutionary War not only tried men's souls, but their bodies, too . . ."

Not only were conditions bad at Jockey Hollow, but even reaching winter camp verged on the impossible. Baron DeKalb (who arrived from France with Lafayette) marched 2,000 men for six days to reach Morristown. Freezing rain and muddy roads at the outset were only the beginning of troubles for the marching soldiers. The rain turned to sleet, then to snow. Frozen wagon ruts and unevenness caused by previous marchers and horses hooves caused the men to stumble and fall in the snow as they moved to an encampment that was worse than the one they had just left. By the time DeKalb arrived at Morristown a large number of men were sick from the weather and a lack of everything from rations and clothing, even to shoes and hats. The bad road and weather conditions coupled with the lack of anything to shed the rain or snow, and nothing to sleep on at night but the frozen ground, led to men dying from cold and fatigue before they could get to Morristown. Winter conditions were disabling and killing more soldiers than summertime engagements with Clinton's army.

Winter desertions followed what had become a pattern. Some soldiers left, never to return. Some left to return home to care for their families. After spring planting and preparing their families for the coming summer, they returned to duty, loyal as ever. It is noted that during all winters, desertions in the North were common, due mostly to the harsh conditions in the camps. Some soldiers not only left to escape the rigors of winter, but to accept the King's coin, and the promise of land for enlisting in a British regiment. It is also noted that few American born soldiers deserted for the King's pay. Most of those who deserted to the British army were of foreign origin.

The American Revolution – Month By Month - December 1779 by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers (continued from page 6)

The war had been going on for more than four years. Soldiers and the population alike were tired and weary of a war that seemed never to end. Everyone needed some ray of hope to carry them through the winter. As bleak and discouraging as was the plight of the Continental Army in December of 1779, there still remained a ray of hope. It was the fond belief that the victorious Paul Jones would escape in *Alliance* to again become the nemesis of the Royal Navy.

Jones' idyllic existence in Amsterdam came to an end when France traded some of his prisoners for French prisoners instead of American. He was also ticked off that France had taken *Serapis* and any prize ships for their own enrichment. He was so despondent that on December 5th he wrote to Robert Morris that barring orders from Congress or Doctor Franklin, he would sail for the United States. To add insult to injury, Commodore Gillon of the South Carolina Navy was in Paris proposing to buy *L'Indien* and combine it with the ships under Jones command, with him as fleet commander.

It is unfortunate that Jones did not sail for the United States. Once back in North America he could have rid himself of Captain Landais' crew as well as never meeting with Arthur Lee and his machinations. I find no more entries until December 21, when the *Alliance* had been careened, her bottom cleaned, and then re-rigged for an ocean voyage. Stormy weather drove the British squadron off station, but the Netherlands fleet anchored around *Alliance* continued their watch. The Netherlands Admiral continued to question Jones about his departure. Jones continued to ignore the Admiral, but began provisioning *Alliance* for a long voyage. The Netherlands' fleet and its commander's (Vice Admiral Reynst) menacing attitude and continuing threats against *Alliance* made Jones wonder if there was a conspiracy with Britain for Reynst to run the *Alliance* away from Texel and into the arms of the British squadron.

On December 27th, a wind came that allowed Jones to depart Texel. Rigging an anchor, he allowed his sails to fill as much as possible. With sails bulging to the maximum, the *Alliance* strained at the anchor like a race horse anxious to leave the gate. Jones hoisted the Stars and Stripes, slipped the anchor, and raced through the Netherlands fleet before it could respond. At 11:00AM the pilot was dropped and the *Alliance* headed south toward the English Channel. It was the more dangerous route, but it was the closest and shortest route instead of the longer but safer voyage around Scotland and Ireland.

After departure from Texel, the wind rose to gale force requiring Jones to reduce sail and speed. Even so, the storm split the "fore topsail". Finally the winds diminished and full sail was set. After sunset, the riding lights of an English fleet was spotted at Dover, but the *Alliance* was not observed as she passed down the channel. By noon of the 30th, when the channel islands of Jersey and Guernsey were left behind, Jones began the chase of two ships. When overtaken and hailed, each turned out to be neutral and were allowed to proceed on their way. When sixteen bells announced the arrival of 1780, the *Alliance* was clear of the channel and headed for Lorient, or at least the crew thought so.

Jones would not return to Lorient until February 19, 1780. The return to Lorient by the *Alliance* would usher in a time of trial beyond anything that Jones had ever dreamed.

References: Encyclopedia Britannica; Ward's "The War of the American Revolution"; Morison's "John Paul Jones"; Schlesinger's "The Almanac of American History"; Flexner's "Washington, the Indispensable Man"; Lancaster's "The American Revolution"; Langguth's "Patriot's Who Started The American Revolution"; Higginbotham's "The War Of American Independence."

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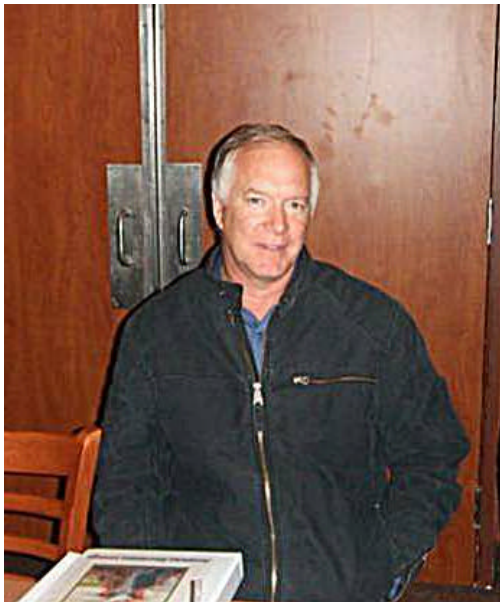
Photos from the November, 2009, Mother Lode Meeting



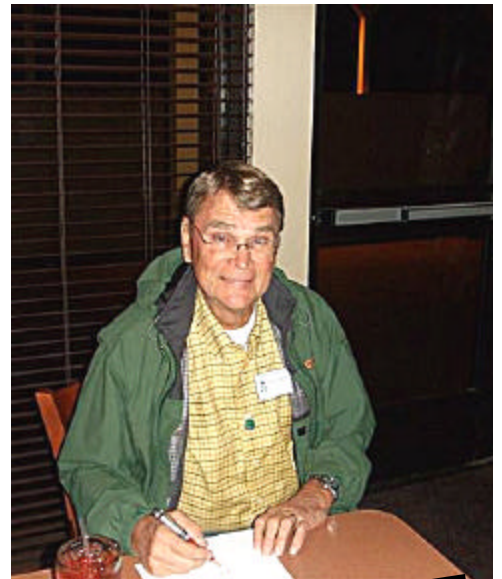
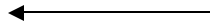
President Tom Douglas presents Ed Sheffler with his membership certificate.



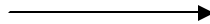
John Krahn, Mel Roush, Marilyn Chilton, and Brian Sonner listen as Tom Chilton describes the revolutionary war period flags.



New member Ed Sheffler.

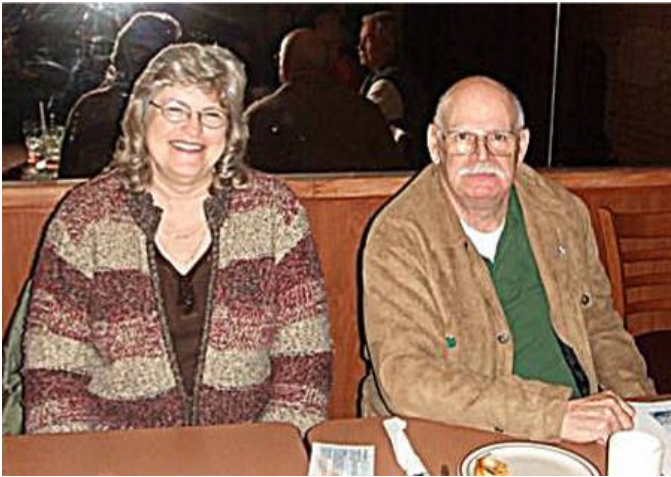


Brian Sonner



**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year**

More Photos from the November, 2009, Mother Lode Meeting



Joy and John Krahn.



VP Jim Young, President Tom Douglas, CASSAR VP-North Keith Bigbee, and CASSAR Exec. VP Wayne Griswold.



Tom Adams and Joyce Douglas



Mel Roush and Marilyn Chilton.



Marilyn and Tom Chilton.



CASSAR Exec. VP Wayne Griswold and CASSAR VP-North Keith Bigbee.

Minutes of the meeting held on November 24, 2009.

By Brian C. Sonner

1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Tom Douglas. Member concerns included: Ken Gibson, Jack Kloeckner, and Doug Stone. After the Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and SAR Pledge, the minutes for the 27 October 2009 meeting were approved. There were 6 members, 2 associate members, and 4 guests in attendance.

2. Reports:

a. Treasurer: Tom Douglas reported that the balance, after distributions for state and national dues and to the Ladies Auxilliary, will be \$1415 in the checking account and \$500.94 in the savings account.

b. Registrar: No report

c. Historian: Nothing to report

d. Youth: Tom Adams reported on the status of various youth initiatives and coordinated awards. The preparations for the Poster Contest will begin soon. Members of the chapter have been participating with the CAR group in Placerville (10-12 children are involved.) A motion was made and passed to create a committee to establish a formal relationship between the Mother Lode Chapter and the CAR group in Placerville.

e. Secretary: Nothing to report

f. Newsletter: Nothing to report

g. George Washington Endowment Fund: Tom Douglas reported on the function of the fund and information on the concept and contribution process for the fund.

h. State Meeting: Wayne Griswold reported on the results of several important changes:

1. The value of youth awards has been increased significantly

2. The Col. Locke award for the chapters at each level for most new members is now \$250.

3. The Newsletter category has been removed from the chapter contest. It is now a stand alone award.

4. There were numerous Bylaw changes, however, chapters will not be required to scan documents of members.

3. Flag presentation by Tom Chilton: The Bennington Flag. This flag flew over the military stores in Bennington, VT, on August 16, 1777. It is unusual because the stripes begin with a white strip on the top and end with a white strip on the bottom. The Culpeper flag represented about 100 Minutemen from Culpeper Co., VA. It carried the common theme of the rattle snake and term "Don't Tread on Me".

4. President Tom Douglas swore Compatriot Ed Sheffler into the Sons of the American Revolution, Mother Lode Chapter and presented him with his certificates.

5. Old Business: Elections of officers for 2010. The following individuals were elected:

President: Jim Young, First VP: vacant, Second VP: Tom Adams, Secretary: Tom Douglas, Treasurer: Roy Tougaw, Registrar: Vacant, Chaplain: Gene Myers, Historian: Mel Roush, Genealogist: Vacant, Assistant Registrar: Vacant, Editor of the Mother Lode Dispatch: Tom Chilton, Guardian of the Flags: Vacant, Web Master: Tom Douglas

Program Chairmen:

Essay Contest: John Krahn, Law Enforcement: John Krahn, and Eagle Scouts: Tom Douglas

6. New Business:

a. Wayne Griswold indicated that the next Fall Meeting of the State Society will be held in November 2011 in the Sacramento area. He wanted to know if the Mother Lode Chapter would sponsor the event. The chapter would receive \$200 for doing this and the costs of the event would be covered by the registration fees paid by participants. There was no motion. The new chapter officers will meet to determine the feasibility of the chapter taking on this task.

b. It was announced that there is a Ladies Auxilliary organization at the State Society level. It is a very active organization and will be especially active at the April, 2010, State Society meeting. The annual dues are \$10.

7. Due to the holiday season, the December meeting will be held WEDNESDAY, 16 December. 2009.

8. After the benediction, the singing of "God Bless America" and SAR Recessional, the meeting was adjourned.



Brian C Sonner
Secretary