



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

December 2010

Volume 4, Issue 10

Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



December 2010 Program

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The December Chapter Meeting will be
Held at the Cameron Park Denny's on
December 28, 2010 at 6:30 PM

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

The President's Corner by Jim Young

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

Historian

Mel Roush

Committee Chairmen

Dispatch Editor

Tom Douglas

Web Site

Tom Douglas

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

It's December and that means a new year will soon be upon us! As we head into 2011, I want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas. This is our third year as a chapter and once again, it has been successful. We have participated in several state and national programs along with obtaining guest speakers who provided interesting information on varying topics.

I want to express a sincere thank you to Secretary Tom Douglas for his continued statistical know-how that enables us to be competitive with other small chapters in the state.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our meeting on Tuesday evening; please plan on attending, as we will be installing our Officers for 2011. I thank all of you for your continued support.

In Patriotic Service,

Jim Young



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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.

Mother Lode Chapter Eagle Scout Certificate Presentation to Kristofer Michael Moen-Chinn



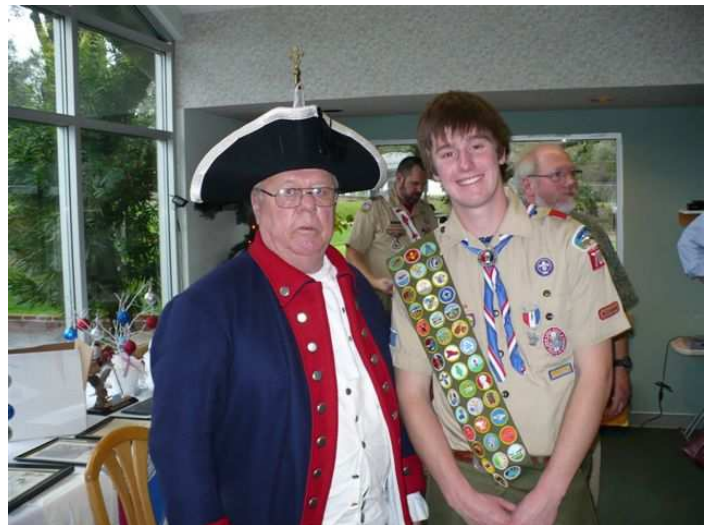
The Eagle Charge is given to Kristofer Moen-Chinn by Taylor LaRue



Compatriot Tom Douglas reads from the National Society Certificate of Recognition for outstanding achievement in attaining the rank of Eagle Scout



Eagle Scout Kristofer Moen-Chinn receives the Certificate of Recognition from Scout Chairman for the Mother Lode Chapter Compatriot Tom Douglas



Compatriot Douglas with Eagle Scout Kristofer and his 42 merit badges and new Eagle Scout badge and neckerchief.

The American Revolution – Month By Month - December 1780

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

After the debacles of Savannah, Charleston, and Camden, Congress saw that it had erred in controlling the Southern army. Congress had made a bad decision in the appointment of Robert Howe (Savannah), Benjamin Lincoln (Charleston), and General Gates, who failed miserably at Camden. All had been responsible only to Congress. Even though Washington was given the title Commander-in-Chief (CINC) of all Armed Forces, Congress had reserved for itself all authority in the South. By this action, it had usurped Washington's power to fulfill his duty as the overall commander.

Washington, by naming a commander who would be responsible to him instead of Congress, finally had oversight of the entire armed forces, North and South. With this authority he named General Nathaniel Greene to succeed Gates. Defrocked by the Quakers because of his choice to serve in the military during the Revolution, Greene had proven his dedication to the American Cause. He gained his military craft and expertise in the field. With Washington since the siege of Boston, he gained the respect and confidence of both Washington and the army through devoted and successful service as a combat commander.

On December 2, 1780, Greene succeeded Gates as Commander. His style was totally different than Gates. Where Gates was aloof, Greene was close to his officers and considerate of the men. Where Gates assumed that supplies would be furnished, Greene evaluated the possibility of supplies as opposed to living off the land. Meeting individually with his officers, he became better informed of the condition and capabilities of his command more than any other officer in the Southern Army.

By determining the strengths and weaknesses of his force as opposed to those of Cornwallis, Greene arrived at a strategy that he would follow until Cornwallis was defeated at Yorktown. Using Washington's categorization of the forces available, he planned the use of both irregulars and regulars according to their abilities to harass Cornwallis in order to draw Cornwallis farther and farther from his supply bases, thus diluting his strength and supplies. Greene decided to split his force to coerce Cornwallis to do the same, thereby making the two sides more equal in numbers, if not in capability. He realized that he would be inferior to Cornwallis in the open field. Therefore, he will fight pitched battles only if he thought he could injure the British far beyond his own casualties, allowing him to leave the field with his own force relatively intact. He had determined that it would be a war of attrition and logistics. At no time would he hold any real estate, further weakening Cornwallis who must stretch his resources to hold territory as well as oppose Greene.

Cornwallis was the author of his own defeat. Given command of the British Southern Army, he was charged with holding the seaboard from the North Carolina border to British Florida, while the Tories would hold the interior. He was particularly instructed by Clinton to maintain Charleston, the most important city in the South, as his headquarters.

Cornwallis saw things differently. He had always believed that the key to holding the South, and thereby winning the war, was to hold the state of Virginia. This belief had been a bone of contention between him and Clinton all along. Aggressive by nature, he wanted to take action to make things happen. Under Clintons orders, he felt trapped and confined in Charleston. London also saw a need for action and allowed Cornwallis to override Clintons orders by giving him free rein to attack the problem as he saw fit.



Adding to Cornwallis' discomfort was the failure of well trained, outfitted, and supplied Tory units to prevail in the field. He must remain in the field to complete the subjugation of the South. British might and experience would prevail, the Tories would only be an adjunct to his own forces and commanders.

Greene, upon assuming command on December 2nd, set out to obtain capable and battle tested Generals to lead his forces. Fortune smiled upon him when on December 3rd, Big Dan Morgan, a Brigadier General from Virginia, appeared for duty. He was noted for his ability to get along with frontier people, who trusted him to lead them in Battle. Greene counseled with the irregulars Sumter, Marion, and others, stating that he had no intention of placing Continental Officers over them, but he insisted that they all work as a team. He stated, "You may strike a hundred strokes and reap little benefit from them, unless you have a good army to take advantage of your success".

In mid-December, he formally divided his small army of 1600 men into three divisions. To Morgan he gave the best soldiers that he had; a second division was held under his own command. The third division was given to Brigadier General Isaac Huger. On December 16th, Greene directed Morgan to join North Carolina militia under General William Davidson. However, it was December 20th before Greene departed, and the 26th before he reached Cheraw Hill and encamped. At this point his army had grown to 650 Continentals, 303 Virginians, and 157 Maryland Militia. Cornwallis, already in the field, could not believe that Greene would divide his force. With Greene at three different locations, Cornwallis felt compelled to split his own force to react against Greene.

This was not as rash as it sounds. Cornwallis knew that some 2,500 fresh troops under a Major General was en-route from Charleston to reinforce his army. Cornwallis, ever eager to reduce the enemy, sent Colonel "Butcher" Tarleton in command of a division to destroy Morgan's army. By January 1781, Morgan was 140 miles from Greene's division. There would be a battle, but not one to enhance Tarleton's reputation.

In September, Benedict Arnold as a general in the British army, had devised and led an attack on New London where he defeated the Americans in two forts, and then butchered the surrendered garrison. Afterwards, he entered the town and put it to the torch along with neighboring Groton. Having shown his capability and loyalty to the Crown, he was given the task of planning and executing an invasion of Virginia. Clinton, still not sure of Arnold, placed two dependable Colonels, Dundas and Simcoe, in the expedition to watch over him. The expedition left Sandy Hook with 1,600 men on December 20th. Due to violent gales, the ships were scattered. One warship and three transports with 400 men never rejoined the expedition. Arnold and the remaining ships reached Hampton Roads on December 30th, where the troops were transferred to smaller vessels to continue up the James River, debarking on January 3, 1781



References: Schlessinger's "Almanac of American History"; Wards "The War of the Revolution"; Lancaster's "The American Revolution" ; Utley and Washburn's "Indian Wars"; Galloway's "The American Revolution in Indian Country." ; Higginbotham's "The War of American Independence"; Lancaster's "The American Revolution."

Not for sale or republication. The American Revolution, Month by Month series was written by Compatriot Andrew J. Stough, III, and is published solely for the benefit of the members of the Gold Country Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Permission to republish this series has been granted to the Mother Lode Chapter, SAR. The original text has been slightly edited by Compatriot Thomas Chilton.

November Mother Lode Meeting Photos



Guest Speaker Ken Allen shared his knowledge about passes and trails over and around the summits of the Sierras



President Jim Young presents Mr. Allen with a Certificate of Appreciation for his talk.



President Jim Young presents the Guildford Courthouse Flag As Sacramento member and CASSAR Registrar Tom Chilton describes it. Compatriot Chilton brings two flags from the Sacramento Chapter's collection for the Mother Lode Chapter meetings. Mother Lode member Gene Bell looks on.



The Easton Flag is presented. Yes it is right side up. Although the flag was to be red, white and blue with 13 stars and strips, no one knew exactly the presentation. Therefore there were a number of different flags of the times. The Mother Lode Chapter appreciates Compatriot Chilton's presentations.

More November Meeting photos



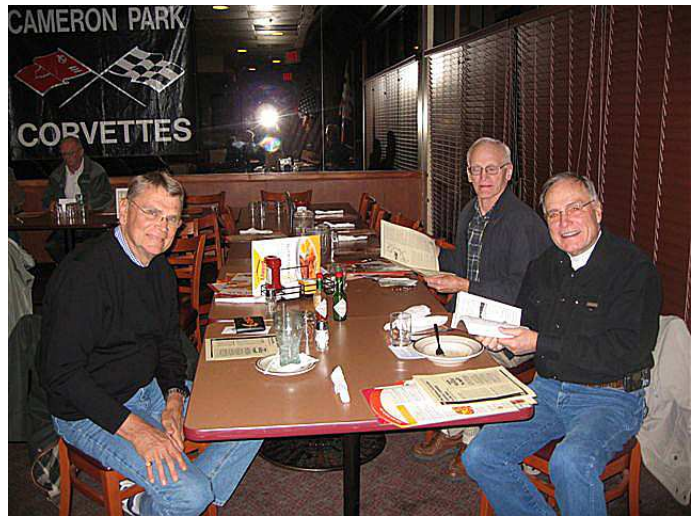
Mother Lode member Bob Conover (L) with guest and potential member William S. Bradley



Two of Mother Lode's favorite Compatriots, CASSAR President Wayne Griswold (L) and CASSAR Registrar Tom Chilton



Regular attendees John and Joy Krahn.



Members (l to r) Brian Sonner, Roy Tougaw and Gene Bell



Minutes of the November 23, 2010 Mother Lode Chapter Meeting

The meeting was opened at 6:30 PM by President Young. After the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Brian Sonner, the Pledge to the SAR, led by Bob Conover the invocation was given by Secretary Tom Douglas, guests Joy Krahn, LAUX and William S. Bradley, potential member were introduced. Also in attendance were associate members CASSAR President Wayne Griswold and CASSAR Registrar Tom Chilton.

The minutes of the October 27th luncheon meeting were approved.

Reports;

Secretary Tom Douglas reported he would be attending the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Kristofer Moen-Chinn and will present him with the National Society Eagle Scout Certificate.

Treasurer Roy Tougaw reported there is \$2375.00 in the checking account.

Registrar Jim Young reported they are still working on W. Sam Bradley's application.

Dispatch editor Tom Douglas will send the Dispatch attached to an email and by a link on the Mother Lode web site.

CASSAR President Wayne Griswold gave a short report on the Fall Board of Managers Meeting. He talked about the changes to the Life Memberships, the newly forming Fife and Drum Corp and about the CAR pages that were very helpful at the meeting.

CASSAR Registrar Tom Chilton held a registrars workday at the BOM meeting.

Compatriot Chilton described two flags he brought from the Sacramento Chapter collection, the Easton Flag and the Guildford Courthouse Flag.

Nominations and elections were held for officers for 2011. **Jim Young**, President, **Bob Conover** 1st VP, **Tom Adams** 2nd VP, **Tom Douglas**, Secretary, **Roy Tougaw**, Treasurer, **Gene Myers**, Chaplain, **Mel Roush**, Historian. **John Krahn** agreed to continue as Law Enforcement Program Chairman and **Doug Stone** is willing to be the Flag Certificate Chairman.

Guest speaker **Ken Allen** talked about the passes and trails over and around the summits of the Sierras.

After the Benediction and SAR Recessional the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Douglas, Secretary



Merry Christmas



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 28 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

October 26 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

November 12 & 13 - CASSAR Fall Manager's Meeting
Location to be determined.

November 23 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

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

December 19- Eagle Scout Court of Honor

December 28 - Regular Meeting at Denny's

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