



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

January 2009

Volume 3, Issue 1

Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



January's Speaker - Marian Smith

Inside this issue:

- Presidents Message 1
- Elder Options 2
- The Revolution - Month
by Month - Jan. 1779 3
- Fort Laurens 4
- Fort Laurens
(continued) 5
- Photos - Wreaths Across
America 6
- Photo- Wreaths Across
America 7
- Photos from the
December Meeting 8
- Photos from the
December Meeting 9
- Spanish War Ensign 10
- Minutes from the
December Meeting 11
- Henry Laurens 12

The questions facing families, as people grow older are common for all of us. The solutions are not always readily apparent. Family members want to help but don't know where to turn.

Marian Smith, BSG, is a Care Manager for Elder Options, helping the older adult by offering solutions for independent living. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Gerontology in May of 2007.

Marian is the host of "Aging with Success", a talk show that explores the various issues of aging that affect all of us. This program is broadcast weekly on KFOK (95.1 FM) Community Radio in Georgetown, CA, or you can listen to it at www.kfok.org.

She is also the forum moderator for "Aging with Success", a discussion group that meets monthly at the Georgetown Public Library. The purpose of this group is to gather, exchange, and relay information to the community on the joys and challenges of growing old.

Working with families and older adults since 1988 is what **Elder Options** does best. Their nationally certified Professional Geriatric Care Managers (PGCM) talk with elders planning for their needs, and families looking for solutions. They conduct family meetings, home visits, in depth psychosocial assessments, and locate community resources to help solve the issues of aging in place. **Elder Options'** helps families find solutions.



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

The next meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, at 6:30 PM, at Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Park.



Presidents Corner by Tom Douglas

Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2008

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

Fellow Compatriots and friends,

We begin a new year with an orderly transfer of power from one party to another. This, I think, would make our patriot ancestors very happy to see the freedoms they so valiantly fought and died for (basically) continuing on as they prescribed.

Jim Young and I, along with Wayne Griswold, Tom Chilton, and about 2000 patriotic minded people, attended the Wreaths Across America Ceremonies at the VA Cemetery in Dixon, CA. Tom participated in the Color Guard along with other compatriot brothers from the Sacramento and Gold Country Chapters. Although the weather was a bit nippy, the sun was shining brightly. It was a very moving ceremony, and I would recommend it to all who can attend next year.



December's meeting, for me, was a huge success. Not so much for what was prepared, but more for the friendliness and camaraderie that took place. We had the privilege of welcoming our latest member into the chapter, Roy Tougaw. With the new (and old) officers in place, I look forward to a great 2009.

We should thank Joy Krahn for this month's speaker, Marian Smith of Elder Options, Inc. Joy works for Elder Options, and put me in contact with Ms. Smith. I look forward to hearing her speak (see page 2).

In Patriotic Service,

Tom

*Tom Douglas can be reached at 530-677-3905, or at
tommyd@directcon.net*

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

The American Revolution – Month By Month - December 1778 by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

Georgia, established by charter in 1732, was the last of the original thirteen colonies. It was established to protect South Carolina from the Spanish in Florida, and from the French in Louisiana. Savannah was the first settlement. Loyalists and Revolutionary parties were almost equally represented in the population. In 1778, Brittan wrested (seized) Savannah from control by the Revolutionists and was held until 1782.

Spanish Florida was ceded to Britain by Spain as a condition of the 1763 Treaty of Paris. In return, Havana, Cuba, was returned to Spain. People in Florida were, for the most part, loyal to Great Britain during the Revolution. In 1778, General Augustine Prevost led troops from Florida to assist in the attack on Savannah, but didn't arrive until the city had already been taken by troops arriving by sea from New York City. In the 1783 Treaty of Paris, Britain returned Florida and the strategic Island of Minorca to Spain, but kept Gibraltar. She ceded only minor territories to France.

Augusta fell in late January leaving Georgia in possession of the British. By the end of January, the entire state was in British hands and would remain so until 1782.

References: Encyclopedia Britannica Vol. 20 page 15, Ward's "War of the Revolution", pages 680-681, Higginbotham's "The War of American Independence", page 353.

A Note from the Author

As we go into the fourth year of this news letter perhaps it is time to add the Forward/Preface. The publication of the American Revolution by the month corresponding to the current month two hundred and twenty years ago began in April 1996. My early years were spent in the town of Sherborn, Mass, and I grew up with great pride in the Minutemen who marched from our town to help send the Redcoats running back to Boston. In April of 1996, the first letter appeared, corresponding to the same month in 1775. There was no intention of going further. With encouragement, the next letter appeared and has continued monthly, except for a slight holiday in 1996 caused by a lack of my computer for several months. Since that time it has continued on a monthly basis.



Town Hall in Sherborn, Massachusetts.

Originally, each monthly Newsletter had a different title. In 1998, the title of "The American Revolution - Current Month" was adopted. Like "Topsy", the monthly letter may have just "*grewed*" with the purpose of first giving myself a better grounding in the Revolution, but published to remind the members of that month's activity in the Revolutionary War. There was never any intention of writing a book or publishing for any other purpose than to remind members of our chapter of the travails that our ancestors went through to give us the United States. Though it may have its faults, the United States of America is still the best and greatest nation on earth. If you don't believe it, try living in some other country for a year or two.

Andy Stough January, 1999

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.

Fort Laurens: Ohio's Only Revolutionary War Fort

By Tom Adams

In early 1778, General George Washington prepared a military plan to attack the British. The plan was to attack Fort Detroit because the British were encouraging their Indian allies in the area north of the Ohio River to attack American settlements in the frontier region.

Due to political pressure from the states of Pennsylvania and Virginia, and the inability to secure the necessary numbers of men and supplies, the expedition's original purpose was changed by the Continental Congress to simply attacking Indian towns and villages along the southwestern edge of Lake Erie.

Following a well-established Indian trail known today as the Great Trail, an American army of 1,200 men and their Delaware Indian guides marched west into the Ohio territory from Fort Pitt in the fall of 1778 under the command of Georgia native General Lachlan McIntosh. Twenty miles down river from Fort Pitt near present-day Beaver, Pennsylvania, Fort McIntosh was constructed to store provisions and supplies. On November 4, 1778, McIntosh departed from there to head west toward the Sandusky towns.

As they neared the end of the year and the weather worsened, McIntosh arrived in the Tuscarawas Valley. He decided to forego the attacks on the Indian towns and to build a fort near the crossing of the Great Trail and the Tuscarawas River. He would then leave a small garrison of 172 men and women at the fort and return to the area the following spring to continue his march toward Detroit or the Sandusky Towns.

Fort Laurens was built in late November, 1778, on the banks of the Tuscarawas River near what is now Bolivar, Ohio. General McIntosh named the fort in honor of the President of the Continental Congress, Henry Laurens. The wooden stockade was approximately one acre in size. It was a quadrangular-shaped fort with four bastions approximately 240 feet from the top of one angle of a bastion to another. Barracks and storehouse buildings were located inside the walls.

A Significant Link to Ohio's and the Nation's Past

Fort Laurens remained an active American military post from November of 1778 through August of 1779. During that time, the fort was clearly perceived by the British and their Indian allies in the northwest as a very serious threat. This was evident from the numerous attacks on the fort by Indians, Loyalists, and British soldiers. These attacks resulted in the death of more than 20 American soldiers, who were later buried a short distance from the fort near the fort hospital.

Just outside the Fort Laurens Museum, which houses many artifacts from the fort site, is **The Tomb of the Unknown Patriot of the American Revolution**. It pays lasting homage to at least one of the unknown defenders of the fort. The young man was laid to rest with full military honors from the Ohio National Guard in 1976.

Fort Laurens is, in reality, a military cemetery of the American Revolution. Rebuilding this memorial is a fitting tribute to the men and women who gave their lives for America's freedom.



Fort Laurens: Ohio's Only Revolutionary War Fort

By Tom Adams

(continued from page 4.)

Was your Patriot at Fort Laurens?

If your Patriot was with the Pennsylvania or Virginia Regulars, or in the Militia, visit the Fort Laurens web site <http://friendsoffortlaurens.org/soldiers.cfm> for a list of the soldiers who were there. These men both marched to the Fort Laurens site with General McIntosh on his November 1778 journey, and most likely helped construct the fort and actually served in defense of the fort, or they were on one of the attempted re-supply missions to Fort Laurens from Fort Pitt. Where possible, entries on the list include the names of spouses, places of birth, death dates, and marriages.

The Need for Restoration Long Recognized

In 1915, legislation was introduced in the Ohio General Assembly which required the state "to purchase for the state the lands upon which Fort Laurens is located, and such additional lands adjacent thereto as may be necessary to properly restore said fort and works..." The legislation passed the Ohio General Assembly and was signed into law by the Governor. More than 80 years have passed and Fort Laurens is still not properly restored, despite the clearly stated intent of Ohio's legislature.

Members of the Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation recognize that intent and the critical need to restore this piece of American history. By raising private sector funds for Fort Laurens, state authorities and those entrusted with the site's preservation will be encouraged to move ahead with the original directive — to reconstruct Fort Laurens. A rebuilt Fort Laurens will enable present and future generations of Americans to understand, appreciate, and support the historical significance it holds, and the role that the fort played in history.

The Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation

The Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation, Inc. is an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit educational and historic preservation foundation, incorporated in Ohio in 1994. The Foundation's charter was organized to promote the charitable, educational, archaeological, scientific, and historic preservation purposes of Fort Laurens. Specifically, the Foundation seeks to promote the general awareness and educational importance of Fort Laurens, its role in both Ohio's and America's history, and to raise public and private contributions for the reconstruction of Fort Laurens.

Be a Part of Preserving American History

A **Sponsor-A-Log** program allows individuals as well as groups (HINT: such as SAR Chapters) to help rebuild Fort Laurens by sponsoring the individual logs that make up the Fort's outer wall at a cost of **\$100 per log**. 100% of the donation will be used exclusively for recreating Fort Laurens. Sponsor-A-Log contributors will receive FREE the limited-edition print, "Fort Laurens - The Beginning." The hardwood palisade wall provided the outer most wall of protection for the soldiers of Fort Laurens. Nearly 1200 linear feet long, the acre-size enclosure was constructed with 16'-18' long logs placed side by side and set in a trench 3' deep. Again the cost is just: **\$100 per log**.

Source: Article compiled by Tom Adams, Mother Lode Chapter, El Dorado County, California. Information regarding Fort Laurens was graciously made available by The Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation, Inc; web site: <http://friendsoffortlaurens.org>

Wreaths Across America Ceremony, December 13, 2008.



Before the Ceremony.



Jim Young and Tom Douglas.



Members of the SAR Color Guard, L-R: Tom Chilton, Ford Osborn, Keith Bigbee, Bill Welch, Jim Faulkinbury, and Ron Proffer.



Marston Watson, San Francisco Chapter, was Master of Ceremony



Approximately 2000 people attended the ceremony.



Many brought their own flags.

Wreaths Across America Ceremony, December 13, 2008.



A Military Color Guard posted the Colors.



The SAR Color Guard in front of the podium.



The SAR Color Guard during a wreath laying.



The SAR Color Guard.



After the ceremony.



After the ceremony.

Photos From the December 17, 2008 Meeting



President Tom Douglas presents Marilyn Chilton with the Martha Washington Medal.



President Tom Douglas presents Jim Young with the Meritorious Service Medal .



President Tom Douglas presents Tom Chilton and Wayne Griswold with the Meritorious Service Medal.



President Tom Douglas presents Tom Adams with his Charter Member Certificate



President Tom Douglas presents Gene Bell with his Charter Member Certificate.



President Tom Douglas presents Roy Tougaw with his SAR Membership Certificate



CASSAR VP North Wayne Griswold swears in the 2009 Mother Lode Chapter Officers.



Mother Lode Chapter Charter Members. Front row L-R: Tom Douglas, Tom Adams. Back row: Gene Bell, Lee Wolary, Jim Young, Mel Roush, and Roy Tougaw



President Tom Douglas presents Mel Roush with his Charter Member Certificate



President Tom Douglas presents Lee Wolary with his Charter Member Certificate



President Tom Douglas presents Jim Young with his Charter Member Certificate



President Tom Douglas presents Wayne Griswold with his Associate Charter Member Certificate



President Tom Douglas presents Tom Chilton with his Associate Charter Member Certificate



Members with their wives.
Front row: Sidney Tougaw, Sandra Tougaw, Ceci Wolary, Anne Adams.
Back Row: Harlan Tougaw, Roy Tougaw, Lee Wolary, and Tom Adams.



L-R: Tom Douglas, Tom and Marilyn Chilton, and Wayne Griswold.

Spanish War Ensign Presented to the Sacramento Chapter

by Jim W. Faulkinbury, Sacramento Chapter Color Guard Commander

After returning from a visit with his parents in Spain, Compatriot Zachary Amis attended the Sacramento Chapter's monthly meeting on December 19th, 2008, at which time he presented the chapter with a replica of the Spanish State and War Ensign. This was the ensign (flag) that was used by Spain from 1759 to 1785.

With the establishment of the Bourbon dynasty in Spain in 1700, the design of the royal ensigns were made on a white background showing the royal arms of Spain. The design of this ensign is the one used during King Carlos III's reign from 1759 until 1785. The arms of Spain are surrounded by the Golden Fleece. This was one of the two flags used in the Spanish Presidios of California during the Revolutionary War, the other being the Burgundy Cross.

This flag is the highlight of the Sacramento Chapter's flag collection. Obtaining the flag is a story in itself. In doing research for the 2008 Congress in Sacramento regarding the Spanish contribution to the American cause during the Revolution, the existence of this beautiful flag was determined. A search was made to find a full size flag, but nothing could be found in the United States.

Compatriot Amis' parents work for the State Department in Spain, and they were contacted to see if they might know of a source in Spain that could supply the flag. Zach also contacted Compatriot Tom Denegre, a SAR member in Madrid. Compatriot Denegre checked with the Admiral in charge of the Spanish Naval Museum, the director of the Army Museum, and other sources within the Spanish Military, but no one knew of a place where the flag could be purchased. They were able to verify that the design was the one used from 1759 to 1785. A shop was finally located where the flag could be recreated. During his recent visit to Spain, Zach obtained the flag that was presented to the chapter during our December meeting.



Artist's rendition of the Spanish
State and War Ensign



Josie and Zach Amis display the Spanish State and War Ensign that they presented the Sacramento Chapter.



Sacramento President Dart Winship presents Zach Amis with the SAR Certificate of Appreciation.

Minutes of the meeting held on December 17, 2008.

By Brian Sonner

1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Tom Douglas. After the Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and SAR Pledge, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved. There were 8 members, 2 associates, and 6 guests present.

2. Introduction of the newest member: Roy Tougaw along with members of his family and friends.

3. Reports:

a. Treasurer's Report: There is \$1558 in the checking account as of 17 December 2008, and \$500.68 in the savings account. A check for \$645 will be forwarded to the State and National Society for dues.

b. Registrar's Report: Robert Leach and his two sons have begun the application process. They live in El Dorado Hills. Their ancestor was Oliver Leach of Rhode Island.

c. Historian's Report: Nothing to report.

d. Newsletter: Tom Chilton again indicated that any member may submit an article for the newsletter on subjects of interest to the Chapter.

4. Old Business:

a. All members have paid their dues aside from one member who has indicated he will be inactive for awhile due to insufficient time to participate.

b. Wreaths Across America. It was reported that the event in the VA Cemetery in Dixon was a resounding success. About 2000 people attended at 12 noon EST. There are about 4000 Veterans interred there.

5. Flag Presentation: Tom Chilton brought two flags from the Sacramento Chapter collection: the Betsy Ross flag dated June 13, 1777, and the Washington Cruiser flag from 1775.

6. New Business:

a. Introduction and swearing in of the new officers by Wayne Griswold:

President, Tom Douglas

Executive Vice President, Tom Adams

2nd Vice President Jim Young

Secretary, Brian Sonner

Treasurer, Tom Douglas

Registrar, Jim Young

Chaplain, Gene Myers

Historian, Mel Roush

b. Tom Adams discussed some of the revolutionary strategy of location of forts in Ohio.

7. Presentations:

Roy Tougaw, new member

Meritorious Service Medals were presented to Jim Young, Wayne Griswold, and Tom Chilton. The Martha Washington medal was presented to Marilyn Chilton.

8. After the Benediction, SAR Recessional, and singing God Bless America, the meeting was adjourned.



Brian C. Sonner, Secretary



Henry Laurens

Henry Laurens

Henry Laurens was in a bit of a quandary at the onset of the American Revolution. The namesake of the only American Revolutionary War fort built in what now is the state of Ohio, he could have just as easily been an English Tory as he was an American patriot.

Henry Laurens was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1724. In 1744, he was sent to England by his father, a well-to-do saddler, to learn a trade. Henry trained under a prominent British merchant and soon became very adept at the business. He returned to his native Charleston in 1747 arriving just a few days after his father's death.

One month after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Laurens was still regretting the separation between American and England stating, "even at this moment I feel a Tear of affection for the good Old Country & for the People in it whom in general I dearly love."

He began to emerge as a national leader with his election as a member of South Carolina's delegation to the Continental Congress in 1777. He was with the Congress when they fled Philadelphia from the advancing British army, which took possession of the city in September 1777.

On November 1, 1777, Henry Lauren's colleagues elected him President of the Continental Congress. Under his stewardship, Laurens helped establish the French Alliance and the Articles of Confederation, in effect the first Constitution of the United States.

Laurens was a staunch supporter and close personal friend of General Washington. While Washington led the American Army, Laurens led the new nation's central government. It was under Laurens that the Continental Congress authorized the construction of Fort Laurens in the Ohio Territory as proposed by General Washington.

For more information about Henry Laurens, visit: <http://www.friendsoffortlaurens.org/newsletter.cfm>

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

Editor-Tom Chilton
916-933-6576



Brian C. Sonner
2700 Sleepy Hollow Court
Placerville, CA 95667-4222
TO THE POSTMASTER
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Mother Lode Chapter
Sons Of The American
Revolution

