



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

May 2008

Volume 2, Issue 6

# Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



## Program for June 24, 2008

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Paul Shields was hired as an FBI Special Agent during J. Edgar Hoover's tenure as Director, and worked under four successive Directors & five Acting Directors. He became a specialist in Counterterrorism and Foreign Counter Intelligence. He was assigned major cases involving both international and domestic terrorist organizations. For many years, his work focused on countering efforts of the KGB and other hostile intelligence services. He served in several FBI field offices and was promoted to management positions in the field and at FBI Headquarters, Washington, D.C. During his tenure he was called upon to be an instructor at the FBI Academy, Quantico, VA. He was also assigned to the FBI Inspection Division and to the Intelligence Division. Prior to joining the FBI, Mr. Shields attended college and following graduation entered law school where he earned a Juris Doctorate Degree. He worked for a law firm and was admitted to the bar prior to joining the FBI. Following retirement from the FBI in 1997, he started a new career utilizing his law degree and applying investigative skills in the private sector. He and his wife, Cathy, have five children and 15 grandchildren.



J. Edgar Hoover firing  
Thompson submachine gun



Denny's Restaurant  
3446 Coach Lane  
Cameron Park, CA.  
6:30 PM

# President's Corner by Tom

## Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2008

**Tom Douglas**

President

**Vacant**

Vice President

**Vacant**

Secretary

**Vacant**

Treasurer

**Jim Young**

Registrar

**Gene Myers**

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Newsletter Editor

**Mel Roush**

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## 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

This June 24<sup>th</sup> will be the last time we meet until September 23, 2008. I look forward to hearing our speaker for June, Paul Shields, a retired FBI agent in charge of the Sacramento Office at the time of his retirement.

We are continuing to plan for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress to be held in Sacramento July 3 through 9, 2008. I spent a couple of hours with a number of the people committed to the success of the Congress here in Sacramento. We went on a tour of the Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento. It was the first time I had been there, and I must say it is going to be a grand success as the location for the Host Society Reception. We, the California Society SAR, are going to overwhelm the National Society with our tours and programs, but more importantly, with our hospitality. We have a large number of members and Ladies Auxiliary members who are willing to go the extra mile (pardon the cliché) to make this a success.

One of the items we have discussed for a number of months is participation in polling precincts as clerks, judges and inspectors. I participated in the June 3<sup>rd</sup> primary elections with Gold Country members in an Auburn precinct to see what the involvement might be to better report to you the commitment required. I will try to do that at our next meeting.

In Patriotic service,

Tom



**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 - June 1778

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

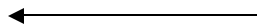
June is probably the most interesting month of the year, not because of battles lost or won, but because there was only one battle fought between the two major forces in the entire year, and it was in June that the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse occurred.

In fact it was the last decisive battle until Yorktown. It is debated if it was a battle lost or won by either side, as both sides claimed victory. It is certain that Washington personally considered it a battle lost as it allowed Clinton to safely return to New York with his caravan intact. It cost Clinton 358 men to save his army while Washington lost 360 men and gained only the satisfaction of knowing that the Continentals, under a competent leader, could and would hold their own against Europe's finest.

It was a bitter pill for Washington to swallow. He had seen this as an ideal opportunity to defeat Clinton whose army was forced to protect a wagon train stretched out over 16 miles of the countryside. The two armies were almost equal in size; Washington's force magically increased to almost 14,000 men, most of whom were superbly trained by von Steuben. The men were confident and spoiling for a fight; they only needed the right man to lead them to a smashing victory and an end to the war.



General Charles Lee  
1732-1782



Victory eluded them because of the mistakes of one man, Charles Lee. He was English born and formerly a successful officer in George III's army, but on this day he failed the test of leadership. Had Washington known more about Lee, he might never have allowed him to spearhead the attack. Lee had recently been released from imprisonment by the British. He had been captured earlier in the war when he abandoned his command to spend the night unguarded in a nearby tavern. There he was captured by a British roving patrol from a unit in which he had formerly served. Upon his exchange, he had been welcomed by Congress, and returned by them to be

Washington's second in command. Little did the Americans know that while he lived well in captivity, and perhaps to curry favor with his captors, he conspired with the British to betray the American army. Whether his actions at Monmouth were in keeping with his earlier scheming or were merely the honest actions of a single day will never be known. However, it is certain that his actions that day tipped the scales in favor of Britain.

Clinton departed Philadelphia on June 18 with 17,000 soldiers and an uncounted number of displaced Tories and camp followers. Afraid to stay in Philadelphia under Patriot rule, Loyalists were escaping with as much of their worldly goods as they were allowed to carry. This additional burden on Clinton's wagon train was a plus for Washington who would have to fight only a limited number of Clinton's army at any one time. To Washington, it was an opportunity to destroy a major army piecemeal. If Clinton could be defeated, it might well mean the end of the war, rewarding the Americans with victory and eventually independence.

Clinton did two things to protect his retreat from Philadelphia. Originally planning to go to New Brunswick and then to New York, he altered his route to Sandy Hook, thence to New York. The change of route gave him a more defensible route requiring Washington to march farther from Valley Forge to catch up with the train. Secondly, he placed Knyphausen's German division in the lead to protect the less vulnerable front of the train. The center was less heavily guarded while Cornwallis, with his British division guarding the rear, was mobile enough to move to any other point of attack.

The Continental Army began breaking camp on June 19th to leave Valley Forge and attack Clinton; however, the 14,000 man army did not catch up with Clinton until the night of the 27th. Clinton, having arrived at Monmouth (now Freehold, NJ) a day earlier, had stopped his long train for 40 hours to rest and wait out a heavy rain that ended late in the night of June 27th.

Washington, after encamping for the night, called in his officers to plan the next days activity. He assigned Lafayette, with 2,000 men, to reconnoiter and attack any weak spot near the rear of the van. Major General Charles Lee protested that he, as second in command and the more experienced officer, should have the privilege of the first strike, **and with more men as is becoming of a General's rank.** He was given a total of 5,000 men with instructions to engage and hold the enemy until Washington could come up with the main force.

During planning sessions, Lee had advised Washington that the army should wait for French reinforcements to



# The American Revolution – Month By Month - June 1778

by Andrew J. Stough III, Edited by Harold Rogers

arrive before attacking a British main force. It has since been claimed that Lee, at Monmouth, never intended to do anything more than to reconnoiter, as he did not think that Continentals could stand against British regulars. In any event, he found a lightly protected part of the train and was performing an elaborate maneuver to encircle defenders when Cornwallis appeared. He then called for a retreat on his right without notifying the left flank or anyone else, including Washington. The unit on the left, discovering that they were jeopardized by the retreat on their right, also began a hasty retreat. Some of the retreating forces linked up with "Mad" Anthony Wayne who had taken up a position behind a thick hedge. From this position, they threw off a cavalry attack, followed by three fierce assaults by British grenadiers.

## Molly Pitcher at the Battle of Monmouth - 1778



The main patriot force appeared later. Washington, finding the advance force in disorderly retreat, was furious and immediately ordered Lee to the rear. Forming a line of battle, Washington charged into the fray, rallying the retreating troops as he went forward into the battle. The disorderly retreat had been due to the lack of leadership by General Lee. Given leadership by Washington, von Steuben's training paid off as the Continentals turned to fight. The battle raged on for hours in sweltering heat that may have killed more men from heatstroke than battle wounds. It was in this engagement that we find Mary Ludwig Hays (or Heis) carrying water to the cannoneers and earning the name of Molly Pitcher. When her husband John was wounded and fell beside his cannon, Molly stepped in to help man the cannon through the hours long engagement.

While Cornwallis battled with Washington in the rear,

the wagon train was moving steadily on, leaving the battle behind. As the day waned and light began to fade, Cornwallis began an orderly retreat with three brigades of Continentals pressing him on until darkness fell. When the battle was over, more than 200 men in the two armies had died of heat or exhaustion on that hot and steamy day. Total losses were 358 British, 360 Americans, with the Americans reporting the burial of 249 British dead who were left on the battlefield.

The battle may have been a draw, neither side was actually victorious. But it was an important lesson for the Continentals -- given competent training and leadership, an American made a first class fighting man. The Army had been blooded in battle and found solid as a rock! From now on militia might run before British bayonets, but Continentals would stand and fight! The Army was jubilant - they had met the British and driven them from the field. "They had fit the fight and won!" [sic]

During the night, Cornwallis eluded the Continental outposts and slipped away. By morning, he had joined Clinton on a well defended hill near Middletown where the redcoats were secure from attack. Washington, realizing there was nothing to be gained by further combat, gave up the pursuit and set off for the Hudson River to join with Gates' command. Clinton continued on to Sandy Hook to await fleet transports to continue on to New York City.

After the battle, Lee wrote an insulting letter to Washington in which he requested a court martial to clear his [Lee's] name. Lee's request for a court martial was granted, he was found guilty, and was denied further command. He then resigned from the army.

From then on, the war would move to the South with disastrous results for the Colonists until Greene, Marion, and Morgan could contain the British.

On the political front, a British Peace Commission arrived in Philadelphia on June 6 to meet with the Continental Congress. It was unsuccessful as Congress stood adamantly for total independence and recognition as a separate nation. The present day "Secret Service" was initiated in June as the "Headquarters Secret Service" with Aaron Burr in charge.

References; Encyclopaedia Britannica; Ward's "The War of the Revolution"; Flexner's "Washington"; Schlesinger's "Almanac of American History."

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## Webb's Additional Regiment, Continental Line, 1777-1781

Except for the blue and buff of Washington and his staff, no uniform of the American Revolution has more interest and romance attached to it than the scarlet dress of Webb's Regiment. There were other redcoated units on the American side of the struggle, but these soldiers from Connecticut made the most of their unusual attire.

Samuel Blatchey Webb was active in Revolutionary affairs at an early age. He marched to Boston in 1775 as a lieutenant of a light infantry company of the 2d Connecticut Regiment, and rapidly rose to lieutenant colonel and aide-de-camp to Washington. He was wounded at Bunker Hill, White Plains, and Trenton. While recuperating from the last wound, he was commissioned colonel and authorized to raise one of the sixteen Additional Continental Regiments. He returned to Connecticut early in February 1777 to do this.<sup>1</sup>

In November of the year before, Captain John Paul Jones with the *Alfred*, in company with Captain Hoysteed Hacker on the *Providence*, were cruising off the Canadian coast when they captured a large armed ship named the *Mellish*. Investigation proved she carried a rich cargo of military clothing going out to the British regiments in Canada. So valuable was the cargo that Jones kept her under convoy. He wrote to the Marine Committee later: "This prize is, I believe, the most valuable that has been taken by the American arms. The loss will distress the enemy more than can be easily imagined, as the clothing on board her is the last intended to be sent out for Canada this season, and all that has preceded it is already taken." These were uniforms made for either the 9th, 20th, 29th or 34th Regiments of Foot, then in Canada. The *Mellish*, under a prize crew, ran through Nantucket shoals and reached Boston in mid-December. There she was unloaded by John Bradford, the Continental Agent.<sup>2</sup>

Word of the capture reached Webb before he had left the main army in New Jersey, and he secured Washington's reluctant permission to uniform his regiment in red. He took north with him this authority, signed by the Continental Quartermaster-General, Thomas Mifflin:

*Colonel Webb has his Excellency's, General Washington's, orders to appropriate so much of the scarlet clothing taken from the Enemy at Sea, as will be sufficient to cloath one Regiment. The said clothing to be set apart for his Regt.*<sup>3</sup>

Armed with this document he seems literally to have seized the captured uniforms as they passed through Connecticut, much to the concern of Governor Trumbull. When, probably with his own funds, he procured 500 additional hunting shirts, waistcoats and overalls, Trumbull told Washington about it and the General wrote Webb a stinging letter of rebuke:

*... What is the meaning of all this?... Can you conceive it necessary that your Regiment is to have one Suit for parade and another to march to New Haven? Present appearance render it doubtful whether they will ever get*

*further, or intend to leave the State of Connecticut. . .*

I well remember that you, to obviate My objections to Cloathing your men in red, proposed Hunting shirts as a covering; but I then observed that this could not be expected at the Public expense, nor had I any conception that you could have entertained the most distant thought of drawing these things from the Public Stores, where you must have known how difficult a matter it is to provide for the large demands of the Army ...<sup>4</sup>

Webb's reply has not been found, but it must have satisfied Washington, for no further action was taken. The regiment continued to wear scarlet. The journal of one of his officers tells of buying a "Scarlet Coat" at Wethersfield in December 1777.<sup>5</sup> Deserter descriptions mention: "Scarlet regimental coat faced with yellow, light colored waistcoat and breeches" (November 1778); "Regimentals: scarlet faced with yellow, white vest and breeches" (February-March 1799); and "Red uniform coat faced with yellow" (February 1780).<sup>6</sup>

Possibly because of its smart uniforms, Webb's regiment had an excellent record for discipline and combat efficiency. In July 1780 it was re-designated the 9th Connecticut Regiment,

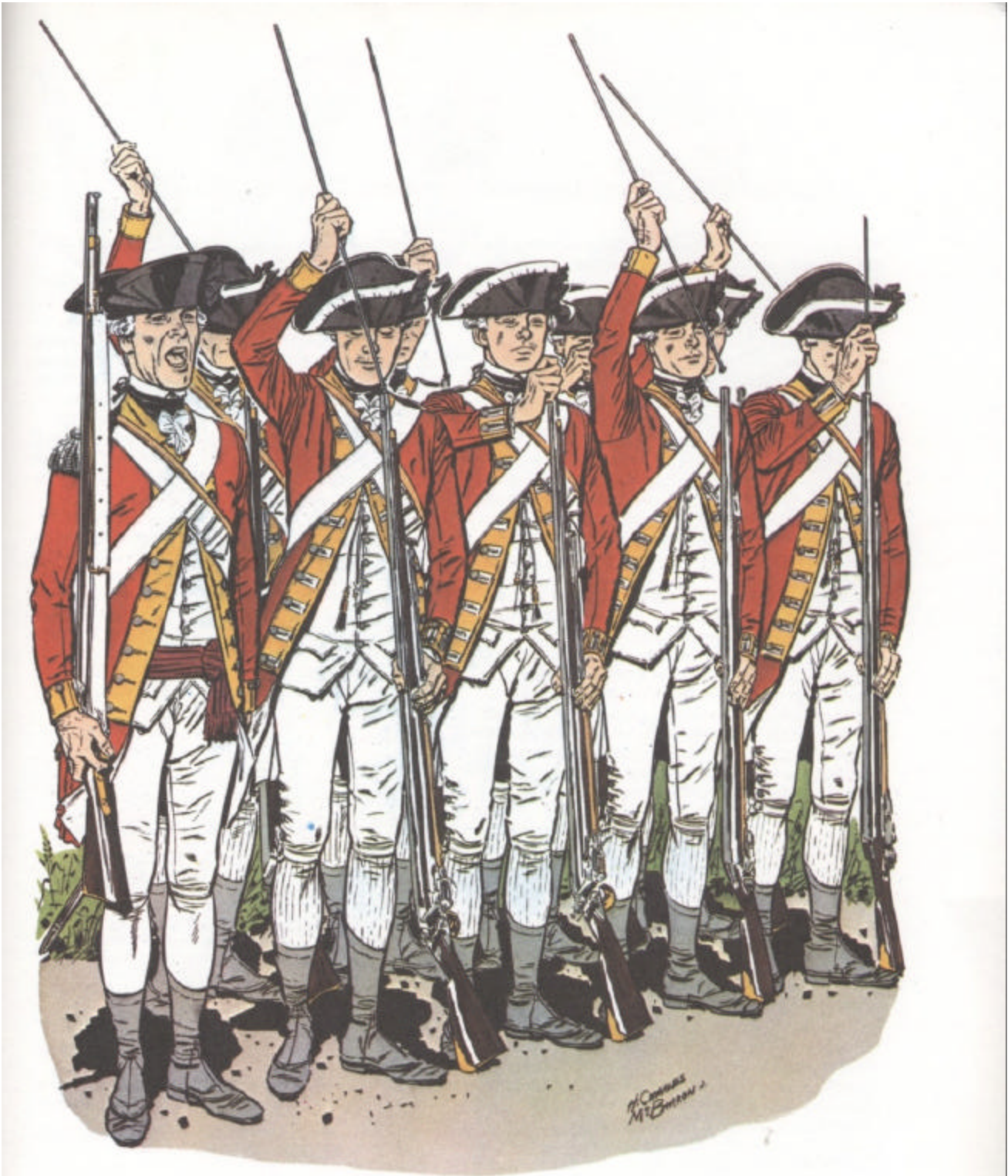
The company officer on the left carries a fusil, or light musket. As late as 1777 this practice appears to have been common, but thereafter the espointoon gradually took the place of the fusil until all company officers were required by general orders to carry them.

H. Charles McBarron, Jr., Frederick P. Todd

1. *Dictionary of American Biography*; Worthington C. Ford, ed. *Correspondence and Journals of Samuel Blackley Webb*. New York: Wickersham Press, 1893.
2. Gardner W. Alien. *A Naval History of the American Revolution*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1913. Vol. I, pp. 122, 127; *American Archives*, 5th Series, Vol. HI, passim, George F. Emmons. *The Navy of the United States, from the Commencement, 1775 to 1853*. Washington: Gideon, 1853. pp. 42-43.
3. Ford. *Ibid.* pp. 214-216.
4. "John C. Fitzpatrick, ed. *The Writings of George Washington*. Washington: U.S.G.P.O. 1931-44. Vol. VII, p. 229 and Vol. VIII, pp. 196-197. Ford. *Ibid.* Vol. I, pp. 214-237; Trumbull's letters to Washington about the matter can be found in Washington Papers, MSS Division, Library of Congress.
5. "Deacon Nathan Beer's Journal." MSS Division, Library of Congress.
6. Charles M. Lefferts. *Uniforms of the American, British, French, and German Armies in the War of the American Revolution, 1775-1783*. New York: New York Historical Society, 1926. p. 81.

**[Editor' note: please see page 8 for more about this article.]**





*Officer and Privates of a Battalion Company*

Webb's Additional Regiment, Continental Line, 1777-1781

## Photos from the meeting held on May 27, 2008



President Tom Douglas presents May speaker Bob Wiley with the SAR Certificate of Appreciation.



L-R: Dylan and Chad Sellers (Bob Wiley's grandsons), Tom Douglas, and Bob Wiley.



Mother Lode Chapter Acting-Secretary Brian Sonner.



Mother Lode Registrar Jim Young and President Tom Douglas.



# The History of Flag Day

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

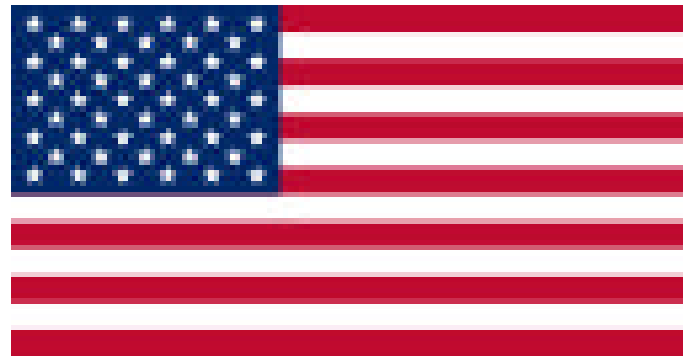
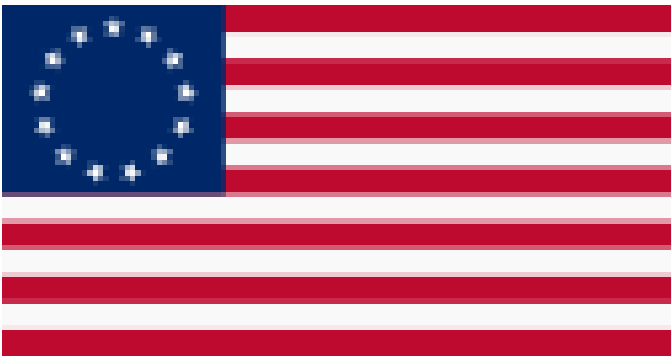
Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.

Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.





# Minutes of the meeting held on May 27, 2008.

by Brian Sonner, Acting Secretary

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 for the previous meeting were approved as amended.

## 2. Reports:

a. Treasurer's Report: Balance as of 4/30 \$458. After deposits and disbursements the current balance is \$359.67 in checking and \$500 is savings.

b. Registrar's and Historian's Reports: Nothing to report

## 3. Unfinished/Ongoing Business:

a. There were no volunteers for the Secretary/Treasurer position. Brian Sonner said he would continue to act as Secretary until the next election.

4. Guest Speaker: Guest speaker was Retired US Navy Captain Bob Wiley. He provided insight into the life of a career seagoing Navy officer. His experiences were broad and interesting.

5. The Gold Country Chapter sends out "voluntary pledge letters" to all members. There was a discussion among members if Mother Lode Chapter should do the same as a source of revenue for our programs. The conclusion was that until the programs are defined and a budget established, the chapter should not do that. The idea was tabled until that time.

6. President Douglas provided information on ordering SAR medals (2008 Congress Medal, California Society Membership Medal, Military Service Medal).

7. Registration forms for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress in July were available. Individuals who would like to work/volunteer at the Congress in Sacramento were solicited.

8. Wayne Griswold provided samples of various personal name badges which could be ordered locally. After discussion, the name badge with the SAR insignia engraved in the plastic was selected.

9. Members decided that there will be no meetings in July and August.

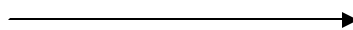
10. The Sacramento Chapter will have a special meeting on July 10 at the Buggy Whip Restaurant. The guest speaker will be Cliff Robertson, a member of the Sacramento Chapter. Reservations (\$30/person) should be sent to Don Littlefield9Sacramento Treasurer). Call Don at 916- 985-6544 for more information.

11. After the Benediction and SAR Recessional, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian C Sonner, Secretary



Uniform of the Massachusetts  
4th Regiment



See page 8.



# What Uniforms Did Our Ancestors Wear?

In the summer of 1999, six members of the Sacramento Chapter decided to form a Color Guard. At that time there was a lot of discussion as to what uniform we wanted to adopt for our Color Guard. We had been renting uniforms from the Capitol Costume Shop in Fair Oaks, and they had a copy of the book *Military Uniforms in America, The Era of the American Revolution*. We chose the 4th Massachusetts Regiment's uniform from this book (see page 7).

Several months ago, I decided to see if I could find a copy of the book on line. I was surprised to find one at a reasonable price, and now have a copy in my library. It has 60 color plates of uniforms from 1755-1770 (French-Indian Wars), 1770-1783 (The Revolutionary War Period), and 1783-1795 (The Post Revolutionary War Period). There are plates representing the uniforms of 24 Continental, State, and French Units. They include: Massachusetts 4th Regiment, Commander-in Chief's Guard, Continental Infantry, 14th Continental Regiment, Col. John Hastlet's Delaware Regiment, Col. David Hall's Delaware Regiment, 5th Pennsylvania Regiment, 13th Pennsylvania Regiment, 2nd Virginia Regiment, 6th Virginia Regiment, Rhode Island Train of Artillery, 2nd Regiment Continental Light Dragoons, Provost Company Light Dragoons, Capt. Robert Mullan's Company, Dover Light Infantry Company, Massachusetts Independent Company of Cadets, Associators of the City of Liberties of Philadelphia, Light Horse of Philadelphia, Colonel Crocker's Western Battalion, the Minute Battalion of Culpeper Co., VA, French Regiment of Savannah, The Soissonais Infantry, and the French Expeditionary Force.

If you would like copies of any of these photos, please contact me. I plan to include them in future issues of the Mother Lode Dispatch as space permits.

Tom Chilton

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION  
BY THE  
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AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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