



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

May 2009

Volume 3, Issue 5

# Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



## May 26, 2009 Meeting Youth Recognition Night

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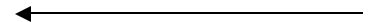
SarahAnn Potter  
Knight Essay Contest Winner



Morgan Schlesinger  
Eagle Scout Contest Winner



Mia Bonini  
Americanism Poster Contest Winner



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

The next meeting of the Mother Lode Chapter will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2009, at 6:30 PM, at Denny's Restaurant in Cameron Park.

## Presidents Corner by Tom Douglas



Fellow Compatriots and friends,

I was sorry to miss last month's meeting, but I am sure Jim Young and the rest of the team did a fine job keeping things moving along.

This month we get to meet Mia Bonini, the fifth grade student who won our chapter's Americanism Poster contest, and third place at the state contest, SarahAnn Potter, our chapter's representative for the Knight Essay contest, and the parents of Morgan Schlesinger, our Eagle Scout representative. Morgan is away at college in Texas. Each will receive medallions/medals and certificates along with their checks for being chapter winners. SarahAnn and one of Morgan's parents will read the essays they submitted.

I hope to have a good membership turn out for this meeting. I expect Mia and her parents, SarahAnn and her parents, and Morgan's parents to attend. It would be nice to have more members than guests at the meeting. Besides, you really want to meet these fine young men and women. I was able to meet Mia and her mother at the award presentation at Holy Trinity Elementary School, and I think you should meet this very enthusiastic fifth grader. I have not met SarahAnn, but have talked to her on the phone a few times, plus some email contact, and she seems like a fine young lady. The only contact I have had with the Schlesinger family, except in the early stages of his application, is a phone conversation with his mother, and she is obviously very proud of Morgan.

I have not been able to schedule a day to present the awards to the Jackson Elementary School students, but hope to be able to report on that in next month's Dispatch.

Please come and support and encourage our youth.

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*

### 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

**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.

## Meet our Youth Contest Winners

### Meet SarahAnn Potter - Knight Essay Contest Winner



My name is SarahAnn Potter. I am 17 years old and have been home schooled all my life with the exception of taking classes at Sierra Community College during my junior year. I plan to continue there next fall. I am the second oldest child of four, and have been blessed to be raised in a Christian home by amazing parents. My faith is a large part of my life. I have enjoyed playing my cello in the church orchestra, and am planning to go on a mission trip this summer with the church. I also serve as an AWANA leader, and enjoy being able to share the gospel with young children from the community. After graduating next year, I plan to

finish my education at Sierra College and earn my AA in American Sign Language. I would like to be able to use my signing to work with deaf or hard of hearing children in the schools. I feel so very blessed to have been able to participate in this essay contest. I have always loved history and enjoy writing. Writing my essay on the Declaration of Independence reminded me that we, as a nation, are founded on Godly principles. I have been blessed to live in this country. I believe that it is only because of the faith our founding fathers had that we have been prosperous. I also believe without God in our nation we will see its fall. I pray this country will be a nation that honors God, and that God may bless this nation.



Knight Essay Contest Medal

### Morgan Schlesinger - Eagle Scout Contest Winner



Eagle Scout Medal

Morgan is a 2008 graduate of Granite Bay High School. During high school he was an Eagle Scout and a member of both the varsity swim team as well as the Sierra Marlins. Throughout high school he was also an active participant in the Folsom Lake Junior Lifeguard Program. His academic achievements include membership in the California Scholarship Federation, GBHS Academic Achievement Awards, and recognition as an AP Scholar with Distinction.

Morgan is currently attending Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, where he is a member of SMU's Hilltop Scholars community. He was awarded both the Rotunda Scholars and Distinguished Scholars Award by SMU in recognition of outstanding academic performance and leadership. He is pursuing a degree in Markets and Culture with a minor in economics.



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

Spring finally came to Washington's army after a cold winter attended by the usual shortages and reduction of force as in previous years. The big difference was that the usual strong influx of recruits and veterans was not occurring. Even so, the main army had many battle tested veterans capable of maintaining the watch over Clinton in New York. It was difficult, sometimes impossible, to purchase needed supplies locally due to the downward spiral of the Continental dollar. The plight of Continental paper was so severe that it eventually became worthless. With such a shortage of both supplies and men, Washington lacked the ability to attack Clinton. On the other hand, Clinton was tied down by the constant demand of London to supply men and materiel for the growing war in the South, and the expanding war around the globe.

The change in the war brought a change in the duties of both Clinton and Washington. Each had served in a dual capacity as tactical heads of an army as well as being Commander-in Chief of all forces in North America. Washington being the more aggressive of the two generals probably felt acutely his inability to take an active role in both leading and directing the forces in combat. Clinton probably was happy with his role as a Director of Armies, instead of the leader of an army. You may remember him as the General in New York who sortied up the Hudson, but failed to move further to support Burgoyne.

With the two main armies tied down in the New York area, any major actions in North America would be in the Southern Theater of Operations. For the British, it meant reliance upon seasoned leaders and troops backed by the Royal Navy to convoy merchant ships supplying the Southern Army. For the Patriots, it meant for the most part, dependence on less well trained troops and untried commanders who had been appointed by Congress, not by the military hierarchy. Supplies were scarcer than ever, but despite the lack of clothing and foodstuff, there always seemed to be an ample supply of weapons, powder, and ball - and resolute men to use that powder and ball.

The struggling Southern Patriot Army was a boon for the British and disastrous for the Revolution until more capable leaders emerged. Such follow-on leadership did not yield apparent victories, however, their losses were minimal while British victories were pyrrhic, bleeding the British Southern Army.

Virginia had furnished men and supplies to the Continental Army in both the North and the South, which had drained the state of its most qualified men. There had been no hostile action in the state since the Norfolk invasion, and most Virginians thought they had done their duty to Congress. The result was a state of apathetic peacefulness.

Thomas Jefferson, writer of the Declaration of Independence, succeeded Patrick Henry as Governor early in 1779. Washington had delivered several messages to Jefferson alerting him of a possible move by Clinton to make a second front in the South with Virginia as a likely target. Jefferson was a man of ideas, not a leader, therefore he was not a particularly successful political administrator or warrior. He had problems with the Legislature, and was not successful in training militia recruits or organizing and deploying what he had. Therefore, when the British came, there was no organized resistance. Virginia was ripe for plucking.

Clinton and his staff were aware that the State of Virginia was a prime supplier of provisions to Washington, and the origin of foreign trade which brought in cash and supplies to support the Continental Congress. They also knew that Virginia had escaped most ravages of the war and was weak militarily, in fact almost helpless. It was decided as a matter of strategy that it would be easier to defeat the Southern army logistically than in battle. Clinton and his second in command, General Lord Charles Cornwallis, had different opinions on what should be done to cut off this source of supplies and revenue.

Cornwallis felt it would be wise to occupy the state as the center of British power in America - abandoning New York to the Continental Army. Clinton disagreed, he would not abandon New York forsaking the possibility of a strike up the Hudson that could cut the rebellious colonies in two. As an alternative he could afford a raiding expedition to loot and destroy any worthwhile target in Virginia with little, if any, resistance. Success of such an expedition might starve the rebels into submission as well as afford the King's advisors a political victory over their opponents in Parliament.

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

(continued from page 4)

May 5, 1779, 22 transports convoyed by the Royal Navy sailed from Sandy Hook with 1800 soldiers. The expedition landed on May 10th at Portsmouth\* and took possession of the undefended town. Detachments then moved on to capture Suffolk, Gosport, and other small towns without opposition - except at Gosport where a garrison of 100 held out for awhile in Fort Nelson. Every nearby town was invaded as well as neighboring plantations. All were pillaged and burned. Ward states, that in all, "the expedition destroyed or carried off 130 vessels, 130 hogsheads of tobacco valued at 2,000,000 Pounds Sterling, and then sailed away without the loss of a single man".

Some sources do not mention Norfolk immediately across the Elizabeth River from Portsmouth. Norfolk, a bustling sea port, was laid out in 1682 as a center of trade with ship building as one of its major works. New Year's day in 1776, the town was bombarded by the Royal Navy, followed by an invading force led by Lord Dunmore, the Royal Governor of Virginia Colony from 1771 to 1776. Following the bombardment, sailors set fire to warehouses along the waterfront resulting in fires that burned the town for three days. Every building except St. Paul's church was destroyed. Saint Paul's still stands today. Built in 1739, it has a British cannon ball embedded in its walls from the bombardment. Historically, Norfolk was rebuilt after the Revolution. Therefore, restoration may not have advanced sufficiently to warrant any major attention in the documentation of the 1779 Expedition.

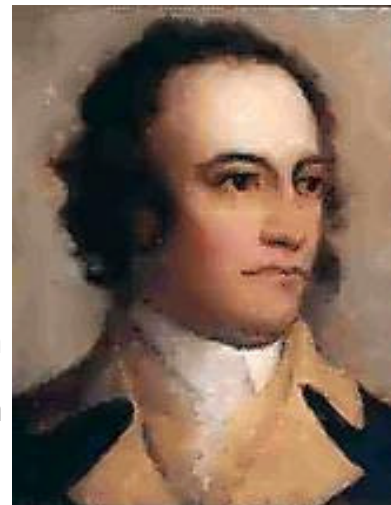
On February 25, 1779, Congress directed Washington to take action to "Chastise the savages" on the western frontiers of New York and Pennsylvania. Major General John Sullivan was placed in command of an expedition to not only over-run but to destroy the country of the Six Nations, which extended (beyond the mountains) from Pennsylvania north to Lake Ontario. The Nations were quite civilized living in permanent houses of wood or stone. Men were warriors who participated only in forays against other Indians and European settlers. Women tended large orchards as well as growing many kinds of vegetables for the nation's year round sustenance.

Sullivan arrived at his departure point in Pennsylvania on May 7th and began to assemble a force of 1400 men, supported by a detachment of artillery. Sullivan remained east of the mountains until late May, not reaching Indian country until early June.

\* "Portsmouth, a city of southeastern Virginia on the Elizabeth River (an estuary of Hampton Roads) opposite Norfolk, was established in 1752 by act of the Virginia Assembly. The navy yard established by the British Navy shortly before the Revolution, was confiscated by Virginia during the war. Trinity Church built in 1762 is the oldest building in the city." (BRIT V18, PG 272 C&D )

References: Ency Britannica, Ward's "The War Of The Revolution", Schlessinger's "Almanac of American History."

See Ward on condition of Washington's army in fall of 1780 and spring of 1781. (WARD PG 866) The present City of Norfolk has 50 miles of water front on Hampton Roads in Chesapeake Bay; the Elizabeth River is actually a tidal estuary, not a river. The Lafayette River is also an estuary. Immediately opposite is Portsmouth. While not mentioned in the raid of 1779, it is probable that Norfolk shared the same fate as Portsmouth.



**Major General John Sullivan**  
1740-1795

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# *A Patriot's Perspective*

## *Embellished Résumés*

*By Michael G. Lucas*

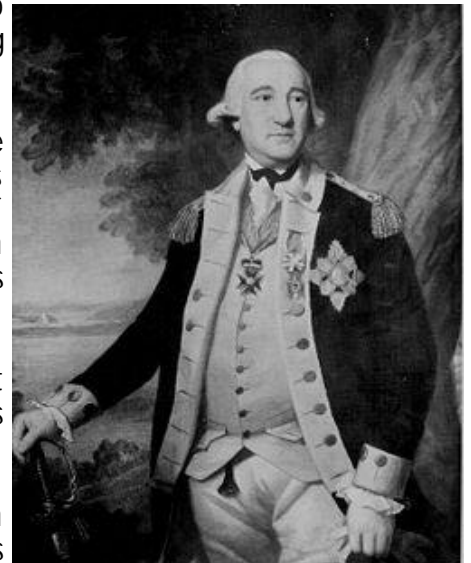
More and more people are falsifying their résumés due to the increased competition for limited jobs. A 2008 CareerBuilder.com survey showed that over half of all résumés are falsified. Accu-Screen has also noticed an increase in instances of lying on résumés as the economy declines. They estimate 43% of résumés today are falsified. My wife, whose career was in the staffing industry, tells two stories of applicants whose résumés were falsified. One stated he worked as an Administrative Clerk in a California prison. Upon verification of this employment, she learned that he did, indeed, work in the prison, just not as an employee. Another candidate lost a lucrative management trainee offer because he stated on his résumé that he had a degree in Business Administration. He lost the opportunity because he lied, which was unfortunate because a degree was not a requirement. In recent years there have been a number of high profile individuals who have paid a heavy price for falsifying their résumés. Radio Shack's former CEO, Dave Edmondson, was fired and Bausch & Lomb's CEO, Ronald Farrella, missed a \$1.1 million bonus when his lies were discovered. For embellishing his résumé in 2001, George O'Leary, current head football coach at University of Central Florida, had to resign five days after being named as University of Notre Dame's head football coach. Ironically, even the Dean of Admissions of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology recently resigned because she falsified her credentials, claiming she had degrees she had not earned.



**Michael Lucas**  
Gold Country Chapter

Since human nature has remained amazingly consistent over the years, it's not surprising that there have been instances of falsified résumés during America's entire history. However, being eliminated due to a falsified résumé was not always the case during the American Revolution. We were actually very fortunate for several falsified résumés.

Frederick Wilhelm von Steuben had been the aide-de-camp to Frederick the Great and had advanced to the rank of captain, but during the American Revolution he was unemployed and bankrupt. Benjamin Franklin met von Steuben in Paris and saw his potential. Congress had firmly stated that it wanted no more foreign generals. Franklin, the master of impersonation and hoaxes, saw a way to utilize von Steuben's talent and bypass Congress's edict by concocting the brilliant résumé of Lieutenant General Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin Baron von Steuben, who was volunteering his services to America. Congress approved him, towns honored him, and John Hancock loaned him money. The Baron went to Valley Forge and single-handedly transformed the Continental Army from a ragtag outfit into a disciplined army. He taught the army to march, and created training manuals for the troops as well as instruction manuals for the officers. The drill procedures established at Valley Forge were not changed for over 85 years, and most of the drill terms and procedures he instituted are still in effect today. Under von Steuben, the army acquired pride and readiness to obey orders immediately; weapons began to be kept in pristine condition. The



**Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben**

# *Embellished Résumés*

## *By Michael G. Lucas*

changes that von Steuben made weren't just cosmetic. The army's later successes were a direct result of his influence. For example, von Steuben taught them to move quickly as a compact body rather than using an amateurish Indian file formation. During the Philadelphia campaign, Marquis de Lafayette would have lost most of his army at Barren Hill without these marching skills taught by Steuben. At the Battle of Monmouth Court House, General Washington on the spot stopped General Lee's retreat and ordered an attack. Alexander Hamilton watched how ragtag retreaters became confident attackers; he later remarked that for the first time he comprehended the meaning of discipline. Historian Mark Boatner calls Steuben's program "perhaps the most remarkable achievement in rapid military training in the history of the world." Under Baron von Steuben, the Continental Army proved that it could go head-to-head with the best of the British Army. America was never able to repay von Steuben for his contributions. The war turned the Baron into a pauper. He had to continually replace horses at inflated prices and was compensated in worthless currency. He was forced to sell his silver spoons in camp to feed an ill aide. He spent his last dollars entertaining fellow officers after Yorktown. He was forced to beg loans from Henry Knox and George Washington. The United States paid his final balance of \$6,800 in worthless Treasury Certificates. Steuben was unable to sell them even for 10 cents on the dollar. Frederick Wilhelm von Steuben may have had a falsified résumé, but he was the right man for the job. The Revolutionary War may have had a much different outcome without his major contribution.

Another falsified résumé was from Johann Kalb. Kalb was a German peasant who became a mercenary for France at age sixteen. During ten years of service, he showed exceptional leadership skills and advanced quickly. He became eligible for the rank of brigadier general except for one barrier. Peasants were not eligible for the top military positions since these were reserved for aristocrats. By falsifying papers, Kalb became Baron de Kalb and a general officer in the French army. France selected him for a secret mission to America. Posing as a civilian, he went to report on the popular sentiment concerning their foe, Great Britain. Congress was impressed with him and offered him a commission as a major general. Baron de Kalb saw action in the attempt to invade Canada; he fought gallantly during the siege of Charleston, and was killed at the battle of Camden. South Carolina tradition has it that Lord Cornwallis visited de Kalb before his death and learned that he was a fellow Freemason. Cornwallis made the arrangements for the funeral and de Kalb became the only high-ranking Continental army officer to be buried by the British with full military and Masonic honors. De Kalb's greatest contribution was the recruitment of many Europeans, including the Marquis de Lafayette, to the war effort. In 1825, a monument was erected in South Carolina in honor of Baron DeKalb and the cornerstone was laid by Lafayette on his visit to the United States. On the marker is carved:

"His love of Liberty induced him to leave the old world to  
aid the citizens of the new in their struggle for independence".

Sometimes the résumé just does not capture the real essence of the person. We often need to look deeper than the written document to see the potential and character of the person it represents. Unfortunately, many people are never given the opportunity to show their real potential. My wife placed thousands of people in jobs over the years, but what brought her the most pleasure was finding jobs for those whom much of society had written off as unemployable because of their mediocre résumés. Many of these turned out to be some of her best employees who later became her most loyal employers. As Americans, we are most fortunate that these two great men were given the opportunity to demonstrate their real potential which could never have been captured on a résumé.

*About the Author: Michael Lucas is a retired electronics engineer and accountant. He is the editor and webmaster for the Gold Country Chapter SAR. Because of the influence of the SAR, he developed a love of American history and enjoys sharing it.*

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# SAR's Americanism Poster Contest Awards



President Tom Douglas presents Mikhayla Polivica with her award (3rd place in her school).



President Tom Douglas presents Mia Bonini with her awards, and a check from CASSAR (First Place Class, First Place School, First Place Chapter, Third Place State).



President Tom Douglas presents Chris Khoury with his awards (Second Place School, Third Place Chapter).



President Tom Douglas with Mia Bonini.



Fifth grade teacher Mrs. Bennett, President Tom Douglas, and Mia Bonini.



President Tom Douglas presents Mrs. Bennett with the SAR Certificate of Appreciation for her support of the SAR Americanism Poster Contest.



## Photos from the April 2009 Mother Lode Meeting



Tom Adams



Marilyn Chilton and Don Littlefield. Don is a member of the Sacramento chapter SAR.



Mother Lode Chapter winning entry in the SAR Americanism Poster Contest.



Mel Roush



Secretary Brian Sonner



Vice-President Jim Young displays one of the several SAR Certificates awarded to the Mother Lode Chapter at the Spring CASSAR meeting.

## More Photos from the April 2009 Mother Lode Meeting



Vice-President Jim Young presents Ted Robinson with the SAR Certificate of Appreciation.



Ted Robinson relives some of his exciting stories about his experiences with John F. Kennedy during WW II.



L-R: Wayne Griswold, Gene Bell, and Gene Myers.



Vice-President Jim Young displays the Best Small Chapter plaque awarded to the Mother Lode Chapter during the Spring CASSAR meeting.



Ted Robinson discusses his book with Tom Adams.



Ted and Lynn Robinson. Ted is a member of the Sacramento Chapter SAR. Lynn is a member of the Sacramento Chapter DAR.

# Minutes of the meeting held on March 24, 2009.

By Brian Sonner

1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Vice President Jim Young. President Douglas is ill. After the Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and SAR pledge, the minutes for the previous meeting were approved. There were 6 members, 1 associate member, and 6 guests present.

## 2. Reports:

- a. Treasurer's Report: There is no change since the last meeting.
- b. Registrar's Report: Ed Sheffler, Jr.'s application is waiting approval. Bob Schamber and Bob Leach, and his two sons are applying
- c. Historian's Report: Nothing to report.

## 3. Old Business:

- a. The Annual Poster Contest: Entrant, Mia Bonini from Holy Trinity School won third place at the state-wide competition.

## 4. New Business:

- a. Tom Chilton presented two flags from the Sacramento Chapter's collection:

1. Gilford Courthouse Flag from 1791
2. The First Navy Jack, 1776, Don't Tread On Me on a field of red and white stripes.

- b. State Convention:

1. The new State Society Executive VP is Wayne Griswold
2. The new State Society Registrar is Tom Chilton
3. Because of the high cost of printing the State Society newsletter, it will no longer be printed, but will be available on line.
4. The amount of money provided in the youth awards will be increased from \$500 to \$1000.
5. In the small chapter category, Mother Lode Chapter won:

Most guests attending

Most new members

Highest percentage of members attending

Most publications

Most publicity

California Society Best Small Chapter

- c. Gene Bell described his experiences at the Sacramento "Tea Party".

d. LCDR Ted Robinson, USNR, make a presentation surrounding his experiences in Japan immediately following the end of WWII.

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

Brian C Sonner, Secretary



# Fort Ticonderoga Captured, May 10, 1775



**Fort Ticonderoga** was originally called Fort Carillon by the French. In the spring of 1755, the British pushed north into what was formerly known as French Territory. French Governor-General Vaudviel, anticipating an attack on the French settlements in the Champlain Valley by the British, hired Michael Chartier to begin constructing a fort that would protect the valley. The fort was to be built between Lake Champlain and Lake George. Construction began in the fall of 1755, and was not completed until nearly two summers later. The new fort, which the French called Fort Carillon, was a star shaped building with wooden walls that were filled with dried mud. It was then covered with stone quarried from a nearby valley. Inside the fort were several buildings including barracks, which could hold up to 400 men, and a large powder magazine. In 1757 French General Montcalm used Fort Carillon as a base for his siege of Fort William Henry. The French held the

fort until 1759, when British General Amherst, with a force of 12,000 men, captured it, and renamed it Fort Ticonderoga which means land between two waters.

Fort Ticonderoga would later serve as a major asset to the outcome of the Revolutionary War. On **May 10, 1775**, less than 100 men under the command of **Ethan Allen** captured the fort. They then removed the canons and other war materials from the fort, and shipped them over the snow to Boston using sledges.

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

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