



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

November 2007

Volume 1, Issue 2

# Mother Lode Dispatch



Calling All Compatriots



## President's Corner by Tom Douglas

### Inside this issue:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| President's Corner                                  | 1 |
| President's Corner<br>(continued)                   | 2 |
| David Gilliard<br>November's Speaker                | 3 |
| The Revolution - Month<br>by Month<br>November 1777 | 4 |
| Christian Faust (Fast)                              | 5 |
| Minutes of Meeting<br>September 21, 2007            | 6 |
| Freedom is Not Free                                 | 7 |
| About the Author<br>Entertainment Books             | 8 |

Dear Fellow Compatriots,

A great day in Santa Barbara!  
On Thursday November 1st, I had the pleasure of riding to Santa Barbara with Wayne Griswold to attend the 132nd Annual California Society Sons of the American Revolution Board of Manager's Meeting. We checked into the Mar Monte Hotel overlooking the beach at approximately 3:00 PM. Our first order of business was to visit the hospitality room. I had the pleasure of meeting many of the state and chapter officers, and was encouraged by their support of our forming a new chapter.

After a delicious buffet breakfast, the Board of Manager's Meeting Session #1 opened at 9:30 AM, Nov 2nd, 2007. The first order of business was the discussion and voting on the new Mother Lode Chapter's request for approval. Compatriot Wayne Griswold gave a brief history of the developments that led to the chapter's formation, and then Wayne introduced me. After a few comments by me, none of which I can remember (and I hope I didn't embarrass us,) a motion was made to accept the chapter and its bylaws. By a voice vote we were **unanimously approved**.



November 27, 2007, at 6:30 PM  
Denny's Restaurant



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

# President's Corner by Tom Douglas

(continued from page 1)

## Mother Lode Chapter Officers for 2008

**Tom Douglas**

President

**Vacant**

Vice President

**Vacant**

Secretary

**Vacant**

Treasurer

**Jim Young**

Registrar

**Vacant**

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

**Vacant**

Americanism Poster Contest

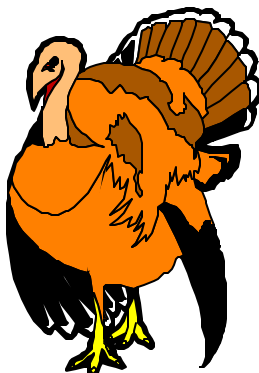
**Editors Note:** The statements and opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Editor or of the California or National Societies, Sons of the American Revolution.

After lunch, I had the privilege of attending a ceremony at the Santa Barbara Presidio Chapel that included an entrance by the CASSAR Color Guard and local period uniformed guards with drum and trumpet. I was particularly moved by the singing of the National Anthem by the assembled participants and audience. We then went to the Presidio Square, next to the chapel, where a plaque marking this as an American Revolutionary War Historical Site by the CASSAR, was unveiled.

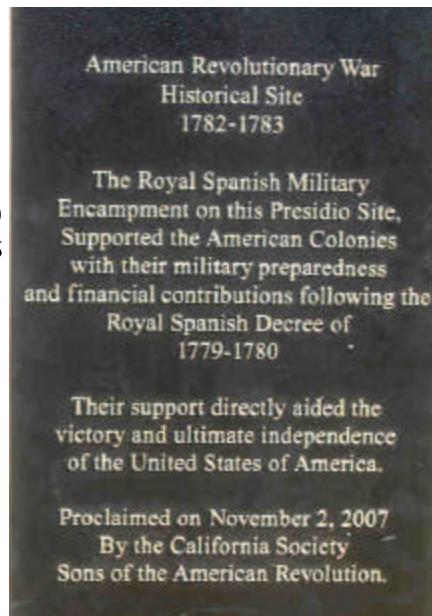
The plaque, proclaiming "The Royal Spanish Military Encampment on this Presidio Site, Supported the American Colonies with their military preparedness and financial contributions following the Royal Spanish Decree of 1779-1780", was placed on the base of the statue of Carlos III, King of Spain. After the dedication, the Color Guard fired their muskets, and a small cannon was fired much to the delight of all attending, especially your President who enjoys to the utmost displays of color, sound, pageantry and patriotism. Coincidentally, the plaque dedication is dated November 2, 2007, the same date as the official beginning of the Mother Lode Chapter, SAR. Many thanks to the Gold Country and Sacramento Chapters for all they have done in helping to form the new Mother Lode Chapter.

Happy Thanksgiving

Tom



CASSAR President Karl Jacobs (in uniform) with Mother Lode Chapter President Tom Douglas standing in front of the statue of King Carlos III of Spain in the Courtyard of the Presidio at Santa Barbara. Photo by Wayne Griswold.



Close up of plaque seen above. Photo by Jim Faulkinbury.

## David Gilliard to speak at the November meeting

David Gilliard, Chairman of the California Society Americanism Poster Contest, will be the guest speaker at our November 27th meeting. Dave is a member of the Gold Country Chapter SAR, where his application was approved on August 11, 2005. His patriot ancestor is Joseph Hulse. He recently submitted two supplemental applications for Daniel Budd and Benjamin Hull.

On January 1, 2006, Dave became the Gold Country Chapter's 2nd Vice President. Shortly thereafter, he stepped in as publicity chairman, and has been successful in promoting chapter activities in the press on numerous occasions. He became Chairman of the Chapter and State Society's Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest in 2006, and through his leadership, the chapter received 156 entries in 2007. He developed the poster contest pamphlet that was distributed at the last Mother Lode Chapter meeting. Dave will take over as First Vice President for the Gold Country Chapter on January 1, 2008.

Dave's professional experience includes 25 years in political campaign management and consulting for successful campaigns at all levels of government and politics. As chief political strategist for many members of Congress and the State Legislature, he has built an unsurpassed reputation for providing savvy and timely political advice.

In April of 2003, Dave formed "Rescue California", the group that led the successful drive to qualify a recall election against Governor Gray Davis. He has appeared on NBC's Today Show, MSNBC, FOX News, CNN and local newscasts throughout California, and is regularly quoted by the political news media in California.

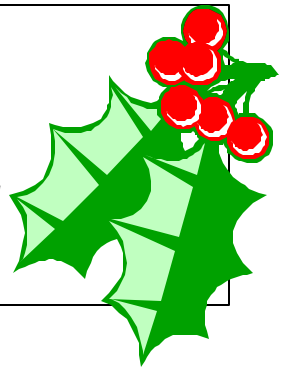
Dave grew up in the northern California town of Sonoma. His wife, the Honorable Maryanne G. Gilliard, is a Superior Court Judge in Sacramento County. Dave's topic will be the 2008 Americanism Poster Contest.



### An Invitation

The Gold Country Chapter cordially invites the members of the Mother Lode Chapter, and their wives and/or guests, to attend their annual Christmas Party, to be held on December 15, 2007, at the Shady Glen Estates Club House, located at 450 Gladyscon Road, in Colfax. The fun starts at 1:30 PM.

For more information, contact Wayne Griswold at 916-985-3756.



# Happy Thanksgiving

# The American Revolution – Month By Month - November 1777

## by Andrew J. Stough III

### *The Delaware River Forts and American Fleet are lost!*

After the battle of Germantown, General Howe began preparations to spend the winter in Philadelphia. While he could still send out foragers, he could also remember previous winters in Boston and New York where the main dependence had been upon supplies arriving by ship. Fort Mercer, an American fort along the river, could disrupt any attempt for re-supply by ship. He had established a series of temporary fortifications outside the city for protection, but he also desired to secure the Delaware River and its access to the Atlantic Ocean. To this end, in October he had directed a Hessian attack that focused on Fort Mercer with disastrous results for the Hessians.

During November, General William Howe and his elder brother, Admiral Richard Howe, combined their efforts to reduce all the American forts on the Delaware in order to effect a secure supply line. The second attempt was made on Fort Mifflin on Mud Island. Not only was the fort undermanned with a complement of 450 men, but it was described by an observer as "a Burlesque upon the art of fortification." Not only was the faulty design of the fort a sufficient problem, but the strong current of the river impeded by the *chevaux-de-frise* (*obstacles put in the river to impede crossing the river*) in the main channel promptly made a new channel between the island and the mainland. This new channel allowed Admiral Howe to take advantage of the fort's weaker side. Fort Mifflin was now open to cannon fire from all angles.

On November 10th, all guns that could be assembled by the British fleet opened fire on the fort, bombarding it for the next five days. November 15th, six ships of the line, and several lesser gun barges, moved up river joining the bombardment. The warships were drawn up so close to the fort that marines in the maintops shot down any in the fort who dared show themselves. By nightfall, Fort Mifflin was destroyed. What little remained that would burn was set on fire by the survivors, who under cover of darkness were able to escape to Red Bank Island near the fort.

Ward notes that a small American fleet, under the command of Commodore Hazelwood and located upriver from the action, had been called on for support, but had remained in place, failing to come to the defense of Fort Mifflin. There has been no real explanation for the failure of Hazelwood to engage the British fleet.

After the fall of Fort Mifflin, the enemy fleet was free to move upriver unopposed to attack Fort Mercer. Washington sent General Nathaniel Greene to reinforce the fort, but Greene saw that he was so outnumbered in both men and cannon that it would be a waste of men, and of no value to the revolution, to try to defend Fort Mercer. The Fort's commander, Colonel Christopher Greene, agreed, and the fort was evacuated. The unused American fleet that had failed to answer Fort Mifflin's call for help was now trapped and declined to fight. The fleet was abandoned and burned to prevent it from falling into the hands of the enemy. Britain now held uncontested control of the Delaware from Philadelphia to the sea. Philadelphia was no longer in danger of being denied access from the sea. To further protect Philadelphia from harassment, a new series of temporary fortifications were positioned around the city to intercept any raids from patriot forces.

In New Jersey, the populace was as much, or more of a threat to foragers as regular forces. In Philadelphia, Howe had only to be concerned with Washington. How ironic that the population of Philadelphia, the city that gave us the Declaration of Independence and was the seat of the Continental Congress, was predominantly loyal to Britain. There was little support for the Revolution in the entire area surrounding Philadelphia. Quakers opposed not only the war but any armed conflict.

Washington had been moving camp frequently, seemingly without purpose. However, he may have had several things in mind. First, to keep Howe off-guard as to his intentions, and secondly, to keep the troops busy and capable of instant movement. Additionally, static camps bred two things - sickness and boredom.

The patriot army, despite its defeats, had to date given a good account of itself. Add new troops, fresh from other states or withdrawn from Saratoga, and the whole army was again ready for some action. On November 25th, a council of war considered an attack on Philadelphia, the army's only apparent target. All felt that something should be done, but only a few commanders were eager to try an attack on the city of Philadelphia. Wiser heads were in the majority and advised against an attack on the city especially with the beginning of winter upon them.

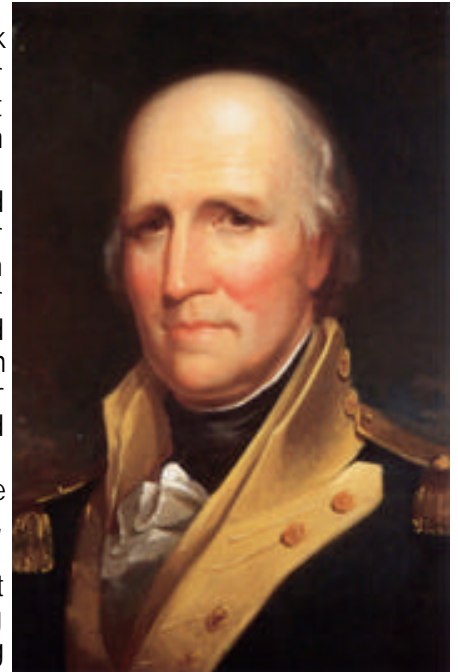
References: Encyclopedia Britannica and Ward's "The War of the Revolution".

**Not for sale or republication. The American Revolution, Month by Month series was written by Compatriot Andrew Jackson 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.**

## Christian Fast - Faust

by Lola B. Warrick

**Christian (Fast) Faust was** born on May 20, 1762, in Frederick County, Maryland. In 1780, he enlisted in the Fayette County, PA, Cavalry under Capt Michael Gatt for General George Rogers Clark's famous expedition against the Indians. Under Col. Laughry, the entire detachment was either killed or taken captive by Indians above the falls on the Ohio River. During the attack, Fast, 17 years old and an expert swimmer, fled to the opposite shore. As the Indians rushed them, he leaped over the opposite side of a horse boat, and struck out boldly for the Kentucky shore, which he reached in safety. Just as he was about to rise from the water, two Indians approached him. He speedily turned about and started for the middle of the river. He had scarcely got in motion when the Indians commenced to fire. A ball passing near his head stunned him, and another ball passed through the fleshy part of his thigh. In spite of his injury, he succeeded in reaching the center of the river. The boats had floated some distance below the one from which he had fled. He reached a boat just as it surrendered. The Indians boarded it, the prisoners were taken to the shore, and the plunder secured. The Indians stripped the soldiers of such wearing apparel as they desired. The plunder was put in bundles, and the prisoners were compelled to carry it. An old Delaware warrior claimed Christian as his prisoner. The whole party proceeded on their way though the forest in the direction of the Upper Sandusky. The journey was a severe ordeal walking thru weeds, briars, and nettles. After they had gone some hours in the forest, young Fast put his head down and refused to proceed, telling his Indian master to tomahawk him. The old warrior took pity on him and returned most of his clothing, and assisted in dressing the wound.



**George Rogers Clark - 1752 - 1818**  
(the older brother of William Clark of Lewis and Clark fame)

After the war party had traveled two or three days in the forest, the Indians built a camp-fire and cleared a spot for a dance. The prisoners, one by one, were requested to give an exhibition of their agility. With bodies torn and bruised, half famished and wearied with the journey, they complied. When it came time for Fast to dance, he felt it impossible to do so because of his wound. "Boys I can't dance and run on my feet, but I can run on my hands" He elevated his feet, and commenced a sort of bear dance, turning an occasional somersault and yelling like an Indian. Because of this performance, he was the hero of the party.

When the party arrived at Upper Sandusky, surviving prisoners, recovering from their fatigue, were exchanged at Pittsburgh and on the Muskingum. Fast was retained and adopted into the old Delaware family in lieu of their son, who had lost his life in a border skirmish. His hair was plucked out in the usual manner, leaving a small scalp lock about the crown. His ears and cartilage of his nose were perforated and ornaments placed therein. After this, he was dressed in Indian clothing, his hair filled with feathers of gaudy colors, and at the council house he was indoctrinated as a son of the tribe. He was watched day and night and not left alone so he could escape.

There is not enough space to tell of the numerous interesting stories written about the incidents involving Fast and the Indians, but the following needs to be told:

In August 1782, there was an Indian siege. On the third night of the siege, Fast was sleeping near his Indian brother. Both men were very tired from the battles. Late at night, Fast told his Indian brother that he needed to get a drink of water. His Indian brother told him to wait until morning, but Fast carefully picked his way through the sleeping Indians and escaped. After many adventures he arrived at his old home, still painted and dressed as an Indian warrior. His parents did not know him because of his Indian dress (they had thought he had died long ago). At length his mother recognized him, his hair was fixed, his paint and soil taken off, and he was restored to his status as a white man.

He married, located in Green County, PA, and later took his family to what is now Orange Township, Ashland County, OH. When Fast and family arrived there, he erected a cabin. One day, their small group was alarmed by 10 Indians, headed by an old warrior who was extremely ugly, shriveled in flesh, and ferocious in appearance. It was the old chief who had kept him prisoner for so many years. Christian Fast died June 23, 1841, in Orange Township, Richland County, (now Ashland County), OH.

SOURCES: Revolutionary War Pension Claim, n.13500-w-4195. Ohio History, By way of Rotterdam. "Indian Miscellany, by W. Beach, Boston Public Library. OH, historical records.

**(Refer to page 8 to learn more about the author.)**

# Minutes of the meeting held on October 23, 2007.

by Brian Sonner, Acting Secretary

1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Tom Douglas.

After the invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the SAR pledge were given, the minutes for the 18 September, 2007 meeting were approved.

2. Reports:

a. Wayne Griswald discussed the NSSAR Fall Leadership Conference held 27-29 September in Louisville, KY. He indicated that about 400 people attended.

1. The agenda included a discussion of the IRS ruling concerning the 990N filing. Each chapter must fill out this form for 2007. The procedures are still under IRS development. The Mother Lode Chapter is required to file Form 990N by May 15, 2008 for the 2007 calendar year.

2. The project to create a Center for Advancing America's History has taken a new turn. There is an opportunity to obtain a building/property downtown in the historic section of Louisville. It would involve remodeling a 100 year old building, and begin the project sooner than anticipated at about \$3 million.

3. The Fall Meeting of the California Society will be in Santa Barbara on the Second of November. Approval of our application for chapter status and our bylaws will be discussed.

b. President Douglas indicated that John Krahn has submitted an application for membership and there are a couple potential member applications in process.

3. Unfinished Business.

a. Chapter Secretary/Treasurer vacancy: There were no volunteers. Brian Sonner will continue as Acting Secretary, and President Douglas will perform the duties of the Treasurer. A motion was presented, seconded and passed to designate President Douglas the Treasurer.

b. Meeting schedules: After discussion it was agreed that we should have monthly meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at Denny's in Cameron Park.

c. There was a general discussion of the "Charter" party which should be held to celebrate the awarding of a Charter to the Mother Lode Chapter. After an extended discussion, President Douglas appointed a committee to work on the arrangements. President Douglas, Wayne Griswald, and Lee Wolary comprise the committee.

4. New Business:

a. Youth/Community Programs. President Douglas opened the discussion with a recommendation that we initiate a Poster Contest in the Placerville middle school 5<sup>th</sup> grades classes. A guest speaker will attend the next meeting to discuss the process and assist in understanding the procedures. Members should identify possible schools.

b. Dues:

1. After discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed that Chapter dues will be:

National: \$25.00

State: \$18.00

Chapter: \$15.00

Total \$58.00

2. After discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed that new member initiation dues will be:  
\$25

5. After the benediction and SAR Recessional, the meeting was adjourned.

Brian C Sonner

Acting Secretary

# Freedom is Not Free

Author is unknown

I watched the flag pass by one day.  
It fluttered in the breeze.

A young soldier saluted it, and then he  
stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform,  
So young, so tall, so proud.  
With hair cut square and eyes alert.  
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him,  
Had fallen through the years.  
How many died on foreign soil,  
How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down,  
How many died at sea,  
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?

**NO, FREEDOM IS NOT FREE**

I heard the sound of taps one night,  
When everything was still.  
I listened to the bugler play.  
And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times  
That taps had meant "Amen!"  
When a flag had draped a coffin  
Of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,  
Of the mothers and the wives,  
Of fathers, sons and husbands,  
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard,  
At the bottom of the sea,  
Of unnamed graves in Arlington.

**NO, FREEDOM IS NOT FREE**



### 2008 Entertainment Books are still available

The Sacramento Chapter has sold the Entertainment books for a number of years, and the profits go to help support the chapter's programs. These books offer discounts at many fine restaurants, movie discounts, and a host of other opportunities to save money. While most of the discounts are available in the Sacramento area, there are some discounts for restaurants, movies, etc., in Folsom and western El Dorado County. Entertainment Books for the 2007-2008 year are still available. The profits (\$8.00 per book) from any books sold to Mother Lode members will go to the Mother Lode Chapter. If you have an adult child living in the Sacramento area, these books make great Christmas gifts. The books are \$40 each, and will be available at the November chapter meeting. Call Tom Chilton for more information at 916-933-6576.

### Christian Fast - Faust

#### About the Author - Lola Warrick

Lola Bjorkqvist Warrick has been active in community affairs in Carmichael for almost 50 years. She and her husband, Bernie, coordinated the Carmichael Elk's Forth of July Parade for many years until Bernie's death in 1983. Lola and her son, Jim (a member of the Sacramento Chapter), continue to be active in coordinating the parade. Lola is a member of the General John A. Sutter Chapter DAR, where she served as Regent from 1998 through 2000. She is also a member of the Priscilla Alden Chapter Colonial Dames XVII Century. Both Lola and Jim are direct descendants of Christian Fast.



*(Editors Note: We welcome articles from our members and friends, and will publish those submitted.)*



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**TO THE POSTMASTER  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

The Mother Lode Chapter  
Sons Of The American  
Revolution

