



Volume 11, Issue 8

Original Charter 1924 • Reactivated 1994

August 2011

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT
DAVID GILLIARD



Dear Gold Country Members, Associates and Friends,

Welcome to the August Edition of the Forty-Niner, our award-winning Gold Country Chapter Newsletter. August was a historic month in the American Revolution, especially August of 1781, when Cornwallis retreated to Yorktown, and American forces, backed up by the French fleet, converged, setting the stage of the Seige of Yorktown and the surrender of the British in October.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, August 20 at 9:00 AM at Lou LaBonte's in Auburn. We will be making our final plans for the Constitution Day Parade and Picnic in Nevada City and for our membership recruitment booth at the Gold Country Fair in Auburn. We will also hear from guest speakers, our own Ron Barker and his wife Coni, who will tell us about the National Congress in July and their trip to Revolutionary War battlegrounds in North Carolina.

Recent TV shows such as "Who Do You Think You Are" have increased the public's curiosity about genealogy and ancestry research. The Chapter decided earlier this year to purchase a booth at the Gold Country Fair in Auburn, which takes place September 8 to 11. The goal of our booth will be new member recruitment, as well as informing the community about our organization. We will need volunteers to set up and decorate the booth, as well as volunteers to "man" the booth on all four days of the fair. Our intention is to be able to do some "instant" research through wireless internet hook-ups. We will go over the details on the 20th.

Please enjoy this edition of the Forty-Niner and I hope to see you on the 20th.

Dave Gilliard

P.S. If you have not visited our new website, please do so at
www.GoldCountrySAR.com.

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The California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

CHAPTER OFFICERS 2010 - 2011 TERM

PRESIDENT

David A. Gilliard
(916) 663-9605
DGilliard@ncbb.net

FIRST VP

Michael Holmes
(530) 889-2780
NJRHS@inreach.com

SECOND VP

Dale Ross
(530) 274-1838
cr7861@jps.net

SECRETARY

Ron Barker
(530) 205-9581
ron0729con@comcast.net

TREASURER

Bruce N. Choate
(530) 878-3783
BruceC4193@aol.com

REGISTRAR

Smith "Smitty" Virgil
(530) 885-9038
SWVirgil@SBCglobal.net

HISTORIAN

Barry E. Hopkins
(530) 906-4562
Pau.Hana@Yahoo.com

Webmaster

Gregory Hill
(916) 844-5134
greg@gbasacramento.com

CHAPLAIN

Vacant

CHANCELLOR

Craig M. Hopkins
(503) 419-6320
Craig.Hopkins@Comcast.net

PAST PRESIDENT

Keith L. Bigbee
(530) 878-0144
kckbigbee@auburninternet.com

Calendar of Events

National

www.sar.org

Sept 30—Oct 1, 2011 - Fall
Leadership Meeting, NSSAR HQ,
Louisville, KY

State

www.CaliforniaSAR.org

Nov 3-6, 2011 – California Society
The 136th Board of Managers Meeting
Town and Country Resort San Diego

Chapter

Constitution Date Parade, Nevada
City, Sept. 11, 2011. Picnic Following
at Memorial Park, Grass Valley

Gold Country Fair Booth

Auburn
September 8, 9, 10, 11

The next Gold Country Chapter meeting is August 13, 2011

Lou La Bonte's Restaurant

The Gold Country Chapter's 2011 regular meetings will be held on the 3rd Saturday of each month except in May, September and December. During these months special meeting dates occur in order to accommodate other Chapter or California Society activities. All regular meetings are held in the banquet room of Lou La Bonte's Restaurant, 13460 Lincoln Way, Auburn, (530) 885-9193, at 9:00AM. See you there!

Visit our Chapter, State and National Websites

GoldCountrySAR.com ♦ CaliforniaSAR.org ♦ SAR.org

The submission deadline for the Sept edition of
The Forty-Niner is Friday, Sept 22, 2011.

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The American Revolution Month-by-Month

August 1781

The Carolina's and Virginia

Pushed to the Limits

By Andrew Jackson Stough, III

Edited by Ron Barker



The American Revolution – Month by Month August, 1781

THE CAROLINAS - Due to the summer rains and swollen rivers, it was impossible for either main army to conduct maneuvers. Both had gone into a stand-down to “Rest and Recuperate” (R&R). Even if there had not been summer floods, the main armies would have had to cease operations as both the British/Tory and the American Regular Army under General Nathanael Greene were so exhausted and debilitated by malnutrition, disease and unhealed wounds that they could no longer function.. The guerilla forces of Thomas Sumter, Andrew Pickens, Francis Marion and “Light Horse Harry” Lee were still actively patrolling river crossings to spot any movement by the British. Lee, Captain Robert Kirkwood and, to an extent, Colonel William Washington’s cavalry, were also scouting and guarding against any moves of the enemy. Yet there comes a time when even the strongest must stop and rest. On August 5, Kirkwood and Washington joined the army in the high hills for R&R, while the guerilla forces remained watchful as they retired into their usual haunts safe from British interference. (Ward p 825, par 4)

As August arrived, the rains slowed. Some river crossings became fordable, prompting British Colonel James Stuart to move toward Greene’s encampment. When he was just 16 miles away from Greene he was stopped by two still-flooded rivers. August 22 Greene, with a refreshed and augmented force, broke camp and by a roundabout way went to meet Stuart (WARD 826 par 1-2). In September the two forces will meet.

GENERAL WASHINGTON - Washington’s relationship with French Lt. General Jean Rochambeau was, according to one source, that of an experienced French General keeping an inexperienced and overly aggressive Washington from wasting resources in an attempt to capture New York City. On the other hand, Washington found Rochambeau deprecating and haughty. Rochambeau claimed to be in America to assist Washington in a subordinate and supportive position. Actually he was independent and interested only in what he felt would benefit the French King. He was extraordinarily polite to Washington in their meetings and correspondence, but that was only to conceal his insincerity in dealing with Washington (FLEXNER “Washington, The Indispensable Man” p 155). By contrast, Lancaster states that it was Rochambeau who was poorly treated. (Lancaster 311-315)

Several times when the British fleet was incapable of combat, Washington had asked that the French fleet assist the army or engage an inferior British fleet. Usually, this was politely handled but nothing was done. When action was taken it was too late or done ineffectively. (Flexner 156)

A private letter written by Washington, critical of the French for what he saw as their reluctance to cooperate, was intercepted in transit by Sir Henry Clinton and made public to the embarrassment of both Washington and Rochambeau. The French general suggested that the letter may have been a forgery and claimed that he was in

America only as an assistant to Washington, having been instructed by his king to assist Washington at all times and in a subordinate position. Washington accepted the responsibility of having written the letter and made an apology explaining that the letter had been private and not intended for public eyes. Rochambeau cast aside any criticism of Washington, maintaining that he felt no affront and that he would continue to assist the American forces any way that was required of him, thereby smoothing over Washington's gaffe. This maintained, at least on the face of things, a show of American-French amity (Flexner 156).

The war had gone on so long, and the northern states had been without the aggravation of British occupation and foraging for so long, that they had become apathetic toward military service or other support of the war. If the British could not be dislodged from the coastal cities, it was highly probable that at a peace conference these, the principal cities of the new nation, might become British enclaves. Washington needed a victory in the north to remind citizens that there was still a war on, that the liberties enjoyed in the past few years could be swept away if there was not support for the war in the north. Victories could be a wake-up call to fight on until the final victory. (WARD 879)

It was the first week in July before Rochambeau (WARD 880 par 3) joined Washington with a portion of his force. Several expeditions against the forts surrounding New York were engaged in, with little or no effect on either side. We see again American Major General Benjamin Lincoln, who had lost not only Charleston but an entire army, appearing again as a leader in the New York actions. July 21 – 24, Washington, Rochambeau and two other French generals surveyed the chances of successfully taking New York. Considering the strength of the forts (WARD 881 par 3) and the overwhelming strength in manpower and naval support available to Clinton, the decision was made to continue the blockade of New York, but look to the South for future moves in a combination of the French under Rochambeau and a fleet under Admiral Francois J. P. Comte de Grasse coming from the West Indies. Failure to achieve any success in taking New York wasn't wasted. Washington left 4,000 men to defend the Hudson, while the movement of the combined armies to the south was done in such a way, and with Washington succeeding in spreading rumors, so that Clinton was misled into thinking that it was a build up for an attack on Staten Island. Once again, Washington succeeded in spreading disinformation. This maneuver was so successful that it was September 2 before Clinton learned that the main army was headed south and too far away to warn Cornwallis to break out of his encampment at Yorktown before he could be besieged by an overwhelming force (Ward 882-883, Flexner, Washington The Indispensable Man" pp. 162-164 Reference- Sep 28, 1781 Britt V23, pg 901D).

De Grasse was to sail on August 13 from Santo Domingo to the Chesapeake, with 28 ships plus supporting frigates and more than 3,000 men and their equipment. He informed them he could remain only until October 15, at which time he would depart with his troops to return to Santo Domingo. (WARD 882 par2) Washington received this news August 14 and acted immediately to move as many troops as possible toward Virginia to support Lafayette or to attack Charleston, whichever was the most promising. (WARD 882 par3) On the 17th he replied to de Grasse, informing de Grasse that he should expect Washington and Rochambeau to meet him in the Chesapeake. On 21 August, the combined French-American armies departed for the Chesapeake. Meanwhile, the commanders had to prevent Sir Henry Clinton from realizing that such a large force was moving south and what their destination was. Once the decision was made and implementation begun, every effort was made to keep the plans and destination secret from all officers except the two principals and their most trusted and necessary staff officers. (WARD, Cunliffe's George Washington, Man and Monument.)

VIRGINIA – Cornwallis was comfortable in Yorktown. He felt secure, depending on Britain's control of the sea to guarantee him reinforcement and supply as well as fast communication with Clinton. On the land side, he believed that Lafayette did not have the forces to dispossess him or to prevent him from leaving Yorktown at will. He was unaware that Washington and Rochambeau were moving toward him.

De Grasse arrived at the Chesapeake August 30 and on August 31 his fleet lay at anchor in Hampton Roads (Aug 1, 1781 BRITT V23, pg 901D) (WARD 884 par 5).

In September, there will be naval battles off Yorktown and the battle and siege of Yorktown will begin.

References: Schlessinger's "Almanac of American History"; Wards "The War of the Revolution"; Lancaster's "The American Revolution"; Higginbotham's "The War of American Independence"; Ency Brittanica.
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CASSAR Member News

The Newsletter Editor wants to apologize to the members of the Gold Country Chapter for the late newsletter. He found out upon returning from the National Congress in August, that his computer did not like caffeine on it's keyboard.

We had two wonderful parades with one in Colfax, and one in Grass Valley on July 3rd and 4th.



Colfax Parade and Gold Country Color Guard



Colfax Parade with Gold Country Color Guard July 3, 2011



Our Beautiful Ladies of the Gold Country Color Guard



Our Esteemed President David Gilliard at the Colfax July 3, 2011



Grass Valley July 4, 2011 Parade



Our Ladies leading the second part of the men's color guard



CASSAR Executive Vice-President Keith Bigbee



Grass Valley Parade with youth volunteers with SAR Banner

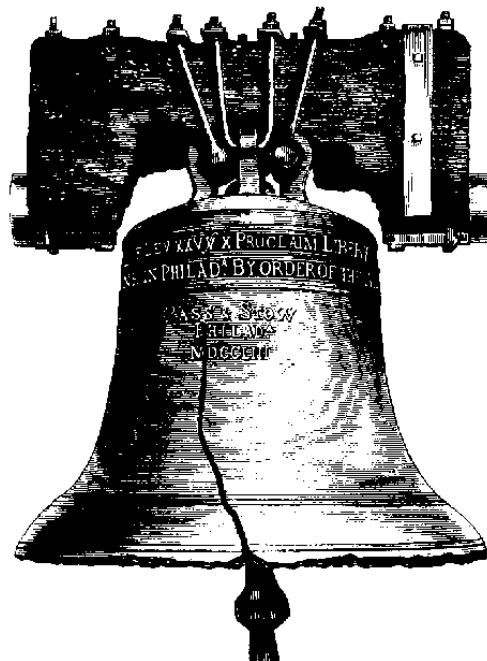




First Lady Maryanne and President Dave at Picnic



Maryanne and Noni after a great lunch hosted by DAR

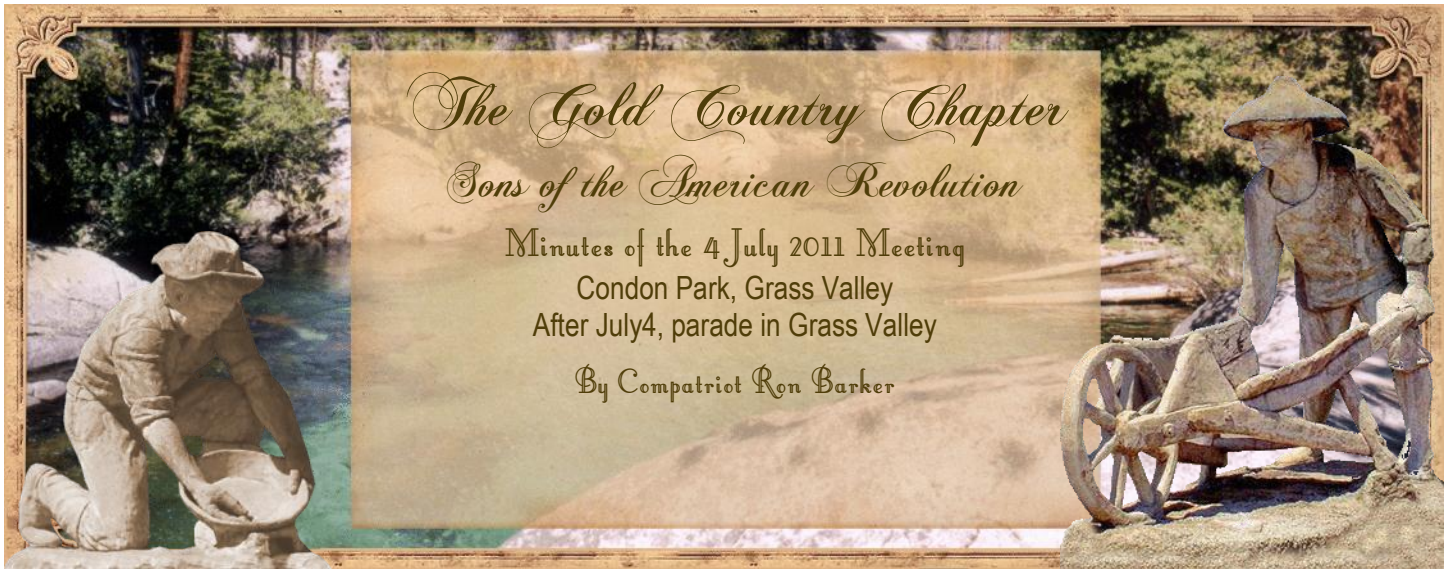




Was our Color Guard Commander
Here for Lunch or Not??



Conni and Dale in Grass Valley July 4th parade



1. Opening Ceremonies

Meeting called to order by Pres. Dave Gilliard at 1:42 PM. Dave advised that we were having a meeting today, because so many individuals had said that they could not attend the July meeting as they would be traveling.

Ron Barker followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: 8 members and 8 guests.

Meeting held with the Capt. John Oldham Chapter, Winona Virgil from the Emigrant Trail Chapter of DAR in Condon Park after the 4th of July Parade in Grass Valley. There were several thousand people watching the parade and they showed the patriotism.

2. REPORTS

a. Keith Bigbee will be calling a meeting in late August or early September regarding the April State Meeting that Gold Country is hosting as Keith Bigbee will become president of CASSAR.

b. Dave reported that everything is proceeding with having the meeting at the Embassy Suites hotel in Sacramento.

4. Old Business-None

5. New Business-None

6. Adjournment at 1:59 pm



THE Forty-Niner

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PO Box 408 • Meadow Vista, CA 95722-0408



FIRST CLASS

Address Correction Requested

