229 Years After the Battles: King’s Mountain, Cowpens

Last October and this January, respectively, a group of SR members from Southeast states celebrated the 229th anniversaries of King’s Mountain and Cowpens. Members represented Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee.

The annual ceremonies at each park draw crowds and feature battlefield walks, demonstrations and solemn wreath-laying.

The battle of King’s Mountain, fought October 7th, 1780, was an important American victory during the Revolutionary War. Thomas Jefferson called it, “The turn of the tide of success.” The park features the second-oldest Revolutionary War monument in the country: the 1815 Chronicle Marker.

Cowpens occurred January 17, 1781. The U.S. Navy christened a WWII-era aircraft carrier and a contemporary guided missile cruiser USS Cowpens, in honor of this battle.

—submitted by N. C. Society President P. Jeffrey Lambert

A GSSR Hexagon: The General Vice Presidency

By David W. Swafford

The role of General Vice President (GVP) in the Sons of the Revolution has reached a point of enormous potential. The office is evolving from a traditionally ceremonial role into an engaging job that requires leadership, good communication, and new thinking.

Why?
The reasons are snowballed.

To start with, the structure of the Executive Committee was changed by a vote at the Glendale Triennial. The change, in effect, brings the six GVPs onto the committee.

This development is a means to strengthen communication between the General Society and state levels, hence achieving a more direct flow of vital information throughout the organization. It also provides all officers on the committee an opportunity for achieving more efficacious interactions with each other, which cannot but benefit the Society at large.

“It makes the role of General Vice President much more meaningful.” said David L. Rutherford, GVP for Region 4, currently serving a second term.

The previous structure of the committee consisted of five general officers, including the General President, as well as two other individuals chosen by the General President. No Vice President served on the committee. The new structure replaces the two selected persons with the six GVPs, for a total of eleven general officers on the committee.

In an organization whose membership frowns upon too much centralization, however, some members argue that a larger Executive Committee could mean more internal bureaucracy. But this change actually complements earlier decisions.
New State Officers Installed

In the wake of officer resignations on the state society level, new officers are now in place in three states—Illinois, Maryland and New York. In Illinois, Robert Henry Rati is now Society President, Michael Johnson Kasper is Secretary, and Rex Lavern Gradeless is Treasurer. In Maryland, Peter Janney Schwab takes over as 2nd Vice President and Clinton Kilty Macsherry III assumes Assistant Secretary. In New York, Stephen Thomas Whelan, Jr., is the new 2nd Vice President, Michael P. Coneys is 3rd Vice President, and Jonathan Ridgeway is Registrar.

—submitted by Sharon Toms, Assistant to the General Registrar

CAR Transition Application Available

The Sons of the Revolution has made a C.A.R. (Children of the American Revolution) Transition Application available for easier SR membership processing. Young men who are ready to leave the C.A.R. may join the SR based on their previously-approved C.A.R. application, so long as their proofs meet SR standards and a copy of the original C.A.R. application is attached to the transition application. The C.A.R. Transition Applications are available in pdf format from the GSSR Office.

—submitted by William Tresenriter, GSSR Executive Secretary

Fraunces Tavern Restaurant to Change Management

As of February 13, 2010, the Fraunces Tavern Restaurant was no longer to be managed by 54 Pearl Street Associates. The company cited the economic recession as the deciding factor to end operations. Meanwhile, the SRNY announced that restaurant operations would continue as normal. A temporary closing may have been necessary immediately following the development, but was not to have lasted long. The Fraunces Tavern Museum, which operates at the same address, was to have continued operations without interruption.

—submitted by Anthony Wellman, SRNY Communications Director

American Revolution Association Magazine


—submitted by Howard Nicklas, S.C. Society President
President’s Message

To all members, let me say thank you very much for your hard work and effort.

I am very happy to report to you that our great Sons of the Revolution is moving forward in a powerful and dynamic way. All across our nation, SR members are very busy keeping alive the memory of George Washington, as evidenced by the many annual commemorative banquets and luncheons honoring the Father of our Country.

In addition, SR members also have been giving out awards for patriotism, holding essay contests, and participating in cemetery dedication ceremonies.

I’m pleased to report our members are also actively participating in patriotic celebrations. Plans are now being made for the annual Let Freedom Ring ceremonies held every July Fourth and preparations are also under way to celebrate Flag Day, Constitution Day, and Veteran’s Day!

New members are the life blood of any organization, and our society continues to bring in new members. All across the country, I believe there is renewed interest in the Spirit of 1776 and the Revolutionary War. Never has there been a better time to be a member of the Sons of the Revolution!

This calendar year is shaping up to be one of the best ever in the history of our society. I am especially enthused about the upcoming ceremony to honor SR Founder John Austin Stevens. A new headstone dedication ceremony is set for the afternoon of June 14, 2010 at the Stevens family plot in the historic Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York. The annual Flag Day Parade will precede a light luncheon at Frances Tavern Restaurant before the memorial service begins.

The SRNY has extended an invitation to all SR members to march in the parade and attend the luncheon and ceremony. I would like to challenge each SR member to consider attending this event. For more information about the day, please contact the SRNY at (212) 425–1776.

Thank you again for all that you are doing to keep alive the memory of George Washington and our Founding Fathers. Thank you also for taking an active role in celebrating patriotism and bringing in new members! ■

Terry L. Davenport
General President
GSSR
taken by the Society regarding the Vice Presidency, as will be explained.

**Changes Began Yesteryear**

The evolution of the office is not a recent occurrence. Gradual change seems to have encapsulated the role since the very beginning. According to John Dwight Kilbourne’s *Sons of the Revolution: A History, 1875–2001*, a single General Vice President served in office from 1890 to 1893. In the spring of 1893, a second vice presidency was created: the General Second Vice President. By 1949, the two centralized VP positions were eliminated in favor of the six regional positions that we have today. For fifty years, the post was referred to as Regional Vice President.

Then, at the 2000 Triennial held in New Orleans, the title was officially changed from Regional Vice President to General Vice President for Region 1, GVP for Region 2, and so on. But that was merely a cosmetic tweak.

The call for substantive reform in the duties of the Regional Vice President began after James L. Shannon was elected General President. At the 1982 Triennial in Virginia, a motion was put forward and approved to accept an expanded, broadened definition of the GS Regional Vice President, as appeared in that year’s Policy and Procedure Manual. The revised job included: 1) keeping in close contact with each State Society belonging to the region; 2) encouraging further membership and growth regionwide; 3) promoting activities among Societies to perpetuate the spirit and memory of the nation’s forefathers; 4) attending as many different Society business meetings as possible, and finally, building stronger ties with other hereditary and patriotic organizations.

However, since the By-laws were not revised in a like manner that year, one source believes the office remained essentially honorary up until the Knoxville Triennial in 2006. That’s when support to change the By-laws began to gel, according to one informed individual.

In September of 2008 at the Board of Directors meeting in Marietta, Georgia, during the administration of General President Paul F. Davis, the By-Law concerning the General Vice President office was updated significantly. The former version read: the GVP shall represent the General President in his respective region [only] when the General President authorizes.

The new version states that GVPs, in their respective regions, shall: 1) Represent the General President, as directed, at functions sponsored by the State Societies; 2) coordinate and facilitate activities between and among the State Societies and the General Society to further the goals of each; and 3) upon the request of a State Society, assist in membership development and educational projects.

Earlier that year, this publication reported on an official gathering of three GVPs that took place in Independence, Missouri. Invitations were sent...
out to all six individuals, and those who could not attend contacted the General Society. It was believed to have been the first time in the Society’s history that GVPs met for a group meeting.

Among various issues discussed, it was decided that each GVP would hold regular, intermittent conference calls with the State Societies in their respective regions. Another idea brought forward was to begin holding regional meetings between the GVPs and their assigned State Societies.

The Spring 2008 Drumbeat reported that the officers were enthusiastic about these ideas.

“The most significant item discussed was the recommendation that the By-Laws Committee bring forth a resolution to better describe the role of the General Vice President,” said Richard M. Patterson, Region 2 GVP, present at that meeting.

Facilitating New Duties

Even though the By-Law revision was a much needed improvement, the language of the revision itself did not provide the means for achieving or accomplishing the broader tasks.

As a result, the General Society still faced the inherent problem which has plagued it for many years: how to improve internal communications and give more efficacious structure to the national level without diminishing the autonomy of the State Societies or compromising the organizational philosophy of this confederation.

General President Davenport believes the answer is GVP involvement in key committees. “There was a need for improved communication and participation on both the Region and State levels. It seems to me this reorganization will fill those needs because it brings the officers together more often, and within an important forum.” As historian Kilbourne wrote in Sons of the Revolution: A History, 1875–2001, committees are the action engines, or more bluntly, the work engines, of the General Society.

About a year after the unprecedented meeting in Independence, Mr. Patterson showed regional leadership and commitment when in May 2009, Region 2 became the first of the six regions to hold a general meeting of its member states in a Triennial year. The meeting occurred in Essington, Pennsylvania, and was attended by members from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey.

They discussed inter-regional collegiality; reciprocal assistance between state societies and the General Society; membership growth, and, ahead of the 2009 Triennial, the proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws of the General Society expected to come to the floor.

A Look Ahead

GVP Patterson, for one, hopes that regional meetings might become regular events within the Society. For another, R. Mitchell Bush, GVP for Region 3, has already been active on a regional scale. Immediately following the 2009 Triennial held in Glendale, California, Mr. Bush traveled to Florida where he and General President Emeritus Shannon welcomed the Sunshine State back into the General Society following the reconciliation of the Society’s financial obligations.

In February, he then traveled with General President Davenport to Raleigh, North Carolina, where they assisted N.C. Society President P. Jeffrey Lambert in welcoming new members and encouraging more local participation.

Robert D. Rati, GVP for Region 5, is another GVP who has had extensive experience in growing membership and developing State Societies (Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan.) As GVP, he is looking ahead to strengthening the SR in Ohio, which was reorganized recently.

As for growth and development in the Northeast, GVP for Region 1 Henry N. McCarl said in the next three years new State Societies could be established in New Hampshire, Vermont and possibly Maine—opportunities he is eager to see come to fruition.

Mr. McCarl believes working and cooperating with sister organizations, such as the Children of the American Revolution (CAR), the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) can benefit this organization admirably. He said there’s good cooperation between the SR and the SAR in NY, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

“I wish to encourage more cooperation in that respect, because it is a win-win situation,” he said.

“Of course, I am well aware the GVP can only encourage our State Societies. We can only assist them in ways they wish to be assisted.”

Mr. Patterson of Region 2 also believes holding events with other hereditary societies increases attendance and provides a means to reach out to more potential members. “Both the SRNJ and the MDNJ have done this with success,” he affirms.

The fact is, the Sons of the Revolution is a successful organization experiencing growth and yearning to grow even more. The increased responsibilities and new demands of the General Vice President’s office are a reflection of the growth which the Society has endured and hopes to accomplish in the future.

All the while, the organization is determined to stay true to its founding principles. ■
GSSR Officer Profiles
2009–2012

Terry L. Davenport
General President
Morristown, Tennessee

State Society: Tennessee
Year Joined: 1999
Previous SR Offices Held: President and Historian, Tennessee Society; Member, Tennessee Society BOM; President, Colonel Robert McFarland Chapter.
Occupation: Claims Representative
Education: B.S., Middle Tennessee State University

Greatest personal achievement: My family - wife, Shannon, and children, Natalie, Allyson, and Lance. Being elected General President in Glendale, California was a Blue Ribbon day in my life!
Greatest professional achievement: Serving 20 years as a claim representative for State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company and serving as President of the Tennessee Anti Car Theft Committee.
Guiding philosophy in life: Look for the good, believe the good thing can happen, go the extra mile, and think win-win!
Favorite pastime activity: Spending time with family in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Henry Newton McCarl
General Vice President, Region 1
Gloucester, Massachusetts

State Society: Life Member of Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania
Year Joined: 2003 (MA)
Occupation: Retired - Emeritus Professor, School of Business, University of Alabama (Birmingham) since 2001
Education: B.S. Earth Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1962); M.S. Geology, Pennsylvania State University (1964); Ph.D., Mineral Economics, Penn State (1969)

Greatest personal achievement: President General, SAR, 2004–2005
Greatest professional achievement: Professor of Economics, Geology and Education, University of Alabama (Birmingham) 1969–2001; Fulbright Senior Lecturer, Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania, 1977–1978
Guiding philosophy in life: Treat Others as You Wish Them to Treat You
Favorite pastime activity: Amateur Radio - W4RIG

Richard M. Patterson
General Vice President, Region 2 (second term)
Phoenix, Maryland

State Society: Maryland
Year Joined: 1998
Occupation: Chartered Financial Consultant and Insurance Underwriter
Education: University of Maryland, and University of Baltimore, Business

Greatest personal achievement: My marriage of 61 years and my wonderful family of 4 daughters, which led to 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.
Greatest professional achievement: My Financial Services career, which afforded me the opportunity to help families and businesses survive and succeed, and which gave me time for a second career as a volunteer.
Guiding philosophy in life: The Golden Rule and Jesus’ two commandments, Love God and Love your neighbor, as yourself
Favorite pastime activity: Sharing time with my family and friends
R. Mitchell Bush
General Vice President, Region 3
Savannah, Georgia

State Society: Georgia Year Joined: 1998
Occupation: Insurance & Finance, R M Bush & Company, Nationwide Insurance
Education: B.S. Ed. Social Science

Greatest personal achievement: being married, having a son going to college
Greatest professional achievement: Having 8 insurance locations
Guiding philosophy in life: You reap what you sow!!!
Favorite pastime activity: Boating, fishing, hunting, Georgia Southern University football games

David L. Rutherford
General Vice President, Region 4 (second term)
Morristown, Tennessee

State Society: Tennessee Year Joined: 1996
Occupation: Work with my wife in her law firm.
Education: B.A., University of Tennessee (1975)

Greatest personal achievement: 1) Married 40 years; 2) Past National Commander, Scottish American Military Society; 3) Past Chairman, Knoxville Metropolitan Planning Commission and Historic Planning Commission
Greatest professional achievement: 1) Retired last year after 29 years with State Farm Insurance Companies; 2) Air Force veteran, Staff Sgt during the Vietnam war; 3) Current DOD area rep for the “Employer Support Of the Guard and Reserve;” 4) Knight Commander of The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, and 5) Knight Grand Commander of the Sovereign & Independent Order of St. Andrew of Jerusalem.
Guiding philosophy in life: Give and you will receive. But don't tread on me.
Favorite pastime activity: Horology, history study, politics, ornithology and photography

Robert Dean Rati
General Vice-President - Region 5
Carmel, Indiana

Occupation: Retired Computer Executive
Education: B.A. University of Kansas (1961); M.A. Northeastern University (1970); M.B.A. Columbia University (1973)

Greatest personal achievement: Met my wife in 1967, married 1969 (40 years)
Greatest professional achievement: Management Consultant, Ernst & Young, New York City 1973–75, followed by 30 years in computing management in several corporations
Guiding philosophy in life: Do the best that you can
Favorite pastime activity: Home computing, genealogy

Charles B. Witt, MD
General Vice-President - Region 6
Los Angeles, California

State Society: California Year Joined: 1965
Occupation: Thoracic Surgeon
Education: Doctorate of Medicine, University of Tennessee (1951)

Greatest personal achievement: Piano Soloist with Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra, May 31, 1975, Tschaikowsky Concerto # 1 in B-flat Minor
Greatest professional achievement: Inducted into American College of Surgeons, 1965
Guiding philosophy in life: To make man whole
Curtis P. Cheyney, III  
General Secretary  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
State Society: Pennsylvania  
Year Joined: 1968  
Occupation: Lawyer  
Education: B.A., Gettysburg College (1964); J.D., Wake Forest University (1968)  
Greatest personal achievement: my son  
Greatest professional achievement: managing partner of Swartz Campbell LLC, developed growth and planned success for all partners and doubled during my tenure as Chairman  
Guiding philosophy in life: “Sweet are the uses of adversity,” William Shakespeare, As You Like It  
Favorite pastime activity: fly fishing, Bible study

Laurence Simpson, DDS  
Assistant General Secretary  
New York, NY  
State Society: New York  
Year Joined: 1985  
Occupation: General Dentist  
Education: B.S., Manhattan College; M.S., Queens College and Professional Diploma in Secondary Educational Administration; D.D.S., NYU College of Dentistry; GPR Residency, Catholic Medical Center of Queens & Brooklyn  
Greatest personal achievement: President of SRNY  
Greatest professional achievement: Omicron Kappa Upsilon (Phi Betta Kappa of Dentistry)  
Guiding philosophy in life: Follow your moral compass  
Favorite pastime activity: Participation in various geneologic groups including the SR, Colonial Wars, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, St. Andrews

Philip Coombe III  
General Treasurer  
Grahamsville, New York  
State Society: New York  
Year Joined: 1966  
Occupation: Certified Financial Planner/ Registered Investment Advisor  
Education: Cornell University  
Greatest personal achievement: Built and sold twin sheet indoor ice rink in the Hudson Valley  
Greatest professional achievement: Growing investment advisory business to $120 million assets  
Guiding philosophy in life: Fairness and honesty  
Favorite pastime activity: Ice hockey

J.E.B. Stuart IV, Colonel U.S. Army (Retired)  
Assistant General Treasurer  
Richmond, Virginia  
State Society: Commonwealth of Virginia  
Year Joined: 1992  
Occupation: Investment Associate, Merrill Lynch, Richmond, Virginia  
Education: Bachelor’s, Aeronautical Engineering, University of Virginia; Master’s, Industrial Engineering, North Carolina State University; Officer’s Training, U.S. Army Command & General Staff College, U.S. Army War College; Certified Financial Planner™  
Greatest personal achievement: Marrying greatest girl in the world, and raising 3 wonderful children  
Greatest professional achievement: Preserving and protecting my country as a career Army Officer  
Guiding philosophy in life: Try to emulate, in even a small way, the invincible characters of George Washington and Robert E. Lee  
Favorite pastime activity: Golf
J. Michael Phelps, Esq.
General Solicitor
Tiburon, California

State Society: California  
Year Joined: 1999
Occupation: Attorney-at-law (member California State Bar since 1975)

Greatest personal achievement: Wonderful wife; great son; many years of volunteer service to numerous 501(c)(3) nonprofit entities in both attorney and non-attorney positions.
Greatest professional achievement: Top rating (“AV”) from Martindale-Hubbell for many years; listed in Bar Register of Preeminent Attorneys for several years
Guiding philosophy in life: Using my knowledge and abilities to help others.
Favorite pastime activity: Spending time with my wife; doing historical/generalogical research.

William R. Hearter, Jr., MD
Scottsdale, Arizona
General Registrar

State Society: Arizona  
Year Joined: 2005
Occupation: Physician/Diagnostic Radiologist
Education: Doctor of Medicine

Greatest personal achievement: finding 25 Revolutionary War soldier ancestors
Greatest professional achievement: Doctorate of Medicine
Guiding philosophy in life: What goes around, comes around
Favorite pastime activity: SCUBA diving

Col. Charles C. Lucas, MD
Greenwich, CT
Surgeon General

Occupation: Physician
Education: B.A.s Chemistry and History, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; M.D.,University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Residency, Duke University

Greatest professional achievement: President, SRNY
Guiding philosophy in life: Honor
Favorite pastime activity: Sailing and golf

George Clayton Ames III
General Chaplain
Philadelphia, PA

State Society: PSSR  
Year Joined: 2006
Occupation: Presbyterian Clergyman
Education: Lafayette College, Easton, PA; New College, University of Edinburgh, Scotland; Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ; Harrington University, London

Greatest personal achievement: Preaching for the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, Philadelphia, January 2007
Greatest professional achievement: Working with National Guardsmen and their families through three deployments since 9–11–01
Guiding philosophy in life: I am an unabashed and unreconstructed Christian
Favorite pastime activity: Singing, baseball (the Phillies), rugby football
Richard Dana Smith, Sr.
General Captain of the Color Guard
West Chester, PA

State Society: PSSR  Year Joined: 1977
Occupation: Manufacturer’s Representative, Retail Packaging
Education: B.A. Business, Oakland University, Rochester, MI (1968)

Greatest personal achievement: Nationally ranked Gold Master’s Triathlete
Guiding philosophy in life: Live life to the fullest
Favorite pastime activity: Going to the YMCA 7 days a week and having competed in triathlons for 25 consecutive years

Gordon Burns Smith
General Historian
Savannah, Georgia

State Society: Georgia  Year Joined: 1975
Occupation: Attorney-at-law (and retired U.S. Army officer)
Education: A.B. History, The University of Georgia; J.D., Cumberland School of Law; U.S. Army Command and General Staff College

Greatest personal achievement: in Masonry: 33º Inspector General Honorary, Scottish Rite; and Knight of the York Court of Honour, York Rite
Greatest professional achievement: only lawyer ever to graduate as such from the U.S. Army Ranger and Airborne Schools (Fort Benning, GA) and to subsequently serve in Vietnam, Korea, and Iraq
Guiding philosophy in life: from my father: duty to God, country, and family; from my grandfather: in fishing, keep your hook in the water; in golf, count each of your opponents’ shots
Favorite pastime activity: Researching, writing, and publishing books, working with the Boy Scouts, and chopping weeds in the haggard of his home in Labasheeda, County Clare, Republic of Ireland
The California Society held its annual luncheon on January 30 at the Annadale Golf Club in Pasadena. Members approved the Treasurer’s report and voted in a new slate of officers and a new class of directors.

Officers for the new term include: Douglas R. Boyd, Sr., President; Paul W. Gray, Senior Vice President; Brett A. Landis, Vice President; Samuel Ferrell, Secretary; and Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr., Treasurer. Directors are as follows: C. Robert Ferguson, Gerald I. Jack, Brett A. MacDonald, Scott E. Tracy, and Charles B. Witt, Jr.

The featured speaker was Capt. Tim Escobar, USANG, who has served as an attack pilot and air-assault pilot.

—submitted by Society Director Gerald I. Jack

As of mid-February, the Florida Society was planning its first meeting for 2010 in March. The main issues on the agenda were increasing the membership (three new memberships were pending) and improving attendance at events. The Society also planned to initiate a second annual meeting within the state.

—submitted by James Lohmeyer

Thirty-four members and four guests assembled for the fifth annual General Nathanael Greene Birthday Luncheon on August 22, 2009 at the Capital City Country Club in Atlanta. Registrar Paul East, in memory of his Revolutionary Ancestor, William Lord, presented the General Nathanael Greene Chapter with a beautifully carved wood gavel, striker block and holder.

Dr. Gregory H. Nobles, author, lecturer and Professor of History at Georgia Tech, spoke on Benedict Arnold. The Hon. Jack Winters, Jr. and Guyton McCall, Esq. were each presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for their work on the Chapter Bylaws and Yearbook.

—submitted by Second Vice President Christopher Frame

The annual President’s Reception on November 6, 2009 was again held at the Philpot House, home of the Green Spring Valley Hunt Club. The evening was unusually warm and the party spilled onto the patio in front of the house. One month later, the Maryland Society held its fifth annual George Washington Brunch at the Engineers Club in downtown Baltimore. This event is not associated with the Commander-in-Chief’s birthday. The featured speaker was John Marshall, Manager of Guest Relations at Mount Vernon.

—taken from Fall/Winter 2009/2010 SR Intelligencer

The St. Louis Chapter held its Modern Patriot Award Dinner on December 4, 2009, at the Racquet Club–Ladue, honoring Sanford N. McDonnell. More than fifty members and guests attended. “Sandy” is a chairman emeritus of McDonnell Douglas Corporation and nephew of McDonnell Aircraft founder James Smith McDonnell. He is a leading advocate to get character education back in the public schools. Mr. McDonnell is greater chair of CHARACTERplus in St. Louis and Chairman Emeritus of Character Educations Partnership, Inc. in Washington, D.C. In 1984 he was named St. Louis Man of the Year.

—submitted by Society President Rick Strelinger

The New Jersey Society continues to support the local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In early February, President Gerald G. DeGroat presented the Chinkchewunska Chapter, NJDAR, with grant money toward the restoration of the Van Bunschooten Museum, Wantage, NJ, headquarters for the Chapter. Nancy Malone, Second Vice Regent and House Chairman, and Wendy Wyman, Chapter Regent, visited the SRNJ to acknowledge the monies.

—submitted by Society President Gerald G. DeGroat
The one-hundredth anniversary of the death of John Austin Stevens, Founder of the Sons of the Revolution, falls on June 21, 2010. The SRNY, through the leadership of Dr. Laurence Simpson, purchased and inscribed a memorial headstone to be placed near the family vault in Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn. A dedication ceremony has been scheduled for June 14. All interested SR members and guests are welcome to attend. For more information, contact SRNY @ 212–425–1776 or visit http://www.sonsoftherevolution.org.

On November 23, 2009 the SRNY hosted a dinner in Fraunces Tavern Restaurant commemorating the 226th Anniversary of Evacuation Day. The guest speaker was William M. Sanders, Executive Director of Portraits of Patriots. The Portraits of Patriots commemorates the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington and has made available reproduced copies of the steel engraved presidential portrait of Washington by William E. Marshall (1862). The copies are signed artist proofs, printed on acid-free archival stock, with a 3” embossed border, framed in mahogany. To order a copy, call or email patriotspx@aol.com

—compiled by Editor

TENNESSEE

Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander spoke to the crowd assembled for the rededication of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in early September. After serving two terms as Governor of Tennessee, Mr. Alexander has just begun his second term in the United States Senate. He is a descendant of the Revolutionary Capt. Thomas Rankin and was admitted to Society membership in 2004.

—submitted by Tennessee Society

Photo courtesy of Tennessee Society


Pennsylvania

The PSSR Color Guard has provided Fraunces Tavern Museum with funding for the restoration of Washington and Members of Congress Leaving Christ Church (after a memorial service for those lost in the victory at Yorktown, 1781). This restoration should be complete in time for the opening of the new Dunsmore Gallery at the museum. To date, five Dunsmore restorations have been underwritten by the PSSR Color Guard.

Dr. W. Steven Mark, Color Guard Captain, has announced that the PSSR Color Guard is offering development assistance to other SR color guards within Region 2, where the PSSR is located. This assistance might be financial support, organizational support, or even the sharing of the PSSR Color Guard’s Manual of Arms’ and drill methods which have evolved over more than a century.

—compiled by Editor

Virginia

A total of 54 Society members, family and their guests attended an old-fashioned Virginia oyster roast held at Fort Pocahontas on November 14, 2009. The event provided a welcomed occasion to enjoy good company, beautiful scenery along the James River, as well as classic Virginia fare: roasted oysters, barbecue, cornbread and cold beverages.

Despite the inclement weather, the event was a great success. The Virginia Society would like to offer our special thanks to Harrison Tyler for hosting and to Meriwether German for coordinating the event. Mr. Tyler, host of the event, is the grandson of John Tyler, 10th U.S. President and member of the Confederate States Congress.

—submitted by Society Secretary N. Douglas Payne, Jr.
J. Robert Lunney and Merl Smith say they were just doing their jobs, following orders. Dong-Hyuck Won sees it a little differently.

"Frankly, we wouldn't have survived without these men and their shipmates," the retired Seoul, South Korea, service station owner said, recalling a mass evacuation of civilians in December 1950 by American Merchant Marine ships.

"The entire harbor was in flames and under bombardment," he said. "The Communists were getting closer and closer, killing everyone. It was a desperate situation to be in."

Won was a 14-year-old farm boy when he, his father and some 14,000 other refugees were evacuated from Hungnam Harbor and carried to safety aboard the SS Meredith Victory, an unarmed freighter, while Chinese and North Korean troops poured into the fallen city. It's now listed by Guinness World Records as the largest rescue by a single ship in history.

Smith was an engineer aboard the ship while Lunney served as executive officer. Won said he's lucky to have escaped alive.

On December 21, 1950, when Hungnam Harbor fell, the U.S. Navy evacuated American and United Nations forces there but had no space for the refugees. Although the Meredith Victory was loaded with highly explosive jet fuel, the captain ignored enemy bombardment and navigated through the mine-filled harbor to take all refugees aboard and safely transported them to South Korea.

Smith, a retired marketing manager, and Lunney, a retired lawyer, greeted Won at Lunney's home, sharing memories and enjoying a luncheon with members of Won's family. The reunion was hastily arranged after Won met Smith's brother by chance at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C., and spoke of the Meredith Victory.

"We didn't think we were going to survive," Won explained. The whole place was being bombarded and on fire. We were terrified. Finally, we were told to line up and hold on to the person in front of us. We started moving in a long line and at the end was a huge ship and a few American soldiers," he said, chuckling at the memory. "I had never seen such a big ship or such big people before."

Lunney said it took a full day and night to rescue everyone, remembering that the refugees were loaded into the ship's five holds on pallets, like cargo. He said they were crammed among drums of jet fuel with no food, water, heat or bathrooms.

"We were a freighter with a crew of 50," Lunney said. "We didn't have any kind of accommodations for passengers."

It was really, really miserable for them, but continued on page 14.
they didn’t complain at all. They were very courageous."

Won added: “We couldn’t move at all, we had lice, and we were exhausted. There was nothing to eat or drink, and we didn’t know where we were going or how long it would take. But we were alive, and safe, and that’s all that mattered.”

After a three-day voyage, the Meredith Victory landed at Koje-Do Island, in South Korea. Lunney and Smith remember that many of the refugees turned and bowed gratefully to the crew as they exited the ship.

Once on the island, Won remembers that each refugee was given a bowl of rice. “It was the most delicious food I’ve ever had!” he said.

The Department of Transportation describes it as a “miracle voyage” and “the greatest rescue in the history of mankind.”

Whereas schoolchildren in South Korea learn about this historic event, it is rarely noted in the United States.

General President Emeritus J. Robert Lunney served in Korea with the Merchant Marine during the Korean War. Following active duty, his Naval Reserve duties included ten years service in Naval Intelligence, three tours in command of JAGC units, and a tour as Staff Judge Advocate at Readiness Command Region Two, Scotia, NY. He retired from the Naval Reserve in 1987 as a Captain, at which time Mario Cuomo, then-Governor of New York, promoted him to Rear Admiral in the NY Naval Militia. Mr. Lunney has participated in joint recovery operations in North Korea recovering American war dead and has conferred with the North Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs on POW/MIA issues.

Q & A: SR TRIVIA

Q: Who holds the record for longest membership in the Sons of the Revolution?

A: According to GSSR records, the late Richard W. Thorton was a PSSR member for 74 years, from 1920 to 1994. Mr. Thorton was the father of General President Emeritus James Thorton II (1994–1997). He joined on January 6, 1920 and passed away on January 8, 1994.

—Sharon Toms, Asst. to the General Registrar
A Re-Enactor’s Take on the City of Savannah

Text and photos by
P. Jeffrey Lambert

Last summer North Carolina State Society President and veteran re-enactor P. Jeffrey Lambert spent four months working in Savannah, Georgia. Prior to that time, he had taken part in the December 2003 re-enactment of the Fall of Savannah and in the subsequent October 2004 re-enactment of the Siege of Savannah. These experiences combined to give him a deep appreciation for the history of that charming city, a historic jewel by the sea.

With the next General Society Triennial to take place in Savannah in 2012, it would be fitting to describe what I experienced there and give you a glimpse into what you have in store when you visit.

My affection for Savannah began with my participation in the 2003 re-enactment of the Fall of Savannah. I recall it was a beautiful day as we prepared for battle on the banks of the Savannah River. Our fighting started off at the Riverwalk and progressed through the historic district. Between volleys, I admired the buildings framed by canopy trees dripping with moss.

Every turn brought us to a new square with its own particular monument, unique fountain and distinctive charm. Savannah, I affirmed, is truly a beautiful place and so rich in history.

Our “retreat” took us through the Colonial Cemetery, where, on this day, “rest in peace” had no meaning for us. Pressed by Crown forces, we planned a hurried exit out the back gate of the cemetery, yet there was a small problem. Someone failed to remove the padlock from the back gate. A police officer nearby took bold action: He ran to his cruiser, opened the trunk, and withdrew the biggest set of bolt cutters I have ever seen. Thanks to such quick thinking, we were rescued from a dark fate and continued the exhaustive exercises.

Ten months later, I revisited the city again in October 2004 to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the Siege of Savannah, when I portrayed a member of the First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line, a unit that took part in the siege in 1779. The event also marked the dedication of the newly-restored Spring Hill Redoubt at Battlefield Park. I joined more than 1,500 re-enactors to commemorate the bloodiest day of the American Revolution.

Looking down the barrel of a musket is one way to truly—and quickly—appreciate those who gave all they had in their fight for freedom so long ago.

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Early in the morning, several hundred persons went to Battlefield Park at the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Louisville Road, and Liberty Street for a solemn commemorative ceremony. Long after the Revolutionary War, the site had become the rail yard for the Georgia Central Railroad. Only recently had it been purchased and restored to its rightful place as a battle memorial.

We marched in formation to the dedication site, which seemed somewhat like Armageddon. Although the rails, ties, and all of the remnants of the once-busy rail yard were gone, the smell of the creosote still permeated the air and acted as a reminder of the hallowed ground’s more recent history.

The ground was still a toxic mess: arsenic, creosote, oil and other substances accumulated over the years and would need to be cleaned. When the soil was turned over, it contained no life presence.

After the ceremony, we then reinterpreted the battle on expansive grounds of the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport, where an eighteenth-century British and American camp was established with 300 to 600 pitched tents. The public was invited to watch.

In hindsight, what was truly rewarding and most gratifying about that weekend was the lasting impression it made upon the people. The re-enactment served as a catalyst to help launch the restoration of a part of the original siege line at Battlefield Park that included the Spring Hill Redoubt. As part of the restoration project, the ground would be completely “scrubbed.”

I returned to Savannah again in the summer of 2009, this time as a civilian. The only aiming and shooting I did in those four months was through the viewfinder of a camera, not down the barrel of a musket. I resided in a carriage house in the historic district, which allowed me the opportunity to spend my off hours touring the many historic sites and monuments that the city proudly displays.

**Essential Sites to See**

The following are some of the Revolutionary War-related sites and monuments that I saw during my three visits:

**The Sergeant Jasper Monument** in Madison Square is a 15-½ foot bronze statue depicting the heroic sergeant who bore the colors of the Second Regiment of South Carolina Continentals during the 1779 Siege. The bas relief panels on each side of the monument represent one of three episodes in Sergeant Jasper’s career: 1) the ramparts of Fort Moultrie where Jasper, under heavy fire, bravely replaced the flag; 2) the liberation of Patriot prisoners; and 3) the dying hero’s last moments on that fateful day, October 9, 1779. This monument is located on what was once part of the outer-most defenses of the city.

**Les Chausseurs Volontaires de Saint Dominigue,** or the “volunteer foot soldiers,” in Franklin Square, were free men of African descent who volunteered to fight against the crown forces in Savannah. They left Haiti to help the cause of American independence.

Part of the inscription on the monument reads: “[The] rebelling American colonies and their French allies attempted to capture Savannah from the
British in 1779. Haitian soldiers of African descent were part of the allied forces...."

The Pulaski Monument in Monterey Square honors General Count Casimir Pulaski for his loyalty to the cause of liberty during the American Revolution. Pulaski, born in Lithuania, was mortally wounded while fighting with the legion of his namesake during the Siege. The monument stands 55 feet tall, the base of which depicts the scene in which General Pulaski was hit by canister.

Four cannon, one at each corner of the surrounding fence, are inverted, a symbol of military loss and mourning. When restoration of the monument took place in 1996, a box containing what was believed to be the General’s remains was discovered. After several years of forensic work and DNA matches from family members buried in Poland, the authenticity of the remains was confirmed. In 2005 the General was buried (once again) with appropriate military honors.

Colonial Cemetery / Park served as the town cemetery from 1750 to 1853. It is a “who’s who” of early Georgian history, which includes many Revolutionary War heroes. The entrance to the park is graced by a beautiful gate with an ornate iron entranceway, contributed in 1913 by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Major General Nathanael Greene was originally interred in the Colonial Park Cemetery, in the Graham Vault. His remains were moved to Johnson Square just after the turn of the twentieth century.

Washington’s Guns, located on Bay Street near City Hall, features two bronze cannon which President George Washington presented to the Chatham Artillery after his visit to Savannah in 1791. One is English and the other is French, both beautiful examples of the art of 18th century ordnance manufacture. The British 6 pounder states that it was “surrendered by the capitulation of York Town, Oct. 19, 1781.”

Through the years, the “Washington Guns” have welcomed many distinguished visitors to Savannah. During the War Between the States they were buried beneath the Chatham Artillery armory and left there until 1872, when Federal occupation troops had departed. In 1881 the guns were taken to the Yorktown Centennial, where they led the celebratory parade.

Nathanael Greene Monument in Johnson Square was left un-inscribed until 1886. Before 1852 it had served as a monument for both Nathanael Greene and Casimir Pulaski. The 50-foot, white marble obelisk was completed in 1830. The Marquis de LaFayette was present for the ground-breaking ceremony as well as the ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking its completion. On March 21, 1825, the Marquis laid the cornerstone. At the dedication ceremony General LaFayette said:

“The great and good man to whose memory we are paying a tribute of respect, affection, and regret, has acted in our revolutionary contest a part so glorious and so important that in the very name of Greene are remembered all the virtues and talents which can illustrate the patriot, the statesman, and the military leader...”

Following the war and in appreciation for his service, the state of Georgia awarded Greene with Mulberry Grove Plantation, located just north of Savannah. In 1786, Greene died of sunstroke at Mulberry Grove and was buried in Colonial Park Cemetery. After 114 years of resting in the Graham

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Vault, his remains were re-interred at Johnston Square, within the base of a new monument.

During President George Washington’s tour of the South in 1791, he paid honor to his compatriot and dined with Catherine “Caty” Greene, widow of the general, at Mulberry Grove plantation.

Spring Hill and #14 Redoubt(s) in Battlefield Park today serve as a memorial “worthy of the exalted fame” of those who died there. When I returned in 2009, I witnessed the tremendous improvements that had been made at Battlefield Memorial Park. The stench was gone. Today, the new park features a 50-foot flagpole flying a 13-star American flag, a field of 800 granite pavers represents the casualties incurred during the attack on the British fortifications, and earthen representations of the Spring Hill and #14 redoubts.

The 800 markers are arranged in columns, 8 wide by 100 deep. This “stone regiment” also represents one of three similar-sized columns of soldiers that assaulted the British fortifications.

“The Washington Guns are fine examples of 18th-century ordnance manufacture. In 1881 the guns were taken to the Yorktown Centennial, where they led the celebratory parade.

Realizing that each of these 2-foot x 2-foot makers represents a casualty, one immediately “gets” the enormity of the onslaught that took place here in an hour’s time.

Through the purchase of a paver with a donation to the Coastal Heritage Society, the public may honor soldiers, units, or countries involved in the patriotic cause. A donation entitles one to membership in the exclusive Society of 1779.

As a Supporting Member myself, I felt it fitting to sponsor a marker in honor of Col. Richard Parker, Commander of the First Virginia Regiment, who later lost his life at Charles Town (Charleston), S.C. in May of 1780. When you visit Savannah, do make Spring Hill Redoubt part of your trip.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Savannah at the 2012 Triennial.

P. Jeffrey Lambert, N.C. Society President, has been participating in Revolutionary War re-enactments since 1980. Mr. Lambert is a former commander of the First Virginia Regiment and in addition to the Sons, he belongs to the N.C. SAR and the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati.
America's Oldest Existing Military Commands
By David W. Swafford

The Drumbeat with Flintlock & Powderhorn salutes those historic military commands of the original thirteen colonies that were chartered before or during the Revolutionary War and that still perform official state functions today, based on their original charters or redrawn charters. In future issues, we will feature additional historic military commands of later years.

ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY (MA), Organized 1638. This is the third oldest chartered military organization in the world. Legally, the company still operates as a militia, although its charter has been changed. Contact: 4th Floor, Faneuil Hall, Quincy Market, Boston, MA 02109; (617) 227–1638; www.ahac.us.com/history.htm

ARTILLERY COMPANY OF NEWPORT (RI), Organized 1741. Twenty-five years after being chartered by King George II of Great Britain, half the membership joined patriot forces and the others joined Loyalist units, but the old company was never disbanded. Contact: P.O. Box 14, Newport, RI 02840; (401) 846–8488; www.newportartillery.org

VETERAN GUARD, THIRD INFANTRY REGIMENT (PN), Organized 1747. The Veteran Guard, Third Regiment Infantry dates back to 1747 and was first known as the “Associators.” Benjamin Franklin helped organize this group. Contact: 2700 Southampton Rd, Philadelphia, PA 19154; (215) 677–4404; www.vg3reginf.com

FIRST COMPANY GOVERNOR’S FOOT GUARD (CT), Organized 1771. The First Company Governor’s Foot Guard is the oldest U.S. military organization operating on original charter. Until 1775, it was known simply as the “Governor’s Guard.” Contact: 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06144; (860) 522–1337; www.footguard.com

THE KENTISH GUARDS (RI), Organized 1774. The Kentish Guards was chartered in 1774 to protect the town of East Greenwich. Thirty-five members went on to serve as officers in the Continental Army, including Nathanael Greene. Contact: 1774 Armory St., East Greenwich, R.I.; www.kentishguards.org/index.htm

THE PAWTUXET RANGERS (RI), Organized 1774. The Rangers initially organized to protect the seaport village of Pawtuxet. The unit built and manned the fort on Pawtuxet Neck, helping protect 400 miles of the Rhode Island coastline. Contact: Armory Hall, 59 Remington Street, Warwick, R.I.; (401) 785–1774; www.members.cox.net/pawtuxetrangers

GLOUCESTER LIGHT INFANTRY (RI), Organized 1774. Organized in Chepachet, the Gloucester Light Infantry served at the battles of Bunker Hill and of Rhode Island. Its original charter was reactivated in 1975. Contact: 33 Dorr Drive, Chepachet, R.I., 02814; (401) 568–9525; www.gloucesterlightinfantry.org

FIRST TROOP PHILADELPHIA CITY CAVALRY (PA), Organized 1774. The First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry is a private military organization in official service of Pennsylvania and the United States. It was organized to defend the First Continental Congress. Contact: The Armory, 22 South 23rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103; (215) 564–1488; Email: adjutant@ftpcc.com

SECOND COMPANY GOVERNOR’S FOOT GUARD (CT), Organized 1774. When the news of the Battle of Lexington reached New Haven, the militia voted to march to Cambridge under Commander Benedict Arnold. Contact: P.O. Box 9670, New Haven, C.T. 06536; www.footguard.org/Email: xo2ndgfg@gmail.com

BRISTOL TRAIN OF ARTILLERY (RI), Organized 1776. This command, still occupying its original armory headquarters, was founded to defend the town of Bristol. Contact: 135 State St., Bristol, R.I. 02809; (401) 253–3453, BTAHistoricmilitia@mac.com

FIRST COMPANY GOVERNOR’S HORSE GUARD (CT), Organized 1778. This company upholds the traditional pageantry of the U.S. Cavalry. It has provided colorful and dignified escorts to many dignitaries. Contact: 280 Arch Rd., Avon, CT 06001; (860) 673–3525; www.govhorseguards.org
Editorial Policy

The General Society Sons of the Revolution issues the following publications in print and electronic formats.

The Editor of the Drumbeat and the Flintlock & Powderhorn actively seeks manuscripts and articles for publication. Suitable topics for the Drumbeat are articles about the state and local Sons of the Revolution Societies, their activities and members. Articles should be approximately 100 to 500 words, and photos should be included when possible. Drumbeat submissions will be printed in a timely manner.

Articles sought for the Flintlock & Powderhorn include narrative history, biography, historiography, historic preservation, and related fields of study that deal with the time period and place of the American Revolution. The Editor reserves the right to submit all manuscripts for review by a committee prior to publication. No guarantee is given as to when an article will be published in the Flintlock & Powderhorn.

The Society assumes no responsibility for statements or opinions of contributors.

All submissions are requested by email or on disk/CD, but print versions can also be mailed or faxed. If mailed or faxed, submission must be typed on 8 1/2” x 11” paper, double-spaced. If pictures are to be returned, please send self-addressed, stamped envelope. The Society is not responsible for items sent through the mail. Please do not send original or irreplaceable materials or photographs.

The Editor reserves the right to make any editorial conformity of style. Authors grant the General Society Sons of the Revolution one-time publication rights, both print and electronic editions. Articles in this publication are indexed by the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) produced by the Allen County Public Library Foundation.

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