



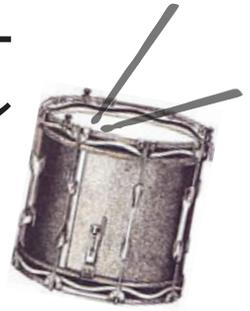
# Drumbeat

with *Flintlock & Powderhorn*

News of the Sons of the Revolution

Volume 30 Number 3

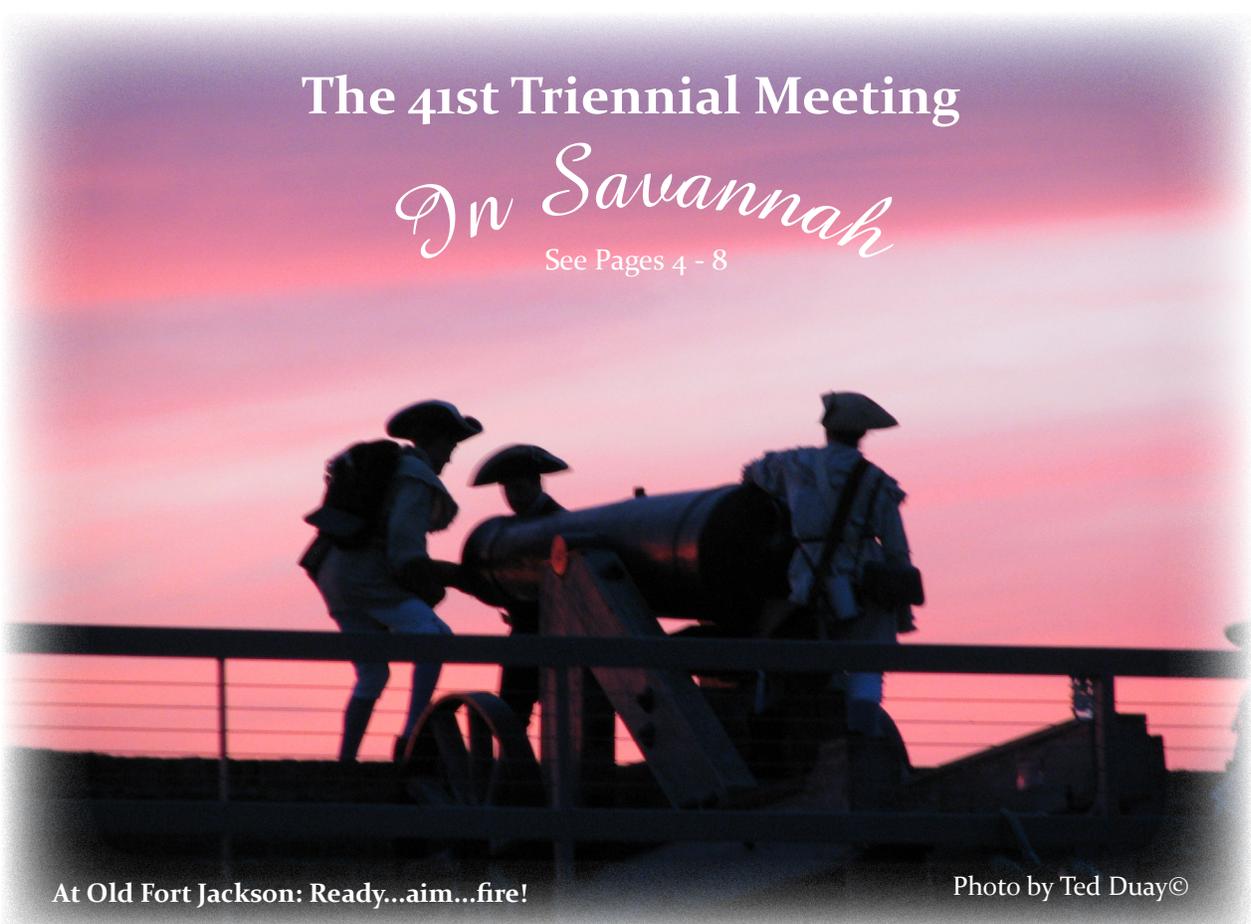
Fall 2012



## The 41st Triennial Meeting

*In Savannah*

See Pages 4 - 8



At Old Fort Jackson: Ready...aim...fire!

Photo by Ted Duay©



General President Curtis P. Cheyney, III



General Officers of the 2012-2015 Triennium



## Order Your SR Merchandise

It is now easy to place an online order for GSSR merchandise, such as regalia, ties, tote bags, books, desktop flags, wine stoppers, drink glasses and more. It's all thanks to a new link that is positioned on the home page of the GSSR Website. When you visit the home page, locate the left-side menu and just scroll to the bottom. Click on the link, "Members can purchase online merchandise [HERE](#)."

You may also access the merchandise by putting the Product Store address into your browser and hitting enter. Address

is: <http://sr1776.3dcartstores.com>. Either way, check out the new way of supporting your General Society and demonstrating affiliation!—*Editor*

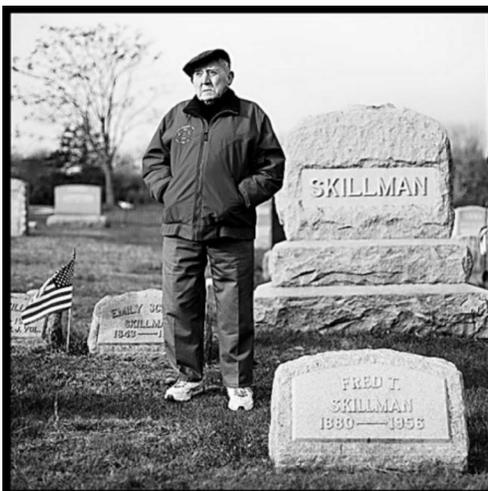
## Help Preserve the Pensions!

The War of 1812, often called the "Second Revolution," was a pivotal moment in our nation's history. Without the strength and courage of the Patriots who fought in that war, the American Revolution may have ended up being just a footnote of British history and conquest.

Now is a great time to help preserve the honor of those veterans. The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), in collaboration with National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Ancestry.com, and Fold3.com, has committed to raising \$3.7 million to digitize and post online the more than 7.2 million pages comprising the War of 1812 pension records set. For every dollar the FGS raises, Ancestry.com will match the contribution. In turn, Fold3 will make the images freely available on the Internet as soon as they are processed.

Preserving and providing free access to those consequential historical records is extremely timely—and urgent! The heavy use on those increasingly fragile, 200-year-old documents is taking its toll. The NARA indicates that among its most frequently requested items by genealogists and family historians currently are the War of 1812 pension records. NARA handles more than 3,000 such queries annually.

Interested individuals may contribute to this project. For more information and to make a donation, please visit [www.FGS.org/1812](http://www.FGS.org/1812).—*submitted by Rebecca Koford and Curt Witcher. Rebecca is a professional genealogist specialized in paleography; Curt is FGS vice president for development and chair of Preserve the Pensions!*



Tom Skillman—Photo by Matt Rainey, NJ.com©

## A Sad Day Unforeseen

We regret to inform readers that NJSR member Tom Skillman, whom we had named as the oldest living member of the Society, unfortunately passed away earlier in the year from natural causes. The *Drumbeat* article on him (Vol. 30, No. 2) had originally been planned for Spring publication. For space considerations, however, it was moved to the Summer issue. By the time we were notified of Mr. Skillman's death, the Summer issue had been already printed and was in distribution.

The General Society extends its condolences to the Skillman family and friends; the New Jersey Society has lost a fine, upstanding member and a bit of the twentieth century itself, as was encapsulated in his long life.—*Editor*

# President's Message



## Be Involved; Make an Impact

Wishing to serve the cause of the General Society, I accept the responsibility of the office of General President. While I can take Terry Davenport's seat, I cannot fill his place. He was the right man at the right time, and for the best reasons, to order the Society as it moved forward from Glendale.

The General Society has been blessed by his leadership. I have especially enjoyed working with him and all of the members of the Executive Committee during his administration and have made new, lifelong friends.

By the stated names of the Patriot ancestors on our membership applications, we commemorate their service for our early country. It is not enough to just remember and memorialize their names; it is another challenge altogether to measure our lives and our Society's public works as our forefathers measured theirs—lives of dedicated participation. It is my commitment to energize

and revitalize our General Society for our separate missions to meet the goals of the essential characteristics of our Society—to remember, to honor, and to educate.

I am reminded of what King David, a man, a warrior, a king—a man quite larger than life—said to his son, Solomon, on his deathbed, as reported in 1 Kings 2:2: "I am about ready to go the way of all flesh; therefore, my son, be a man."

Solomon understood the challenge of being a son, and he was to get involved, to participate and to replicate the essential character of his father as a leader, for the good of the nation, during every ongoing moment of his life. I believe our ancestor-fathers are challenging us to refocus and restart our essential character as gentlemen-patriots, sons of our forefathers' costly revolution that started a nation which is now at a crossroads of its destiny.

I believe that as Sons of their Revolution, we must measure our lives not by passive membership, but by demonstrating continuous examples of active, patriotic involvement. It is ours to replicate the essential character of our forefathers, with the same vigor by which they participated in the American Revolution and its cause for freedom.

Therefore, I suggest that for the next three years, our General Society will be of one purpose and one focus, which is to become more engaged, more involved and to promote more member involvement; to actively support and be a useful agency for the State Societies. We can act as an ombudsmen for the States regarding new educational and patriotic projects. For the next three years the General Society will remain fixed on its essential purposes and on meeting the goals of our Society.

It is the States that bear the heavy burden of most programming and public outreach, but the General Society needs to be a ready helper for the States. We will renew our work with the GSSR website as an outreach, providing you with more information and inspiration. We will always consider and re-evaluate the adequacy of our own efforts as we seek to advance the goals of the General Society, and we will encourage the State Societies in their challenges for greater outreach and education and for gaining new membership.

God bless America, and God bless the Sons of the Revolution. Thank you.

Curt Cheyney



# The 41st Triennial Congress: Dignified, Purposed, and Great Fun

With high expectations, delegates and guests of the General Society, Sons of the Revolution gathered for the 41st Triennial Congress in Savannah, Georgia beginning on Wednesday, October 3, 2012. Hosted by the Georgia Society, the weekend event was dignified, purposed, and great fun.

Beginning on that first evening, at the art studio of sculptor Susie Chisholm, early arrivals were greeted with spirited drink and light hors d'oeuvres. Ms. Chisholm, who has previously exhibited a life-size bronze of Samuel Adams at the Boston Tea Party Museum, is a candidate for the announced GSSR project to erect a life-size bronze of General Nathanael Greene at the Valley Forge Washington Memorial Chapel.

In fact, recognizing General Greene's brilliant legacy was a recurrent theme throughout the Triennial.

### 300 Attendees

Registration began the next morning. By that evening, over two-hundred members and guests gathered for the opening reception at the Savannah Yacht Club, which was hosted by the Pennsylvania Society's Color Guard.

The Yacht Club event featured shrimp and grits with brown gravy, a regional favorite. The Pennsylvania Society's Color Guard also provided for generous rounds of Chatham Artillery Punch, another traditional favorite in Savannah.

Total registrants for the weekend reached nearly three-hundred persons. Members and guests stayed at the Marriott Courtyard in Savannah's historic district, adjacent to the hallowed ground where the Battle of Savannah was fought. Business sessions were held in the nearby Coastal Georgia Center, a component of the University

System of Georgia.

Attending Thursday's dinner was the Saturday night banquet's guest speaker, Janet Uhlar, author of *Freedom's Cost: The Story of General Nathanael Greene* (See *Drumbeat*, Volume 30, No. 2). Her years of research, combined with her collegial personality, led her to easily engage attendees with unique reports of the General's outstanding contribution, especially in his role as Quartermaster General at Valley Forge and by his military successes in Georgia.

### Telfair Banquet

The high event of the weekend, without doubt, was the Saturday evening banquet celebration. Hundreds of members and guests arrived to the multi-level Telfair Academy in formal attire, and each guest was greeted by a local contingent of Boy Scouts and a Scottish Piper, a reminder of southeast Georgia's long Scot history and tradition. The Telfair Academy is a national historic landmark, with beautiful works of art that serve as a backdrop to enhance organized events.

The Georgia Society reserved the lower level for a cocktail party where attendees mingled about the free-standing sculptures and viewed various original paintings. Dinner was served in the upper level, the Rotunda, where General President Emeritus Terry Davenport recognized the succeeding General President of the Sons for Revolution, Curtis P. Cheyney, III, of Pennsylvania.

President Cheyney commended President Davenport for his years of excellent service and declared him as the "right man at the right time for the best ordering of our Society." Then President Cheyney set forth his agenda for the next three years, including the encouragement of more active participation rather than passive membership.

### GSSR OFFICERS (2012-2015)

General President	Curtis P. Cheyney, III (PA)
General VP, Region 1	Henry N. McCarl (MA)
General VP, Region 2	Caswell Cooke (NJ)
General VP, Region 3	R. Mitchell Bush (GA)
General VP, Region 4	David L. Rutherford (TN)
General VP, Region 5	Robert D. Rati (IN)
General VP, Region 6	Douglas R. Boyd, Sr. (CA)
General Secretary	Laurence S. Simpson (NY)
Asst. General Secretary	Russell P. Rich (MD)
General Treasurer	Matson L. Roberts (GA)
Asst. General Treasurer	Phil Coombs, III (NY)
General Registrar	Jefferson M. Moak, II (PA)
General Historian	Gordon B. Smith (GA)
General Solicitor	Benjamin C. Frick (PA)
General Chaplain	G. Clayton Ames, III (PA)
General Surgeon	Lee Park (MD)
Gen Capt, Color Grd	W. Steven Marks (PA)

### Elected Emerati

General President	Terry L. Davenport
Region 2 General VP	Richard M. Patterson
General Captain	Richard Dana Smith, Sr



**The Business Sessions**

The business session on Friday morning opened with the Call to Order by General President Davenport and the invocation offered by General Chaplain Rev. G. Clayton Ames, III. The Colors were presented by the New York State Society’s Color Guard. Georgia Society President Christopher K. Frame led the assembled delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance and provided welcoming remarks that were well received by the more than sixty voting delegates in attendance.

The General Solicitor, acting as Parliamentarian, noted the presence of a quorum; he set forth the Triennial Guidelines as in effect, including an announcement of the Triennial’s adherence to *Robert’s Rules of Order* and the Triennial Standing Rules. The assembled delegates moved to approve the proffered agenda; the 2009 Triennial meeting minutes from Glendale were also approved.

Reports from each of the General Officers proceeded, followed by reports of the Standing and Appointed Committees. Among the latter reports, the Nominating Committee presented its recommended slate of new General Officers for consideration.

Furthermore, it was unanimously agreed to confer Emeritus status upon General President Davenport and Region 2 General Vice President Richard Patterson. At the motion made by SRNY Color Guard Captain Jonathan Ridgeway, Emeritus status was conferred upon General Color Guard Captain Richard Dana Smith, Sr., who was unable attend the Triennial due to his advanced illness.

In recognition of the years of service by General Captain of the Color Guard Richard Dana Smith Sr., President Davenport announced that a GSSR memorial flag was being dedicated to him by three members: Acting General Captain W. Steven Mark, M.D.; PSSR Color Guard Captain Robert R. Van Gulick, and Captain Ridgeway.

Continuing, Captain Ridgeway then announced a specially-made 1794 flag, “The Flag That Never Was,” as a gift to General Vice President David Rutherford and the Tennessee Society from the New York Society’s Color Guard. (See Tennessee State News, page 18.)

In a final gesture, he then presented to the GSSR a New York Society Color Guard memorial flag in honor of the late Reverend Charles C. Wilcox, III, of the New York Society. Rev. Wilcox had been a member of the New York Society and its Color Guard for sixty years.

**Significant Developments**

The Headquarters Relocation Committee’s report was presented by General Secretary Cheyney on behalf of the Committee, including its members M. Hall Worthington and James Stebbins. Secretary Cheyney reviewed the responsibility of the Committee as directed by the Board of Managers. He also reviewed the site-selection process, the recommendation for Williamsburg, lease negotiations, final terms, and the protocol for transition to provide seamless service to the Society.

**GSSR Awards, 2009-2012**

Modern Patriot Award	Janet Uhlar, author/speaker
Patrick Henry Award	Dr. Laurence S. Simpson (NY)
Jay Harris Award	Richard M. Patterson (MD)
<u>Membership Achievement Award</u>	
Largest Percentage Increase	Michigan Society
Largest Numerical Increase	Virginia Society
<u>Richard Farmer Hess Award</u>	
Small Society	North Carolina Society
Medium Society	Maryland Society
Large Society	Georgia Society
<u>Trent Trophy Award</u>	
Small Society	North Carolina Society
Medium Society	District of Columbia Society
Large Society	Georgia Society



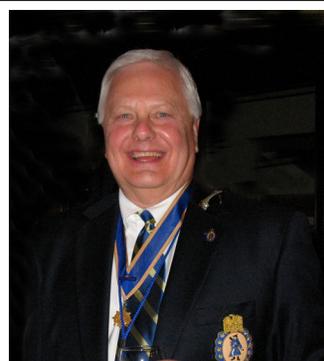
Delegates unanimously approved and ratified the Committee's and the Executive Committee's decisions and actions for the relocation of the General Society headquarters to the historic building at 421 Frances Street W., Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.

Along with the new headquarters, another significant development to come to pass was a Petition of twelve Alabama Members-at-Large, all residents of Alabama, seeking to establish a new Alabama Society of Sons of the Revolution and to be welcomed into the General Society.

General Solicitor J. Michael Phelps approved the Petition and informed the delegates that all qualifications for chartering a new Alabama Society had been confirmed. Upon the unanimous vote, the Motion by the New State Society Committee was approved; the General Society chartered the Alabama State Society of the Sons of the Revolution and welcomed this Alabama Society and its members into full active status.

Region 3 General Vice President Mitchell Bush noted that at least thirty additional qualified members were ready to join the Alabama Society. Present in the room was one of those men who had been pre-qualified: Member-at-Large Lieutenant Colonel Edward Jeep, United States Marines. Lt. Col. Jeep was recognized; his ongoing service to our country was noted with appreciation.

Following the Friday business session it was announced that the General Society was making a second grant to the Fraunces Tavern Museum. A check was presented to FTM Director and Curator Jessica Baldwin. She provided a succinct history of the Museum as well as an update of planned exhibits, includ-



ing the refurbished Dunsmore paintings. SR members and friends, including the Society of Pennsylvania, have generously supported the ongoing Dunsmore project. The refurbished collection will go on display soon.

The business meeting was closed on Friday afternoon; however, the colorful and cheerful mood among delegates continued to prevail into Friday evening at Old Fort Jackson, the oldest military installation in the state. Old Fort Jackson is located two miles east of downtown Savannah, along the river's marshy edge. Owned and operated by the Coastal Heritage Society, the brick fortification was built in 1808 and named after James Jackson, a British native who fought for the patriot cause during the Revolution. Against the backdrop of a beautiful sunset, members toured the grounds, ate dinner, and witnessed the firing of 32-pound black powder cannon.

**New Officers & New Projects**

During Saturday morning's meeting, General President Emeritus M. Hall Worthington announced the General Society's Certificates of Appreciation to Dr. William C. Christenberry and, posthumously, for Larry Nathan Burns. The two gentlemen, as co-editors of General Society Publications, produced exemplary work in *Flintlock and Powderhorn*, when it was a stand-alone publication.

Thereafter, the Nominating Committee opened the nomination process for further nominations from the floor, having the day before announced its slate of General Officers for the next Triennium, 2012-2015. There being no competing nominations introduced, the Com-



mittee's slate was unanimously approved to the satisfaction of all delegates. (See the complete list of names, page 4.)

Following the election of officers, General President-elect Cheyney made two additional Committee Reports available for the delegates. The first, by the Special Projects Committee, noted the successful winner of the General Society's Essay Contest on the topic of the Federalist papers.

The winning essayist, John Jay Institute Fellow David Crater, submitted a well-documented and professionally presented essay on Federalist Paper 78, about the prominence of the US Supreme Court, as written by Alexander Hamilton. Mr. Crater received a cash prize and a GSSR Certificate of Recognition.

The second report, by the Patriotic Awareness Committee, detailed a special project between the GSSR and another prominent society to erect a life-size statue of General Nathanael Greene on the grounds in and around Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Secretary Cheyney gave a brief history of General Greene, including his importance at Valley Forge, his participation at Yorktown, and especially his military leadership in the Southern Campaign which ultimately drove the British from Georgia.

Such services warranted his greater recognition, Mr. Cheyney said. Therefore, the GSSR and the Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge have joined to contract the sculpture and place it on the grounds of the Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge. State Societies are urged to collaborate, especially in those states where General Greene was born, provided military service, and held colonial leadership.

The remaining portion of the business meeting was for the traditional Memorial Service, honoring all members who had succumbed to the inevitable during the previous year. General Chaplain Ames presided over the service, which included a memorial booklet containing biographical information on the members who were honored in the service. The booklet was

compiled by Sharon Toms with Chaplain Ames. Following words given by the Chaplain, a representative of each State Society that suffered a death among its members came forward to place a long-stemmed carnation into a standing vase of flowers.

After the conclusion of scheduled business, General President Davenport introduced to delegates a presentation by Ancestry.com for consideration. The presentation was a business proposal: In exchange for *Ancestry.com* completing at no cost the digitization of thousands of GSSR membership records, that information would then be posted on the *Ancestry.com* website and made available to the public. It was pointed out the project would benefit State Societies in their recruitment efforts; however, the proposal was taken under advisement for decision and/or recommendation by the new Executive Committee.

### Georgia Society Acknowledged

With the business sessions ending before the lunch hour on Saturday, delegates exited the Coastal Georgia Center

and prepared for the two major social events for the day: the noontime Savannah River Paddle Boat tour and the evening banquet.

No Triennial event would be complete without a worship service, and on Sunday morning the delegates assembled behind the Pennsylvania Society's Color Guard and marched with the flags to the Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church to participate in worship. The flags of the Society were on display during the service, and the Society members were warmly welcomed.

Following the service, delegates returned to the hotel for the traditional Farewell Sherry and for a final sharing of the goodwill that emanated throughout this Triennial Congress. The graciousness of the Georgia Society and the fine attention to details which its members provided helped make the 41st Triennial a huge success. The Ladies' Tour of Savannah on Friday afternoon was provided by an expert tour guide, Billy McIntosh; Judy Freeman and Rosemary Frame, worked diligently and expertly at administering the babysitting services and arranging the children's programs to free the parent adult members and guests. Their collective services were much appreciated. ■



*The Commemorative Coin of the 41st Triennial features the SR insignia and the House of Burgesses in Williamsburg, Va. The latter is symbolical of the new location for the General Society headquarters. —Photo by Lynne Ridgeway*

**Observations of RADM J. Robert Lunney, NYNM (Ret.),  
General President Emeritus and Chairman,  
National Preparedness Committee**

## *The Launching of Hermione, the Frigate of Freedom*

On July 6, 2012, the French Association Hermione-LaFayette and the associated Friends of Hermione-LaFayette in America hosted celebrations in Rocheport, France and in New York City with the launching of the replica frigate *Hermione* into the Charente River at Rocheport. A fifteen-year endeavor had come to a resplendent conclusion as the hull touched water.

Just two days after Independence Day, over 50,000 people attended the launching in France while the event was broadcast live via satellite to the French Consulate in New York.

Amongst the many dignitaries present were: U.S. Ambassador to France Craig R. Stapleton, French Ambassador to the U.S. M. François Delattre, and former U.S. Ambassador to France Howard H. Leach. Members of the European Society, Sons of the Revolution, also attended on invitation from the Consul.

The project of rebuilding the *Hermione* began back in July of 1997, when the two sovereigns embarked on a modern journey to recreate a piece of their joint history by constructing an exact replica of the vessel that 23-year-old Marquis de LaFayette boarded to sail to America in 1780. It was a trip that forever linked France and the French with American independence. The resulting friendship between the two nations has endured for over two-hundred years.

The Hermione-LaFayette Association organized the ambitious challenge. The replica was constructed in an open-air interactive museum at Rocheport, where teams of artisans revived the same craftsmanship and materials that were used to build the original frigate. The ongoing work over the years attracted millions of visitors to the muse-

um. (See Spring *Drumbeat*, Vol. 30, No. 1, pp. 8-9).

Like the original vessel, the replica measures more than two-hundred feet long with a mast of 177 feet high. It features thirty-four cannons and has been authentically rebuilt using 2,000 oak trees selected from French forests. The vessel contains 400,000 pieces of wood and metal, as well as one ton of oakum for caulking.

Both the French and American celebrations featured the official announcement of the modern *Hermione's* voyage to the U.S. in the spring of 2015, which will retrace LaFayette's historic voyage. King Louis XVI had commissioned the *Hermione* to signify France's support for our Revolution.

Not only did the frigate bring assistance to the Colonies, but she later took part in the sea battle at Chesapeake Bay that ultimately led to the British surrender at Yorktown.

The replica frigate will be crewed by trained naval cadets who will travel to the same East Coast ports to which LaFayette sailed. "The voy-

age of the *Hermione* to the U.S. will be an exciting reminder of French-American cooperation during the Revolutionary War," stated Ambassador Leach.

The legacy of alliance between our two nations continues into the modern era. The lasting friendship and commitment to freedom on both sides of the Atlantic is represented by the present-day celebration of the *Hermione* journey. For more information on the frigate and its 2015 trip, please visit <http://friendsofhermione.org/> ■



*Consulate guests look on as the replica Hermione makes its maiden launch at the Rocheport shipyard.—Photos by Thomas Pernette, courtesy of the French Consulate*



*European Society representatives Charles Carroll and Robert J. Lunney meet with diplomats at the French Consulate.—Photos by Thomas Pernette, courtesy of the French Consulate*

## Mild Winters Spur New SR Tradition

Like waterfowl that darken the skies in their migratory flights, a number of SR members in the Societies of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin have become Midwestern snowbirds themselves. What is their annual destination?

Sunny Florida.

Beginning in 2008, SR members living on Lake Michigan who wanted to escape the cold, wet, snowy winters began to rendezvous in central Florida for what they call Winter Encampment Luncheons.

On the second Tuesday of December, January, February, and March, they meet for socializing and camaraderie at the Hotel Jacaranda in Avon Park. A short, one-hour drive from Orlando or an hour from either coast, Avon Park is centrally located—and the Hotel Jacaranda is one of Florida's grand old hotels from the Art Deco era.

When you live near Lake Michigan, says Illinois Society President Donald E. Gradeless, you develop an urge that soon becomes a routine on the first and last snowfall of the season: migrations to and fro.

### A Budding New Tradition

"We gather at the bandstand before 10:30 a.m. and have our luncheon in the hotel at 11:00 a.m.," says President Gradeless. A founding member of the Winter Encampments, President Gradeless says the weather is always terrific. "Florida has sun-



L-R: Dave Eddy (SR-MI), Jim Hutchinson (SR-IL), Donald Gradeless (SR-FL, IL, IN, MI, WI), Jacqueline Haynes, Evelyn Wilder, Donna Jackson, DeWayne Jackson (SR-IN Associate), Bill Wilder (SR-IN), and Robert G. Haynes.

shine even in the winter, and, best of all, it does not snow in central Florida."

Snow shovels, snow tires, and tire chains? Bah, humbug!

The original group is intent on expanding the numbers of snowbirds flocking to Avon Park. They have opened up the annual gatherings by inviting members of all lineage societies in the Great Lakes region, their spouses, families, and friends.

"We meet rain or shine. The attire is always Florida casual. A good time is had by everyone," President Gradeless says. "Winters amongst central Florida's orange groves are always mild by nearly any standard of measurement!"

"We never know who will be able to come. Sometimes there are six of us, sometimes twenty," President Gradeless reports. "If it gets extremely cold (below 65°) rather than meet in the bandstand for our pre-lunch discussion, we gather in the lobby of hotel."

Another of the habitual snowbirds from the SR is Jim Hutchinson, 97 years young. Mr. Hutchinson attends the SR Winter Encampment Luncheons to rendezvous with the SR-Illinois members who migrate. Jim has lived year-round in the Sunshine State for the past three decades, having given up migration completely.

For more information about the luncheons or to make reservations, contact SR-Illinois President Donald E. Gradeless at [DrG@execpc.com](mailto:DrG@execpc.com), or [Gradeless@gmail.com](mailto:Gradeless@gmail.com).—submitted by Donald E. Gradeless



Post card source: <http://www.thejumpingfrog.com>



## CALIFORNIA

On Saturday, September 22, 2012 the Sons of the Revolution of the State of California and the Claremont Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored their yearly observance of Constitution Week.

The purpose of Constitution Week is to stress the accomplishments of our Founding Fathers and commemorate the adoption of our Constitution on September 17, 1787. It is the goal of the SR and DAR to help educate our nation's youth, and its recent immigrants, about our country's heritage and its Constitution. The event was highlighted by the attendance of SR members, led by Board member Wayne Rogers, who was in period dress as an officer in the Revolutionary War.



L-R: Wayne Rogers makes a point about Washington with Beth Hartnett, a reporter for the Claremont Courier.—Photo courtesy of Nancy Smith

This event is one of several programs in which the California Society is engaged to help insure that our nation's history is perpetuated and passed on to this, and future, generations, augmenting and presenting our true heritage. This presence corrects alternative perspectives seen in many of today's history books, which focus excessively on politically correct

topics and negatives, instead of the true events and significance of the founding of our nation. The Society also works in cooperation with the Society of the Cincinnati in encouraging schools to adopt into

their curriculum the "Why America is Free" program. The Society also offers periodic seminars for educators.

Wayne first devoted himself to the historically correct teaching of America's past twelve years ago after attending a "Parent Night" at his daughter's middle school. He discovered that rather than teaching about George Washington's significance to the founding of our country, instead the only thing being said about him was that the nation's first president was a slave owner. The students were not told of any of his numerous and significant accomplishments.

The event was organized by the California Society Vice President C. Robert Ferguson and his wife, Claremont DAR Chapter Regent, Peggy Burke Ferguson. The event included speeches, flag retirement, and refreshments.—*submitted by Paul Gray*

## INDIANA

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of Indiana were pleased to host General President Terry L. Davenport during the Society's Fall Meeting, held in Indianapolis September 1, 2012. The meeting took place at American Legion Post 500, located in front of the famed Indianapolis 500 race track.



L-R, from first row: Mrs. Carol Hedrick, Mrs. Margaret Rati, Region 5 General Vice President Robert D. Rati, General President Terry L. Davenport, SRIN-President S. Clark Wyllie, Lance Davenport; second row: Bryant C. Pedigo, Dee C Saul, SRIN-Vice President J. Alan Teller, SRIN-Surgeon Dr. Neal Pitts, SR-Illinois President and SRIN-Registrar/Treasurer Dr. Donald E. Gradeless; SRIN-Secretary William C. Wilder, and SR-Illinois member Jim Barr; third row, SR-IN Board Members Kevin L. Waldroup and Bradford Hedrick.— Photo by Mrs. Leeann Teller

The turnout for the meeting was very high and included members from the Illinois Society as well as Ohio residents who've joined the Indiana Soci-

ety. The program included lunch and a presentation by General President Davenport. Just a few days earlier, the venue had hosted the American Legion National Convention.



Indiana Society members 'coaxed' President Davenport behind the wheel of an Indy 500 race car!—Photo by Mrs. Lee-ann Teller

Later in the month, it was time for SR members to prepare for the annual "Back to the Days of Kosciuszko" festival at the Kosciuszko County Fairgrounds. The event, founded twelve years ago, was originally intended to honor Revolutionary War hero and Kosciuszko County namesake Thaddeus Kosciuszko. From that it has grown to portray sutlers, venders, civilians, Native Americans, mountain men, military personnel and civilians spanning the years of Kosciuszko's lifetime, 1746 – 1817.

The Indiana Society will officially convene next for its Spring 2013 meeting at the Woodstock Club in Indianapolis.— *submitted by Bob Rati*

## MARYLAND

### Maryland Society Holds Annual Meeting

The Maryland Society held its Annual Meeting on March 10, 2012 at the historic Maryland Club. Following the brief business meeting, a Color Guard Ceremony was performed by the Continental Color Guard drawn from the 3rd U.S. Infantry stationed at Ft. Myer in Virginia. They have participated in every presidential inaugural parade since 1961.

Society members and their guests then enjoyed fine dining and danced to the strains of the Bill Elliot Trio. Two new members, William Brockway Spencer and Stewart Thomas Shettle, were welcomed into the Society. William Brockway Spencer qualified for membership as a descendant of Dr. Matthew Thornton, a signer of the Declaration of

Independence. Stewart Thomas Shettle qualified as a descendant of Daniel Shettle, who volunteered for service in the Second Pennsylvania Battalion in December 1775.—*from The SR Intelligencer, Spring/Summer 2012*

### Society Supports Waverly Mansion

The Maryland Society Board of Managers decided last year to support the preservation of the historic Waverly Mansion in Howard County, Maryland. The mansion was once the home of the famous Dorsey officers in the War of the Revolution and was eventually owned by Col. John Eager Howard. Last December, members of the Society's Historic Projects Committee, including Chairman Thomas B. Shettle, visited the mansion and received a tour of the facilities upon presenting the check to Preservation Howard County, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the historic sites of Howard County, Maryland



L-R: SRMD Historic Project Committee Chair Tom Shettle and Fred Dorsey, president of Preservation Howard County, at the Waverly Mansion. Nathan Dorsey built the main section of the mansion between 1756 and 1764.—Photo courtesy of Buzz Warren

Fred Dorsey, president of Preservation Howard County, showed the Sons a few of the ideas which his organization had in mind for erecting a pedestal of historic information which might highlight the Dorseys' and Howards' various military service during the Revolutionary War. When the project is completed the Society will return for the unveiling.

In 2011, the Maryland Society convened its Mint Julep Garden Party at the Waverly Mansion. While sipping their mint juleps, those in attendance learned all about the historical significance of the home during the Revolutionary War.—*from The SR Intelligencer, Spring/Summer 2012*

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Celebrating Lincoln Family Roots

Early in the year, members of the Massachusetts Society were on hand at the 36th annual Lincoln Day celebration in Hingham, Massachusetts on Saturday, February 4, 2012. Lincoln Day celebrates the legacy of Hingham's Revolutionary War hero, General Benjamin Lincoln, and President Abraham Lincoln, whose ancestors first settled in Hingham in 1637.

The festivities included a church service, parade, reenactment, all preceded by a military-style gun salute from the grounds of the Old Ship Church, facing the direction of Benjamin Lincoln's tomb in the Hingham Cemetery.

The parade from the church to the cemetery featured a color guard from the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company (once commanded by General Lincoln), re-enactors from the Massachusetts 22nd and 54th volunteer infantries, as well as representatives of the Society of the Cincinnati, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, and other lineage groups including the SR.

The festivities concluded at Fountain Square, where a commemorative wreath is laid each year at the foot of the statue of Abraham Lincoln. Fountain Square is just across the street from Benjamin and Abraham Lincoln's ancestral homes.—*Editor*

### Annual 'Wearin' of the Green'

As the rest of the world celebrates just one main event on March 17, in the Boston area two official occasions are celebrated that day—St. Pat's Day and Evacuation Day. Those in-the-know have coined a unique word for the double event: St. Patrick's Day 'Paradevacuation.'

For that reason, the SR, SAR, and other Revolutionary War lineage groups don their greens and take part in the annual march that pays tribute to Ireland's most beloved Patron Saint. In fact, this year, the unique mix of celebrations was seen from the very beginning of the parade, which commenced with a black-power gun salute fired off by the Lexington and Plymouth Minute Men militia.

According to blogger Paul Burns (SligoHeritage.com) in 2010, while many Irish fought in the Continental Army, there were no all-Irish units. Nine of Washington's generals were born in Ireland, but only one of them, Brigadier General Edward Hand (from County Offaly) was present at Yorktown. The French Army contained three Irish regiments,

named after their organizers as the Regiments of Dillon, Berwick, and Walsh. The Regiment of Dillon saw the most service on the American side of the Atlantic, though elements of Walsh's regiment were the first to aid the American cause when they were assigned as marines to John Paul Jones's *Bonhomme Richard*.

As for St. Paddy's Day, the annual celebration in Boston pre-dates the Revolutionary War itself. According to the History News Network, one of the earliest surviving references to the celebration of St. Patrick's Day in that city is the establishment of the Charitable Irish Society, which occurred on St. Patrick's Day of 1737.—*Editor*



*A black-powder gun salute during St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Boston— Photo by James Klim ©*

## MINNESOTA



*L-R: Society President Edward R. Lief, Esq., former Minnesota Chief Justice "Sandy" Keith, and Society Vice President Col. Ronald E McRoberts (Fall 2011).—Photo by Tim Harris*

*Editor's Note:* In the Spring 2012 *Drumbeat*, Vol. 30, No. 1, a photo submitted by the Minnesota Society was not given proper credit. Please note, the photo above was taken by Tim Harris.

## NEW YORK

### New York City Flag Day Parade

The 235th anniversary of the adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress was observed with a parade on Flag Day 2012 (June 14) through Lower Manhattan. Enthusiastic schoolchildren, bands, historical organizations, and various patriotic groups, including the Sons of the Revolution, participated in the colorful event. Participants and bystanders displayed American flags of every shape, size, and historical period.

The Parade began at 12 Noon, departing from the south end of City Hall Park and proceeding south on Broadway toward historic Fraunces Tavern and the Flag Day Ceremony Stand, set up at the corner of Broad and Pearl Streets. It was on that corner where schoolchildren sang songs and proclamations and recitations were read—all honoring Old Glory.

Along the route, the color guards of the U.S. Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard proudly presented various flags. Contingents from the New York City Fire and Sanitation Departments, and many of the City's oldest historical and patriotic societies, also participated. One of the most dazzling and historically significant aspects of the parade was the presentation of many historic Revolutionary War flags by the SRNY Color Guard.

As the parade came to a conclusion adjacent Fraunces Tavern, winners of the 4th grade New York City Public Schools essay contest read their works aloud for the public to hear. The topic of the annual contest is, 'What does the American Flag mean to me?'

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York has organized the Parade annually since President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation in 1916 establishing June 14 as Flag Day. It was on June 14, 1777, that the Continental Congress approved the Stars & Stripes and detailed its design to serve as a rallying point for the troops of the Continental Army during the American Revolution.—*submitted by Jim Grayshaw*

### Early Morn on July Fourth

For the tenth year in a row, walking-tour guide James S. Kaplan escorted a group of curious tourists, sleepless night owls, Wall Street trivia buffs, and assorted Fraunces Tavern Museum members through the old streets of Lower Manhattan in the wee hours before dawn on July Fourth. During the tour, Mr. Kaplan shared little-known facts about



*The SRNY Color Guard gallantly parades the colors through lower Manhattan for Flag Day 2012.— Photo by Lynne Ridgeway*



*Parade participants assemble at City Hall Park during last year's (2011) festivities.*

— Photo by Anthony Wellman, © prleap.com

important Revolutionary War heroes, some of whom are buried in Lower Manhattan. Participants learned of the pivotal importance of New York City during the American Revolution. The tour concluded at Trinity Church, where the group watched the sunrise. Mr. Kaplan leads other NYC walking tours as well.—*submitted by Jim Grayshaw*

### Independence Day Naturalization

Every year on Independence Day, the New York Field Office of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services conducts a number of special naturalization ceremonies at meaningful landmark locations in the New York City area, including Fraunces Tavern. On July 2 this year, twenty-one individuals accepted the oath as American citizens at Fraunces Tavern. The ceremony's keynote speaker, U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis, gave a meaningful address. She is the daughter of immigrants from Mexico and Nicaragua. She told the audience, "Mom and Dad raised me to believe

in the American Dream. They raised me to believe that if you worked hard and gave something back, you could do anything."

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection Honor Guard presented the Colors, and Museum Director of Education, Jennifer Patton led the National Anthem. SRNY President James R. Grayshaw, a judge, administered the oath and congratulated each new citizen. —submitted by Jessica Baldwin

### One Newsletter Becomes Two

To accommodate the growing marketing and public relations needs and interests of the New York Society and the Fraunces Tavern Museum, a strategic decision was made to begin publishing a second newsletter, where only one had served before. *Museum Messenger*, produced by FTM Director Jessica Baldwin, was launched some weeks ago and targets museum enthusiasts and professionals.

At the same time, *The Patriot* will continue to broaden and deepen its coverage of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York. The SRNY continues to search for a volunteer editor of *The Patriot*, preferably a member of the Society. If interested, please contact SRNY President Jim Grayshaw via email at: GrayshawSR@aol.com.—Editor

### Fraunces Tavern Celebrates 250 Years

This year commemorates the 250th anniversary of Fraunces Tavern. Dwarfed by neighboring skyscrapers, the building in lower Manhattan was originally constructed as a home in 1719. It wasn't until 1762 that Samuel Fraunces acquired the property and turned it into a pub. In 1904, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York bought it and added the museum, thanks to funds willed by Frederick Samuel Tallmadge.

So much history has passed under its roof, some largely unknown. "According to the Chernow biography," reported SRNY Treasurer Ambrose Richardson, III, "Aaron

Burr and Alexander Hamilton shared a banquet table at Fraunces Tavern on July 4, 1804, during a celebration of the Society of the Cincinnati. Nothing transpired between them at that moment, but their lethal duel took place only a week later, on July 11, 1804."

Just imagine all that has passed under its roof in the 91,000-plus days since 1762.—Editor

## NORTH CAROLINA

### A New Chapter Organizes

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of North Carolina is pleased to announce the successful chartering of the General William L. Davidson Chapter. A dinner was attended by nearly twenty charter members on Friday, Sept. 28, at the Charlotte Country Club in Charlotte, N.C.

In its first official meeting, the following officers and board members were elected and installed: Gus Succop, Chapter President; Randolph Lee, Vice President; David Boggs, Secretary; David Rich, Treasurer; and BOM members Steve Avent, David Boggs, Allen James, and Howdy Nicklas.

Following the installation ceremony, President Succop gave an initial report on the status of the Chapter. Later, a motion was made, passed, and seconded to create a scholarship program for students of history at the University of North Carolina—Pembroke campus. On hand to read a letter of thanks from the University was Professor Robert W. Brown, department chairman.

The newly created chapter adopted the name of General William L. Davidson because the militia general was one of North Carolina's most imminent figures during the war. By 1776, Davidson was a major of the Fourth Regiment of the N.C. line, during which time he marched north and participated in the Battle of Germantown. Afterward he was promoted to lieutenant colonel of the Fifth Regiment. He was at Valley Forge with Washington and came to know all of the most influential commanders in the Army.

In 1780, Lt. Col. Davidson was severely wounded at the Battle of Colson's Mill, but he survived and was later promoted to brigadier general following the capture of General Griffith Rutherford. Subsequently he commanded Rutherford's Salisbury District militia. Although his military career was exemplary, the general's life was unfortunately cut short at the Battle of Cowans Ford in February of 1781. Nevertheless, the militias he commanded



successfully slowed the British army from pursuing General Daniel Morgan in the latter's "race of the Dan." General Davidson is buried at Hopewell Presbyterian Church on Beatties Ford Road, north of Charlotte.—*submitted by Jeff Lambert*

### A Busy Fourth of July

North Carolina SR members Paul Conway, Dan Hopping, Scott Kennedy, and Grant Peterson took part in three different ceremonies in Raleigh on the Fourth of July this year: Let Freedom Ring, a naturalization ceremony, and a wreath-laying ceremony at the George Washington Memorial. Joining the men were the Raleigh and Fayetteville Chapters of the SAR, including the State SAR President Glenn Sappie.

Meanwhile, SR members Frank Horton, Lee Harford, and Jeff Lambert took part in a naturalization ceremony in Winston-Salem. In fact, the trio served as Color Guard for the event, which was held at the Old Salem Museum and Gardens.

—*submitted by Jeff Lambert*

## PENNSYLVANIA

### A Forty-Three Year Tradition

For the forty-third consecutive year, the Pennsylvania Society celebrated Let "Freedom Ring" at Independence National Historical Park on July 4th in Philadelphia. A luncheon at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel preceded the SR parade to Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. The Society was honored to have as its guest Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett. The native Philadelphian graciously mingled with attendees and willingly joined for pictures.

The keynote speaker at the luncheon was Michael DiYeso, president and CEO of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, who attended with his family. Following lunch and in the spirit of tradition, the Pennsylvania Society Color Guard paraded from the hotel to Independence Hall, with streets closed to traffic and flags flying to the sound of drumbeats and bagpipes in the most colorful way. Color Guard Captain Rob Van Gulick led his guardsmen in a sharp-looking formation.

After the Sons' arrival to Independence Square, INHP Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod welcomed everyone on a beautiful sunny day and reminded visitors of the pivotal anniversaries our nation celebrates this year—the 225th of the Constitution, the 200th of the War of 1812, and the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. She then introduced special



*L-R: Color Guard Captain Rob Van Gulick, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett, and PSSR President Jim Burke mingle before lunch.—Photo courtesy of Lanny Patten*



*The Society's Color Guard advances toward Independence Hall.—Photo courtesy of Lanny Patten*



*President James Burke speaks at Independence Hall.—Photo courtesy of Lanny Patten*

guest actress Ellen Burstyn, who read excerpts from the Declaration of Independence. Following Mrs. Burstyn's reading, everyone enjoyed listening to the Orpheus Club Choir's spirited patriotic music.

Gov. Corbett and Mr. DiYeso delivered marvelous remarks fitting for this day in American history, and a Patrick Henry impersonator contributed irascible commentary leading up to the 2 p.m. ringing of the bells. Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter was also present for the spirited day-long event.

The bell ringers are junior members of the So-

ciety of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. Two new young citizens, formerly of India, also joined the other children in tapping the bell. As they tapped the Liberty Bell, the imposing Independence Hall Bell Tower tolled out at the same time.—*submitted by Lanny Patten*

### PSSR Loses Inspiring Member

On September 4, 2012, PSSR Honorary VP Winchell Smith Carroll, 75, passed away after extended health issues. Win had chaired or co-chaired "Let Freedom Ring--the Nationwide Ringing of Bells" for a respectable fifteen years. Among his other patriotic activism, Win held leadership positions in various civic causes, including the restoration of Washington Square, the saving of Paoli Battlefield, and the campaign to have the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route designated a National Historic Trail. He had devoted over twenty-five years of proud service to his American heritage, and he is missed.—*submitted by Lanny Patten*

## RHODE ISLAND

### July Fourth in Newport



Colony House, Washington Square, Newport—Photo by Eileen Westgate



The patriotic cannon salute by Newport Artillery Company at Eisenhower Park, Washington Square, Newport—Photo by Eileen Westgate

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### Greetings to the C.A.R.

In early August, the South Carolina Sons of the Revolution presented greetings at the 2012 C.A.R. Summer State Workshop, held at the Army National Guard's McCrady Training Center in Eastover, S.C. This year's State President's Project, championed by C.A.R. State Society President Callie Cox, supports the USO's 'United through Reading' program.

Society Secretary Jeff Jordan offered the youth organization best wishes and salutations on behalf of the SR, and presented them a check for \$100 as a small contribution and token of appreciation. The State C.A.R. Society has many local chapters throughout the Palmetto State, and members work diligently on their many ongoing projects. A tour of the McCrady facility, arranged and presented by USO Programs Manager Katie Kennedy, was the highlight of the all-day summer workshop.

The SR-SC extends special thanks to Christine Burnette, senior chair for the S.C.C.A.R. President's Project and Senior State Recording Secretary, who helped arrange for the SR presence at the workshop. Mrs. Burnette reminds all SR Societies that the C.A.R. has a dedicated committee called C.A.R./DAR/SAR/SR Relations.

This past April at the C.A.R. national convention, the S.C.C.A.R. received both the SR and the S.A.R. traveling banners for having the most members to join each adult organization. The SR-SC now has three Burnette family members in its membership ranks from the C.A.R.—*submitted by Jeff Jordan*



Members of the S.C. State Society, C.A.R. On the left, Senior State Recording Secretary and President's Project Chairman Christine Burnette—Photo courtesy of Christine Burnette

## TENNESSEE

### “The Flag That Never Was”

During the 41st Triennial Meeting in Savannah, Georgia, SRNY Color Guard Captain Jonathan Wolk Ridgeway presented a specially-made 1794 flag (“The Flag That Never Was”) to the Society of Tennessee in appreciation for hosting the Knoxville Triennial in 2006.

The flag features sixteen stripes and sixteen stars, a reference to Tennessee’s entrance into the Union. Both the stripes and the stars represent the thirteen original colonies, plus Vermont, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Although the design is symbolic of history, the flag is still a fiction and never occurred.

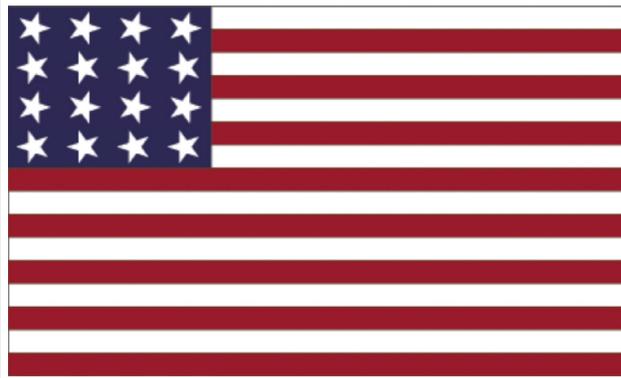
Historically, after Vermont and Kentucky joined the Union, the Flag Act of 1794 -1795 established a flag with fifteen stars and fifteen stripes, which was the official flag of our country for the next twenty-three years (1795 – 1818) and became known as the “Star-Spangled Banner flag.” During those twenty-three years, five more states joined the Union, all without a flag change: Tennessee (16), Ohio (17), Louisiana (18), Indiana (19), and Mississippi (20). It is also the only period when the flag had more than thirteen stripes.

On April 4, 1818, a new flag design was passed by Congress (reportedly at the suggestion of U.S. Naval Captain Samuel C. Reid) which featured twenty stars and a reduction of stripes to thirteen, in honor of the original thirteen colonies. That flag act stipulated that a new star would be added for each new state admitted but did not stipulate a precise pattern for the stars on the canton.

It wasn’t until nearly a century later, with the adoption of the 48-star flag in 1912, that a set pattern for the stars was adopted. On July 4, 2007, the current 50-star flag became the design in longest use so far. The second longest-used pattern was the 48-star flag. ■—Editor



*Historic 15-star flag, issued 1794*



*Fictional flag of 16 stars, 16 stripes (commemorates TN statehood)*



*Historic 20-star flag, issued 1818*



# Tarleton's Raid on Pound Ridge, New York

July 2, 1779  
by Jay Harris

*The following is the second of a two-part article on Banastre Tarleton's raid of Pound Ridge, New York, in 1779, excerpted from God's Country: A History of Pound Ridge, New York by Jay Harris (Hess), Pequot Press, 1971, renewed 1999. The author is a writer and journalist as well as this publication's Assistant Editor for Life. Her late husband, Richard Farmer Hess, was editor of the separate Drumbeat newsletter and Flintlock & Powderhorn magazine from 1985 to 2000. The story is printed here with the permission of the Pound Ridge Historical Society, which now owns the copyright to the book.*

After Tarleton's "British Legion" overtook the town of Pound Ridge, which was not a difficult feat, Col. Elisha Sheldon ordered his regiment of patriot calvary to retreat southward immediately. With the British hot on their heels, Maj. Ebenezer Lockwood and a few men headed toward "Canaan" while the rest of the patriots went down the Stamford road for about three miles.

A number of individual fights erupted at the point where the Americans pulled up to confront their pursuers, or where the British were able to overtake their quarry. But when the futility of chasing the Americans became apparent, Tarleton recalled his men. As the British were returning to [Pound Ridge] some of the local militia went into action, firing on the enemy from behind trees and stone walls, killing one of the dragoons. Irritated by the sniping and the meager success of his mission, Tarleton ordered the meeting house and the home of Maj. Lockwood to be burned.

In addition to serving as Sheldon's headquarters, Maj. Lockwood's home had been converted into a temporary hospital for the wounded of both sides. Two surgeons who had accompanied Tarleton's troops asked that the house be spared. Tarleton refused but permitted the wounded to be evacuated and instructed one of his surgeons to remain in Pound Ridge to care for them. After a brief search for military documents, the standard of Sheldon's regiment was taken as a trophy and the house was burned to the ground. With it went most of the Lockwoods' possessions and the baggage and field equipment of Sheldon's Light Horse.

Adding to the other outrages, an officer of Tar-

leton's dragoons struck the pregnant Mrs. Lockwood with the flat of his sword when she refused to fetch an article he requested.

Some of Tarleton's men had taken firebrands from the flaming meeting house and were about to burn the only other major building in the hamlet, the home of Capt. Joseph Lockwood, when they

were fired upon by militiamen concealed in a field of wheat on the west side of the road. The dragoons dropped their torches and shouting, "The rebels are upon us," leaped into their saddles and rode off.

At this point, Tarleton received word that Maj. Leavenworth was advancing toward the hamlet with a large body of men. Leavenworth had been stationed on the southern Bedford road to intercept an attack from that direction. With his Continentals and some of the militia, Leavenworth moved

cautiously toward the hamlet, prepared to cut off the British retreat by whichever Bedford road the enemy chose to take.

Tarleton assembled his men and a few prisoners and ordered the seizure of Maj. Lockwood's sixteen cows pastured in the hamlet. To mislead Leavenworth, he made a pretense of retreating via the south Bedford road while the main body of his troops took the north road. As soon as he perceived what had happened, Leavenworth ordered his men to march across the fields to the north Bedford road, but by then Tarleton had already galloped by.

As the British troops reached the home of the farmer from whom they had asked directions in the early morning, Tarleton ordered his house burned



*The Pound Ridge Historical Society & Museum, which formerly was the town hall. The building was constructed in the mid-nineteenth century. —Image source: [www.facebook.com/Bedford-Magazine](http://www.facebook.com/Bedford-Magazine)*

in retaliation for what he assumed were deliberate misdirections. This was a mistake, as Crawford was a staunch Loyalist.

In Bedford, Tarleton abandoned the captured cattle, which were impeding his progress, and burned the tavern of patriot Benjamin Hayes and the Presbyterian Church. The combined forces of Leavenworth and Sheldon pursued the British as far as North Castle Church but were unable to overtake them. In all, the skirmish had lasted about five hours. Tarleton returned to his camp on the Bronx River after covering sixty-four miles in twenty-three hours, which was considered quite an energetic feat.

Reports differ as to the battle losses but the consensus seems to be that, of the British forces, two men were killed, four were taken prisoner, one horse was killed, and four others were captured. On the opposing side, no Americans were killed, but ten were wounded. Twelve horses, four citizens, and four soldiers were captured. One of the prisoners taken by Tarleton was Alsop Hunt, son-in-law of Maj. Lockwood. A member of the Society of Friends and a non-combatant, he was known to be “an ardent friend of his country.” He might have escaped capture if his young wife, Betsy, had not insisted on being taken along on his horse. Three members of the Hill family, known for their patriotism, were also captured and imprisoned.

The Sons of the Revolution in 1930 placed a bronze plaque on a boulder in the center of Pound Ridge to mark the site of Tarleton’s raid.

### Masterminding intelligence

Among the documents seized by Tarleton were several from the saddle bags of Maj. Tallmadge, who masterminded the intelligence service for Gen. Washington. The secret service begun by Tallmadge in 1778 was known as “The Culper Ring.” Samuel Culper was the code name for Abraham Woodhull of Setauket on Long Island; Samuel

Culper, Jr., was the code name for Robert Townsend of New York City.

The way in which the ring transmitted information to Washington was in the best cloak-and-dagger tradition. Austin Roe of Setauket would make

a purchase at Townsend’s shop in New York, presenting an order containing military information written in invisible ink. After the order was filled, Roe met Townsend at his lodgings where the message was decoded and other information added. Returning to Setauket where he pastured his cows on Woodhull’s land, Roe placed the coded message in a box which he buried in a corner of the field. Woodhull retrieved it, developed Townsend’s message, and added one of his own.

Meanwhile, Anna Strong’s clothesline was used

as a communications medium. A black petticoat hung on the line meant Caleb Brewster’s whaleboat had arrived, and the number of handkerchiefs hung out to dry indicated the cove in which the boat was hidden. After receiving the message from Woodhull, Brewster rowed across Long Island Sound to Fairfield to deliver

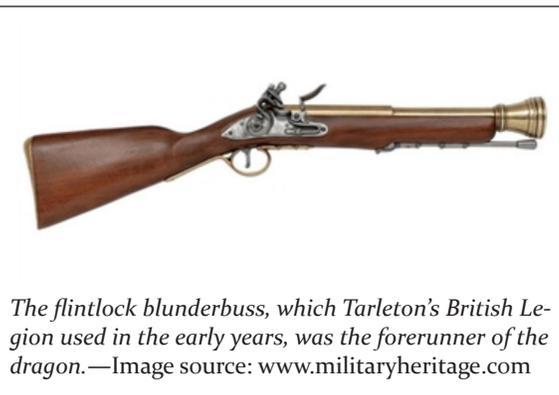
it to Tallmadge. A relay of mounted messengers then forwarded the dispatch to Washington’s headquarters.

Tallmadge records in his memoirs that he “kept one or more boats continually employed in crossing the Sound on this business.” Capture by the British of a coded message among Tallmadge’s belongings at Pound Ridge forced the Americans to abandon the use of a sympathetic stain, so the Major worked out a cipher and numerical code for use thereafter.

British war records concede that the “whaleboats and other piratical craft” nearly completely destroyed trade across the Sound. Tallmadge was promoted to colonel and, following the war, served as a member of Congress and President of the Society of the Cincinnati in Connecticut. ■



*The colors of the Second Continental Light Dragoons, also known as Sheldon’s Horse. —Image source: www.treasurenet.com*



*The flintlock blunderbuss, which Tarleton’s British Legion used in the early years, was the forerunner of the dragon. —Image source: www.militaryheritage.com*

# Martyr to the Revolution

## Captain Stephen Stow

by Richard N. Platt, Jr.

*The author is a native of Milford, Connecticut and is a well-known historian and genealogist. Mr. Platt has served as Milford City Historian since 1998 and is currently President and Genealogist of the Platt Family Association. His given name and surname come from one of the founding fathers of Milford—Richard Platt I, a.k.a “Richard the Deacon.” This article was specially compiled for the SR.*

It is two-hundred and thirty-five years ago, and the thirteen united colonies are at war with the British Empire following the ratification of the Declaration of Independence. You, as a colonist of New England, are a witness to the American Revolution. For the past twenty-five years, you and your lovely family have lived in the Town of Milford, on the Connecticut shore, near where the Wepawaug River spills over a deep and rocky gorge into a long inlet. In spring and summer months, the nearby beaches abound with hard clams and wild plums; the splendid harbor contains abundant blue crab and ocean fish of many kinds.



Aerial view of Milford, including Charles Island  
—Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milford,\\_Connecticut](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milford,_Connecticut)

You take pride in this town, one of the original six plantations of New Haven Colony, established in 1639 by Rev. Peter Prudden and his followers. It is the sixth oldest population center in all of Connecticut and boasts one of the largest town greens in the entire merged colony (the territory now encompassing the formerly separate River, Saybrook, and New Haven colonies).

Traditionally, you have earned your living as captain of a coastal schooner. You conduct trade peaceably up and down Long Island Sound. Normally you take cattle, horses, and other organic goods to ports such as New York City and Providence, where you trade for English-made items that you take back to Milford.

You have traditionally been a law-abiding colonist and have not risked violating any of the trade acts, but as time marches forward you find yourself becoming less tolerant, yea, even angry, with respect to the Mother Country’s intolerable ways. How absurd the 1766 Declaratory Act! How enraging the 1773 Tea Act! How conniving the 1774 Coercive Acts, which shut down trade activity in the

port of Boston.

But, for you, personally, the 1774 Quebec Act (which authorized extending Quebec’s boundaries southward to the Ohio River and westward to the Mississippi River!) and the revised Quartering Act of 1765 (which expanded the types of buildings in which British soldiers could be billeted, including existing barracks and public houses, inns, vitiated houses, empty buildings, barns, and other unoccupied structures) was just too much! The violations of our colonial sovereignty are so contemptible as to ignite the all-out desire and whole-hearted support for complete inde-

pendence from England.

Although you are too old to serve in the militia, at fifty-one years of age you feel strong and healthy; indeed, you are a fine example of sturdy New Englander blood. The splendid woman you married has blessed you with several healthy sons. If this war continues, you hope and expect your sons to fulfill their military responsibility to this beautiful, budding land of liberty. By God, if you have anything to do with it, they shall!

As the calendar pages have turned, you have become a more and more vocal supporter of the colony’s Governor Jonathan Trumbull, who, more than a year ago, refused a request from British General Thomas Gage for more troops from Connecticut following the battles at Lexington and Concord. You thought it superb! Not only did Gov. Trumbull make clear his undying loyalty to the Patriot cause, but he told the general that his British troops would “disgrace even barbarians.” Wondrous!

In your point of view, such emphatic demonstrations of love of country are necessary.

Speaking of emphatic demonstrations, towns-

people attending the Episcopal Church last year still recall when your patriotic passion led you to make a scene. You and your family always occupied the second pew in the church. As good Christians, you attended regularly. However, when the rector gave a sermon one Sunday entitled, “On Loyalty to the King,” you lost your composure and became enraged. You got up angrily in front of the entire congregation and stormed out of the church, never to set foot inside again.

In a word, Stephen Stow, you have become a passionate zealot. Your loyalty to the American colonies is unquestioned. You’ll go to extreme lengths to protect your country, if needed. This is a position you take faster than a blink of the eye: Self-sacrifice in the name of democracy is as instinctive in your mind as the proverbial mother’s sacrifice for her innocent child.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is the afternoon of New Year’s Day, 1777, in the midst of the second season of snow since the war began. The continual disappointments for the Continental Army make the bitterly dank winter even more insufferable. Their latest gaffe was the November loss of Fort Mifflin in the Delaware River. That battle was a decisive British victory that caused the entire garrison to surrender. Who knows but when we will ever hear that George Washington actually wins a battle!

On this day, with the sun behind a cold and gray sky and a heavy fog in the harbor, some of Milford’s residents sight a British man-of-war, flying a flag of truce, putting into harbor in the vicinity of Fort Trumbull. The conditions are not favorable for a good spotting of the ship, however, and it is never seen a second time. Citizens drop their concern. As evening approaches and night falls soon after, you and your family retire to bed.

But during the bone-chilling cold of the darkened night, you are awakened by strange, unidentifiable sounds outside your home. Captain Isaac Miles hears the same thing. Your two houses are nearest the point where the mystery ship in the fog had quietly dropped anchor and dumped two-hundred starving, sickly patriots upon your shore. They were prisoners of war who had been held in

the atrocious, make-shift prisons of occupied New York City. What you are hearing, but can’t quite pinpoint, are their pitiful moans and cries.

You both take your weapons, open your homes, and charge out at the night. But instead of fear grabbing you by the neck, compassion takes hold your heart. After a split second of confusion, you realize the noise is coming from this horde of sick, starving, miserable, and cold men—our men.

You and Captain Miles open your doors to them. Other citizens of Milford soon do the same, taking in these helpless soldiers without knowing of their disease, without knowing that an epidemic would soon spread illness and death across the community. As it is, many of the men are barely clinging to life.

Some of these prisoners are from Connecticut and other parts of New England. They had been made prisoners by the Redcoats during the campaigns in and around New York, beginning with the Battle of Long Island in late

August and early September 1776, and ending with the disastrous surrender of Fort Mifflin on the Hudson River in November. The enemy offered them amnesty if they would give up their support of the Patriot cause, swear allegiance to the King, and join his forces. Most refused, even though they must have been aware of what was in store.

### Early Germ Warfare

David McCullough, in 1776, writes, “What lay ahead of the Americans taken prisoner was a horror of another kind. Nearly all would be held captive in overcrowded, unheated barns and sheds, and on British prison ships in the harbor, where hundreds died of disease.” Indeed, the British captors sometimes told [their] prisoners of good physical condition that they would not be released since their health was too good.

So just what was in store? Pray, tell, what did they suffer! You learn from some of the healthier ones in the lot that they had endured filthy prison ships and even filthier “sugar houses” and had been treated as human swine. Since the British had made Manhattan their headquarters in America, they choose to incarcerate many of their prisoners there—either in stinking old hulks or in ware-



*Built in 1889, the Memorial Bridge & Tower is located on the site of the city’s first mill. Located in downtown Milford, it pays homage to city founders while spanning the Wepawaug River.— Photo by Jan Franco, Meriden, CT ©*

houses where Caribbean sugar and molasses were stored. Three of those warehouses become renowned as unbearably horrid gaols: Livingston's sugar house, Rhinelander's sugar house, and Van Cortlandt's sugar house.

If prisoners are ever released, it generally means they are on their last legs and have become a practical liability for the British army.

The Milford residents do the best they can to provide shelter and warmth, but very soon a crisis develops. It's too much to cope with. The leaders of the town decide to convert the town hall into a temporary hospital. Meanwhile, Dr. Elias Carrington suspects the men are suffering from smallpox and offers to inoculate those townspeople who are willing to help take care of the sick.

Among the war veterans, some are from nearby areas and believe they are well enough to venture home. While a few of them undoubtedly do make it home, others die along the roads and are buried wherever they fall. Herman

Baker of Tolland, for instance, gets as far as East Hartford and is buried on the grounds of what later becomes the Pratt & Whitney aircraft engine factory. Two brothers, Seth and Timothy Doan, both seriously ill, also attempt to reach their home in Chatham (present-day Portland and East Hampton). Timothy manages to get home and survive, later to migrate to Ohio, but his brother dies just before reaching his parents' doorstep.

Sure enough, the tell-tale signs of smallpox are present: You see on some of the men the red spots of early infection, usually on their face, hands and forearms; on others, more advanced cases, the red spots have multiplied and become pus-filled blisters. Still later, the blisters become scabs that leave scars behind. Severe flu-like symptoms accompany the rash throughout the length of illness, although death normally occurs by the second or third week of illness. The high fever and associated organ failure is one of the causes of death. Other causes are infection of the pox lesions and, in some instances, blood clots.

Suddenly, you are filled with the knowledge that helping the poor men left behind is your calling. It is an epiphany of major proportion, a spiritual mo-

ment. This realization, Stephen Stow, is why you were born. It is your destiny in manifestation. You weren't meant to fight the fight as one of George Washington's soldiers; you were meant to lose your life behind the lines by making a silent statement about the values and principles and righteousness upon which this nation must be built.

So, you inform the doctor of your desire, and he inoculates you. Still, exposing yourself to so many infected persons poses great danger. Knowing full well that you are endangering your own life, you decide to make out a will, put your affairs in order, and say goodbye to family and friends.

Although your decision is a heart-wrenching moment for Freeloze Baldwin Stow, your wife of two dozen years, and to your wonderful children, they all understand the importance of what's at stake: Nursing back the health of the men, defending homes, and ensuring freedom for all future generations trump all else at this epic time.

Only you and Dr. Elias Carrington volunteer to

care for the men who remain behind. The sickest souls are removed from the Town Hall to an isolated cottage, a "pest house" northwest of town—a good ways from the community. Food is brought to the front door and left there. Whoever is strong enough walks out to retrieve it and brings it inside to share. When some unfortunate soul dies, he is buried immediately outside the cottage. Nobody on the healthy side of town would want that responsibility.

In spite of all the precautions that were taken, many Milford residents were stricken that evening and the following days, including you. You have seen dozens die from it, and now you know that your turn is coming. The body aches so badly the marrow hurts, and high fever and diarrhea have set in. Then one morning you wake, or maybe you were never asleep, and suddenly you see the red spots on your hands and arms and face. You are a marked man, one of the forty-seven from the pest house that succumb...

So you close your eyes, pray the Reaper comes quickly, and you choose not to fear. ■



*One of the oldest homes in Milford, the former residence of Stephen Stow and family is now home to the Milford Historical Society.—Photo courtesy of Milford Historical Society*

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