



# Drumbeat

with *Flintlock & Powderhorn*

News of the Sons of the Revolution

Volume 27 Number 1 Spring 2009

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photo credit: Charles C. Lucas, Jr., MD

## NYC Evacuation Day!

On November 22, 2008, the 225th Anniversary Evacuation Day Parade, organized by SRNY, proceeded down Broadway from City Hall Park to Bowling Green Park. Then-President John Mauk Hilliard presided as Master of Ceremonies and announced the name and historical and patriotic significance of each of the thirty-five participating units. Proclamations were received and read from NY State Governor David Paterson and NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg. The vanguard of the Parade was led by then-First Vice President Col. Charles C. Lucas, Jr., MD, Commandant of the Veteran Corps of Artillery, the city's oldest military unit. Other lineage and patriotic societies also participated. The event was, as it were, a resounding success.

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## Pennsylvania SR Provides Major Funding for Public TV Production

More than a year has passed since the premier airing of *Ten Crucial Days: The Road to Liberty*, a thirty-minute video production of New Jersey Public Television and Radio (NJN) which the PSSR and its Color Guard helped sponsor and produce. Since that time, the program has become a phenomenal hit on public television.

First broadcast in December 2007 as an HDTV special on NJN's Educational Channel, *Ten Crucial Days* highlights the historical significance of George Washington's Christmas Night Crossing of the Delaware River and the Battle of Trenton. It covers that pivotal ten-day period of the American Revolution from December 25, 1775, to January 3, 1776.

The PSSR approved a grant of \$50,000 to contribute to the making of the program, which was the brainchild of Emmy Award-winning NJN Executive Producer Lou Presti.

Earlier in his career, Presti had made waves with his NJN special, *Crossroads to Victory*—a tale of Washington's army from the triumph of the Declaration of Independence through the Battle of Yorktown. In contrast, *Ten Crucial Days* presents a much narrower look at the war.

*continued on page 5*



## One Jewel of a Program

*"Let Freedom Ring" Continues to Grow*

**SR** General President Paul Davis has referred to "Let Freedom Ring—the Nationwide Ringing of Bells" as one of the jewels of the Society. Last year the event celebrated its fortieth anniversary. It has never stopped growing, as every year more people across the country and around the world get involved.

The PSSR began stewardship of the program in 1969 and organizes the event each year in conjunction with Independence National Historical Park and the Society of Descendants of Signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Let Freedom Ring (LFR) is meant to revive the spirit of patriotism and to provide a dignified ceremony for millions who love this country and have faith in its future.

"With over 800 satellite ceremonies and thousands of bell locations around the world now involved, we estimate approximately 100,000 people take part each year," said PSSR Vice President Winchell Smith Carroll.

LFR is the only federally-mandated Independence Day ceremony. In accordance with U.S. Congressional Resolution Number 25 of 1963, bells across the country are to be rung thirteen times at exactly 2:00 p.m. (E.D.T.), in honor of the thirteen original states represented by the signers of the Declaration of Independence.



## Tapping the Old Bell

On every Independence Day, young and old alike, of every creed and color, gather at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, site of the home ceremony,

*continued on page 6*

## Dear Editor,

Thank you for another fine issue of the *Drumbeat* [Winter, 2008].

I suggest a continuation of the [previous] article on British evacuations to include the evacuation of Newport, R.I., October 11–25, 1779. While all true patriotic Rhode Islanders would like to think that we "drove" the British out, they did not abandon Newport until the year after the Battle of Rhode Island [August 29, 1778]. (But it still was an evacuation!)

Indeed, it took Newport several generations to recover from British occupation. Just imagine, in order to supply firewood to their regiments, the British cut down every single tree in the immediate area, not just in Newport, but also on Aquidneck Island. They also disassembled many homes and wharves for the wood.

The year after the British left, the French under Rochambeau landed in Newport, and for the rest of the war Newport was the base of the French forces in the United States. The city was also the starting point of the French march that ended at Yorktown. ■

—Bruce MacGunnigle,  
RI Society member

## Editor's Comment:

On Nov. 28, 1776, some eight-thousand British troops landed and took control of Rhode Island. By Dec. 8, Sir Peter Parker blockaded the American fleet at Providence. In August 1778, American land forces and French ships attempted a siege at Newport, but a combination of bad weather and delays resulted in failure.

After the British evacuated nearly three years later, six-thousand French troops were deployed at Newport in 1780. As MacGunnigle states, it was from Newport, Providence, and other Rhode Island locations that the French began their march toward Yorktown in 1781.

The war was a definite setback for Newport. Before the war, its population was 9,209; by the last year of the war, it had dwindled to 5,532.

After American independence, Rhode Island's center of political and economic development shifted to Providence, which was more sheltered at the head of the bay and more proximate to other cities.

Thank you, Mr. MacGunnigle, for adding depth to the Evacuation Day coverage in *The Drumbeat*. ■

## 40th Triennial: More Details Available

As the September Triennial approaches, numerous details have crystallized. One piece of very good and timely news is that a transcontinental fare war has erupted at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). A survey conducted February 4, 2009, of air fares from selected cities to Los Angeles ("LAX"), for travel during the Triennial meeting period, reveals how remarkably affordable airfares have become.

Examples of very reasonable round-trip airfare for travel to LAX, September 23–27, 2009: **Philadelphia** (PHL), US Airways \$335; **Chicago** (ORD), Delta \$321; **Detroit** (DET), American \$238; **New York** (LGA), Jet Blue \$210; **Atlanta** (ATL), U. S. Airways and United \$353; **St. Louis** (STL), United \$329. Make your reservation now for these low fares.

The Triennial registration fee, which includes three receptions, three continental breakfasts, Friday lunch for delegates, Friday dinner and excursion, Saturday "black-tie optional" dinner, and farewell sherry, has been set at \$395 per person. This is an excellent value in the high-priced southern California area and reflects substantial discounts negotiated by the Triennial Host Committee.

### "White House Luncheon"

An optional pre-Triennial activity, the White House Luncheon and Tour, will take place on Thursday, September 24, at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. Participants will depart the hotel by motor coach at 10:30 a.m. and travel to the library through the Santa Susana Mountains. A private tour of the Library, Museum and grounds will follow lunch, served with linen and china service.

The tour includes the Air Force One Pavilion, containing the "Flying White House" used from 1973–2001 by President Reagan and six other presidents. This upscale outing requires advance sign-up and a payment of \$90 per person. Triennial registration forms will be printed in the Summer '09 *Drumbeat*.

### Friday Dinner Excursion

The Friday evening dinner will be held at the exclusive Jonathan Beach Club ("JBC") at no additional cost. The JBC is one of the premier private beach clubs on the West Coast, fronting the ocean at the foot of the Santa Monica bluffs, nestled in the keystone of a 50-mile vista. A reception precedes dinner in the elegant ballroom.

The 40th Triennial meeting will be held September 24–27, 2009 at the Hilton Los Angeles North, located in Glendale, CA. Reservations can be made online at Hilton's 2009 Triennial Meeting Group page, linked to the official Triennial Meeting Portal at: <http://www.socalifornia.com/triennial/highlights.htm>.

—submitted by Richard Breithaupt, Jr., Treasurer, California State Society

## Corrections

We wish to acknowledge three errors that slipped into the Winter 2008 *Drumbeat*.

First, on page 10, in the title above Kirby Towns' biography of John DeVane, Sr., "descendant" was unfortunately misspelled.

On page 14, under the news item concerning the Paoli Battlefield, General "Mad" Anthony Wayne was incorrectly and regrettably identified as British. Wayne, of course, was the Patriot general facing the British. Though he lost that battle, he distinguished himself several times throughout the course of the Revolutionary War, most notably in the recapture of the fort at Stony Point, NY.

Incidentally, William Wayne, General Wayne's great-grandson, became the first President of the PSSR when that Society organized in 1888.

On page 26, the eminent author Thomas Fleming was inadvertently described as imminent. Perhaps we should have said Fleming's towering eminence has long been imminent.

Please accept our sincerest apologies. We appreciate our many observant readers. ■

— Editor

## Revolutionary Trivia



Can you guess the "what, where, and why" of the missing information on the plaque?

For the answer, turn to page 15



## President's Report

As General President, I have the great honor of representing you in major events of other national hereditary and patriotic societies, including and especially, the DAR, SAR and CAR. However, my greatest honor and privilege is to be able to attend events of our esteemed State Societies and report to you on those visits here in the *Drumbeat*.

Since last issue, and my report on the BoM meeting in Marietta, Georgia (thanks again to President Michael Motes and his team for a great job), I was an honored guest at the annual meeting of the First Families of Rhode Island and First Families of Massachusetts, in Newport, R.I. Mrs. Davis is a member of both groups. I shared the banquet head table with RISR President Col. Frank S. Hale, II and RISAR President Bruce MacGunnigle, who is also a member of the RISR. Several other members of the SR were there including my good friends, Peter A. Dixon and Charles Owen Johnson, DCSR members.



L-R: Peter Dixon, unidentified, FFRI Governor General, Paul F. Davis, Owen Johnson, Bruce MacGunnigle, RISR President Col. Frank S. Hale, II.

On December 6th, Mrs. Davis and I, along with our three grandsons, junior life members of ILSR, and their parents, were the guests of Illinois State President James F. Barr, Jr. at their annual meeting and banquet. Also in attendance was Region 5 VP Dr. Michael T. Kelly.

On December 10th, Mrs. Davis and I were invited to attend the annual "Oyster Roast" of the Georgia Society, in Savannah, by State President MGEN William P. Bland, Jr. We spent several days there and were treated to the UTMOST in "Southern Hospitality." Savannah is a beautiful city and we were given tours of both the city and its historic



photo credit: Georgia State Sec. Christopher Frame  
L-R: General President Paul F. Davis and Georgia State President General William P. Bland, Jr., at Spring Hill Redoubt

homes and cemeteries. I want to thank President Bland and Mrs. Bland for a memorable visit, and especially thank Secretary Christopher Frame for his outstanding efforts and friendship, Treasurer R. Mitchell Bush for a wonderful evening, Historian Gordon B. Smith for his historical tour, including Spring Hill Redoubt and his book, and William S. McIntosh, Jr. for his wonderful tour of the city and waterfront.

Both Mrs. Davis and I want everyone whom we met during our visit to know that we will always remember our Savannah visit and the wonderful friends we made there.

During February, I also gave greetings at the Annual Meeting of the Arizona Society and will be the guest of President Charles Lucas and the New York Society and also President Ronald Fenstermacher and the Pennsylvania Society for their respective George Washington Birthday events. I will report on those events in the next issue.

In closing, I want to congratulate all of our new members and admonish you to participate in the leadership of your State Society. Remember, this is YOUR SOCIETY!!!!

*Paul F. Davis*



*continued from page 1*

In December 2008, more than 80 PBS stations across the country had voted to air it. And earlier this year, *Ten Crucial Days* was chosen to be part of the monthly program schedule of PBS WORLD—the 24/7 channel that showcases the very best of nonfiction television.

According to American Public Television, which offers the show nationally, 94 licensees representing 179 stations expressed an interest in *Ten Crucial Days* when the show was made.

“That translates to market coverage of 67%, which is exceptional for a single show,” commented Carol Tomson, NJN Public Affairs.

### **PSSR Re-enactors Featured**

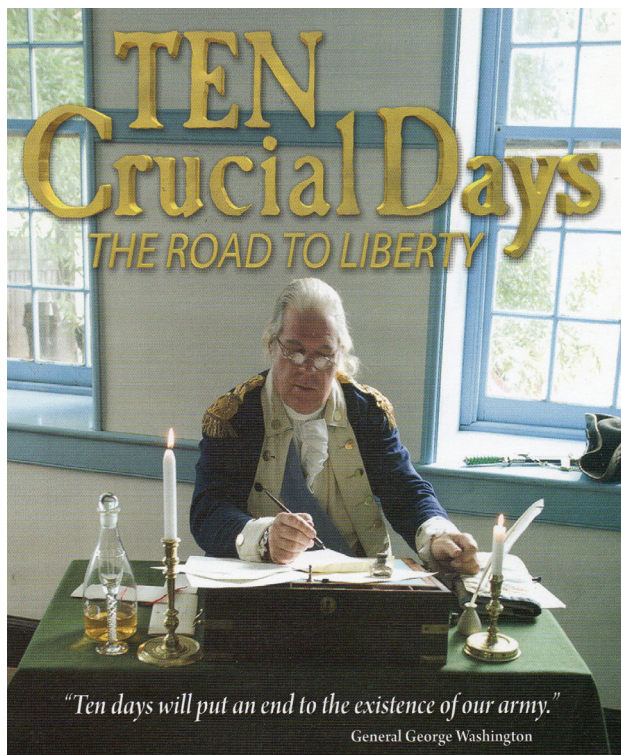
The PSSR and its Color Guard led by Capt. W. Steven Mark are prominently featured on screen and in narrative for more than 10 seconds at the beginning of the show. Quotes from letters and diaries are used along with illustrations, paintings, maps, artifacts, military re-enactors, and location footage to provide a visual background.

Interviews with nationally recognized historians David Hackett Fischer and Thomas Fleming help provide background information, critical analysis of the events, and colorful anecdotal stories about the period.

“This program should be required viewing for all high school students of American history—if, indeed, there are still any such,” stated Missouri SR member, Harold John, PhD.

“Overall, it was a very good production and served to refresh my memory on these events and their significance, although I can’t say there was anything strikingly new in the analysis of the battles or their importance.”

In addition to the Christmas Night Crossing and Battle of Trenton, the lesser-known Second Battle of Trenton and the Battle of Princeton are also featured. Even though Trenton was a



—courtesy of New Jersey Public Television and Radio

relatively small battle, the results of the victory were huge.

Besides the television showings, the program has been distributed to parks and historic sites throughout New Jersey and in Pennsylvania for public viewing, including to New Jersey State Historic Sites as an audiovisual presentation. Some 30,000 annual visitors at Washington Crossing Park, as well as the 35,000 annual visitors at The Old Barracks in Trenton, may view it.

Schools throughout New Jersey also have been encouraged to use the program. *Ten Crucial Days: The Road to Liberty* is available in DVD for purchase through NJN Video at njn.net or by calling (609) 777-5093. ■

—submitted by PSSR;  
additional reporting by Editor

## **Campaign for Excellence Makes a Difference**

Dr. Jack J. Early, Chairman

We want to share with you good news about our current **Campaign for Excellence**. In the 2007–2008 fiscal year, the campaign started off strong with donations of \$32,872. This was for various projects including equipment and membership development for the Society.

Additional contributions during the 2008–2009 year helped this figure climb to its new total: we are now at \$40,465. This is over 80% on our way to the goal of \$50,000 for the current campaign.

A special hallmark of this campaign is the new, first-time donors who have contributed. I extend my thanks to each and every one of you.

We ask that each member at this time consider making a gift for the Campaign for Excellence. Be part of this success. Every gift counts! ■

continued from page 2

for the tapping of the old Liberty Bell. Young descendants of the signers of the Declaration of Independence symbolically tap that famous bell as a signal for all satellite ceremonies to launch their own ringing of bells from towers and turrets throughout the land and beyond.

All ships of the Navy, the Merchant Marine and the U.S. Coast Guard sound bells at the synchronized moment, no matter where in the world they may be.

Last year, some of the more interesting satellite ceremonies took place at:

- the Betsy Ross House, Philadelphia, sponsored by the DAR;
- the Alamo (first time), San Antonio, Texas;
- Hill Air Force Base chapel in Roy, Utah (where Senator Orrin Hatch spoke);
- the U.S.S. Arizona at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (where Dec. 7 survivors rang the bell).

"The 2008 DVD has coverage of 16 satellite ceremonies around the country, plus four ceremonies from the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia," Smith Carroll said. "We continue

to receive great support from other organizations, too, including the SAR, DAR, CAR, VFW, the American Legion, and the scouting organizations."

The PSSR has also worked diligently with the American Theater Arts for Youth, Inc. (TAFY), to establish a professionally produced children's musical

by the same name. Part of the American TAFY performance roster, the LFR musical is a way for history teachers across the country to augment activities and explore various issues of heritage and citizenship. Nearly 400 stages are utilized for American TAFY productions. ■

—information submitted by PSSR;  
additional reporting by Editor



photo courtesy of PSSR

L-R: Former Philadelphia Mayor John Street, six direct descendants of signers of the Declaration of Independence, and Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell, who acts as national spokesman for LFR.



## I wish to participate in the *Let Freedom Ring* National Bell Ringing Ceremony.

- ☐ I intend to ring. Please send a Roll of Honor Certificate.
- ☐ RECRUITMENT: I wish to recruit additional bell ringers. I will send you their names and addresses as soon as possible.
- ☐ Contribution to Liberty Bell ceremony.
- ☐ Contribution to nationwide promotion.

All Contributions payable to PSSR.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Ringling Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Your Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Type of bell or carillon \_\_\_\_\_

Your Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Your E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Or sign up by calling toll-free 1-800-330-1776

Email: [lfr@amrev.org](mailto:lfr@amrev.org)

Visit our website: [www.let-freedom-ring.org](http://www.let-freedom-ring.org)

"The official registration and financial information of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-330-1776. Registration does not imply endorsement."





## GEORGIA



photo credit: State Secretary Christopher Frame  
SR members and guests enjoy the fruits of their labor.

### State Society Organizes Oyster Roast

The Georgia Society entertained President and Mrs. Paul F. Davis at the Fall Oyster Roast. The Davises were treated to extra long Georgia oysters. Among items of business discussed, the State Society presented President Davis a copy of *The Morningstars of Liberty, The Revolutionary War in Georgia, 1775-1783, Vol. 1*, by State Historian and renowned author, Gordon B. Smith.

## ILLINOIS

### Illinois Society Welcomes President and Mrs. Davis

The Illinois Society held its annual Board of Managers meeting on Dec. 6, 2008, at the Sheraton Executive Suites Hotel in Elk Grove Village, Ill. The Society was pleased to welcome General Society President and Mrs. Paul F. Davis.

President Davis made remarks regarding the Winter 2008 issue of the *Drumbeat*. His Excellency, John M. Bourne, Governor General of the Order of Founders and Patriots, was also in attendance.

The after-dinner speaker was the Rev. Travis

Talmadge DuPriest, PhD, who spoke on counterfeiting during the American Revolution. Rev. DuPriest is an Honorary President General of the National Huguenot Society and a Wisconsin SR member.

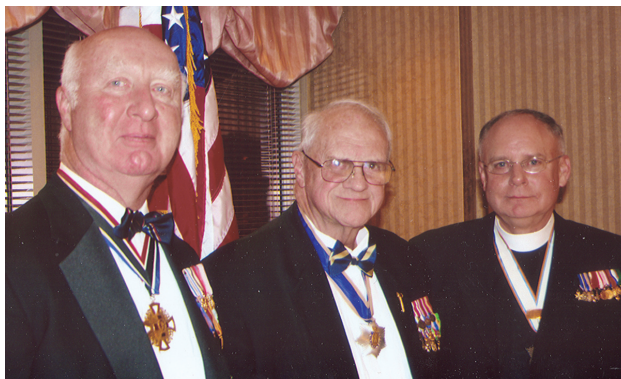


photo courtesy of Paul F. Davis  
L-R: John Bourne, General President Paul F. Davis, and Rev. Travis Talmadge DuPriest, Ph.D., Honorary President General, National Huguenot Society

The evening concluded with the re-election of the following officers for 2009:

President: James F. Barr  
Vice President: Charles Berry  
Treasurer: Andrew Ill  
Secretary: Michael Kelly  
Registrar: Donald Gradeless

—submitted by James F. Barr and Michael Kelly

## MARYLAND

### Preserving Washington's Original Farewell Address

Last year, the Board of Managers of the Maryland Society approved a \$5,000 grant to the Friends of the Maryland Archives to help fund a permanent exhibit of the original copy of George Washington's resignation speech as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, which the state recently acquired.

The General Society approved a contribution of \$1,000 at the BoM meeting in Marietta, GA.

"I am especially pleased that the General Society will complement our gift with its own grant and thus give the Sons of the Revolution an even larger role in the document's preservation and public display," said outgoing Maryland State President G. Edward Dickey.

The monies will go toward the cost of a permanent exhibit in the Old Senate Chamber of the Maryland State House, the spot where Washington stood and delivered the speech 226 years ago. The

## MARYLAND *(Cont'd)*

exhibit calls for restoring the chamber to period authenticity with a handsome Colonial-style kiosk to hold the recessed document.

Overall, the total cost of the project approaches \$100,000. "We are still in the process of raising needed funds and hope to begin design work soon," said Mimi Culver, president of the Friends of the Maryland Archives.

State Archivist Edward C. Papenfuse spoke to the SR about the historical significance of the speech at the State Society's fourth annual George Washington Brunch held in December.

"What, then, is so important about a draft of a speech in George Washington's hand?" he asked rhetorically. "It is that priceless link on paper to the mind of the man who believed that civilian government and leadership was the only answer to the future of the Republic."

He said it is clear from what Washington crossed out on the original speech that the general had two goals in mind in making the all-important speech: 1) reinforcing the supremacy of the civil authority, and 2) leaving the door open for his being called back to civilian service.

Before the transfer of ownership, the speech was appraised at \$1.5 million, to which the previous owner gifted a third of the cost. Papenfuse said the state paid \$1 million for the document, a contrast to the \$8 million paid for the Dunlap printed broadside of the Declaration of Independence, which appraised at \$4 million.

—from December 2008 *Intelligencer newsletter*,  
with additional reporting by Editor

## Funding a Large Re-enactment

In November, the Maryland SR Board approved a grant of \$1,000 to the Friends of Jerusalem Mill, a group that is financing a large re-enactment in mid-May at Jerusalem Mill Village.

Approximately 1,500 people representing British and Patriot forces are expected to participate. It is the largest event so far organized by the Friends.

Though no actual battles were fought at the village during the war, a number of British raids took place in the northern Chesapeake Bay area. At Jerusalem Mill, a Quaker named David Lee led others in assembling rifles for the Patriot cause. This was done in the two-story stone building behind the gristmill, which still stands today.

—from December 2008 *Intelligencer newsletter*,  
with additional reporting by Editor

## MICHIGAN

### Michigan Society Lays Wreath at Tomb of President Ford

The Michigan Society had a busy year in 2008. During its annual meeting in May in Grand Rapids, the Society was allowed the privilege of laying a wreath at the tomb of President Gerald R. Ford, who was a member of SR.

The Ford family had reserved the placing of tributes to President Ford as a private matter; however, thanks to intercession through the Ford Foundation, Mrs. Ford graciously extended her consent to the Michigan SR. A quiet, simple ceremony was held prior to the annual meeting.

On Independence Day, the Michigan Society's Color Guard, headed by Captain David Miller, provided the official colors for the Richland parade for the third consecutive year. As the first in line of the entire parade, the Color Guard is always very well received by the several thousand spectators along the parade route.

Later on in the year, the Society participated in the annual Scottish Festival held in Kalamazoo.

—submitted by Gary L. Gibson, State President

## MISSOURI

### St. Louis Chapter Honors Ambassador G. H. Walker, III

On November 14, 2008, the St. Louis Chapter of the Missouri Society of the Sons of the Revolution held the annual Modern Patriot Award Dinner at the Racquet Club-Ladue. Forty members and guests attended the meeting.

The award was presented to George Herbert Walker, III, who served as Ambassador to Hungary from September 2003 until August 2006. Ambassador Walker has led an active life



photo credit: Gary R. Toms  
L-R: William Gann, Charles McCausland Barnes, William B. Wilson, Ambassador Walker, and E. Fairfax Jones



## MISSOURI (Cont'd)

in business, education, politics and local civic affairs. He participated in the political campaigns of Presidents Reagan and George H. W. Bush.

During the course of his business career, he served on the Board of Midwest Stock Exchange (now Chicago Stock Exchange), the Regional Firms Advisory Committee of the New York Stock Exchange, and the Executive Committee of the Securities Industry Association.

Ambassador Walker, a graduate of Yale and Harvard Law School, is Chairman Emeritus of Stifel Financial Corp. and Stifel, Nicolaus & Co., Inc. He also currently chairs the Steering Committee of a St. Louis civic organization called Citizens for Home Rule, which is working to change the structure of the city government.

—submitted by E. Fairfax Jones, Chapter Secretary

## NEW JERSEY

### NJ CAR Member Raises Money Bicycling 1,000 Miles

Last summer, just before entering high school, Audrey Lain Snyder of Lebanon, N.J., set out to raise seed monies for a newly reorganized chapter of the New Jersey Children of the American Revolution. The daughter of SR-NJ Secretary Arthur Snyder, III, Audrey raised \$500 by riding her bicycle 1,000 miles between Seattle and San Francisco.

One would assume such a long bike trip would be dangerous for a girl of her age, something her parents might even discourage. But her father had done just the same when he was young, frequently biking many miles across the country.

Before the adventure began, she solicited other young persons to ride and presented her idea to the SR and DAR as a grant proposal. The New Jersey societies of both organizations sponsored her ride, as well as did certain individuals.

Overland Adventure Summer Programs planned the trip, accompanied the bikers, and was in charge of logistics.

In preparation for her big trip, Audrey and her father spent many hours biking together on practice rides between Frenchtown and Trenton, N.J., a distance of 80 miles.

—information submitted by Arthur Snyder, III;  
additional reporting by Editor

## NEW YORK

### Celebrating the Memory of Frederick Samuel Tallmadge

On Monday, January 26, the SRNY celebrated the annual Frederick Samuel Tallmadge Day at Fraunces Tavern. A dinner-meeting was held to commemorate the birthday of Tallmadge, former SRNY President (1884–1904), whose generosity enabled the Society to acquire the Tavern. In 1904, he invested \$80,000 which in today's purchasing power translates to nearly \$2 million.\*

Originally built in 1719, the tavern's first owner was Eteinne de Lancey. Samuel Fraunces bought the property in 1762 and held onto until 1785. By that time, it had become generally known as the Fraunces Tavern.

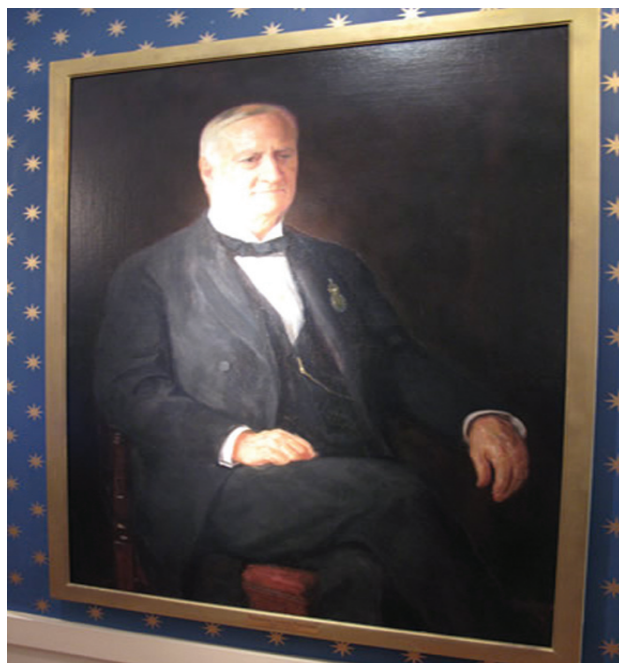


photo credit: Fraunces Tavern Museum  
Portrait of Frederick Samuel Tallmadge, President of SRNY, 1884–1904, as displayed in the Fraunces Tavern Museum.

The guest speaker for January's dinner-meeting was award-winning author Arthur S. Lefkowitz, who currently serves on the Board of Governors of the American Revolution Round Table. His books include, *Bushnell's Submarine: The Best Kept Secret of the American Revolution*, *George Washington's Indispensable Men* and *The Long Retreat: The Calamitous American Defense of New Jersey, 1776*.

\*Lawrence H. Officer and Samuel H. Williamson, "Purchasing Power of Money in the United States from 1774 to 2005," August 2006, *MeasuringWorth.Com*, <http://www.measuringworth.com/ppowerus/>.

## NEW YORK (Cont'd)

### SRNY Officers Elected

In December, a slate of new officers and board members was elected and installed. Those elected include:

President: Col. Charles C. Lucas, Jr., MD  
 First Vice President & Chairman of the Executive Committee: Judge James R. Grayshaw  
 Second Vice President: Floyd Smith Sanford, III  
 Third Vice President: Steven P. Trusnovac  
 Secretary: Kenneth H. Chase, Esq.  
 Treasurer: Donald Westervelt, Esq.  
 Registrar: Cornwell C. Martin  
 Chaplain: The Rev. Christopher M. Cullen

Board of Managers: Frederick L. Baker, Alan W. Borst, Jr., Esq., Michael P. Coneys, Esq., Philip Coombe, III, Raymond J. Manning, Stephen M. Noonan, Christopher M. Norfleet, Daniel J. O'Connell, Jr., Wesley M. Oler, IV, Frederick W. Pattison, Charles A. Poekel, Jr., Esq., Jonathan W. Ridgeway, Andrew W. Russell, P. Playton Sanders, Jr., LTC Donald L. Twiss, Stephen T. Whelan, Jr., Esq.  
*—submitted by Charles C. Lucas, Jr., MD*

## OHIO

### Ohio Society to Reorganize

In the summer of 2008, David Geise Snyder, a member-at-large in the State of Ohio, contacted J. V. Michael Motes, Chairman of the New Societies Committee of the General Society, to get information on the proper protocol for reorganizing the Ohio Society.

Under the working title "Reorganizing Chairman, Sons of the Revolution in the State of Ohio," Snyder has contacted members of the General Society from Ohio and has scheduled a reorganization meeting for Spring 2009.

This latest development came after he formally requested that the New Societies Committee of the GSSR to recommend the re-chartering of the Ohio Society at last September's General Society Board of Managers meeting in Marietta, Georgia.

During the morning session of the BoM meeting on Saturday, 27 Sept. 2008, Motes made the following motion: "I move that David Geise Snyder continue in the capacity of Reorganizing Chairman of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Ohio, proceed with his plans for a

reorganization meeting of this now defunct society, and that the General Society support him in this project by recommending the re-chartering of the Ohio Society."

The assembled Board of Managers passed the motion unanimously and, thus, rechartered the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Ohio.

Originally incorporated 2 May 1892 and organized one week later, the Ohio Society of Sons of the Revolution was chartered by the GSSR on 19 April 1894 with 79 members. By 1923, it boasted 238 members.

Over the next few years, however, membership declined. Most of those who had been active members became active instead in the National Society Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). By 1982, the GSSR considered the Ohio Society "lost." A brief resurgence followed, but by March 2002 the state organization was again defunct.

Regarding the reorganization efforts, Snyder says that 12 members-at-large have thus far requested membership in the reorganized Society.

*—compiled by Editor*

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Annual October Musket Ball Celebrates Saratoga and Yorktown

On October 18, approximately 130 members and guests gathered at the Merion Cricket Club in Haverford, Penn., for the annual Musket Ball reception and dinner dance sponsored by the PSSR and its Color Guard. The Musket Ball celebrates the anniversaries of the important Revolutionary War victories at Saratoga in 1777 and at Yorktown in 1781. Both occurred on or very near October 18th.

The event, chaired by Ben Ramsay Wolf, began with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres served in the Club's Sun Lounge, followed by the Parading of the Colors led by W. Steven Mark, MD, Color Guard Captain. President Ronald W. Fenstermacher, Jr., Esq., led in the Pledge of Allegiance and in the singing of the National Anthem. Reverend G. Clayton Ames, III, gave the invocation.

After the group assembled in the main dining area, President Fenstermacher and several vice presidents offered the traditional toasts to the President of the United States, to George Washington as Father of our Country, and to the Armed Forces. Vice President Fred Peltier proposed a toast to the Allies. President Fenstermacher also introduced the PSSR's special



## PENNSYLVANIA (Cont'd)

guests, including GSSR President Emeritus James Thorington, II, who brought greetings from the General Society. The toasts were followed by a delicious filet mignon dinner and several hours of fine dancing music.

—submitted by State VP Winchell Smith Carroll

### Anthony Wayne Medal on Exhibit

At the special request of the Society of Cincinnati, the PSSR is showcasing its Anthony Wayne Congressional Gold Medal in an exhibition currently at Mount Vernon entitled *Washington and His Generals*. The exhibit, which runs from February 21, 2009, to January 10, 2010, is showcased in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Educational Center on the grounds of the plantation.

Co-sponsored by the Society of the Cincinnati and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the exhibit also includes the rarely seen Society of the Cincinnati Diamond Eagle, which General Washington received as a gift from the French Navy. The Diamond Eagle was worn by Washington and has been worn since by every President General of the Society.

Medals from General Von Steuben and General Knox are on display with General Wayne's medal. The PSSR indicates this might be the first occasion that the medals of these three generals have been displayed together. The PSSR normally maintains the Wayne medal at the Philadelphia Mint. (See related story on Henry Lee, III, page 15.)

The exhibit features more than 120 paintings, prints, personal artifacts, and manuscripts associated with the generals of the allied armies of the Revolutionary War.

—from PSSR Newsletter Winter 2009  
and the Mount Vernon website

## TENNESSEE

### SR Participates in Re-enactment

Three SR members played key roles in the re-enactment of the Battle of Boyd's Creek, held in mid-December near Marble Springs, Tenn. The Battle of Boyd's Creek took place on 16 Dec. 1780, only two months and six days after the Battle of King's Mountain in North Carolina. Boyd's Creek was fought against the Cherokee nation, an inter-mittant British ally.

Member Mike Dahl narrated the story to the audience. State Board member Jerry Mustin portrayed Major John Tipton with General Society VP David Rutherford as John Sevier, a Revolutionary War Officer and the first Governor of Tennessee.



photo courtesy of David Rutherford  
L-R, Tennessee board member Jerry Mustin, as Major John Tipton, stands beside General Society VP David Rutherford, as Col. John Sevier, during a break in the action.

The re-enactment took place at the John Sevier Home on December 13–14 and was sponsored, in name, by the Tennessee State SR Society.

The Battle of King's Mountain proved that Tennessee was vulnerable to guerilla attacks, given that so many fighting-age men had left to battle the enemy in neighboring states.

Immediately following King's Mountain, Sevier reportedly feared the Cherokee would launch an offensive in Tennessee. His misgivings were well-founded as "a large body of Indians were on the march to assail the frontier," noted J.G.M. Ramsey in his *Annals of Tennessee*, published in 1853.

Due to Sevier's strong intuition, he led about 100 men quickly back home over the mountains in order to intercept the Cherokee. Upon timely arrival of Patriot reinforcements, the militiamen outnumbered the Cherokee when the two sides clashed at Cedar Spring, a short distance from Boyd's Creek. The Cherokee sustained 27 casualties while not one of the militiamen was killed. Major Tipton was, however, severely wounded. ■

—submitted by General Society VP David Rutherford;  
with additional compilation by Editor

# Flintlock & Powderhorn

## MAGAZINE OF THE SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

### THE MONUMENT AT SPRING HILL REDOUBT

A History of the Tribute to the Savannah Fallen

By Gordon B. Smith

*(This is the second of two parts on the Battle of Savannah and history of the monument at Spring Hill Redoubt, continued from Issue No. 4, Vol. 26, Winter 2008.)*

Spring Hill took its name from a bold spring of cold water gushing out of the earth in the midst of a clump of live oak trees at the slope of a hill where the Central of Georgia's car shop now stands. It was to Savannah then what Forsyth Park and Park Extension are to the city today.

Shortly after the close of the Revolution, Spring Hill became the site of a public bath. In 1800 the mayor and aldermen of Savannah subdivided the area into lots, which they sold as sites for a distillery, tan yard, butcher shop, garden, gambling house, poor hospital, public bath, and brickyard.

From 1837 to 1838, the Central of Georgia Railroad constructed its facilities on the site. Mr. Nichols put 150 laborers with mules and carts to work excavating the hill. They carted the earth over the bridge for the embankment, completing the work in the spring of 1838. During their excavation at Spring Hill, they unearthed many war relics—shot, shell and copper hoops. This shot and shell had been thrown from the Allies' guns, and the copper hoops were from the British powder barrels.

As the work on the railroad depot and passenger station continued over the ensuing years, and as late as the 1870s, laborers continued to unearth quantities of human remains, weapons, and parts of uniforms, of the soldiers who had been buried at Spring Hill.

#### SR in the State of Georgia

The Georgia Society, Sons of the Revolution, organized at the Savannah Volunteer Guards Armory on 22 May 1891, being received into the General Society the following year. The Georgia Society accepted as one of its purposes, "To properly mark places where historic events had occurred during the Revolutionary period." To this end, Judge Robert Falligant, historian of the

Georgia Society, headed a committee to devise the means to carry out the Society's plans for the erection of a suitable memorial.

Falligant, grandson of a Continental officer, planned to identify the spot "somewhere near the site of the Guards Armory or the Central Railroad passenger station where one of the fiercest engagements of the Revolution was fought." His committee was "to advise the erection of suitable tablets in bronze, marking the location, bearing the names of the men who gave their lives for their country." However, Judge Falligant died in 1902 before the Society could complete this work.

On 8 February 1908, some six years after Judge Falligant's death, Walter Glasgo Charlton, president of the Georgia Society, appointed the following committee to locate the site of Spring Hill Redoubt: Robert J. Travis, chairman; Wymberly Jones DeRenne; George T. Cann; Raiford Falligant; and George W. Wylly.

After extensive research of the surveys, plats, and engineering maps of the area, Travis identified the precise location of the Spring Hill Redoubt along Ebenezer (now Louisville) Road and announced the location in January of 1909.

The board of governors of the Georgia Society decided to mark the redoubt with a bronze tablet. Initially, the board suggested that the tablet bear the names of GEN Casimir Pulaski, MAJ John Jones, LT John Bush, LT James Gray, SGT William Jasper, and others who fell there.

Finally, on 22 February 1911 the SR in the State of Georgia unveiled its monument at Spring Hill in honor of the Patriots and their Allies who died there. Among those present for the ceremonies were the Vicount and Vicountess d'Azy of France. Judge Walter G. Charlton, president of the Georgia Society, and Vicount Benoist d'Azy, representing France, delivered addresses at the dedication ceremony.

Twenty-six years later, in March of 1937, the Georgia Society refurbished its marker.



**Revolutionary Battle Park, Inc.**

In 1961, Mrs. William Medicus (Adrienne) Roberts began her efforts to develop Frog Town, the Savannah community in which the old Spring Hill Redoubt was located. She wanted to create a memorial park for the battle which had been fought there. In about 1963 her Revolutionary Battle Site Committee published a promotional pamphlet entitled, "Proposed Revolutionary Memorial Park."

In 1965, Mrs. Roberts joined members of the SR in the State of Georgia Robert W. Groves, Thomas H. Gignilliat, Walter C. Hartridge, A. Lester Henderson, Owen H. Page, and Judge Alexander A. Lawrence, as petitioners for letters of incorporation of Revolutionary Battle Park, Inc. The Superior Court granted this petition on 11 May of that same year. Enabled to acquire property, the corporation moved ahead to raise money and the Georgia SR thus continued its long-standing association with the project.

In 1967, the Central of Georgia Railroad ceased to use its property in the northern portion of the proposed Battlefield Park, which contained the shops. The railroad announced plans for the demolition of the buildings on the tract.

In response, Mrs. Roberts, Walter C. Hartridge, Robert W. Groves, W. W. Osborne, and others secured funds to halt the demolition. Three years later, the northern portion of Battlefield Park received the designation as a National Historic Place. Following that, the Chatham-Savannah Site and Monument Commission in May of 1971, received a federal grant of \$100,000.00 to begin implementation of the Revolutionary Battle Park.

Beginning the following year, the commission began the purchase of some of the railroad buildings for use in the park site. In June of 1975, the commission submitted a formal plan and market study for the park to the city.

**Society's Monument Removed**

In 1978, progress halted. The Battle Park fell into political disrepute when the mayor appointed the official Revolutionary Battlefield Park Committee for the project—without naming a single member of the Georgia Society. This effectively took the control of the project away from the Revolutionary Battle Park, Inc. In 1980, Parsons-Brinckerhoff Development Corporation published yet a new market study for the city and the Savannah Revolutionary Battlefield Park Committee.

In November of 1982, the City of Savannah, the Downtown Development Authority, the New York-

based Parsons-Brinckerhoff Development Group Inc., and Norfolk Southern Railway (successor to the Central of Georgia), reached agreement for an \$80 million revitalization of Revolutionary Battlefield Park. The initial ground breaking ceremonies were held in April of 1984. However, in June of the following year the city announced that the \$80 million dollar development plans had been scrapped.

In response to the announcement, Norfolk Southern threw down the gauntlet and had Wright C. Powers, a registered land surveyor, subdivide the site of the Spring Hill Redoubt Monument. "For Sale" signs were posted all around the site and the historic community held its breath for the next eighteen years.

In the interim, without warning or notice to the Georgia Society, Norfolk Southern moved the Spring Hill monument into a storage shed, where it remained chained indefinitely. The railroad stated that the ground there was contaminated with PCBs and, therefore, represented a public health hazard.

**Return of the Monument**

Finally, on 22 December 2003, after eighteen years of waiting, the railroad agreed to sell the remainder of the property (approximately 10 acres) back to the city, enabling public use of the total 25-acre tract.

In the latter part of 2005, the city had a small-scale earthen "redoubt" constructed at the top of the hill next to the street and moved the monument back to its original place. At the same time, an engineering firm was hired to use ground-penetrating radar to precisely locate the Spring Hill Redoubt.

In August of that year, archaeologists stunned regional historians by finding the actual remains of the redoubt exactly where Robert J. Travis had said they would be—and just where the SR had dedicated the monument.

In 2007, the city held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the "almost-finished" Battlefield Memorial Park, which includes a field of stones atop the scaled-down redoubt. Curators would allow the replacement of the old SR monument at the corner of the original redoubt, but they are unwilling to pay for any improvements.

Even though the Battle of Savannah is civic history and the proper recognition of those who fought there a civic matter, present curators expect the SR to finance any addition to or replacement of the 1911 memorial. ■



## Henry Lee: “Wedded to My Sword”

*This exchange of letters between George Washington and Henry Lee, III, was first published in the Summer 2008 issue of The Intelligencer, the newsletter of the Maryland Society.*

By Bernard Boykin

It's hard to write briefly about my ancestor Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee when several books have been devoted to his life. One of the lesser known incidents in his life, but one that is most exemplary of his courage, was his decision to decline an offer by George Washington to be elevated from rank of captain to lieutenant colonel, in order to serve on Washington's staff. Lee preferred to remain in the battlefield!

### Lee's letter to Washington followed by the Commander's response:

March 31, 1778

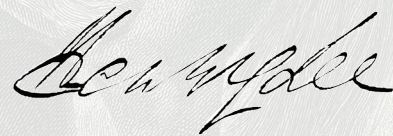
*“Sir, I should do violence to my own feelings, was I to depart from Camp, without testifying the high sense of gratitude I feel for your Excellency's approbation of my conduct. I assure you, sir, to deserve a continuance of your Excellency's patronage, will be a stimulus to glory, second to none in power, of the many that operate on my soul. ‘It is not in mortals to command success,’ to deserve it shall be the object of my unwearyed attention.*

*“I must here take the liberty of laying before your Excellency, the reasons which have influence on my judgment, respecting the proposal you was pleased to make me through Colonel Hamilton.*

*“Permit me to premise that I am wedded to my sword, and that my secondary object in the present war, is military reputation. To have possessed a post about your Excellency's person is certainly the first recommendation I can bear to posterity, affords a field for military instruction, would lead me into an intimate acquaintance with the politics of the states, and might present more immediate opportunities of manifesting my high respect and warm attachment for your Excellency's character and person. I know, it would also afford true and unexpected joy to my parents and friends.*

*“On the contrary I possess a most affectionate friendship with my soldiers, a fraternal love for the two officers who have served with me, a zeal for the honor of the Cavalry, and an opinion that I should render no real service to your Excellency's arms.*

*“Having thus shortly stated the reasons which operate on my mind, I will only say, that I most cheerfully will act in any character your Excellency may call me to, and that the second satisfaction I can possibly enjoy is my knowledge that my behavior has met with your Excellency's approbation. I have the honor to be with the most profound respect and perfect esteem your very obedient servant.”*



April 1, 1778

*“Dear Sir: By your favor of yesterday I am made acquainted with the feelings of your mind on the subject of my proposal communicated to you by Colonel Hamilton; the undisguised manner in which you express yourself cannot but strengthen my good opinion of you— As the offer on my part was purely the result of a high sense of your merit, and as I would by no means divert you from a Career in which you promise yourself greater happiness from its affording more frequent opportunities of acquiring military fame, I entreat you to pursue your own Inclinations as if nothing had passed on this subject, and to be assured of the good wishes of, Dear Sir,”*





## Henry Lee, III, Medal Resurfaces at Princeton University

The Revolutionary War medal authorized by the Continental Congress for Henry Lee, III, has recently been discovered in the collection of Princeton University's library and put on public display for the first time in many decades.



The material of this medal is not what the Continental Congress originally intended be awarded. On September 22, 1779, the legislators voted that Lee be given a gold medal for his heroism in the Battle of Paulus Hook. It was to have been designed and struck in Paris, along with medals for other Revolutionary War heroes as George Washington, Nathanael Greene, and Anthony Wayne. However, through a series of mishaps, Lee never received his. When the other medals arrived from France almost a decade later, his medal was not included.

Lee himself appealed to then-Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, who directed the newly established Philadelphia Mint to strike a replacement medal. Yet, in a string of bad luck, the equipment of the Mint proved inadequate for the task. Also, the new die broke before the medal could be produced.

The Lee medal at Princeton appears to have been intended as a substitute for the failed Philadelphia medal. The technique of engraving a silver base by hand was used for other medals produced in America in this period, including for the three captors of Major John André, and for the Indian Peace Medals of the Washington administration.

This medal resurfaced in a numismatic auction in 1935, when the Friends of the Princeton University Library purchased it and presented it to the university in honor of Lee, a Princeton alumnus of the class of 1774. It bears the inscription 'To Henry Lee for Valour & Patriotism' on the obverse, and 'Washington & Independence 1775-1783' on the reverse. The medal is available for private viewing, along with other notable pieces from the University's Numismatic Collection. To arrange a viewing, contact Alan Stahl, [astahl@princeton.edu](mailto:astahl@princeton.edu), or (609) 258-9127 ■



*The Henry Lee medal appears courtesy of Alan M. Stahl, Firestone Library, Princeton University*

## WHAT, WHERE, & WHY?

The black marble plaque pictured on page 3 is one among many hanging in the Old Cadet Chapel (right) at West Point, New York, honoring generals of the Revolutionary War.

Any guesses as to whose name was removed from that plaque?

It was that of Benedict Arnold, the infamous traitor. Arnold sold the plans of West Point fortifications to British spy, Major Andre. Arnold subsequently joined the British army in fighting against the Patriots.



*Courtesy of United States Military Academy Library  
Special Collections and Archives Division*

## 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. When 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 confirmity 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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<u>Deadline Date</u>	<u>Issue Mailed</u>
January 1	March 1
April 1	June 1
July 1	September 1
October 1	December 1

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