



# Drumbeat

with *Flintlock & Powderhorn*

News of the Sons of the Revolution

Volume 29 Number 1

Spring 2011



## *Boston to host 2011 BOM Meeting Attendees to Experience 'Cradle of Revolution'*



Boston and surroundings need no introduction for history buffs. Massachusetts is hallowed grounds with respect to the colonizing of North America, the launching of the American Revolution, and the establishment of independence.

Massachusetts was where the American Revolutionary War began in 1775. Boston was the center of revolutionary activity in the decade before the war, with its native sons Samuel Adams, John Adams, and John Hancock leading the way.

It is most fitting that the General Society convene its 2011 annual meeting there.

Make plans now to attend the GSSR Board of Managers (BOM) Meeting to be held October 13-16, 2011, at the new Sheraton Colonial Boston North Hotel & Conference Center, located in Wakefield. The Sons negotiated a significant rate reduction for the meeting. Every attending member may extend the SR group rate for three days before and/or three days after the meeting, to accommodate a longer stay in the area. The registration fee for the 2011 BOM Meeting in Boston is \$295 per member.

*-for more details, see page 2*

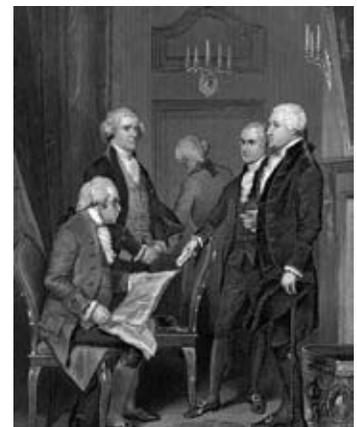
## George Washington: The First Administration

By David B. Mitchell, Esq.

*As part of the tribute to George Washington's 279th birthday, we begin on Page 1 the conclusion of David Mitchell's Flintlock & Powderhorn feature story on the Commander-in-Chief's First Administration (see part I, Drumbeat Vol. 28, No. 4). Mr. Mitchell serves as Counselor of the Florida Society, is a member of the Baronial Order of Magna Charta, and has made several presentations on this subject.*

Once installed in the nation's new capital in New York City, where both Houses of Congress would sit, President George Washington had to fulfill his constitutional duties. This was no easy task. Indeed, one of his first problems was finding individuals to serve in the new federal judiciary.

Washington was a strong federalist and wanted the executive branch separate from the legislative branch, as the Constitution required. Therefore, within the first six months of the President's term, Congress passed legislation to create the new posts in the executive branch. Washington appointed his own department heads, giving the Congress only the power to accept



*-Continued on page 5*



## Boston: Where the Past is Present



The Massachusetts Society is planning to host an abundant New England Clambake on Thursday evening, October 13, featuring fresh clams, lobster and other North Atlantic delectables. On Saturday, October 15, a bus tour and lunch are planned. Then during the Saturday evening banquet, members will hear guest speaker and historical writer Jim L. Nelson speak on his latest published book, *With Fire and Sword, The Battle of Bunker Hill and the Beginning of the American Revolution*.

The Society has limited the number of organized tours so that members and spouses may have greater freedom to pursue their own sight-seeing activities. *Fodor's* calls Boston "the undisputed epicenter of American history." The city and surroundings offer some of the most intriguing historical sites in the country. Although it started out being of British heritage, Boston today is home to an eclectic mix of cultures. The Past and the Present live side-by-side here, and they both thrive. ■



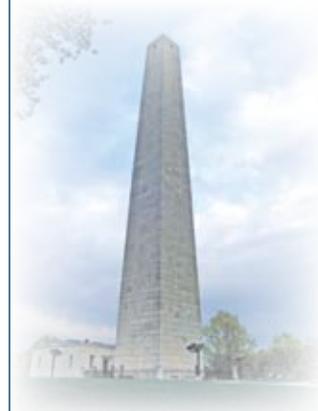
### BOM Meeting Registration

(See Hotel & Venue information, page 4)

The registration fee for  
the 2011 BOM Meeting in Boston  
is **\$295 per member.**

*Make checks for \$295 payable to:*  
General Society, Sons of the Revolution  
(or GSSR)

*Mail payments to:*  
General Society, Sons of the Revolution  
108 S. Liberty St.  
Independence, MO 64050-3701



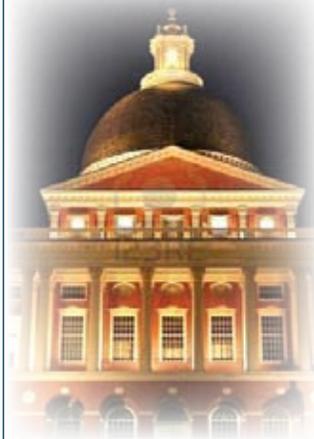


**Hotel Information**

The Massachusetts Society has selected the Sheraton Colonial Boston North Hotel & Conference Center as the meeting site. Located just twelve miles north of Logan International Airport, the hotel is nestled into a rural New England setting. It is close to shopping malls, historical sites, wharf towns, north shore beaches, and the beautiful coastline.

The negotiated rate for SR members is available three days prior to the start and three days after the meeting's conclusion. Please call the hotel for further details and to make your reservation.

**FOR RESERVATIONS:**  
**Tel: 1-800-325-3535**  
**[www.sheratoncolonial.com](http://www.sheratoncolonial.com)**  
**One Audubon Road**  
**Wakefield, Massachusetts 01880**



# Georgia Society Prepares for 2012 Triennial

The 2012 Triennial will take place in Savannah, Georgia, a jewel of a historical city, on October 4-7, 2012. Of all SR meetings, the Triennial is the most significant, and all members are strongly encouraged to attend. Among the events, awards are presented and new General Society officers are elected and installed.

The Georgia Society is already busy making plans for hosting the event. Registration will be at the Marriott Courtyard on Liberty Street in downtown Savannah. The general membership meetings are planned, accordingly, on the mornings of the Oct. 5-6, 2011.

The Georgia delegation has planned visits to the Battlefield Park/Railroad Round House Museum on Thursday evening and to old Ft. Jackson on Friday evening (the canons will roar, so bring your earplugs!!). Saturday evening, the banquet will be held at the Telfair Museum of Art.

There will be time for visiting Savannah on trolley, walking, and river tours. Each evening, plenty of Chatham Artillery Punch will be served.

## **Battlefield Park/ Railroad Roundhouse Museum**



The Roundhouse Railroad Museum is located adjacent to Battlefield Park, at the corner of Louisville Rd and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. As the headquarters of the Central of Georgia Railway Headquarters, this single location processed freight and passengers and housed both maintenance and manufacturing for the company. Thousands visit this National Historic Landmark each year. Across the way, Battlefield Park commemorates the 800 troops who were either wounded or killed during the October 9, 1779, Battle of Savannah. French, Haitian and Patriot troops fought against British soldiers who were defending their hold on Savannah. The battle was short but very fierce; the Brits prevailed.

## **Fort Jackson**



Old Fort Jackson in Savannah is not to be confused with the modern army installation in South Carolina, also known as Fort Jackson. The historic fort which overlooks the Savannah River was built in 1808 and was manned almost continuously during the first months of the War of 1812 and again during the concluding months of the war. It was de-commissioned in 1905 and today is owned and operated by the Coastal Heritage Society. Like the Railroad Roundhouse Museum, the fort is designated a National Historic Landmark.

## **Telfair Museum**



This year the Telfair Academy celebrates its 125th anniversary. It is the oldest public art museum in the South, opening its doors in 1886. The mansion was built in 1818-1819 for Alexander Telfair, son of Revolutionary War patriot and Georgia governor Edward Telfair. In 1875, Alexander's sister, Mary— heir to the family fortune and last to bear the Telfair name—bequeathed the house and its furnishings to the Georgia Historical Society.

The Academy contains two nineteenth-century period rooms and houses nineteenth- and twentieth-century American and European art, including paintings, works on paper, sculpture, and decorative arts.

*—Submitted by the Society of Georgia*



–George Washington: The First Administration, cont'd from Page 1

or reject the appointees. (There were those in Congress who felt the Congress should name the appointees and then present the Cabinet to the President as a *fait accompli*.)

He identified three Cabinet members as his personal advisors—Hamilton at Treasury, Jefferson at State, and Henry Knox at War. He also selected former Virginia governor and anti-Federalist Edmund Randolph as attorney general, and Samuel Osgood as the first postmaster general. Neither Randolph nor Osgood had a department; indeed, the first postmaster had a small office with just two clerks to run the entire U. S. Postal Service.

Knox proved to be rather incapable but Jefferson came to office fresh from his duty as Minister to France, where he gained high marks and Washington's admiration. Hamilton was a well-known nationalist

who had served as Washington's aide-de-camp during the Revolutionary War. Washington believed that Hamilton was the finest financial mind in America.

Hard as it may be to visualize this today, the Constitution made no provision for any of these departments nor even for the Cabinet. But Congress enacted the posts, which were largely created at Washington's request. Indeed, the Constitution only established a skeletal framework for the new government, with few guidelines provided.

### Orderly, Energetic, Solicitous

The first Cabinet meetings were held over breakfast, with Washington presiding, but rarely speaking. He organized them with a firm agenda and permitted his members to discuss the issues of the day amongst themselves. All were expected to carry out the President's orders without dissent. The Cabinet structure he imposed remains the same today.

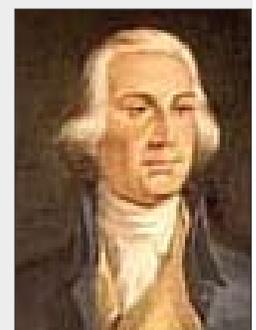
His administrative style has been summarized thus by historian Leonard D. White: “.. He was systematic, orderly, energetic, solicitous of the opinion of others but decisive.” He was a detail-oriented executive who had the final say in major matters and required obedience to his decisions.

He established the tradition of the President annually appearing before Congress at the opening of the first session to review the preceding year and recommend measures for the coming year. Today, this is known as the State of the Union address. He would submit written memos to Congress and, mindful of its emerging prerogatives and decorum, Congress would send back formal written replies.

From the start, Washington's Cabinet secretaries engaged Congressional committees and Congress as a whole regarding issues within their purview, a routine which became more formalized in the second term, when factional parties were developing.

The First Congress initiated most of the legislation that was enacted during Washington's first term, although Hamilton wanted to play a more direct role in shaping national economic policy. The Congress also enacted rules for decorum, salaries for public officials, the new Bill of Rights, and tariff regulations.

–Continued on page 6



l-r: Members of President Washington's first cabinet were Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State; Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury; Henry Knox, Secretary of War; Edmund Randolph, Attorney General; and Samuel Osgood, Postmaster General.

–*George Washington: The First Administration, cont'd from Page 5*

One important test of the relative powers of the branches came when it was questioned whether the President could unilaterally remove a public official that the Senate was required to initially confirm. Congressman James Madison urged an affirmative vote in order to strengthen the presidency. The House approved the measure, but the Senate tied, broken only by a vote of Vice President John Adams.

On the matter of the presidential veto, Washington hesitated to use it in deference to Congressional authority and because he did not consider himself a party (or “faction”) leader. But he also felt the President should not fear to exercise his Constitutional veto power, in order to preserve the Constitution. Thus, he only twice vetoed minor bills during his two terms.

### Setting Standard Practices

In social affairs, Washington was quite conscious of his precedent-setting role. Seeking to avoid the constant interruptions that would inevitably occur from members of Congress, state office holders, supporters, and favor-seekers, Washington created a strict protocol for entertainment. He held men-only “levees” on Tuesday afternoons, tea-parties overseen by Martha on Friday evenings, and official dinners on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. They were very stiff and formal, with little conversation from Washington who was not a great maker of small talk. Washington realized the office of President exceeded one man and wanted to set some clear barriers between the President and all others in political office.

This degree of decorum would have ill-suited him to modern American politics, infused as it is with pleasing shifting constituencies and making “sound-bites” that appeal to the “media markets” and “24-hour news cycles.” Washington would have had none of it.

Washington did initiate the standard practice of presidential tours of the nation. He visited New England in the Fall of 1789 and the South in April 1791, where he was warmly received by the many ordinary Americans he met along the way. He used these tours to instill trust in the new federal government—and it worked.

Washington felt that a sound economy was the key to insuring the success of the new nation. He turned often to Hamilton and supported his ideas for a strong central government, Federal assumption of the Revolutionary debts of the states, and retirement of foreign debts. Hamilton proposed a complex three-tier program that bogged down Congress for the entire first session. Also, the First Congress wrangled over the issue of the permanent location for the new Federal government, an issue that had strong sectionalist overtones. As was his habit, Washington offered no public opinion on these critical issues, preferring to let his Congressional allies and Hamilton push for resolutions. He achieved his goal: By the end of the first session, compromises had been achieved.

### A Major Rift

His biggest challenge came in the Second Congress, during the last two years of his first term. It was also a critical moment for America. Hamilton proposed a national bank to be publicly chartered and backed, yet financed largely by investors. Amazingly, Hamilton saw America as a future burgeoning manufacturing and mercantile power. Jefferson and Randolph, both Virginians, saw the future of America as a continuation of its agriculture present. The two were horrified by the putatively unconstitutional national bank proposal. Washington asked Jefferson and Randolph to draft their opinions on the proposal, which Washington then gave to Hamilton to rebut. The brilliant rebuttal and commercial interests won the day, and Washington happily signed into law the Bank of the United States Act.



The rift between Hamilton and the strong-willed and equally brilliant Jefferson broke into the open, and Washington's greatest fear—that of emerging parties and factions—was soon to be realized. The personal and public vitriol of the two men threatened the tranquility of Washington's first Cabinet. Washington actually wrote a single letter to both men, hoping they would set aside personal and philosophical differences in the public interest, as he had done so often. The two men agreed, but promptly ignored the admonition. One year later, Jefferson resigned. Party politics was born.

Foreign affairs, a key concern of a worried George Washington, also played a major role in his first term. British troops remained in the Northwest (today's Midwest) to protect fur routes, although under the Treaty of Paris they were to have vacated American territory. But the Crown said that America had not repaid its Revolutionary debts to English merchants and, thus, had little room to protest.

The biggest security issue facing Washington in his first term came from Native Americans. Washington proposed that Americans treated the Indians as sovereign peoples entitled to equal justice and eventual integration into the United States. However, regular massacres of frontiersmen by hostile tribes, often armed and provisioned by Spanish and British interests, thwarted Washington's efforts at reconciliation. These attacks and the need to persuade the British to leave America occupied much of his military affairs. He did manage to persuade Congress to raise and arm a full battalion of troops as our first standing army to deal with the Indian attacks.

### **Facing a Second Term**

The emergence of party factions and, frankly, the lack of anyone else to step forward meant that George Washington was headed for a second term in office. By then, beginning to fail in health and tire of politics, he accepted the re-election almost begrudgingly. His second term was far less pleasant than his first, as he knew it would be. But as a man driven by a sense of duty, he saw no alternative. His re-election was also by a unanimous vote.

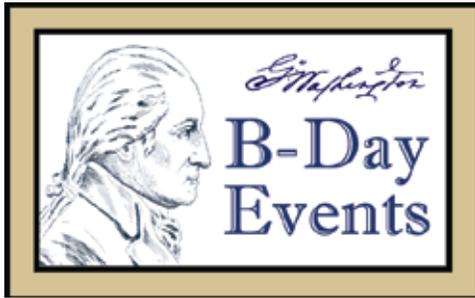
It is said that no man is indispensable, and that is true with one exception: George Washington, the first President of the United States. It is unlikely anyone else in eighteenth century America could have left such a positive imprint on this new office—so republican, so Classical, and yet so immersed in the soil of this new nation. He shared Hamilton's vision of a bustling and prosperous civilization in the distant future, a mix of agriculture and commerce.

I conclude with a quotation from his First Inaugural Address, his vision of the importance of the radical idea embodied in the new United States, the entire concept of democratic self-rule. His words to America, then scorned and ridiculed by the powerful imperial states of Europe:

“... the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered, perhaps, as deeply, as finally, staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.”

I trust he would not be disappointed. ■





## Honoring his 279th

### California



*Presented by the Society of California.*



*l-r: Dr. Charles Witt and Doug Boyd.*



*Guests filled the library and museum.*

*-photos courtesy of Rick Breithaupt*

Over a hundred members and friends of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California gathered at the American Heritage Library and Museum in Glendale on President's Day. The oc-

casional was a luncheon celebration of the 279th anniversary of President Washington's birth.

General Vice President Dr. Charles Witt and State President Doug Boyd greeted attendees and led a rousing chorus of Happy Birthday to President Washington.

SR President Emeritus and Treasurer Rick Breithaupt made a very faithful recreation of George Washington's favorite beverage, Fish House Punch, which really did pack a punch all its own.

Guests enjoyed the well-stocked buffet and had both birthday cake and English Trifle for dessert. Many also browsed the 35,000 titles.

Among the members of the Board of Directors present were Wayne Rogers, Brett MacDonald, Senior Vice President Dr. Paul Gray, Jerry Jack, Bob Ferguson, Rick and Dick Breithaupt, and Dr. Witt. Several chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution were also represented at the gala event. President Boyd's daughter, DAR Member Kathryn Conrad, also made an appearance with her husband, Garrett, and their 11-month-old twins.

*-submitted by Douglas R. Boyd;*

### District of Columbia



*l-r: Eldon Kaplan, Pete Toulmin, Peter Dixon and Col. Andrew Johnson pause outside Washington's tomb.*

*-photo by Col. Andrew Johnson*

Cold weather greeted the delegation of Sons of the Revolution from the District of Columbia as they paid respects to George Washington on February 22nd. Five members led by Past President Peter A. Dixon assembled at the tomb for the traditional prayer and wreath-laying ceremony. Luckily, warming rays emerged from the dark clouds and Dixon recited Washington's prayer, as

well as some recorded birthday toasts offered by greats of that time to the greatest of that time.

A traditional wreath was then placed inside the tomb. In so doing, the delegation carried out a tradition started many decades ago, which has always been welcomed by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. The D.C. Society is one of the few organizations allowed entry into the tomb for placement of a wreath.

*—submitted by Craig Metz*



### **Georgia**

During the Georgia Society's annual meeting and banquet held in honor of Washington's birthday, members heard a review of the past year's events by General Historian Gordon Smith, a report of the re-interment of Revolutionary War hero Colonel McIntosh by his ancestor and board member Billy McIntosh, as well as a keynote address by featured speaker Col. Ronald D. Tuggle, the 3rd Aviation Brigade commander.

Outgoing Society President Stephen Lufburrow chaired the annual meeting and later formally passed the gavel to incoming Society President Charles Spillane. Past President and board member Bill Bland presented a toast to the armed forces and gave a report from the nominating committee.

The new officers elected and installed are:

Charles B. Spillane, Sr., President  
 Christopher K. Frame, 1st Vice President  
 Robert Smith Evans, 2nd Vice President  
 H. Ronald Freeman, Secretary  
 Ralph Gilbert Wells, Treasurer  
 Andy Edwin Blalock, Registrar  
 Donald Paul East, Assistant Registrar  
 Thomas Ravenal Lynah, Captain of Color Guard  
 Rev. George B. Salley, Jr., Chaplain  
 Col. Gordon B. Smith, Historian  
 Gary Mixson Wisenbaker, Solicitor  
 Steven R. Lufburrow, Rep. to the General Society  
 Dr. Roland Steven Summers, Surgeon



*From top left to right: Bill Bland; featured speaker Col. Ron Tuggle; Gordon Smith; Lt. Col. Jose L. Aguilar; and Steven Lufburrow.*

*Text & Photos  
 Submitted by  
 H. Ronald Freeman*

## Massachusetts



*The gathering at Boston's Union Club included: back row, l-r: Martson Watson, Kenneth P. Doten, John Manning and Dr Henry N. McCarl; front row, l-r: Stephen Watts, Kenneth J. Sutcliffe, James R. Klim and guests*

The Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts gathers annually for Washington's Birthday at the Union Club of Boston. Located on Beacon Hill adjacent the "new" State House, the Club overlooks the Boston Common and the Granary Burying Ground.

*-text & photo by James Klim*

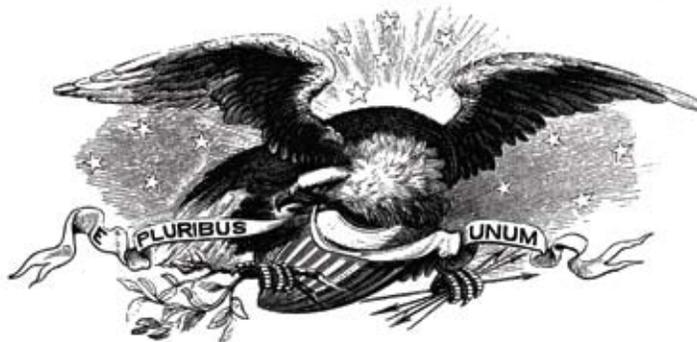


*The Union Club of Boston was founded in 1863.*

## New Jersey

On February 21st the New Jersey Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution hosted General President Terry Davenport and Region 2 Vice President Richard Patterson at its annual meeting held at the Old Barracks in Trenton. The Old Barracks was built in 1758 by the British to house soldiers for the French and Indian War and was used by the Americans during the Battle of Trenton. Over the years the New Jersey Sons of the Revolution have donated money toward its reconstruction and maintenance.

Following the meeting, twenty chapter members paraded with revolutionary flags behind



the sixteen-member Old Barracks Fife and Drum Corp. The parade led from the Old Barracks to Saint Michael's Episcopal Church for a special service in honor of our founding father. Saint Michael's was

a major focal point of military action in the first Battle of Trenton, with much of the combat taking place in the churchyard.

At the luncheon President George Hill inducted two new members, Michael Alfano and Stephan Longley, into the chapter. A fine time was had by all in attendance.

*-submitted by Glen Beebe*

*NJ photos next page*



*Saint Michael's Episcopal Church*



*Old Barracks Fife and Drum Corp*



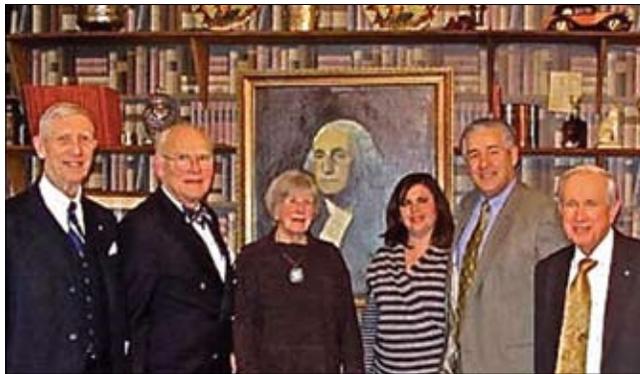
*Downtown Trenton*



*Society Pres Dr. George J. Hill*



*l-r: John M. Thomas II, Richard Patterson, George J. Hill, and George H. Pearson*



*l-r: Dr. George J. Hill, Caswell Cooke, Sr., Lanie Hill, Shannon Davenport, Terry Davenport, and Richard Patterson.*



*l-r: Caswell Cooke, Sr., shares a humorous moment with Richard Patterson*



*l-r: Jay Rutan, Brian Anderson, Terry Davenport, Scott Scammell, Richard Patterson, Michael Afano, Stephan Longley, Charlie Scammell, and George Hill*

*Photos by  
R. Caswell Cooke, Jr.*

**New York**

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, along with the Knickerbocker Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated the 134th annual George Washington’s Birthday Ball.

Communications Director Anthony Wellman acted as the evening’s emcee. Fire Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano and the New York City Fire Department were named “2011 Distinguished Patriots,” as this year marks the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001. They and their comrades were honored at the February 17th event.

Also recognized at the Ball was John Rowan, National President, Vietnam Veterans of America. He received the 2011 Distinguished Patriot Award from The Knickerbocker Chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Society President Donald Westervelt, Esq., gave the toast to the President of the United States. John Rowan toasted the Armed Forces, while Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr., gave a toast to General Washington. The ambassador also served as Corporate Benefactor.

In recognition of his extraordinary generosity to the Society and to the Fraunces Tavern Museum, Ambassador Loeb holds the title of SRNY Honorary President for Life.

The West Point Color Guard presented the national colors, and the SRNY Color Guard and the Knickerbocker Greys presented the Society colors.

*—submitted by Anthony Wellman*



*Chief Kilduff (center left) with MSG Randell L. Moody and West Point Cadets.*



*The SRNY Color Guard*



*Bandleader Paul Errico*



*Pipe Major Patrick H. Duffey*



*l-r: SRNY President Donald Westervelt and Chief of the Department Edward S. Kilduff*



*l-r: George G. Watson, Susan Grayshaw, and Judge James R. Grayshaw*



Sharon Handler and Amb. John L. Loeb, Jr.



Amb. John L. Loeb, Jr., toasts George Washington



Mrs. Emily Westervelt and President Donald Westervelt



Members of the Knickerbocker Chapter, D.A.R.

SRNY photos by James Higgins



Emcee Anthony Wellman

### North Carolina

On Feb. 5, 2011, the two Carolina Societies held their joint George Washington Birthday Luncheon at the North Carolina State University Club in Raleigh. Additional new members inducted into the North Carolina Society included Randy Lee, Carter Lee, and Allen Brahim, standing with his wife.

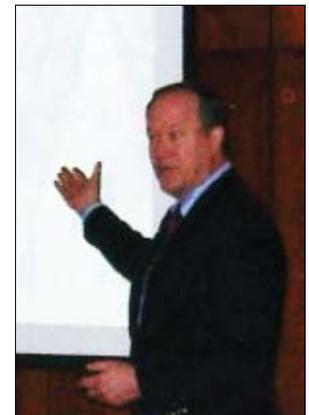
Members also heard a spell-binding presentation from author Stewart Dunaway on events leading up to General Greene's and General Cornwallis' meeting at Guilford Courthouse on March 15th, 1781.

Dunaway wrote and published the 2009 book, *Like a Bear with his Stern in a Corner*, a detailed examination of those events.

-text & photos courtesy of President Jeff Lambert



l to r: Randy Lee, Carter Lee, President NCSR Jeff Lambert, Allen Brahim, Stephanie Brahim



Author Stewart Dunaway

## Pennsylvania



The Pennsylvania Society gathered at the Union League of Philadelphia on February 19, 2011, for their annual celebration. Ceremonies began with the tradition of presenting the colors to President Benjamin Frick by the PSSR Color Guard, now

forty members strong, commanded by Captain Dr. Steven Mark. Toasts to the President and to the heroes of the American Revolution followed.

The special guest and speaker of the evening was Dr. R. Scott Stephenson, Director of Collections for the American Revolution Center. The ARC is developing a new national museum to be located in the heart of Philadelphia's historic district. He spoke of the Battle of Stony Point in July, 1779, and of General Anthony Wayne's command, which earned him the Congressional Gold Medal. Gen. Wayne's medal and the Letter of Transmittal signed by George Washington are treasured artifacts owned by PSSR.

Dr. David Humphrey was Chairman of the Ball. General President and Mrs. Terry Davenport were special guests. A banquet and dancing followed the formalities, as good food and good spirit were enjoyed in the warm atmosphere of flags and music honoring George Washington.

*-text and photos courtesy Lanny Patten*



*General President Terry Davenport and PSSR Officers in receiving line at the Union League*



*Society President Benjamin Frick addresses gathering*



*PSSR Color Guard presents the colors*



*l-r: Longtime SR members Edward Conroy, with wife Jean, and Dr. Robert Gill, M.D. with friend*



*l-r: General Chaplain Rev. G. Clayton Ames III, General President Davenport, General Secretary Curtis Cheyney, and General Vice President Richard M. Patterson, Region 2*

**Tennessee**



*l-r: Charles Carrol, David Whaley, Terry Davenport, David Rutherford, Rick Hollis, and John Glenn, Jr.*



*Swearing-in ceremony for new State Society officers*



*l-r: Penney d'Armand, TNSSR Office Manager, and Mr. & Mrs. Roy Duncan Crawford*

The Tennessee Society's 117th Annual Membership Meeting and George Washington Day Banquet were held on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011, at the East Tennessee Historical Society Museum. A ladies' tour of the museum began at 6 p.m. followed by the banquet at 7 p.m. General President Terry Davenport was present and gave the keynote address on overall Society affairs, the importance of upholding patriotism, and the importance of George Washington's achievements in the history of our country. He also presided over the swearing in of several new Society officers. Society President David Whaley gave a review of the past year's activities as well as a forward report.

Several patriotic societies were represented at the affair. TNSSAR President Rick Hollis brought greetings, as well as did John Glenn, Jr., President General of the Society of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and

Max L. Waldrop, Jr., Commander Gen. of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. TNSSAR President Hollis and Society President Whaley make Tennessee unique in that both state presidents are dual members of each organization.

TNSSR member and WVLT-TV (Knoxville) news anchor Alan Williams served and entertained as Master of Ceremonies. A humorous highlight of the Society President's reception was the presentation of "Roane Mountain Stump Water," the brainchild of member Jim Rivers. It contained a stout mixture of the most popular spirits of the Revolutionary era. He also brought along a tamer version called "Spring Water."

The following officers were sworn in:

- David Whaley, President
- Harry Patton, Vice President
- David Rutherford, Secretary
- James Rivers, Treasurer
- William Christenberry, acting Chaplain
- Gene Hicks, interim Registrar

Board members:

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| William Acuff | Terry Davenport |
| Robert Evans  | Reid Gryder     |
| Gary McDonald | Gerald Mustin   |
| Gerald Ross   | Alan Williams   |



*Terry Davenport*



*Alan Williams*



*Max L. Waldrop, Jr.*

*-submitted by President David Whaley;  
photos by Djuana Marsh*



**GEORGIA**

**Planning the 2012 Triennial**

The General Society Board of Managers met in Savannah in early March to preview the planned 2012 Triennial. Savannah has been chosen to host next year's big meeting.

The attending members were given a guided tour of the historic downtown area and other places of interest.

"We have been planning diligently to provide a variety of both entertainment and history that should be very memorable," Immediate Past President Lufburrow reported. "It should be a fun [occasion] for our Society and something that members from around the country will fondly remember for years to come."

Mr. Lufburrow presented the Board a tentative outline of the various functions. Events will begin on October 4, 2011, with registration at the Marriott Courtyard on Liberty Street. The general

membership meetings are planned, accordingly, on the mornings of the Oct. 5-6, 2011.

The Georgia delegation has planned a visit to the Battlefield Park/Railroad Round House Museum on Thursday evening and on Friday evening the cannons will roar at Ft. Jackson overlooking the Savannah River. Bring your earplugs!! Saturday evening, the banquet will be held at the Telfair Museum of Art.

-Editor



Terry Davenport leads the meeting.



l-r: Terry Davenport, David Rutherford, and Dick Patterson, all of the Executive Committee.

**Society Launches Newsletter**

The Georgia Society has introduced a new newsletter, aptly called the *Liberty Chronicles*. Its editor is the very able Gordon B. Smith, lawyer, historian, and published author. Mr. Smith currently serves as Historian for both the General Society and the State Society.

The 20-page premier issue contained articles about the re-interment of Col. John McIntosh, the Twiggs Cemetery in Augusta, as well as a history of the state society and differences between the SR and the SAR.



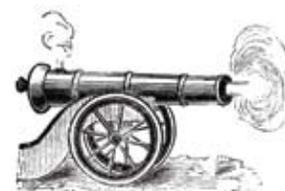
Outgoing Society President Stephen Lufburrow said, "With many new members coming to us from the ranks of the SAR, it is important to understand that difference."

If anyone has a Georgia-related article idea or knows of something that would be of interest to the Georgia membership, please contact Billy McIntosh at:

[wsmconsult@comcast.net](mailto:wsmconsult@comcast.net).

-Editor

-photos courtesy of Dick Patterson



## MASSACHUSETTS



*l-r: Anthony O'Brien, Kenneth J. Sutcliffe, Dr. Paul Dakin, John T. Manning, Henry Curtis, Esq., Kenneth P. Doten.*

Besides celebrating George Washington's Birthday, SR members in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts also took part in observing Lincoln Day, February 5th, organized by the Hingham Historical Society.

The Town of Hingham sponsors the celebration of Lincoln Day. Other underwriters include Hingham Institution for Saving, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, and the Massachusetts State Society.

### Lincoln Day Festivities

Lincoln Day combines recognition of President Abraham Lincoln and his ancestor General Benjamin Lincoln. The latter was a Revolutionary War hero from Hingham and is buried in the town cemetery. Lincoln ancestors first settled in Hingham in 1637.

"Lincoln Day is a celebration unlike any other in New England," said Scott Ford, chair of the event, as quoted in the local press. "It's a tribute to the spirit of community and duty that both Abraham and Benjamin and their forefathers exemplified."

This year's event, the thirty-fifth consecutive Lincoln Day celebration, featured a parade and presentation of colors by the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company (once commanded by General Lincoln). Captain Andrew McCawley, USN, former commander of the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln, delivered the keynote address.

### Bill of Rights Ratification

Ten days later, on February 15, members met at the Union Club of Boston to celebrate the 219th Anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights. Before the Massachusetts ratifying convention would accept the Constitution, members demanded that a Bill of Rights be amended to the document immediately upon creation of the new government. Anti-Federalist critics believed that the Constitution gave too much power

to the federal government by outlining its rights, but failing to delineate the rights of the individuals living under it.

Thus, the newly elected Congress drafted the Bill of Rights on December 25, 1789. Virginia became the last state to ratify the ten amendments, doing so on December 15, 1791—nearly three years to the day of its drafting.

### New Officers Installed

In December of last year, the following new slate of officers were elected and installed:

Kenneth James Sutcliffe, President  
 Dr. Paul Stephen Dakin, 1st Vice President  
 Dr. Henry N. McCarl, 2nd Vice President  
 John T. (Jack) Manning, Sec./Registrar  
 Capt. David Judson Gray, Treasurer  
 James R. Klim, Historian/Archivist

*-text & photo by James Klim*

## MINNESOTA

### New Officers Installed

Edward Reino Lief, President  
 William Raymond Johnson, Vice President  
 Dr. Duane Galles Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer  
 Arthur Louis Finnell, Registrar  
 William Raymond Johnson, Solicitor  
 Dr. Duane L.C.M. Galles, Ph.D., Rep. to GSSR  
 Col. Ronald Edward McRoberts, Chaplain

## NEW YORK

### Fraunces Tavern Museum Reopens



The Fraunces Tavern Museum reopened on January 5, 2011. The museum had been closed due to final construction work at the Fraunces Tavern Restaurant, which shares the ground floor entrance at 54 Pearl Street. The museum is resuming regular hours of operation: 12 Noon to 5 PM, Mondays through Saturdays. The current exhibit, Revolution and the City, about New York City's role in the struggle for American independence, has been extended until June 2011.

*-Continued on page 18*

–*New York State News, continued from page 17*



*Elected 2011 SRNY Officers and Board of Managers stand in the Bissell Room at Fraunces Tavern during the Annual Meeting on December 3, 2010.*

–*Photo by Charles C. Lucas, Jr.*

### New Officers Installed

The Annual Meeting of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York was held at Fraunces Tavern Restaurant on Friday, December 3, 2010, for the purpose of electing officers and managers of the Society. The meeting also commemorated the 227th Anniversary of General George Washington's Farewell to his Officers in the Long Room of Fraunces Tavern on December 4, 1783. Those elected for the year 2011 are:

Donald Westervelt, President

James R. Grayshaw, 1st Vice President

Charles A. Poekel, Jr., 2nd Vice President

Frederick W. Pattison, 3rd Vice President

Kenneth H. Chase, Secretary

Ambrose Richardson III, Treasurer

Daniel J. O'Connell, Registrar

Rev. Christopher M. Cullen, Chaplain

### Tallmadge Day Celebrated at Fraunces Tavern

The Tallmadge Day meeting was held on Monday, January 24, 2011. The annual dinner at Fraunces Tavern commemorates the birthday of Frederick Samuel Tallmadge, a former SRNY president whose generosity enabled the Society to acquire Fraunces Tavern following his 1904 death.

The evening began with a reception in the Flag Gallery in Fraunces Tavern Museum, followed by dinner.

Mr. Tallmadge was among the founding Society members and belonged to the Philolexian Society,



Columbia University's oldest still-extant student organization.

His funeral was conducted at St. Mark's Church on Second Avenue, where the Rev. Morgan Dix, SRNY

Chaplain; the Rev. F.L. Humphries, SRYNY Ass't. Chaplain; and the Rev. Loring W. Batten, rector of St. Mark's, presided. Mr. Tallmadge is interred in Litchfield, Conn.

–*submitted by Anthony Wellman*

## NORTH CAROLINA



*Hall Martin of the GASR and Rev. Gus Succop, President of the General Davidson Chapter of SRNC, stand at the grave of General William Lee Davidson.*

Members from the North Carolina and the Georgia societies observed the 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowan's Ford, held on Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011. The actual date of the battle was Feb. 1, 1781, as five-thousand British forces crossed the Catawaba River between Mecklenburg and Jefferson counties. Fewer than a thousand Patriots attempted to slow the British advance but posed little effective resistance. Patriot General William Lee Davidson, a beloved Carolinian, was killed in this battle. He was buried at Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville, N.C.

–*photo & text courtesy Jeffrey Lambert*

## TENNESSEE

### TWO SR MEMBERS VIE FOR GOVERNORSHIP



Tennessee First Lady Chrissy Haslam (center) and Gov. Bill Haslam (center right) pause with General President Terry Davenport and other TN-SOR members.

In Tennessee's gubernatorial election last November, the Sons were going to boast about the outcome either way. The winner, Republican Governor Bill Haslam, and his then-Democratic opponent, Mike McWherter, are both members of the Tennessee Society.

The election was historic in several ways: 1) For the first time in almost twenty years, voters elected a Republican to hold the high office; 2) the election put Republicans in complete control of state government for the first time since Reconstruction; and 3) against traditional voting patterns, the new governor hails from East Tennessee rather than from Middle or West Tennessee.

Mr. McWherter's father, Ned McWherter, was a popular two-term governor.

Gov. Haslam served two terms as Mayor of Knoxville prior to his running for governor. Before his involvement in politics, Bill headed Pilot Corp., the company his grandfather began, which operates a chain of truck stops. During his tenure there, he grew the company from eighty truck stops to more than three hundred across thirty-nine states. It now has some 468 stations and travel centers throughout the lower forty-eight and Canada.

—submitted by Col. Jack K. Westbrook,  
Past President



### Proper Headstone for Jeremiah Jack



Jeremiah Jack, Sr. (1750-1833), received his veteran's monument in early January at the Lebanon-in-the-Fork Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Knoxville.

He was a brother to Patrick Jack, Jr., and uncle to Capt. James Jack, bearer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. The Jacks were die-hard patriots in both North Carolina and

Tennessee. Jeremiah was in the Maryland Militia prior to coming to Tennessee in 1778.

Afterward he joined the North Carolina Militia and fought in the 1781 Battle of Kings Mountain and Boyd's Creek under the command of his friend, neighbor, fellow church member, and future state governor, Mr. John Sevier.

In 1792 Jeremiah Jack was appointed by Governor Blount as one of fifteen justices to the first court of Knox County. From 1792 to 1794, he served as a Justice of the Peace in Knox County.

—submitted by Gerald Jack, California Society

### “Bags for Boys”

In November, the Tennessee Society completed a project dubbed “Bags for Boys.” Two hundred eighty-five surplus military sleeping bags were divided among Tennessee Boy Scout Councils on the agreement that they would be given out to those Scouts earning Genealogy, American Heritage, or Citizenship in the Nation merit badges.

SERE Solutions, Inc. instructor and Society member Derek Whaley spearheaded the effort and provided the sleeping bags. Says Society President David Whaley: “The Genealogy, American Heritage, or Citizenship in the Nation merit badges exemplify the foundation upon which both the Scouts and the Sons operate.”

—submitted by President David Whaley

### COL John Donelson Chapter

The Tennessee Society has organized a new Chapter in Middle Tennessee. The organizational meeting of the COL John Donelson Chapter took place in late March, in Franklin. BG (Ret.) Bertram H. Chalfant, Jr., is Charter President. All those present became Charter Members. Besides installing new members, the group established its 2011 events calendar.

—from TN-SOR website

## VIRGINIA

*This submission was sent to the Drumbeat one year ago and should have been published much sooner. Please excuse the regrettable lapse.* —Editor



Brigadier General Andrew Lewis

It was a long time coming — 78 years, to be exact.

A bronze bust of Brigadier General Andrew Lewis (1720–1781), a Virginian of French & Indian War and Revolutionary War fame, was installed in the Old Hall of the House of Delegates at the Virginia State Capitol on March 22, 2010.

It is located just a few feet from the Rotunda's centerpiece, a life-size marble statue of George Washington by Jean-Antoine Houdon. Other nearby busts include fellow Revolutionary War patriots Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee and George Mason, explorer Meriwether Lewis, Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, as well as agriculturalist Cyrus McCormick.

The setting is indeed a hallowed hall: In April 1861, General Lee accepted the command of the Army of Northern Virginia from the Virginia General Assembly—the oldest legislative body in the western hemisphere—just twenty feet away from where Lewis' statue now stands.

More than twenty-five members of the Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Virginia attended the event, including direct descendants Lewis A. Pitzer of Martinsville, Va., and Andrew C. Pitzer of Washington, D.C., both of whom represented the Lewis family during the dedication ceremony.

"We are delighted to finally see this great Virginian from the western part of the state honored at the State Capitol," said Pitzer. "Many of us believe he is truly an unsung hero of the Revolution."

Other honored guests included Lewis descendant U.S. Sen. Charles S. Robb and Virginia House of Delegates Majority Leader Morgan Griffith of Salem. Sen. Robb, a former Virginia governor, traces

his roots to Lewis' brother Thomas and salutes those who pursued "the cause of bringing justice to the recognition of Andrew Lewis."

House Majority Leader Griffith presided over the unveiling. Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell officially accepted the bronze of Lewis on behalf of the Commonwealth.

—text and photos submitted by Secretary Douglas Payne



Old Hall of the House of Delegates



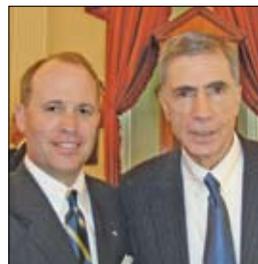
The official mace of the House of Delegates



l-r: Gov. Bob McDonnell and Membership Chair Carter V. Reid.



l-r: Former US Sen. Charles Robb, Gov. Bob McDonnell and State Congressman Morgan Griffith



l-r: Douglas Payne, Jr. and former US Sen. Charles Robb



The Fishburne Military School Color Guard

# Flintlock & Powderhorn

## ARTICLES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

### The Declaration Anniversary Powder Horn: Scenes from July 4th, 1777

by **Claude S. Harkins**

*The author, a member of the Missouri Society, is a renowned collector of early Americana and owns some 200 unique relics, flags and documents from the late 1700s, including the piece featured in this article. Mr. Harkins loans portions of his collection to museums around the country and makes presentations to schoolchildren coast to coast.*

During the colonial period, the cattle horns used by soldiers and woodsmen to store gun powder became a medium for skilled artists to express themselves. Talented engravers would personalize powder horns by etching names, initials, dates, flags, battles and sometimes much more onto the surface.

The powder horn described herein was etched with scenes from our country's first birthday, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

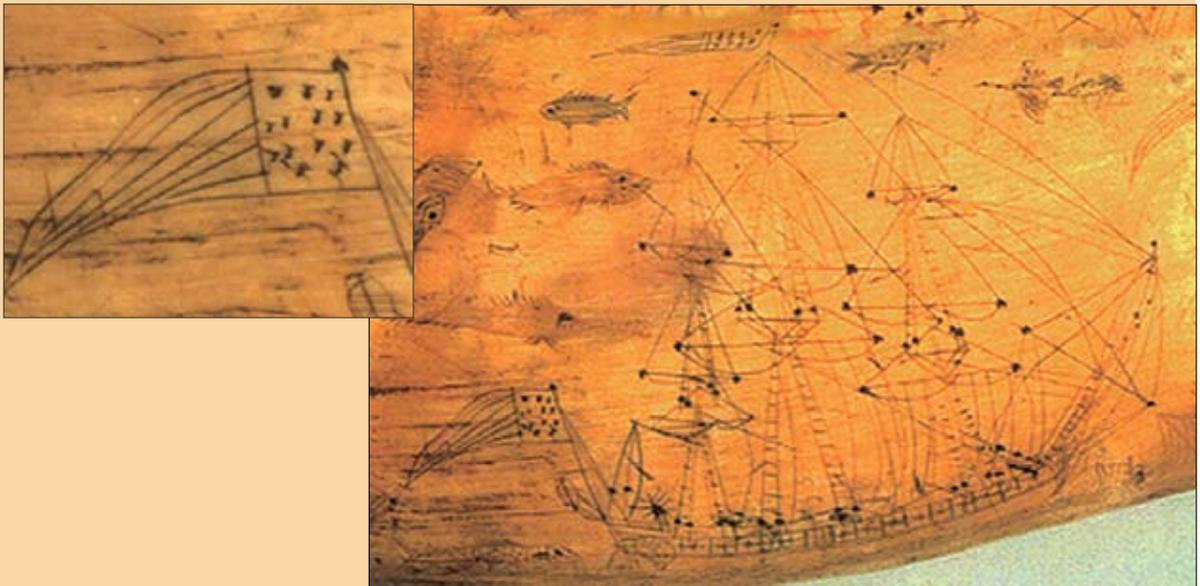
The historic celebration included a gathering on the Delaware River of twenty-two vessels from the Pennsylvania Navy and the Continental Navy.

Our nation's "Stars & Stripes" was flown for the very first time at that event, on the mast and stern of the frigate *Delaware*. Present onboard that day were none other than John Adams and John Hancock.

An unidentified powder horn carver captured scenes of the day while looking west from the east bank of the river. He probably spent most of the day sketching the images before etching them on later.

When it was time to do the carving, he etched into the nearly fifteen-inch horn the following: all twenty-two vessels, the Christ Church with its "Liberty Trees" protruding from its steeple, a wharf

*-Continued on page 22*



*On one side of the powder horn, the frigate Delaware is at anchor in the Delaware River. The new 13-star flag is shown on the center mast and at the stern. Inset: flag at stern.*

*-photos by Claude S. Harkins*

*Powder Horn, Continued from page 21*

building, a mermaid, a continental soldier, and the name of a Rhode Island Private—Augustus Saunders, 1777. Through extensive research, the author has determined that Saunders must have purchased the horn on or about October 18, 1777, while stationed at Ft. Mercer, south of Philadelphia.

**Prominent Feature**

The most prominent feature among the carvings is the *Delaware* with its two thirteen-star flags. Thirteen stars are carefully etched into the union of each flag. The twenty-one other vessels on the river that day flew the “Grand Union” flag, a.k.a. the ‘Continental Colors,’ and streamers.”

The *Pennsylvania Packet*, a popular Patriot newspaper, printed on July 8, 1777, a full report of the celebration, partially quoted here:

“Last Friday, the 4th of July, being the Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America, was celebrated in this city with demonstrations of joy and festivity. About noon all the armed ships and galleys in the river were drawn up before the city, dressed in the gayest manner, with “the colours of the United States and streamers displayed.

“At one o’clock, the yards being properly manned, they began the celebration of the day by a discharge of thirteen cannon from each of the ships, and one from each of the thirteen galleys, in honor of the Thirteen United States.

“—The evening was closed with the ringing of bells, and at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks.—Thus may the Fourth of July, that glorious and ever memorable day, be celebrated through America, by sons of freedom, from age to age till time shall be no more. Amen, and Amen.”

Every naval vessel on this horn is documented in naval history books as being present on the Delaware River on July 4, 1777. Each vessel has been identified as to its type, name, captain and number of cannons. Later in October and November, 1777, these vessels were either blown up or burned by the U.S. to prevent capture and use by the British Royal Navy. The only vessel not destroyed was the *Delaware*, which was captured by the British and placed into Royal Navy service.

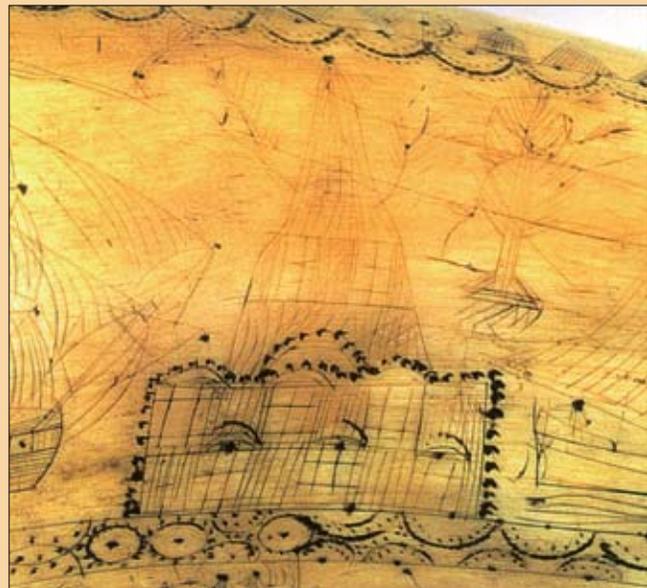
The author acquired this powder horn from William Guthman (deceased), a renowned powder horn expert and Americana dealer. He helped this writer in building his own powder horn collection. Guthman stated at the time: “This horn has the earliest rendering of our ‘Stars & Stripes’ on any powder horn that I have ever seen.”

Out of more than a thousand photos of various powder horns that the author has examined, this is the only surviving Revolutionary era powder horn of which the carver was eyewitness to a monumental historical event. ■



**Top:** Close-up of the flag on center mast.

**Bottom:** The old Christ Church, with ‘Liberty Trees’ growing out of the steeple.



—photos by Claude S. Harkins

# Platt Family of Connecticut and New York: *Entrepreneurial Brothers Unite to Prosper*

By David W. Swafford, Editor

*This is the second installment of a three-part story (see part I, Drumbeat Vol. 28, No. 4) of the Platt family men, of Connecticut and New York, who served in the Revolutionary War. The author wishes to thank Michigan Society member and GSSR Representative Max Riekse, and his wife, Nelly Riekse, for their collaboration and assistance in the telling of this story. Thanks also to Richard N. Platt of Milford, Connecticut.*

When the Revolutionary War began, Nathaniel Platt was appointed captain of a group of New York minute men. In the Battle of Long Island (Battle of Brooklyn), he led one of the first companies formed there as part of Col. Josiah Smith's regiment, attached to Gen. Benjamin Woodruff's brigade.

After the British took control of New York, Capt. Platt was transferred to the commissary department of the Army and was reportedly quite efficient in getting both supplies and recruits on the line to General Washington's troops along the Hudson River. He was with the Commander-in-Chief throughout the Westchester Campaign and served with Col Henry B. Livingston of the 4th Line in Connecticut as well. In fact, after the Patriots' retreat off Long Island, Nathaniel earned praise for the successful transferring of a large cache of Patriot arms and munitions from Long Island to Fishkill, N.Y., for Gen. Washington's use.

In fact, after the Patriots' retreat off Long Island, Nathaniel earned praise for the successful transferring of a large cache of Patriot arms and munitions from Long Island to Fishkill, N.Y., for Gen. Washington's use.

## First-Cousin Richard

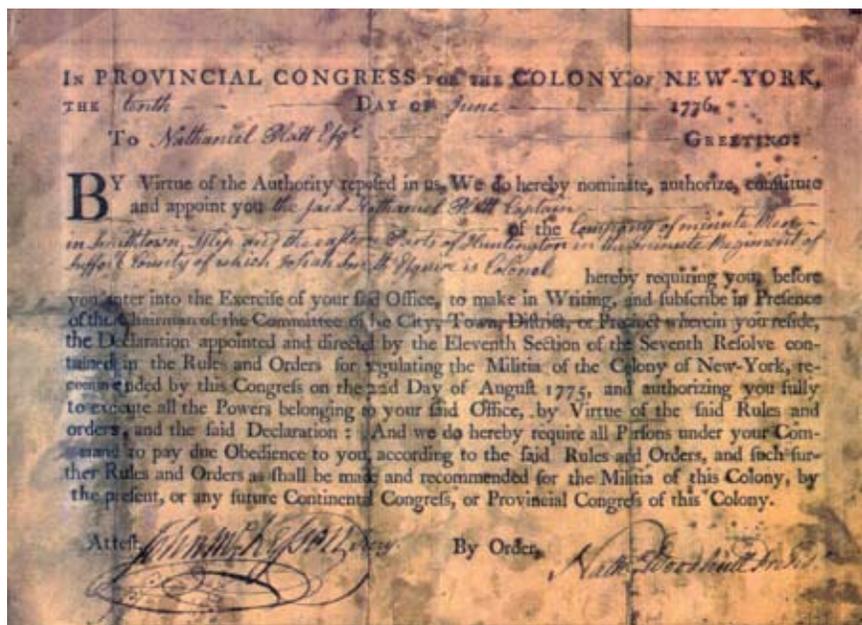
Apart from Nathaniel, his nephew Richard achieved his own wartime success. He received his first commission from General Washington, rising through the ranks of lieutenant, captain, major, major of brigade, aide-de-camp, deputy adjutant-general, and, finally, deputy quartermaster-general.

He held the last rank by the selection and recommendations of Generals Nathanael Greene, Alexander McDougall and Henry Knox.

"[Richard Platt] ended the war as an assistant quartermaster under George Washington," descendant Max Riekse said. "The Commander himself appointed him to that post, on orders."

Oil-based portraits of both Nathaniel and Richard Platt, reproduced by Max's wife, Nelly, hang on the family's dining room wall.

Richard was an aide-de-camp to General Richard Montgomery during the failed invasion of Quebec. In fact, the well-liked general expired in Platt's arms after getting hit by British shrapnel on the streets of lower Quebec. Later, as a charter member of the Society of the Cincinnati, Richard was given the honor to arrange a final tribute to Gen. Montgomery, with assistance from other select few individuals.



*The Provincial Congress of New York proclaims Nathaniel Platt Captain of the Company of Minute Men in Suffolk County (Long Island). –Photo credit: Max Riekse*

–Continued on page 24

–Platt Family, continued from page 23

### Zephaniah's Line

The line of Zephaniah Platt—the patriarch who died of smallpox onboard an English prison ship (see part 1)—includes those courageous souls who transplanted who transplanted the family name from Connecticut to Long Island generations before Zephaniah's day. It also includes those, in subsequent generations, who transplanted the family name again, this time to northernmost New York State.

Not long after the Revolutionary War, four Platt brothers—Zephaniah II, Captain Nathaniel, Daniel, and Charles—grouped their resources and moved north from Long Island to the western shore of Lake Champlain, where they utilized an idea which two of their Platt ancestors had implemented more than a century before. It is evidence of their inherited quixotic trait.

Who knows but that their late brother, Jonah, father to Richard and Ebenezer, would have joined them in the venture.

To appreciate the entrepreneurial genius involved in their move, it is necessary to understand their collective war

experience. All were veterans. Besides Nathaniel's service, Zephaniah II had served in the French & Indian War and, during the Revolution, was named a Colonel in the Dutchess County Regiment of Associated Exempts.

Charles served as a private in the 5th Militia of New York, and was also listed as an officer of a New York regiment of Minutemen. Daniel served in the fledgling Continental Navy, which at the time did not have armed ships and mostly raided British commercial vessels. As such, all of them were due bounties from the State of New York.

### A Stroke of Genius

Zephaniah II undoubtedly was the mastermind of the next step in their collective lives.

As first-born male of this generation, the junior Zephaniah had received an English education and by the onset of the Revolutionary War was

practicing law in Poughkeepsie, New York, the administrative seat of Dutchess County.

During the war, in addition to his service in the militia, he continued building on his influence and reputation by serving as a member of the New York Provincial Congress, the Committee of Safety, the State Senate, the Congress of the Confederation, and the Council of Appointment.

He would have kept abreast of new legislation emanating from Albany County, including the new



**Left:** The top of the sheath of Nathaniel Platt's sword. **Right:** the lion's head handle of Nathaniel Platt's sword.

–Photo credit: Max Riekse

bounty law passed in 1781, which guaranteed each officer and enlisted man from New York a right to 500 acres of the state's unappropriated land. The act further stipulated that if a group of veterans were to bring sixty-one rights together, forming 30,500 contiguous acres of unorganized land, a township of seven miles square would be formed.

One can envision Zephaniah's mind spinning fast and furious with regard to the opportunity. He quickly turned to Nathaniel first, and together they easily recruited brothers Daniel and Charles. The four of them then set out to associate with some thirty other veterans. Their plan: to combine enough land rights to create a township.

### Founding of Plattsburgh

Coincidentally, serendipitously perhaps, at about this time Zephaniah became aware of a previously claimed but uninhabited tract of

30,000 acres stretching west from Lake Champlain. It was the mother lode of land deals, oozing with opportunity like sap from the forest. The history of the tract itself dated to 1769, when Count Charles de Fredenburgh, who served the English army, received a land warrant from the Crown for his service.



*Reproduced portraits of Mrs. Nathaniel Platt, aka, Phoebe Smith, and of Nathaniel Platt, by Nelly Riekse.*

The captain had built a sumptuous home where the Saranac River emptied into the big lake, just south of the Cumberland peninsula. It is not hard to visualize Fredenburgh dreaming of his home as the gateway to his vast forested holdings.

Nevertheless, shortly before the Revolutionary War began, Fredenburgh moved his family to Montreal. He attempted to manage the land from afar, but after a while he was never heard from again. His castle-like home sat empty for years and, decaying slowly, eventually burnt to the ground. The 30,000 acres sat idle of ownership for years.

Of course, the Platt brothers and their new associates quickly focused upon obtaining rights to that land. As those land rights were being transferred, Zephaniah, Nathaniel, and a third gentleman obtained land patents and amassed an additional 2,000 acres, including the nearby Cumberland Head..

On April 4, 1785, by a special act of the Legislature, all of their land holdings were organized into one entity: The township of Plattsburgh had just been founded.

### Planning, Plotting, Dreaming

In order to spurn quick development of unappropriated lands, the state purposefully drew into the 1781 bounty law a clause which gave the township organizers a two-year period to develop the land and get the show on the road. If the lands were largely unchanged after that period of time, the grants would be reverted to the state.

To entice people to the area, the associates offered the first thirty families who settled in Plattsburgh one hundred acres apiece, free and clear. An additional hundred acres was promised the first-born male child of each of those thirty families, free and clear. With such generous enticements, the town was quickly established.

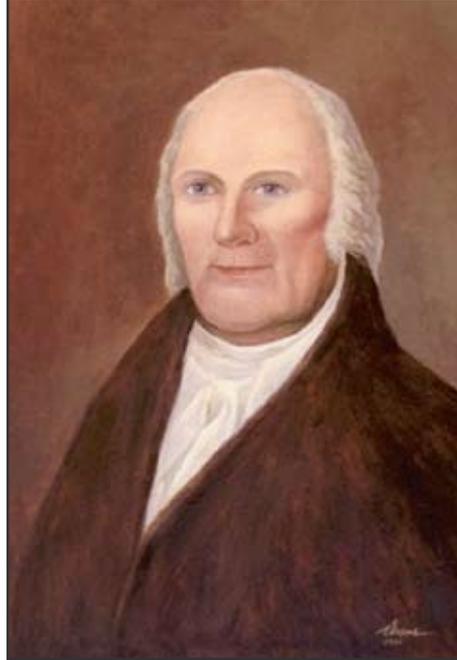
After setting aside the necessary plots for the town's residential and civic growth, the three dozen men turned to their personal interests—dividing and developing the rest of their holdings,

which amounted to some 24,000 acres.

The Platt group valued the area not only for the beautiful lake there, but also for its proximity to Montreal, its access to fur trading, and for its localized geographic features. These savvy pioneers wanted to take advantage of the widespread iron ore in the ground and the nearby falls on the river (Fredenburgh's Falls).

A group within the group—a dozen men headed by Zephaniah—cast their eyes on the Falls and plotted the construction of a sawmill, a grist-mill, and a forge. They were looking to do big business, but doing big business was a premature vision.

Despite the ups and downs, fits and starts, the Platt family roots these four brothers nobly planted centuries ago grew deep by the side of Lake Champlain. Their histories in that part of New York State are as indelible as the northern wilderness is there. ■



# Louis Le Bègue Duportail: Founder of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

By Daniel Jouve and Jacques de Trentinian

*The following article, part 2 of 2 (see part I, Drumbeat Vol. 28, No. 4), concludes the feature on Revolutionary War Chief Engineer Louis Le Bègue Duportail. The two-part article was edited for the Drumbeat and submitted by SR European Society member Jacques de Trentinian. The original version, posted on the Internet, was published by Daniel Jouve in the French journal, les Amis de la Grive (Charleville-Mézières).*

After spring broke in 1780 and the Continental Army left Valley Forge, General Duportail directed the engineering operations at Monmouth and worked on the defenses around Philadelphia. But with British General Sir Henry Clinton sailing north from the Caribbean to take Charleston, South Carolina, General Washington sent Duportail to help defend that city.

In May of that year, he was taken prisoner of war and kept behind bars throughout the long, hot Carolina summer. Fortunately, a prisoner exchange occurred in November, and Duportail was released. Washington commanded him to meet with Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, in Newport.

## Rendezvous with Rochambeau

Duportail met with Rochambeau and remained with him for three weeks to discuss battle strategy. The following year, 1781, Duportail was made Major General and accompanied both Washington and Rochambeau at their May meeting in Wethersfield, Connecticut, where his translation skills and social affability helped bridge a connection between the two commanding generals, who were of vastly different military and cultural backgrounds.

In the intervening time, Lieutenant General Francois Josef Paul, comte de Grasse, sailed for the Caribbean with an armada of over twenty ships of the line, leading a convoy of 150 French merchant vessels. He also ferried infantry reinforcements for Rochambeau. His mission was to reinforce the French West Indies, then turn northward.

With de Grasse's fortunate arrival to North America, it was agreed among allied commanders that the combined army and en-route navy should converge upon Yorktown. He then aimed his fleet

for Chesapeake Bay. With reluctance, Washington gave up his pet-project of recapturing New York and turned his sites on Virginia. Both Rochambeau and Duportail advised that without the French navy's presence in New York Harbor, an attack on the British there would be disastrous.

As the marching army neared its destination, Washington sent Duportail galloping on ahead to Cape Henry at the mouth of the Chesapeake. There Duportail boarded the *Ville de Paris* to confer with de Grasse and convince him to wait until all the troops had arrived by land before engaging the siege of Yorktown.

Duportail wrote to Washington: "When the French and American forces come together, we must take Cornwallis. Otherwise, we will

suffer dishonor." From the French point of view, since a greater part of the entire French navy had assembled in the Chesapeake, an offensive was imperative.

## Showdown at Yorktown

On September 17, 1781, Washington, Rochambeau, and Duportail, among others, visited de Grasse on his flagship to confer about the attack upon Cornwallis. During the battle, the American troops would be stationed on the right, the French on the left, de Grasse would remain in Lynn Haven Bay to prevent British naval assistance from reaching Cornwallis.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the burden of planning and executing the siege of Yorktown fell on the shoulders of thirteen engineer-officers in the combined armies. Their principal job was to dig the trenches approaching the enemy lines in parallel, zigzag formation, and clear the way during a direct assault. Duportail



*Louis Le Bègue Duportail.*

laid out the siege lines and artillery positions.

The Military Engineering Corps, predecessor to the modern Corps of Engineers, enjoyed its finest hour at Yorktown. Washington conducted a siege in the classical manner of France's Sebastien de Vauban, father of modern military engineering. The engineer-officers performed crucial reconnaissance, and their support team of fifty sappers and miners assembled fortification materials, erected gun platforms, transported cannon and ammunition, and cleared the way for the decisive assault.

During the construction of the second parallel, the allies encountered two strong British positions, Redoubts Nine and Ten. The enemy impeded progress along the line and had to be taken. American infantry, led by a contingent of sappers and miners under Colonel Alexander Hamilton, successfully captured Redoubt Ten. The French, meanwhile, took Redoubt Nine. In less than twelve hours, both redoubts had been incorporated into the siege lines. The threat to British General Charles Cornwallis' position was now so formidable that he unsuccessfully attempted to escape. Surrender was inevitable.

When it was over, Duportail quickly pointed out—and Washington wholeheartedly agreed—that the officers of the Corps of Engineers had contributed significantly to the outcome. With great respect for Duportail, Washington declared “his plan and conduct of the late attacks in the successful siege of Yorktown afford brilliant proofs of his military genius, and set the seal of his reputation.”

### After the War of Independence

At the end of the Revolutionary War, several officers, including Duportail, argued for a peacetime army with a single Corps of Artillerists and Engineers, as was customary in many European countries. Congress did not approve it. In fact, in November 1783, the legislators disbanded the bulk

of the Continental Army, including the Military Engineering Corps.

Not discouraged, he charted what later became the basis for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His detailed program called for an officer training school with a three-year curriculum emphasizing chemistry and war-planning. He outlined the organization of each unit within the Corps and gave the Corps its motto: “*Essayons!*”

When he returned to France in late 1783, he was made Chevalier de Saint-Louis and promoted to the rank of Brigadier. In November 1790 he was named Minister and Secretary of State for War in the government during the French Revolution,



but held the position for only a little more than a year. In learning of political charges against him, eventually he left to America, where he bought a 250-acre farm near Valley Forge (in what is now Bridgeport, Pennsylvania).

Although the political charges against him were dropped in 1797, he continued to live in America and make the young nation his home.

In 1801, Napoleon Bonaparte called him back to France, given the emperor's call of amnesty—a call to which Duportail responded. He sailed from New York on *La Sophia* in July of that year. But, as fate would have it, on his way back home Brigadier General Louis Le Bègue Duportail died at sea. He was given a dignified burial in the Atlantic Ocean. Soon after his death, Congress moved to create the peacetime Army Corps of Engineers to be educated and trained at West Point. ■

—Daniel Jouve is a writer and French historian. He and his wife, Alice, co-authored *Paris, Birthplace of the U.S.A.: A walking guide for the American Patriot* (Grund 1997). Jacques de Trentinian, a retired CEO, is Vice President General (Europe) of the Sons of the American Revolution and a board member of the French branch of the Society of the Cincinnati.

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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.

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### Submission Deadline Dates

<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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