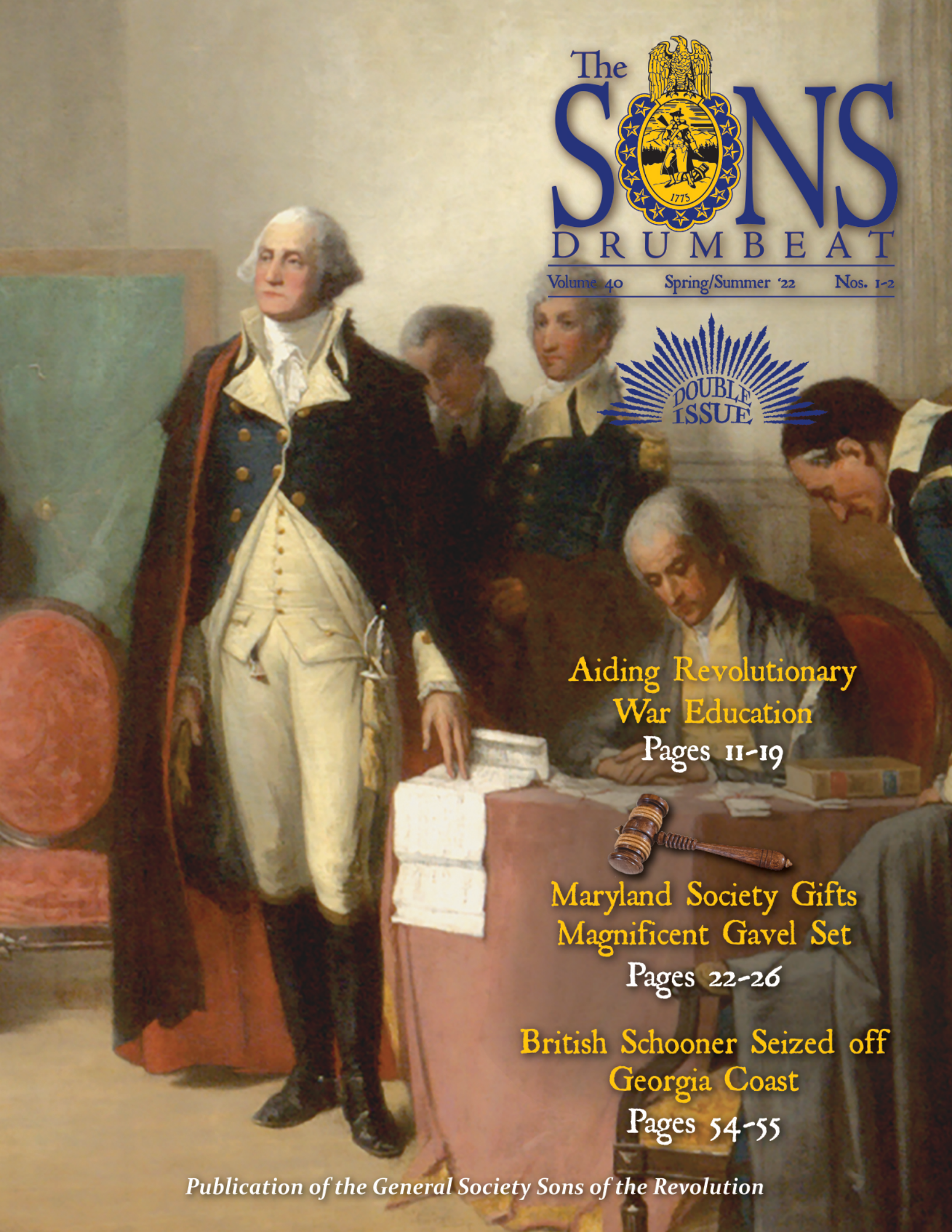

The SONS DRUMBEAT

Volume 40 Spring/Summer '22 Nos. 1-2

DOUBLE ISSUE

Aiding Revolutionary War Education

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Publication of the General Society Sons of the Revolution

President's Message

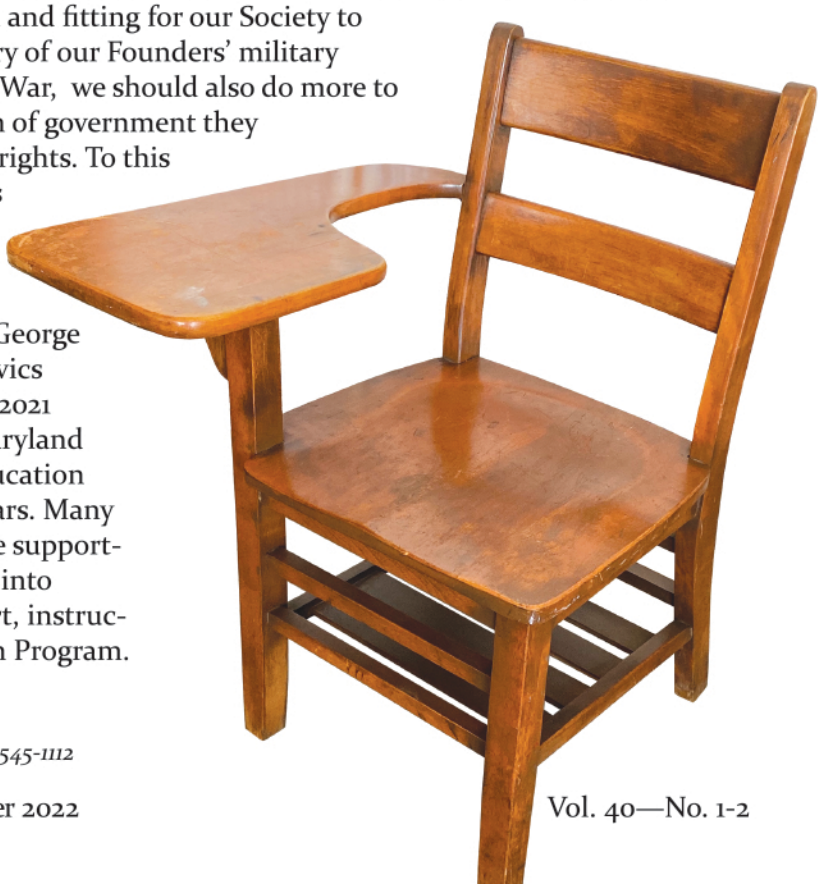
The Importance of Civics Education to the Objectives of the Sons

By General President Russell P. Rich

The primary goal of the Sons of the Revolution is to preserve and protect the legacy of our forefathers who served in the Revolutionary War and major battles. We naturally focus on the military service of these men from 1775 to 1783 when they risked their lives in combat with the British. However, that is only half of the founders' real legacy. Our Founders not only risked their lives, fortunes and sacred honor in war, but they also formed the government under which we live today.

No two men so personified the duality of service in war and the formation of the government to come after it, as George Washington and Alexander Hamilton. Washington was not only the commander of the American army during the Revolution, but served as the first President of the United States following the ratification of the Constitution. Alexander Hamilton not only rendered great service as Washington's aide-de-camp during the war and risked his life in command of one of the final American assaults at Yorktown, but went on after the war to write most of the Federalist Papers which helped convince Americans to support the U.S. Constitution. The debt we owe these men and other Revolutionary War patriots is not just for their military service, but also for the system of government they gave us.

Unfortunately, many Americans today are just as ignorant about the system of government our Founders gave us as they are about their military service during the Revolution (1775-1783). Although it is natural and fitting for our Society to promote and preserve the memory of our Founders' military service during the Revolutionary War, we should also do more to promote knowledge of the system of government they created in order to safeguard our rights. To this end, the Sons of the Revolution is proud to support Civics Education. A significant element of the curriculum at the George Washington Teacher Institute at George Washington's Mount Vernon is civics education, as noted in the Institute's 2021 Annual Report. I am pleased that the Maryland Society has supported the Mount Vernon Education program at the $5,000 level for the last several years. Many members, State Societies, and the General Society are supporting the initiative to get more Revolutionary War books into classrooms and to have schools use a new series of short, instructional videos called the Civics Fundamentals Education Program.



Cover image compliments of: Maryland State Archives, Washington Resigning His Commission, Edwin White (1817-1877), 1858, MSA SC 1545-1112

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fulfilling Our Mission

Russell Rich

One of my goals as General President of your Society is to reinvigorate our work educating the public about the American Revolution. We have reactivated and renamed the American Heritage Committee to the American Heritage and Youth Education Committee, which I am now chairing temporarily. We are also using funds of the Society of '83 to support several educational initiatives. These include supporting the Revolutionary War Youth Book Program for public elementary schools and Civics Fundamentals with Judge Douglas Ginsburg, an online series of videos for elementary, secondary, and home schools.

We have also pledged our fraternal support and involvement in the Society of the Cincinnati's efforts to address and overcome the dearth of presenting American Revolution history in today's classrooms. (For more information on all these endeavors, see the special section on Education, starting on page 11.) Beyond these undertakings, we are also supporting an effort by the Missouri Society to develop a children's coloring book on the 1780 Battle of Fort San Carlos, the only Revolutionary War battle fought west of the Mississippi River. Proceeds from the sales will be donated to the historic Centre for French Colonial Life in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, south of St. Louis, which has an extensive exhibit on the San Carlos battle. This type of project has the potential to be replicated in many State Societies.

Aside from my involvement in the efforts just described, I have carried our banner and represented the General Society at many Sons' events across the country and at the proceedings of other Revolutionary War and Colonial lineage organizations as well. From October of last year through the first half of this year, I participated in numerous patriotic events in order to build relationships with other closely related patriotic and lineage societies, such the SAR, the CAR, 1812, Colonial Wars, and the Cincinnati. The second half of 2022 will be just as busy. Here is a round-up of the earlier events:

2021

October 20: St. George's Society of Baltimore 2022 Trafalgar Night Dinner at the Maryland Club in Baltimore. The evening commemorates Lord Horatio Nelson and the historic Battle of Trafalgar of October 21, 1805.

October 30: The 130th General Council of Colonial Wars in Annapolis, Maryland.

November 12: Maryland Society's Annual President's Reception at the Maryland Center for History and Culture, Baltimore. The event also served as a celebration of the Center's new, long-term exhibit, "The Unfinished Revolution: Maryland in the Wars for Independence." The exhibit was underwritten by the Maryland Society SR, the GSSR, and the Society of the Cincinnati.

Maryland Center for History and Culture.

November 13: Virginia Society's Annual Oyster Roast. Held at the Wilton House Museum in Richmond. The event is a shared gathering of The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Virginia, as well as the VSSR. My wife, Stephanie, and I were joined by Assistant to the President C. L. Sigmon and officers and members of the Virginia Society.

December 5: Maryland Society's Annual George Washington Brunch in Baltimore, which was a sold-out event.

December 14: District of Columbia Society's Annual Meeting at the Chevy Chase Club, where I gave a brief talk about activities of the General Society and our goals.

M. Hall Worthington, left, and Russell Rich at the Naval Academy to present the Annapolis Cup Award on behalf of the GSSR.

2022

February 4: The Colonial Wars Ball in Florida, which was also attended by members of SR Massachusetts and President Emeritus Larry Simpson.

February 26: The PSSR George Washington Ball attended by me, Ivan Bennett, and members from the SR South Carolina and SR New Jersey. I gave the official toast to George Washington at this event.

March 8: The District of Columbia SR's Annual Mess Dinner, which celebrates the Society's founding on March 11, 1899. I extended greetings on behalf of the GSSR.

March 23: Along with General President Emeritus Brig. Gen. (Ret.) M. Hall Worthington, I presented the GSSR 2022 Annapolis Cup Award to a graduating Midshipman at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis. This year's award went to Midshipman 1st Class MIDN Cameron Smith for a Weapons & Robotics project.

March 26: The 240th Annual Meeting of the Society of the Cincinnati at Anderson House in Washington, D.C.

March 30: The Society of the Cincinnati's Revolutionary War Forum, Anderson House. My guests included General Secretary Ambrose Richardson from NY, Regional Vice President Charlie Scammell from NJ, 1st Vice President Mark Jakobowski from VA, General Treasurer and KYSR President Louis (Buzz) Carmichael, and General Historian and Palm Beach Chapter President Joe McChristian from FL (Palm Beach Chapter). General President Emeritus Curt Cheyney, also invited, could not attend.

Pierre L'Enfant gravesite, Arlington National Cemetery.

May 23: The District of Columbia Society's Spring Brunch at the Chevy Chase Club, at which the Hon. Alex M. Azar II, 24th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was a guest and prospective member.

June 14: Wreath-Laying for the 197th birthday of Pierre L'Enfant, Arlington National Cemetery. L'Enfant was a Frenchman who in the Revolutionary War, remained in the United States, and in 1791 was asked by George Washington to design the layout of Washington, D.C. streets and federal buildings.

June 15: Visited George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate with Maryland SR President Tom Hosford for the presentation of a MD-SR check for $5,000 to support Mount Vernon's Teacher Association program in furtherance of Revolutionary War education.

First Lady Stephanie Rich, General President Russell Rich, and C.A.R. National President Cagle Kaough at the 122nd S.A.R. Congress in Savannah.

June 17-18: North Carolina Society's Annual Meeting, where I performed the installation of new officers and new members and heard the history of the Halifax Resolves, which was the first call from any of the colonies for independence from Britain. .

July 10-15: 132nd Congress, NSSAR, Savannah, GA. I brought greetings to the Congress on behalf of the GSSR. (The General Society was very well represented at the NSSAR Congress a few years ago by General President Emeritus Mitchell Bush.) I joined SAR President General C. Bruce Pickette and SAR Past President General Davis L. Wright for dinner on Monday night.

Reminder to Register for the 2022 GSSR Visit and BOM Meeting at Walt Disney World®

September 22 – 25, 2022

The General Society encourages all members to attend the 2022 Annual Meeting scheduled for September 22 – 25 at Disney's Yacht Club Resort® located at Walt Disney World Resort® in Orlando, Florida. In addition to the business sessions for all delegates, there will also be a BOM session scheduled. This opportunity is a wonderful chance to have relaxed meetings and family leisure time at significantly reduced rates.

The business sessions will end around noon each day, so you will have plenty of free time before we meet for the events of Friday and Saturday evenings. As a convention guest, you'll have access to purchasing discounted park passes for half-days and evenings, which are not available to the general public. When we postponed the 2020 reservation due to COVID, Disney Meetings & Events guaranteed us the original 2021 discounted rates for the rescheduled meeting. **We started with 40 rooms total at Disney's Yacht Club Resort for $275 per night, plus tax, equaling $308. In order to meet our minimum quota, we are seeking 18 more registrations (to include Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights). A third adult may stay in your room for an additional $35 per night.**

Disney's Yacht Club Resort® includes three swimming pools, a beach, a lazy river for tubing, and an underwater life-size shipwreck. Aside from swimming, guests can charter a cruise on the lake or go fishing. For land lovers, there's a higher-end gift shop, a fine steak restaurant, a gym and spa, plus outdoor tennis, golf, and volleyball. As the sun goes down, you can enjoy campfire activities and watch outdoor Disney movies. One of the most useful of all the apps, especially for planning your trip, is My Disney Experience.

DISNEY PROPERTIES/ARTWORK: © DISNEY

Disney's Yacht Club Resort

Time to Start Planning

Reservations can be made either online or by calling Disney Group Reservations at (407) 939-4686. For online reservations, visit: https://book.passkey.com/go/GSSRboardofmanagers22. If calling in a reservation, provide this SR discount code when asked: G-0781011. receiving the discounted room rate of $275 is August 23rd. The normal rate is $650+.

After your room reservation has been made, you will be issued a confirmation number. Keep that number handy, especially if you have a smart phone or laptop with Wi-Fi connectivity. With that number, it is advisable to create an online personal Disney Account. Creating a Disney Account will allow you to plan your vacation and customize your

online Disney experience. Once your account is established, you'll then be able to log into all Disney sites and apps with just one username and password. To create your Disney Account, visit https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/login.

For the convenience of our SR members, Disney has established a microsite for the SR at https://mydisneygroup.com/gssr092022. On this site, you can view everything about Walt Disney World Resort®, including parking and maps. You can purchase discounted Theme Park tickets and make Theme Park reservations. Remember, you can't enter a Theme Park without making a reservation first for the day you intend to visit the park and for each person in your party. Also important, each person in your party must have a Park Entry Pass for the first theme park you plan to visit on any given day.

Meeting Registration

Once your room reservation is made and you've opened your Disney Account, the next step is to call the General Society at (800) 593-1776 or (757) 345-0757 and inform C.L. Sigmon that you will be attending. **The General Society has set the Meeting registration cost at $345 for members and guests.** The cost includes the Thursday evening open bar and Meeting registration at the Yacht Club Convention Center, the Friday evening dessert buffet, fireworks at Epcot, and the Saturday evening seated Annual Meeting dinner at the Yacht Club.
On Friday evening, you will need to have an Epcot day ticket, a park hopper ticket, or annual pass to get into Epcot. If you don't have one of those, you will be charged a $20 admission. All breakfasts are on your own. Attire for the entire weekend is resort casual or business casual.

There are many off-site opportunities to enjoy in the area surrounding Walt Disney World Resort®. Within WDW, you can take advantage of a complimentary network of buses, boats, and monorails available to Disney guests for transportation between Disney resorts and hotels, theme parks, water parks, and shopping.

Table-Service Dining

Some of the best table-service dining in America can be found at Disney World Resort®. That's no joke. Some people plan a Disney World vacation because of the wonderful dining. Therefore, securing a reservation at your targeted restaurant(s) before you go is highly advisable. Planning ahead is essential.

Some of the most popular restaurants include Be Our Guest, Cinderella's Royal Table, and Liberty Tree Tavern (Magic Kingdom); Chef Mickey's and California Grill (Disney's Contemporary Resort); Le Cellier Steakhouse, Chefs de France, and Tutto Italia (Epcot); Sanaa and Oga's Cantina (Hollywood Studios); Shula's Steakhouse (Disney's Dolphin Resort); Il Mulino (Disney's Swan Resort); Topolino's Terrace (Disney's Riviera Resort) and Ale & Compass (Disney's Yacht Club Resort).

Be sure to confirm whether your targeted restaurant is open. A few of the best ones, including Victoria and Albert's, and Takumi-Tei, are still temporarily closed due to COVID precautions. Chances are good, however, they will re-open before late September. Keep checking.

For any table-service restaurant within Walt Disney World Resort® property, you can book reservations starting sixty days out prior to check-in. Use this link, https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/dining/. There are also abundant restaurants just outside the Walt Disney World property, too. Disney Springs offers all types of dining experiences, and many of them are not as expensive as what you may find inside WDW. We look forward to seeing you in September.

DISNEY PROPERTIES/ARTWORK: © DISNEY

General Society Sons of the Revolution

2022 Board of Managers Meeting Registration Form

Sept 22 - 25, 2022
Walt Disney World Resort®
Orlando, Florida

Name _____ Wife/Guest_____
Street Address_____
City _____ State _____Zip Code _____
Phone Number_____ E-mail _____
State Society _____ Position held _____

Meeting Registration is $345 for members and guests.
The cost includes the following events:

Thursday evening: Dinner on your own

6 pm - 7:15 pm — Meeting of the Executive Committee.

7:15 pm - 8:00 pm — Open bar and Event Registration

Friday: Breakfast on your own	**Yes**	**No**
8:30 am - 12:30 pm — Business Session	❑	❑
7 pm — Transportation to Epcot	❑	❑
7:30 pm - 9 pm — Dessert buffet & fireworks at Epcot	❑	❑
9:30 pm — Return to Yacht Club Resort	❑	❑
Saturday: Breakfast on your own		
8:30 am - 12:30 pm — Business Session and Necrology Service	❑	❑
6:00 pm — Cash bar cocktail reception, Yacht Club Resort (Asbury Hall A & B)	❑	❑
6:30 pm — Annual Meeting Dinner, Yacht Club Resort (Asbury Hall A & B)	❑	❑
Sunday: Breakfast on your own		
8:30 am — Church Service (Cape Cod Hall A & B), followed by Farewell Sherry	❑	❑

Make out your registration fee check to The General Society of the Sons of the Revolution and mail to:

General Society of the Sons of the Revolution
Board of Managers Meeting Registration
412 Francis Street West
Williamsburg, VA 23185

The Host Hotel is Disney's Yacht Club Resort,1700 Epcot Resorts Blvd, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830.
The Discounted Room Rate for SR Members is $275 per night, plus tax ($308 total).
Registration deadline is Aug. 23rd.
We look forward to seeing you there!

General Society Sons of the Revolution

2022 Board of Managers Meeting

Sept 22 - 25, 2022
Walt Disney World Resort®
Orlando, Florida

Agenda

Thursday evening: Dinner on your own

4 pm — Room Reservation at Disney's Yacht Club Resort

6 pm — Executive Committee Meeting in Ale & Compass Restaurant, Yacht Club

7:15 pm - 8:00 pm — Open bar and Event Registration

Friday: Breakfast on your own

8:30 am - 12:30 pm — Business Session

12:30 pm - 7 pm — Free time

7 pm — Transportation to Epcot

7:30 pm - 9 pm — Dessert buffet & fireworks at Epcot

9:30 pm — Return to Yacht Club Resort

Saturday: Breakfast on your own

8:30 am - 12:30 pm — Business Session and Necrology Service

12:30 pm - 7 pm — Free time

6:00 pm — Cash bar cocktail reception, Yacht Club Resort (Asbury Hall A & B)

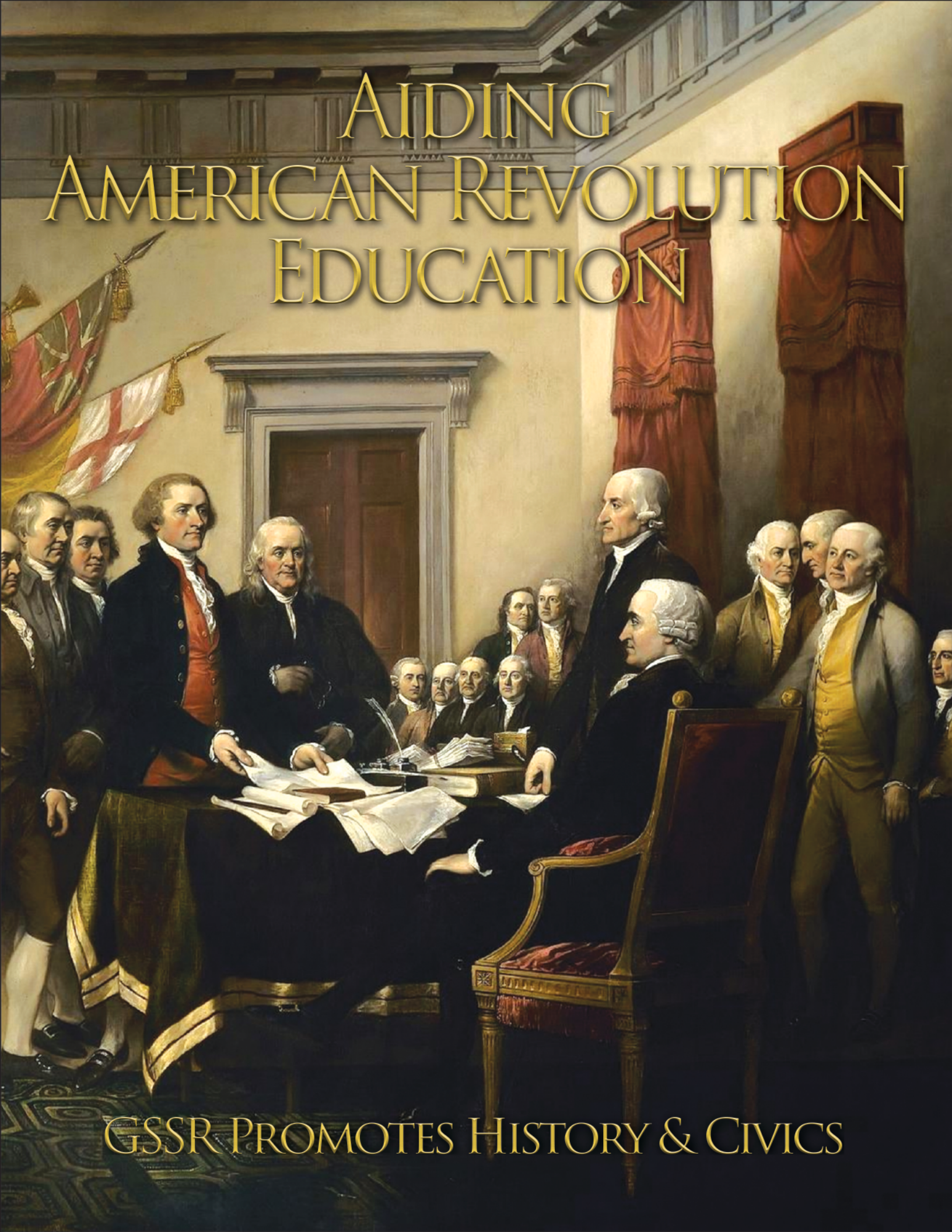
6:30 pm — Annual Meeting Dinner, Yacht Club Resort (Asbury Hall A & B)

Sunday: Breakfast on your own

8:30 am — Church Service (Cape Cod Hall A & B), followed by Farewell Sherry

2022 Annual Meeting and BOM Committee

Russell Rich, *General President and Committee Chair*
Dr. Laurence S. Simpson, *General President Emeritus*
Buzz Carmichael, *General Treasurer*
Ivan Bennett, *General Vice President*
Charlie Scammell, *Region 2 Vice President*
Frank Hardeman, *Region 3 Vice President*
CL Sigmon
Sharon Toms



Aiding American Revolution Education

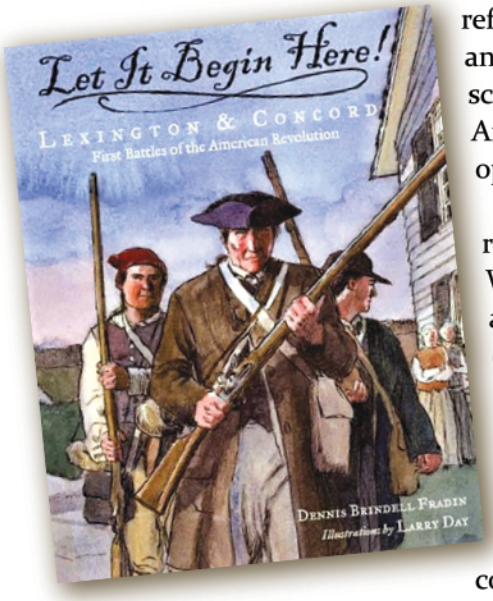
GSSR Promotes History & Civics

Putting the Revolution Back into Public Schools

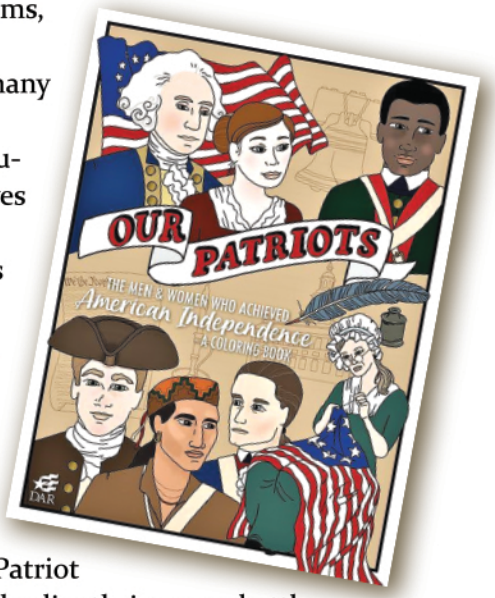
By Russell Rich, Jr.

During the spring and summer of 2022, the Maryland Society of Sons of the Revolution under the direction of this writer implemented a pilot-program to offer twenty-five teachers of public elementary schools in Maryland a free children's book about the American Revolution. The program is being launched in phases. In phase 1, launched in May of 2022, the Sons offered each of the twenty-five teachers one free book of their choice from an SR-compiled list of approximately ninety children's books on the Revolution. This writer sent introductory emails to the Maryland State Department of Education to obtain the Department's help in enlisting Social Science teachers into the program.

The goal is for teachers to use the books while teaching in the classroom and keep them in the classrooms as a reference. Funding for this program is being provided by the Maryland Society and the GSSR Society of '83. The program is focused at the elementary and high school levels because research shows that providing students a foundation in American history early on is critical for their learning. The program thus far is operating in Maryland only, but we fully intend to expand it into other states.



It is only natural for our list to include titles that examine—and revere—the achievements of the Revolution's "great men," such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin. However, while compiling our list, we also came across many works that tell the story of women and people of color living through the Revolution, believing in it, and risking their lives to support it. We learn through these books that sometimes women served as couriers during the war, riding to warn people of impending British attacks. Sometimes they were even present on the battlefields, either disguised as Patriot soldiers themselves or assisting Patriot soldiers. We also learned of a female printer who printed copies of the Declaration of Independence with her name appearing as the printer—quite a daring display.



Black men served, too, both free and enslaved. They risked their lives as Patriot soldiers and as Patriot spies. They served valiantly in many battles, including at Bunker Hill and the Battle of Rhode Island. At the Battle of Yorktown, for example, a substantial number of men of color were among those who dug the first parallel of trenches just 500 yards from the enemy. The 1st Rhode Island, an all-black unit, took Redoubt #10 during that battle.

All persons who contributed to the cause of independence should be remembered, and we are proud that our booklist includes a broad array of stories. Incorporating those stories into contemporary educational efforts demonstrates how diverse and inclusive the fight against the king's tyranny actually was. By using these books in their classrooms, teachers will be able to show students that people from all walks of life risked their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to support the Revolution. This is the best way we know of to convince as many students as possible to defend our Founders' legacy!

The following list includes just a few of the titles we are offering to the teachers in this pilot-program:

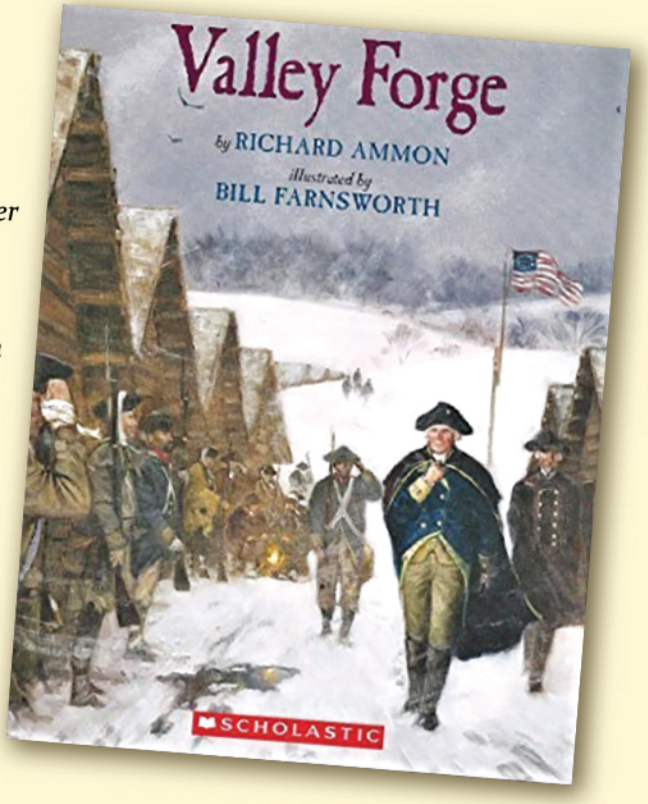
1) *Let it Begin Here! Lexington & Concord: First Battles of the American Revolution (2009). By Dennis Fradin.* Illustrated by Larry Day.

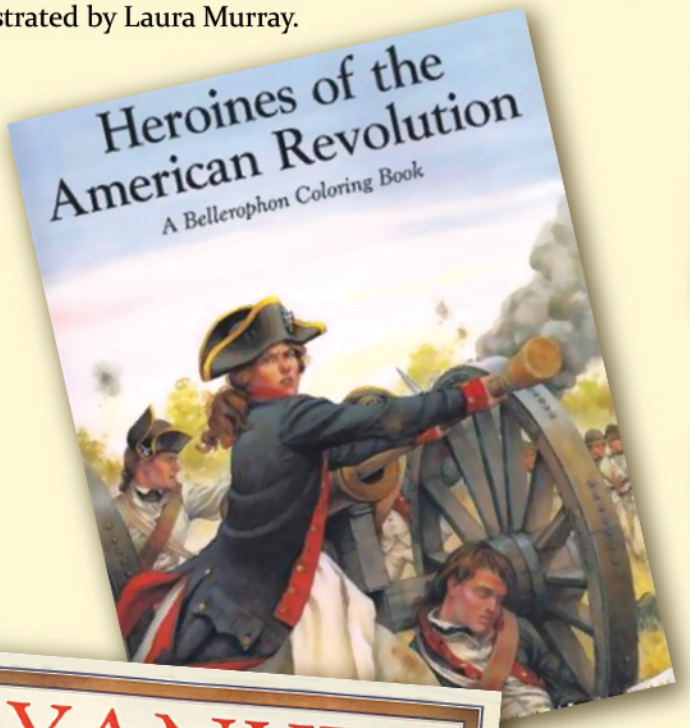
2) *The Black Regiment of the American Revolution* (2004). By Linda Brennan. Illustrated by Cheryl Noll.

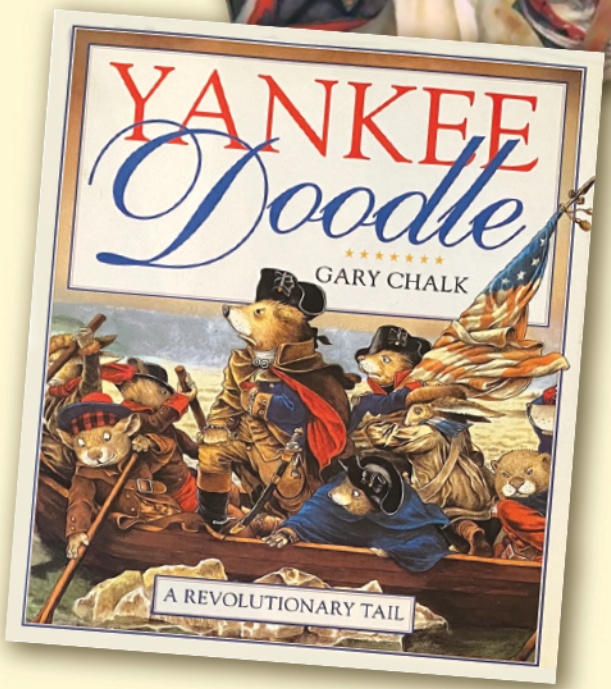
3) *Valley Forge* (2005). By Richard Ammon. llustrated by Bill Farnsworth.

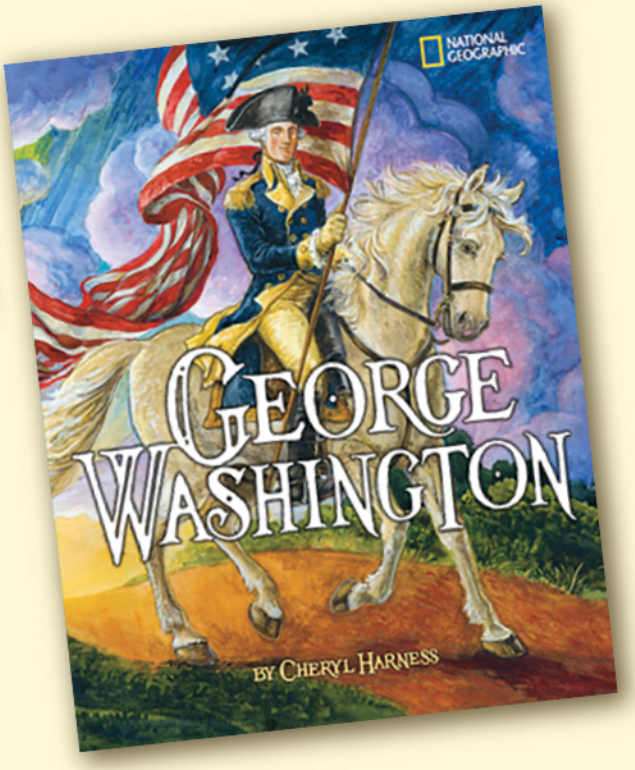
4) *Forgotten Founders: Black Patriots, Women Soldiers, & Other Heroes Who Shaped the American Revolution* (2022). By Mifflin Lowe. Illustrated by William Luong.

5) *Our Patriots: The Men and Women Who Achieved American Independence: A Coloring Book.* (2021). By the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.). Illustrated by Laura Murray.









The Basics of Civics

By General Historian Joe McChristian, Jr.

Our God-given rights as American citizens, which our forefathers fought hard to protect, are now in jeopardy! And most of our countrymen don't realize it. A basic understanding of civics in our society is lacking. Civics education in our schools and of the public in general has been a failure. We, as a citizenry, are markedly uninformed about how our government operates. A majority of our citizens do not know or understand what our rights and our civic responsibilities are as Americans.

Two-thirds of Americans cannot pass the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalization test for U.S. citizenship.[1] Only a quarter of Americans can name all three branches of government.[2] And many can't explain their functions in protecting our freedoms for which the patriots fought. **A recent survey of 13,400 eighth grade students found fewer than twenty-five percent scored proficient in civics. This means that three out of four students are not familiar with the basic functions of our constitutional republic as provided in our constitution.**[3] There is a great deal that needs to be done and can be done to correct the situation. Only with a well-informed and educated citizenry will we be able to preserve our liberty and our freedom for our country's future.

The Sons of the Revolution was founded to promote knowledge and appreciation of the achievement of American independence, and to foster fellowship amongst its members. The State Societies and the General Society, as 501(c)3 nonprofit educational organizations devoted to the principles of freedom and liberty and to the ideals of our nation's Founders, have as a primary purpose the education of our citizenry and, in particular, our nation's youth.

Continued on page 14

CIVICS Fundamentals

with Judge Douglas Ginsburg

• A Teacher's Guide with four sample lesson plans • Discussion questions/prompts for group activities and essays
• Downloadable flash cards • An online Civics Jeopardy-like quiz-whiz game • Critical terminology and vocabulary • Pre-and post-assessment
• Four test banks and badges to help monitor and chart progress • Supplemental videos and materials for a deeper dive

What is the supreme law of the land?

What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

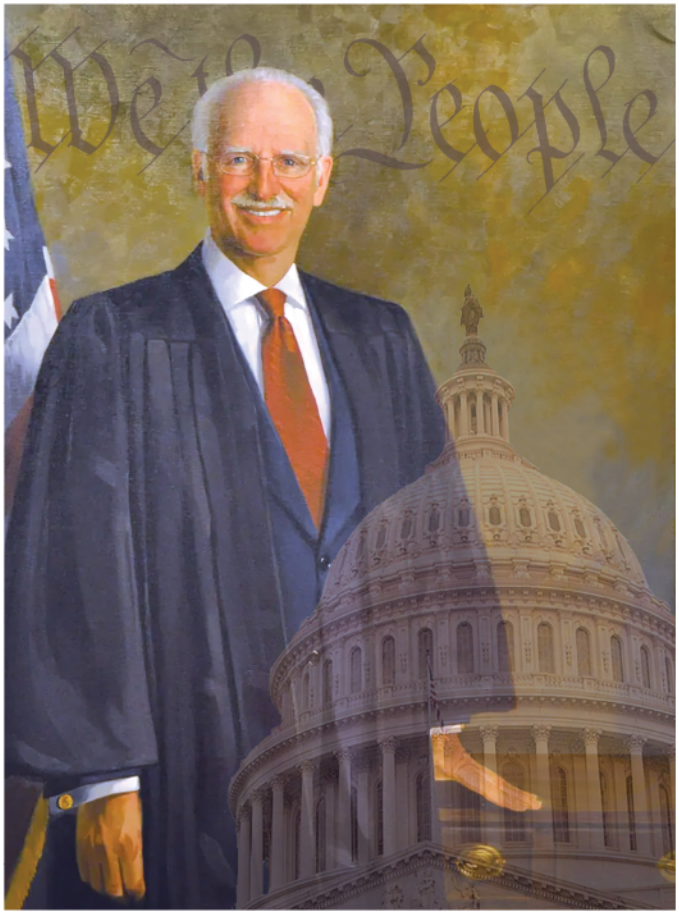
How long is a term for a U.S. senator?

What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

Name one right only for United States citizens.

What is the "rule of law?"

Civics Fundamentals **materials are available at no cost to everyone at www.civicsfundamentals.org.**



The Hon. Douglas H. Ginsburg, Senior Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia

As stated on the General Society's website (https://sr1776.org/about-us/), the purpose of the Sons of the Revolution is first and foremost to meet the declared mission of Article I of the Constitution of the General Society; to support State Societies in activities which further the education of the general public (including America's youth) about the American Revolution, the U.S. Constitution, and the Patriots who supported those worthy causes during the period 1775-1789 and participated in the battles of the Revolutionary War, including the final battle at Yorktown in 1781. The culmination of their efforts was the Treaty of Paris in 1783.

Each of us, the members of the Sons of the Revolution, can be proud of our forefathers and grateful for the form of government they bequeathed to us. But it is not immutable. This system of government created by "We The People" is constantly under attack. It is up to us to defend it, to preserve it, to constantly seek to make it a more perfect union, and to pass it on to our children and grandchildren, who need knowledge of government and a proper patriotic spirit to carry on as the nation's caretakers. Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit summed up the situation when he said, "We cannot sustain a democratic republic with a citizenry that is uninformed about, and basically estranged from, our Constitution and our institutions."

In 2021 Judge Ginsburg was honored by the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution as the recipient of the Modern Patriot Award, recognizing his leadership and accomplishments in improving civics education throughout America. When he is not hearing cases on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge Ginsburg devotes his time to teaching law and to preparing online materials to help teach civics.

Among his accomplishments is the creation of a wealth of online materials in partnership with izzit.org to help students learn and teachers teach the basics of civics. As described in a news release from izzit.org, *Civics Fundamentals with Judge Douglas Ginsburg* consists of a series of two-minute videos with Judge Ginsburg that, when viewed in their entirety, answer the hundred questions found on the U.S. Citizenship Test. More importantly, the videos provide the "why?" behind all those questions.

Showing Our Support

The General Society of the Sons of the Revolution, through its six Regional Vice Presidents, is actively engaged in helping publicize and promote the *Civics Fundamentals* program. The Society of '83 already made an initial financial contribution, and we encourage our State Societies and all other patriotic societies to join us in this endeavor.

This is an outstanding opportunity, for each of us as individual members of the Sons, and for our State Societies, to join in a nationwide effort to support this program of civics education. To draw attention to the need for civics education, the governor of each state in the United States is being asked to issue a proclamation designating October of each year as "Civics Awareness Month." In addition, at least one school district in each state will be asked to conduct a school assembly in October focused on the theme of civics education. Judge Ginsburg will help arrange for a federal circuit judge or state circuit judge to be the principal speaker at each of these assemblies.

I am confident that we, as a national organization, have the connections needed to help encourage all state governors and state legislators to support this program. There is much that each of us can do. As a first step, the

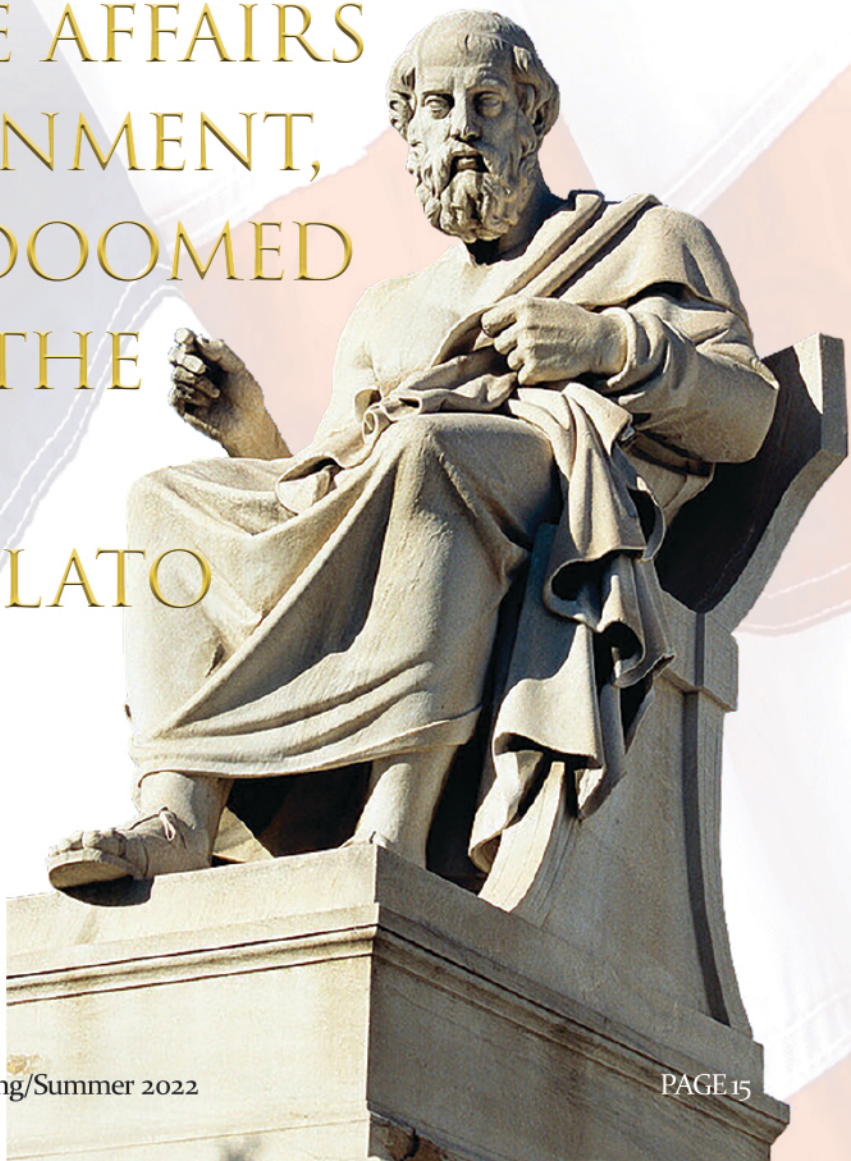
idea is to have the *Civics Fundamentals* program made available, at no cost, to local and state authorities on our school boards and departments of education. We need help getting the *Civics Fundamentals* program, and the goals and accomplishments of the American Revolution, included in the curricula of public, private, and home schools everywhere. Please join us in supporting this excellent program in any way you can.

Together, the leadership of patriotic societies and all descendants of the Founders of this great nation can and will do what it takes to assure the implementation of a sound civics education program for every new generation of American citizens. And let us not forget the wise counsel of Plato who said, "If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools." If you would like to join our Civics Education leadership team, get more information, or help support the program, please contact me by email at joe@mcchristian.com or General Society Headquarters at gssr1776@sbcglobal.com.

1 Source: Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation
2 Source: Annenberg Public Policy Center (APPC) of the University of Pennsylvania
3 Source: National Association of Educational Progress

"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools."

—Plato



A Revolutionary War Educational Forum Hosted by the Cincinnati

By Charles Scammell
GSSR Region 2 Vice President

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA

Larz Anderson House, headquarters of the National Society of the Cincinnati

This spring, the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati hosted a day-long educational forum on the status of teaching and learning the American Revolution in our nation's classrooms. Over seventy volunteer board leaders and staff professionals from seventeen organizations—including the Sons of the Revolution—convened at Anderson House, the headquarters of the Cincinnati, in Washington, D.C.

Attending on behalf of the Sons were General President Russell Rich, General Treasurer Buzz Carmichael, General Secretary Ambrose M. Richardson, III, General Historian Joe McChristian, Region 2 Vice President Charles Scammell, and Virginia Society 2nd Vice President Mark M. Jakobowski. Other organizations attending included museums, libraries, historical societies, historical foundations, the National Park Service, American Battlefield Trust, dedicated educational non-profits, and additional lineage societies, including Colonial Wars, Colonial Dames, and the SAR.

The Cincinnati Eagle.

All were in agreement that the American Revolution is not being taught adequately across the United States, which the children's and young adult book program is addressing. Representatives of the Sons indicated there ought to be a greater emphasis placed on the broad achievements accomplished by the Founding Fathers. Participants considered different ways their organizations, collectively, could promote more effective education of the time period. The following were the agreed-upon common beliefs between the represented organizations:

- The constructive achievements of the American Revolution have great value to American citizens
- Our schools need to do a good job at teaching the constructive achievements of the American Revolution
- We can all benefit from sharing best practices and understanding each other's work through collaboration
- It is best to work together as an integrated whole toward our common goal.

Current Obstacles

The Forum was eye-opening for those of us not close to the educational system. Peter W. Wood, Ph.D., president of the National Association of Scholars, noted in his address that popular ideological social commentary and movements, sometimes lacking a rigorous historical basis about America's founding, have succeeded in capturing the public narrative and have influenced the dialogue in classrooms. Many teachers now lack confidence in presenting traditional American history because of the risk of being 'cancelled.' "There is a move to portray US history as a symphony of oppression" and advance different themes of social injustice, he said. Teachers too often fall into the trap of "presentism," using

current values to judge the actions of the past American icons.

Many of the speakers stressed the need for teachers to have infrastructure sufficiently robust to support them, should they wish to teach a 'counter-narrative' to contemporary popular theories circulating about America's founding. An ongoing survey of social science educators in Virginia revealed, for example, that none of the fifty respondents was satisfied with the present teaching of American history and civics, **and all wanted better materials and more dynamic learning resources.** Those resources include relevant and interesting primary source documents, online games, traveling trunks, field trip destinations, and accredited, on-demand online teacher training on content and methods.

The need to improve teacher and student resources is directly related to a discussion of textbooks. Textbook makers have traditionally catered to states with the most school districts, like California and Texas. Therefore, what California and Texas demand in 'standardized' textbooks is what the rest of the nation gets, too. To help counter these trends, a Maryland school teacher has offered to write a curriculum about Revolutionary War history utilizing books provided by the SR's program.

School Boards Matter

Retired educator Herbert M. Berg, Ph.D. emphasized the fiercely independent nature of America's school systems. There are approximately 13,000 individual school districts with boards and superintendents exercising local control. There are 3.7 million American teachers who serve as independent practitioners within their classrooms. This background is essential to understanding why national measures and a common curriculum routinely fail.

School systems are run with relative independence and are heavily influenced by their local school boards. Guidance comes from state governments, standards boards, and the College Board (for college-bound students), but in the classroom, teachers have a lot of independence--as long as they adhere to the curriculum promoted by the local school. For individuals interested in impacting the educational environment, having a seat on the school board is important. The way to make change is at the local level. As such, your school board elections matter. The forum ended with some potential actions we can take as a group. Some initial thoughts centered on:

- School board participation
- Local essay contests
- Promoting **CivicsFundamentals.org**
- Share best practices
- More inclusive stories with black and minority Americans
- Continue to be represented in this collaboration and ensure the message gets out.

Dr. Berg closed by reminding the group that to successfully move forward, the intrinsic individualism built into America's school system must be honored, and the key to effecting real change is the direct engagement of America's teachers. Attendees unanimously vowed to continue this dialogue in future meetings to discuss pooling resources and actively engaging teachers, students, parents, and learners of all ages as we approach America's 250th birthday and participate in the semiquincentennial celebrations already in motion.

The Revolutionary War Educational Forum, Anderson House, Washington, D.C.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

"It should be the highest ambition of every American to extend his views beyond himself, and to bear in mind that his conduct will not only affect himself, his country, and his immediate posterity; but that its influence may be co-extensive with the world, and stamp political happiness or misery on ages yet unborn."

—George Washington, to the Pennsylvania Legislature 12 September 1789

THE GENERAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE REVOLUTION INTRODUCES:

THE "SOCIETY OF '83"

How do you become a member of the Society of '83?

By giving $1,000, $10,000 or $20,000

$1,000 - $9,999*

Membership in the Society of '83 signified by a buff-colored rosette jacket to be worn around your Society rosette.

$10,000 - $19,999 (Captain Level)*

Membership in the Society of '83 signified by a blue rosette jacket.

$20,000 or more (General Level)*

Membership in the Society of '83 signified by a gold rosette jacket. You will also be recognized in the Drumbeat.

What will your gift accomplish?

Aside from helping meet the day-to-day operating costs of the General Society, your gift could be used to fund one or more of the following projects::

- Creation of a Revolutionary War media app intended for school students.
- Creation and distribution of Revolutionary War educational programs to schools.
- Promotion of scholarship through speakers, publications and awards.
- Implementation of a more active website with regular updates of content, links to important events, a Revolutionary War calendar, a members-only section, etc.
- Acquisition and preservation of artifacts concerning the Revolution and our own history.
- Provision of funds to assist State Societies with recruiting new members.
- Provision of funds to start new State Societies where we are not currently represented.
- Provision of funds for GSSR Society Regional Vice Presidents and other GSSR Society General Officers to travel to the various State Societies to bring all of our members closer and encourage them to be more involved.

What sort of gifts can you make? The General Society can accept gifts in any number of forms, including:

Cash/checks • Appreciated securities • Life insurance
Real estate • Distributions from IRAs and other retirement accounts

**The amounts do not have to be given in one year to qualify you for the Society of '83. They may be given over a period of up to ten years. For example, if you pledge to give $1,000 to the Society each year for the next ten years (a total gift of $10,000), you would qualify for the Captain level and would receive the blue rosette jacket.*

To recognize recent generous gifts, membership in the Society of '83 will be recognized retroactively. All of your donations to the annual campaign since July 1, 2015, will count towards your total donations to determine your gifting level.

Please do not forget to inquire whether your employer matches charitable gifts. The General Society qualifies for support from most companies. The General Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts to the General Society are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

THE "SOCIETY OF '83"

Ivan Bennett	*SC*	*$5,000*
J. Reeve Bright	*KY*	*$1,000*
Mitchell Bush	*GA*	*$1,000*
Buzz Carmichael	*KY*	*$1,000*
Charles D. Carroll	*EU*	*$29,000*
Charles D. Carroll Trust	*VA*	*$1,000*
T. Jeffery Clarke	*NJ*	*$1,020*
Roger Coursey	*GA*	*$1,000*
John M. Daniel	*VA*	*$2,000*
David Dickey, Esq	*GA*	*$1,000*
James F. Foster	*MN*	*$1,000*
Brian Gill	*NY*	*$1,300*
Richard Gregg	*NJ*	*$1,050*
Peter J. Gulden, III, Esq	*FL*	*$1,250*
Frank J. Hardeman, III	*GA*	*$1,000*
S. Duffield Hopkins, III	*PA*	*$2,000*
Mark Jacobowski	*VA*	*$1,000*
E. Allen James	*NC*	*$3,000*
John B. Laurus, III	*VA*	*$1,111*
Louise G. Laurus Revocable Trust	*VA*	*$1,111*
William Kimzey	*NC*	*$307*
Larry Leslie, Sr, MD	*KY*	*$1,000*
J. Robert Lunney	*NY*	*$1,000*
Bev Mauck	*VA*	*$1,000*

THE "SOCIETY OF '83"

William D. Parmelee	*FL*	*$1,000*
Lanny R. Patten	*PA*	*$2,000*
Russell Rich	*MD*	*$1,000*
Charles J. Scammell	*NJ*	*$1,100*
Laurence S. Simpson, DDS	*NY*	*$1,000*
Jimmy Smith	*GA*	*$2,000*
Jeffrey G. Trauger	*PA*	*$1,000*
***Total Gifts Since 2018 Inception** (As of 7/28/22)*		***$66,249.00***
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Maryland Society Gifts State House with Magnificent Gavel Set

By Russell P. Rich, Sr.
General President
Past President, Maryland Society

Kevin J. Parks, c. 2022 Catholic Media

A huge state flag hoisted in front of the Basilica.

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of Maryland in mid-March sponsored a widely attended interfaith service in Baltimore to dedicate, in the name of George Washington's Maryland 400, a specially-crafted and magnificently decorated gavel set and storage box to be officially used and displayed in the Maryland State House. The gavel is made from the made from the wood of two of the state's most historic native trees, the Liberty Tree and the Wye Oak. The Maryland Society sponsored the production and presentation of this unique Senate gavel to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the laying of the State House's cornerstone.

The ceremony held March 19th at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary brought together several religious and political leaders, as well as fellow members of the Sons. On Maryland Day, March 25, the gavel, sounding board, and presentation case were transported by the *Pride of Baltimore II* down the Chesapeake Bay to Annapolis. There, the set was put on public display near the Senate Chamber in the Maryland State House. The State House in Annapolis is the oldest state capitol of continuous legislative use and the only one ever to have served as a meeting place for Congress. The Confederation Congress (1781-1788) convened in Annapolis from November 26, 1783 to August 13, 1784. George Washington tendered there his resignation as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, after bidding his officers farewell at the Fraunces Tavern in New York City.

The three items were fashioned from the wood of the Western Shore's Liberty Tree, a tulip poplar that had stood for 400 years near State House grounds, and the Eastern Shore's Wye Oak, a white oak that had been the oldest and largest of its kind and was designated the State Tree in 1939. The Liberty Tree collapsed in 1999, and the Wye Oak fell in 2002.

Maryland Society member Scott Watkins conceived the project in 2019. Watkins had been one of many Marylanders to collect some wood from the Wye Oak and some of the roots of the Liberty Tree. Years later, he donated these materials to have a gavel, sounding board, and presentation box made for display and official use in the State House. He presented the project idea to the Maryland Society in hopes its Officers and Board would approve and adopt the project for sponsorship, which they did.

Watkins was appointed to shepherd every phase of the project from beginning to end. "The poetry of the two woods made sense," he said. "The delicate and soft wood of the roots of the Liberty Tree are precious, like liberty and democracy. They should be supported and protected with care and vigilance, represented by the strength and durability of the Wye Oak."

The Gavel & Sounding Board

Watkins drew preliminary sketches of each piece, including with the historical imagery to be used. Those sketches were presented to Thomas Brown Woodwright LLC, which drew up the working plans. The gavel and sounding board were turned by Jared Truso, and the finish was applied by Phil Kerrigan. The main body of the of the mallet is made from the Wye Oak, with the center turn representing Maryland's contribution to the First Amendment of the Constitution with the Act Concerning Religion of 1649. The lighter colored turns are made

from the roots of the Liberty Tree. Each of the turns represents historic events that occurred in the State House:

- 1769 The Maryland Assembly
- 1774 The Burning of the Peggy Stewart
- 1775 Association of Maryland Freeman
- 1776 Maryland's Charter and Declaration of Rights
- 1783 Washington's Resignation of His Commission
- 1784 Ratification of the Treaty of Paris
- 1786 The Call to the States for the Constitutional Convention

The mallet's handle has seven turns, which represents Maryland as the seventh state. At the end of the handle are three turns for the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government. Two decorative acorns at each end of the gavel represent the acorn that rests atop the State House dome and signifies the potential for unlimited growth. The inlaid sterling silver presentation cap on the mallet is hand-engraved with Lord Baltimore's coat of arms, which is featured in Maryland's seal and represents the founding of the colony.

The base of the sounding board is made from the Wye Oak with marquetry in the form of a star made from a root of the Liberty Tree. The star also represents Maryland, the seventh star in the Republic. When turning over the sounding board, the natural and unfinished root can be viewed.

The Presentation Case

Designs for the presentation case were inspired by monuments to George Washington and the Revolutionary War in Baltimore. The base or footing of the case has a colonial-era styling that graduates to the case itself, consistent with its neo-classical federal design. On each side of the case are two columns of three reads each. This makes a total of twenty-four reeds around the box, corresponding to the number of battles in which Maryland participated in the American Revolution.

In addition to the woods of the Liberty Tree and the Wye Oak, other components of the case include the woods provided by Thomas Brown from an original Arlington Cherry tree and the Thompson Walnut. All Maryland veterans who died in service are represented by the Arlington Cherry. On the bottom of the box is the bark from a Walnut tree that witnessed the Battle of Baltimore in 1814.

PHOTO BY SCOTT WATKINS.

The presentation box, sounding board, and gavel at Annapolis.

Faux finish artist and decorator Jacqueline Moore was commissioned to hand paint the arms of the Calvert family, the Lords Baltimore, Maryland's founders. This black and gold design was also used in the flags of Maryland's early defense forces leading up to the early phases of the American Revolution.

Each corner of the case's lid are decorated with the leaves of the Wye Oak. The top side of the case is decorated with tulip poplar leaves from the Liberty Tree. The emblem of the SR is mounted above the hand-engraved sterling silver plaque by Rod Merson, formally of Kirk-Stieff, and is secured with sterling fasteners that resemble the blooms on a tulip poplar. Eight hand-engraved sterling strips surround the case engraved with the dates and events which correspond to the turns on the gavel.

The presentation plaque reads:

"The Liberty Tree and Wye Oak Gavel
presented to
The People and Senate of Maryland
by the
Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Maryland
in memory of
George Washington's Old Line
The Maryland 400"

The Maryland 400 gained their fame by bravely covering the American retreat at the Battle of Long Island (Aug. 27, 1776). The bloody battle was a significant win for the British army and led to its subsequent occupation of New York City. Facing an overwhelming number of British troops, Maj. Gen. William Alexander, Lord Stirling, and Maj. Mordecai Gist with about 260 Marylanders took up position near the Vechte-Cortelyou House (Old Stone House) to defend the American withdrawal from Long Island. Under intense enemy fire, they repeatedly counter-attacked nearly 2,000 Redcoats to save the Continental Army from certain annihilation. Washington himself, overlooking the retreat from nearby Brooklyn Heights, remarked, "Good God, what brave fellows I must this day lose." Publisher James Thomas Field later described the efforts as an "hour more precious to American liberty than any other."

Pageantry Details

During the March 19 ceremony, Maryland National Guard's Adjutant General Timothy E. Gowen recalled the bravery of Maryland's Old Line. After paying tribute to America's defense of liberty, French Consul General François Penguilly spoke of the continuing fight for freedom, even referring to Ukrainian citizens taking up arms to protect their own country. "It is important to remember the cost of freedom," Penguilly said. Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori noted that the gavel is not only a symbol of authority, "the gavel is also a symbol of convening, of bringing people together."

Upon the arrival of the Liberty Tree Wye Oak Senate Gavel to Annapolis, officers and the Board of the Maryland Society arrived dockside to retrieve the gavel set. They were then escorted by the MSSAR Color Guard and the Ft. McHenry Guard and Drums from the wharf through the main street up to the steps of the State House. At the Senate Chamber door, the party was met by the 3rd United States Army Infantry Regiment Honor Color Guard Fife and Drum Corp.

On the command of Bill Ferguson, the Sergeant at Arms opened the chamber doors for the procession to march in escorted by The Old Guard under colors with fife and drum. Scott Watkins approached the dais, and presented the gavel to President Ferguson and the Senate. The Liberty Tree Wye Oak Senate Gavel is now on permanent display in the State House next to the Old Senate Chamber where George Washington presented his resignation. It will be used for special events, including Opening Session and Maryland Day.

The First Maryland with SR members and dignitaries at the State House.

PHOTOS
A: Captain Melissa Blankenship
B: Scott Watkins
C: Maryland SOR

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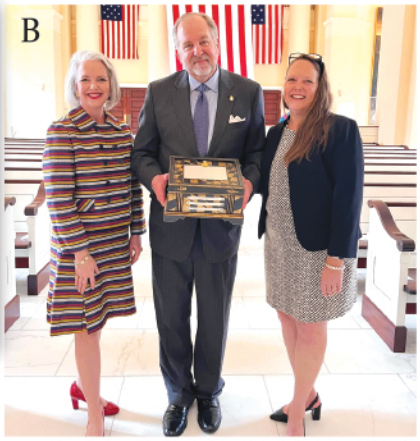
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State Reports

A dozen members of the Society lay a wreath at Washington's Tomb.

The D.C. Society found ways to continue its activities from year-end 2020 to well into this year, despite initial disruptions because of the Covid epidemic. In December 2020, the Society had to cancel its Annual Dinner, which is usually held indoors at a Maryland country club. As a result, none of the newly admitted members could be formally sworn in that year.

In February 2021, a dozen members made the trip to Mount Vernon to lay a wreath at George Washington's tomb despite heavy rain.

Given the continuing Covid restrictions, the Society decided to hold events outdoors, as long as the weather allowed. The Spring Brunch in early June took place at a country club in Northern Virginia that had a large covered terrace with a lovely view of the golf course.

The annual Yorktown and Saratoga Victories Dinner in October took place at the same club, but on another terrace. Fortunately, the weather was mild, and with the aid of a few heating lamps, the outdoor setting was quite comfortable. The guest speaker at that dinner was Christian M. McBurney, who gave a presentation based on his book, George Washington's Nemesis: The Outrageous Treason and Unfair Court-Martial of Major General Charles Lee during the Revolutionary War.

Six new members are sworn in at the Annual Dinner in December.

By December, the Covid epidemic had receded enough that the Society decided to hold the Annual Dinner indoors (it was too cold to meet outdoors, in any event). Although turnout was a bit less than usual, thirty members and guests attended. The Society swore in six new members. And three more, who were not able to attend the dinner, were also accepted as members during 2021.

In February, 16 members and spouses laid a wreath at Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon. Fortunately, the weather was better than it had been the year before.

The Society's annual Mess Dinner was held at a private Washington club in March and included traditional toasts to the several armed forces of the United States. The evening's after-dinner presentation was given by John U. Rees, based on his book, *They Were Good Soldiers: African-Americans Serving in the Continental Army, 1775-1783.*

Guests at the Spring Brunch enjoy the view over the golf course.

Finally, the season was rounded out with the Society's Spring Brunch in early June at a Maryland country club, where members enjoyed camaraderie and beautiful weather.—*text and photos submitted by 1st Vice President Michael Sivy*

A Busy 2022 Schedule

The summer has been a busy one for the Georgia Society, once again. Following in our tradition of supporting our friends to the north, the South Carolina Society, we again participated in their Carolina Day Celebration on June 28th. As is typical for summers in the South, Charleston had a torrential downpour that made the parade and the program at the Battery impossible. However, despite no parade, the event was still outstanding and was presented from the British perspective. Attending from Georgia were Past President Steven Westgate, Past President and Region 3 VP Frank Hardeman III. and 1st Vice President Chris Blaine.

The Georgia Society joined the Bonaventure Chapter of the DAR at the annual Fourth of July Wreath-Laying at the tomb of Button Gwinnett. Donnie Dixon gave a short but fulfilling program. To spite the July heat and humidity, the Sons had a wonderful turnout. Representing the SR-GA were: Past President Frank Hardeman III, Past President Steven Westgate, Past President David Dickey, Solicitor Lamar Davis, 1st Vice President Chris Blaine, and current President Jim Smith.

With the GSSR 2022 BOM Meeting soon to take place in Orlando, the Georgia Society is sending four delegates: Region 3 VP Frank Hardeman III, SR-GA President Jim Smith, General President Emeritus Mitchell Bush, and new SR-GA Board member Samuel (Sammy) Strode.

Monument Update

In the previous issue of the *SONS Drumbeat*, readers noted an ongoing project by the Georgia Society to move and landscape a granite marker that had been erected by the Society in 1976 to honor the USS Liberty (see historical article, pp. 54-55). In addition to adding the paving stones, the new location features a granite bench and a flagpole for flying a replica of the ship's ensign. The marker is now located along the riverfront promenade.

The Liberty monument committee L-R: Frank Hardeman, Rick Ross, Lamar Davis, Jack Winter, and 2021 Society President Steve Westgate at the completed site.

A Revolutionary Motherlode

In 2021 during a springtime dredging of the Savannah River, the US Army Corps of Engineers encountered the first of nineteen eighteenth-century cannons sunk in the riverbed. The last of the nineteen was raised out of the murky river nearly a year after the first ones were discovered. The heavily encrusted big guns are now believed to have

SOURCE: CNN.COM

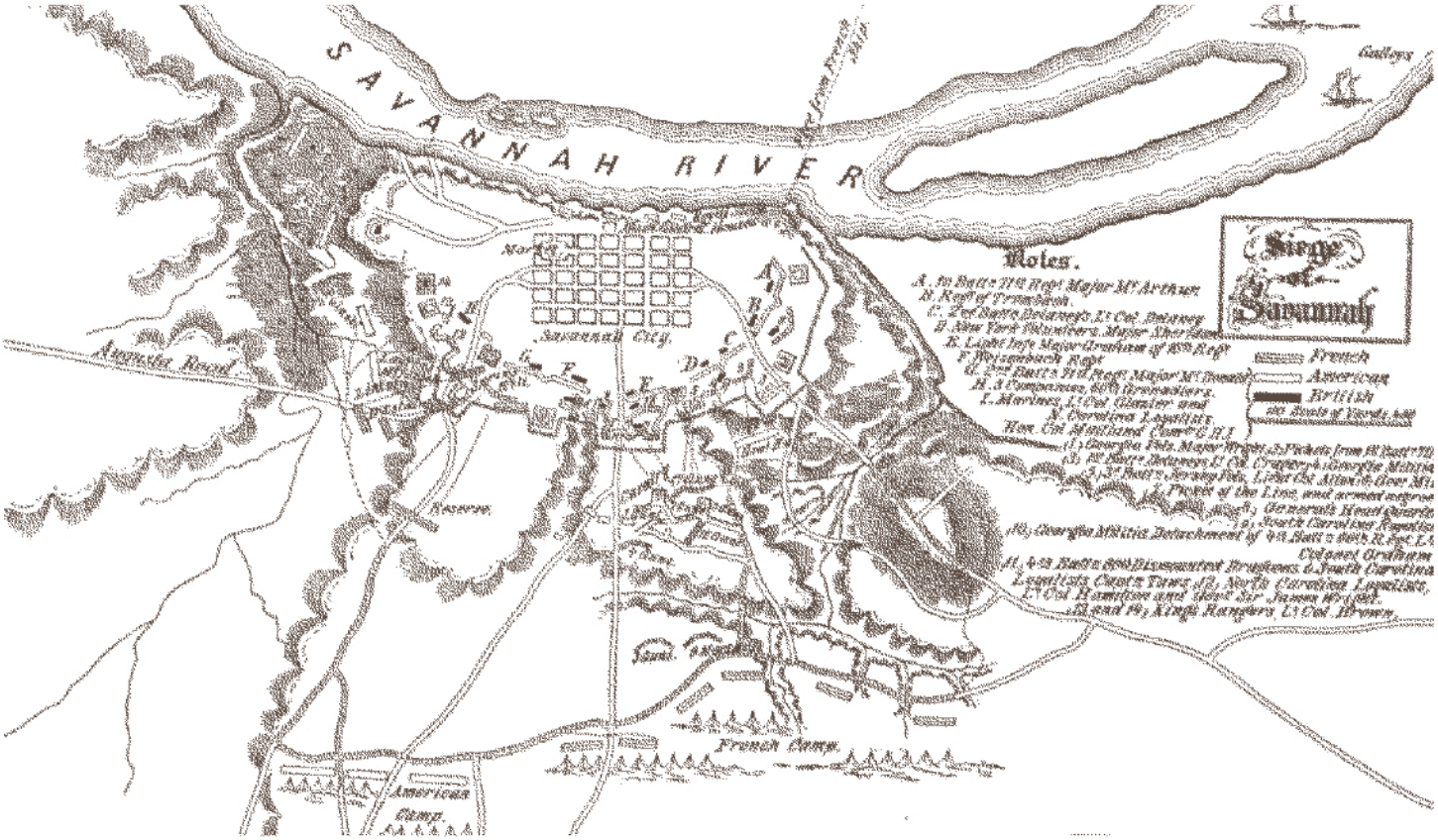
An encrusted relic of the Revolutionary War.

been aboard the HMS Savannah, which British authorities scuttled in 1779 prior to the bloody Siege of Savannah.

The Coastal Heritage Society (CHS) reports the find "is likely the largest collection of eighteenth-century cannon artillery from a single Revolutionary War naval event to [ever] ascend from the water," anywhere, anytime. The cleaning process will take years and considerable money. The CHS has asked for sponsors to assist with the reconditioning of these cannons. The Georgia Sons have pledged $15,000 to be spent over three years to sponsor a cannon. Once they are all restored, it is most likely they will be given to the Savannah History Museum, across from Battlefield Park. "Everybody wants to keep the artifacts in Savannah," said Andrea Farmer, a Corps of Engineers archaeologist, in an interview with NPR. "[That] makes the most sense." *—text and photos submitted by Region 3 Vice President Frank Hardeman III*

To sponsor the restoration of a cannon,
contact Sandra Baxter, CEO of the Coastal Heritage Society,
at admin@chsgeorgia.org or call 912-651-6840.

Seige of Savannah



GW Birthday Dinner invited speaker, Edward Keeton.

Washington Birthday Event

The annual George Washington Birthday Dinner, a black-tie event, was held at the Lexington Club on February 25th. As in other years, the Society of the Cincinnati and the local SAR Lafayette Chapter were invited to the event. And as in other years, the dinner was sold out, filling the banquet room to capacity. Our speaker, Edward Keeton, a well-known lawyer from West Liberty, delivered a magnificent presentation on the American Revolution. Lexington Mayor Linda Gordon was in attendance. She has attended our Washington Birthday Dinner for the past seven years. Maj. Gen. Charles Gordon gave the toast to Washington. This year, there was no Kentucky Colonel designation, but we did have the usual cigar/brandy gathering afterwards, which included ladies, new members, KYSR President and General Treasurer Buzz Carmichael, Region 4 Vice President David Rutherford, and three prospective members (all of whom are working on their applications).

Charles Gordon toasts the memory of George Washington.

On the front left, Lexington Mayor Linda Gordon has attended the GW Birthday Dinner numerous times.

Lafayette Trail Marker in Frankfort

The Lafayette Trail, Inc. added Frankfort, KY, to its national network of trail markers in mid-May with the unveiling of a marker at the Liberty Hall Historic Site, a museum of early urbanism in Kentucky. The markers are being erected in preparation for the 2024-25 bicentennial of Lafayette's tour of the United

KYSR member John McLeod in Frankfort.

States. The nonprofit organization aims to promote a broader understanding of Lafayette's numerous contributions to American independence and national coherence. KYSR President Buzz Carmichael and member John McLeod were on hand for the unveiling. The National Society of Colonial Dames of America in Kentucky preserves and operates the museum. The property, moreover, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as it is an excellent example of Federal architecture.

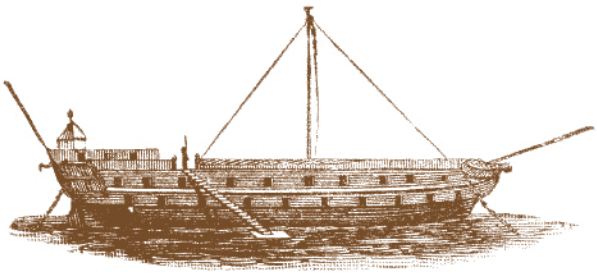
Honoring Wells Family Ancestor

Earlier this year, Society members gathered at the Ashley Butcher Cemetery on Daniels Creek in Johnson County, Kentucky (Big Sandy Valley) to honor the Revolutionary War service of Richard Wells III, a privateer and ship's captain. Not until fairly recently was his life story and Revolutionary War record pieced together. A military-style headstone installed at the cemetery next to the remains of his son, Richard Wells IV, honors the memory of this hero buried at sea.

Members gather at Ashley Butcher Cemetery to honor the Revolutionary War service of Richard Wells III.

Between May 1777 and April 1779, Richard Wells III captained three vessels for the South Carolina Navy and sailed at least twice to the Caribbean. On more than one occasion, he was captured by the British and transferred to a prison ship in New York. While he survived those horrid experiences, his health was compromised and he eventually succumbed to illness.

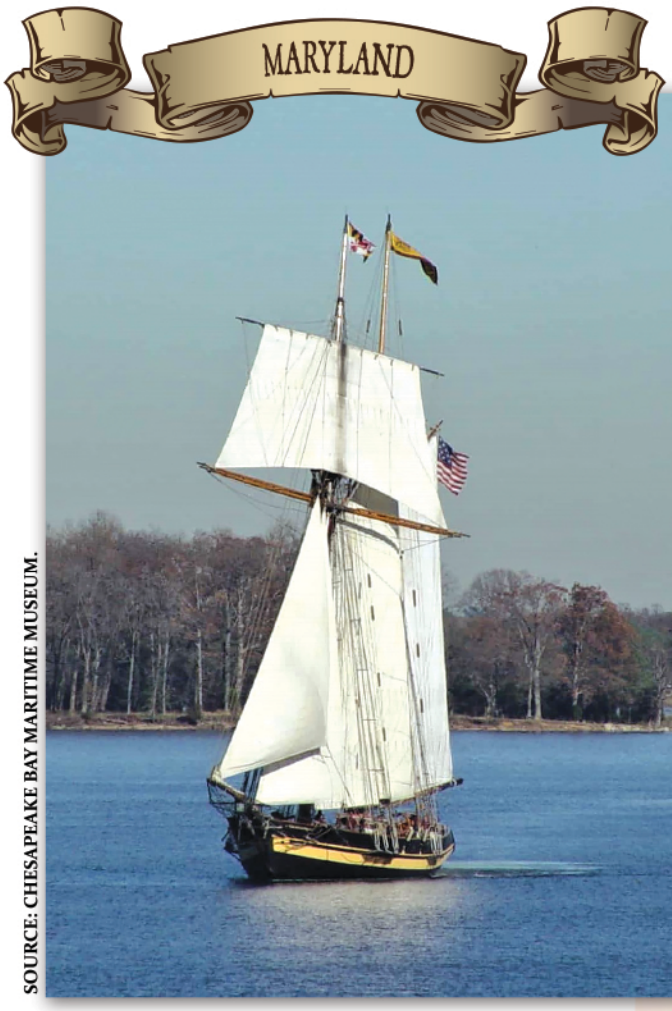
According to contemporary family historian Richard Britton Wells III, privateers kept the British at bay for over five years. In 1777, there were only thirty-four ships in the Continental Navy while as many as seventy-three privateering vessels plied the waters off the Atlantic coast. By 1781, 445 privateers patrolled the coast but there were only nine Continental Navy craft. By war's end, American privateers as a group had captured over 2,200 British vessels. Richard Wells III died as a first lieutenant aboard the S.C. brig Hornet in 1779. "This forgotten hero is no longer forgotten," Mr. Britton Wells wrote in 2019.


British prison ship, HMS Jersey

New KYSR Member: Davis Lee Wright

Davis Lee Wright, immediate Past President General of the Sons of the American Revolution, has joined the Kentucky Society of SR. Mr. Wright joined the KYSR after he completed his term as President General of the SAR. A native of Delaware, Davis has collaborated with General Society officers at recent events, including at a symposium on teaching American history sponsored by the Society of the Cincinnati and held at the Anderson House earlier this year (see pp. 16-17).—*submitted by KYSR President and General Treasurer Buzz Carmichael.*

Davis Lee Wright, immediate Past President General of SAR, with Buzz Carmichael at the Anderson House in Washington, D.C.

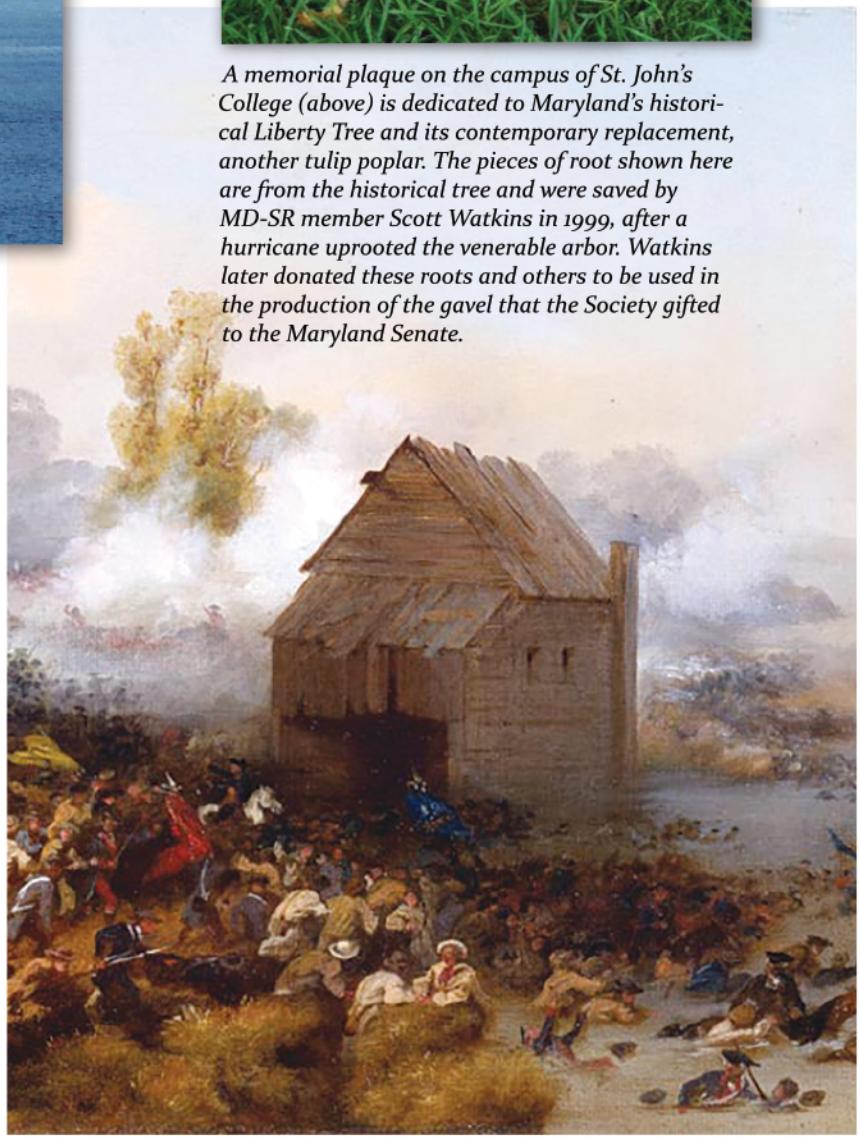


SOURCE: CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM.

The Pride of Baltimore II *earlier in the year was chartered to transport Maryland Society representatives and the sponsored gavel set to Annapolis, a distance of nine nautical miles from the Port of Baltimore (see related article, pp. 21-25. In 1988, the Pride of Baltimore II was commissioned as a reproduction of an 1812-era topsail schooner, or Baltimore Clipper. Such tall ships helped America win the War of 1812, which is often called the second war for independence. Source: Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.*

PHOTO BY SCOTT WATKINS.

A memorial plaque on the campus of St. John's College (above) is dedicated to Maryland's historical Liberty Tree and its contemporary replacement, another tulip poplar. The pieces of root shown here are from the historical tree and were saved by MD-SR member Scott Watkins in 1999, after a hurricane uprooted the venerable arbor. Watkins later donated these roots and others to be used in the production of the gavel that the Society gifted to the Maryland Senate.



This historical painting by Alonzo Chappel (1828-1887) (right) represents the sacrifice of the Maryland 400 during the Battle of Long Island. In this action, Gen. William Alexander, "Lord Stirling," of the Continental Army ordered his rearguard of Marylanders and Delawareans to make a charge against the British so the rest of the Continental Army could retreat. Against a hail of enemy fire, the Maryland 400 charged, regrouped, and charged again numerous times. It was in their memory that the MD-SR dedicated its gavel set and decorative box gifted to the Maryland Senate.

SOURCE: HISTORICALHOTELS.ORG

The Grand

MISR Vies for BOM 2023

General President Russell Rich is accepting proposals for the GSSR BOM Meeting in 2023. Any State Society may put together a proposal for hosting the meeting and submit it to Williamsburg for review. The Michigan Society has submitted a detailed proposal for hosting next year's BOM in Mackinac Island. The island is located in the Straits of Mackinac, between Upper and Lower Michigan, near the nexus of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

The venue not only includes immense natural beauty, but two Revolutionary-era forts: Fort Mackinac on the island itself, and Fort Michilimackinac on the northern tip of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, in Mackinaw City. The former, Fort Mackinac, was established on the island by the British during the American Revolution. The stone ramparts and stone Officer's Quarters visible today are part of the original fort from over 225 years ago.

The latter fort, Fort Michilimackinac, is a National Historic Landmark. A restored wooden fortress originally built by the French in 1713, it was used extensively in the fur trade. The French had to relinquish the fort to the British in 1761, following the French & Indian War. After it was transferred to British control, it experienced a bloody attack by the Ojibwe Nation as a part of Pontiac's War (1763). The shaky relations with area Indians convinced British authorities to abandon Fort Michilimackinac for a more secure location. Hence, they selected Mackinac Island and founded Fort Mackinac.

The MISR proposal contains transportation details and options for different hotels on the island. If the venue is selected for the meeting, there will be an opportunity to visit The Grand, Mackinac Island's famous resort. Opened in 1887, the Grand was used as the setting for the 1980 hit movie Somewhere in Time, starring Christopher Reeve, Jane Seymour, and Christopher Plummer. The property was afterward designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989.

Earlier 2022 Events

In February, the Michigan Society hosted its annual George Washington Birthday luncheon and meeting. Our guest of honor was 66th District State Representative Beth Griffin. Additionally, the Society enjoyed a presentation from Tom Smart, the State Governor of the Founders and Patriots of America. Two new applicants for membership were also approved. Our April Lexington/Concord Memorial meeting was held at Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum. Special recognition plaques were presented to long-time members of the MISR: Region 5 General Vice President Max Rieskse and Past President Keith Harrison for their many years of devoted service. As in February, we had two additional applicants approved for membership.

Meanwhile, Society President Geoff Hickok attended the Michigan Society C.A.R's 88th State Conference in March and gave greetings. He also gave greetings at the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Society of S.A.R. in April. Following those two events, Geoff joined the Michigan Societies of S.A.R. and D.A.R. in marking the gravesite of Revolutionary War Colonel Jean François Hamtramck in Hamtramck, an enclave of Detroit. "Although the other Societies were re-marking the gravesite, I think it was the first time that MISR had formally marked it," Geoff said.

Hamtramck, a French Canadian soldier, fought alongside American

PHOTO COURTESY GEOFF HICKOK.

Society President Geoff Hickok pauses during the marking of Revolutionary War Col. Jean François Hamtramck's gravesite, in Detroit.

MISR Past President and current Region 5 General Vice President Max Rieskse accepts a plaque of recognition from President Geoff Hickok. The Society also awarded Past President Keith Harrison with a similar plaque.

Patriots in the Revolutionary War. He took control of Detroit when it was first surrendered by the British in 1796. According to the Detroit News, following the Revolution, Hamtramck remained commandant of Detroit for the rest of his life. The township of Hamtramck was founded in his name in 1798, and the city of Hamtramck was incorporated in 1922. The city celebrates its centennial this year.

SOURCE: STARS AND STRIPES/SARA SAMORA.

Alice Kraatz, Past President of the Michigan Society of C.A.R. and heroine to many of the state's Vietnam veterans.

Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight for Vietnam Vets

In June, a Kalamazoo, Michigan, teen realized her dream of sending a large group of Vietnam veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit the Vietnam War Memorial for healing and closure, then receiving them back home with the heroes' welcome they were denied fifty years ago. Alice Kraatz, now 17, initially proposed the idea when she was the 14-year-old State President of C.A.R. (2019-2020). The outbreak of COVID-19 delayed her plans. Nevertheless, she persisted and raised $140,000 to fund the first-ever Honor Flight from Michigan specifically for Vietnam veterans.

MISR President Hickok formed part of the welcome home party. "It was a great pleasure and honor for me to write something on behalf of the MISR (a Flight Sponsor) in the Honor Flight brochure. I attended the banquet at the Air Zoo in Kalamazoo and stood in line in my Revolutionary War uniform and holding our SR Flag to welcome home the vets."

After helping welcome the eighty veterans back to their home state, Geoff visited the dismissal hall and stood with Alice Kraatz and her parents, Elizabeth and James, as they said 'God Speed' to every veteran who was there and presented each one with a MIS-CAR Honor Flight Challenge Coin as a keepsake. When Alice was just eight years old, she heard of the horrible treatment that many Vietnam vets received when they came back from fighting. It gave her the inspiration and determination to do what she could to right a historical wrong.—*text and photos submitted by MISR Secretary Jim Pahl, Esq.*

Guest speaker and Modern Patriot Award recipient R. Crosby Kemper III.

Missouri Society Awards Crosby Kemper III

In early April, the Missouri Society Sons of the Revolution held a terrific "live" Annual Meeting in Kansas City at the Central Public Library. A Color Guard was present from the Sons of the American Revolution. Approximately thirty-five members and guests attended, including members of the DAR and the SAR. Special guests included MOSR President Emeritus Rick Strelinger and his wife, Peggy, following Rick's lengthy bout successfully battling cancer.

Our guest speaker was R. Crosby Kemper III, a well-known banker, former executive director of the KCMO library system and current director of the U.S. National Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The latter provides grant funding for libraries and museums across the country. Mr. Kemper gave a well-received presentation, accepted the Society's Modern Patriot Award, and expressed an interest in joining the MOSR. The Central Library under Kemper's leadership became a leading cultural destination and a hub for community engagement. Special-event programming featuring Kemper and guests gave the library a high profile and great exposure.

A line-up of attending members with Mr. Kemper.

Prior to Crosby's presentation, incoming Society President David Swafford gave a short presentation on the history of the Sons of the Revolution, including the founder, John Austin Stevens, and the early Fraunces Tavern in NYC. He also emphasized the roots of the Missouri Society. The MOSR was founded on February 22, 1894, in Saint Louis. The State Society's first President was Daniel Sylvester Tuttle, Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Another significant early leader of the Missouri Society was Henry Cadle, who became Assistant General Treasurer for the period 1896-1913.

The Business Meeting followed the presentation of the Modern Patriot Award and a catered luncheon.

A long-overdue membership certificate was presented to Bob Grover, and we swore in the next administration of Society officers. MOSR President David Swafford thanked his predecessors (Rick Strelinger and Sumner Hunnewell). He also thanked Sumner, Society Treasurer James Osbourn, and Past Registrar Doug Neff for their steadfast commitment to achieving MOSR goals.

General President Russell Rich addresses the Society

The North Carolina Society convened (maskless) at the well-appointed and welcoming Carolina Country Club, Raleigh, NC, for its 2022 Annual Meeting luncheon. In addition to 54 members and guests, the society was delighted to welcome General President and Mrs. Russell P. Rich. Mr. Rich expressed greetings to the Board and membership from the General Society.

The Board met to conduct various items of business, one of which was to enter into a collaborative relationship with Historic Halifax, the site of the April 12, 1776, Halifax Resolves, which predate the call for Independence that was announced in Virginia in May and in Philadelphia in July (and which is one of two dates on the NC State flag). Representing the "Historic Halifax Restoration Association," Mr. Larry Armstrong spoke to the Board about the association after which the Board approved both a collaborative and financial relationship with the HHRA. Mr. Armstrong also addressed the members and guests after the luncheon. Upon recommendation of the Registrar, John Harman, the Board approved eight New Members and one Junior Member, James William Barrow III.

New Officers were nominated and elected for the 2022-2023 year: Augustus E. Succop III, President; Randall E. Sprinkle, Vice President; Gary L. Hall, Secretary; Andrew C. Smith, Treasurer; John R. Harman, Registrar; W. Daniel Pate, Historian; Russell H. McCullough, Chaplain; Carlton M. Mansfield, Chancellor; and, Daniel L. Hopping, Captain of the Color Guard. Directors were elected for the Class of 2025: J. Robert Boykin III, J. Randall May, and Joseph A. Steele. General President Rich installed the new Officers and Directors.

After the announcement of the recipient of the "James B. Ebert Scholarship," Mr. Jared Burris, a graduate of UNC-Pembroke, eight New Members were announced, three of whom were presented with rosettes: J. Gregory Catledge, Paul R. Mitchell, and Matthew J. Norcross. New Members not in attendance: J. Hamilton Bowman V, Robert J. Welch, William T. Kimzey, Morgan Paul Dickerman III, and V. Al Peoples, Jr.

Before the Benediction, President Succop delivered closing remarks to the membership and guests.—*Text and photographs provided by Gary L. Hall and Daniel L. Hopping.*

Russell Rich installs new officers of the North Carolina Society. Inset, President Gus Succop makes a point.

Firing a Cannon during "Experience the Battle of Princeton"

Battle of Princeton Reenactment

By Charles Scammell, Vice President Mid-Atlantic Region, GSSR

This year the SR-NJ participated in a large re-enactment of the Battle of Princeton that brought together many patriotic organizations in a show of great collaboration and unity. Entitled "Experience the Battle of Princeton," the event took place on Sunday, January 2nd and commemorated the 245th anniversary of this key battle in the Revolution. Its purpose was to provide the public with a greater understanding of the American Revolution and our nation's heritage.

In addition to reenactors, officers and members of the New Jersey Society Sons of the Revolution, the re-enactment featured the Daughters of the American Revolution, the New Jersey Sons of the American Revolution, the Society of the Cincinnati, along with Color Guard units from the Atlantic Middle States District of the Sons of the American Revolution, local dignitaries, and officers of the military units with lineage to the Battle of Princeton. The military units included:

All Princeton battlefield photos by Bill Marsch.

- 2nd Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment B Leicester Company (Rutland, England), representing the 17th Regiment of Foot
- 1st Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery (Fort Reilly, Kansas), representing the New York Provincial Company of Artillery (aka "Alexander Hamilton's Own")
- Pennsylvania Army National Guard, 1st Division, representing the Philadelphia Associators
- 111th Infantry Battalion, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, representing the Philadelphia Artillery Battalion, 103 Engineer Battalion (aka "The Dandy First")
- Delaware Army National Guard, representing Haslet's 1st Delaware Regiment, the 198th Signal Battalion
- New Jersey National Guard, representing Neil's Battery, East New Jersey Artillery, the 112th Field Artillery Battalion.

SAR Color Guard, Atlantic Middle States District

The following is a summation written by Michael Russell, President of the Princeton Battlefield Association, of the day's events:

January 2, 2022 dawned overcast and wet from the previous day's rain, but the temperature at fifty-seven degrees belied Winter. About one hundred British and American reenactors appeared on the battlefield of the January 3, 1777 Battle of Princeton, which ended the "Ten Crucial Days" of 1776-77. The crowd of over 450 spectators grew silent. Will Krakower, Historical Interpreter for the NJ State Park, welcomed everyone and introduced Michael Russell, president of the Princeton Battlefield Society, event organizer, who related the significance of this battle and of the men who fought here. Then, with a loud "HUZZAH!" from Krakower, an opening volley of muskets from the British's 17th Regiment of Foot came from the western ridge of the field.

"Experience the Battle of Princeton" had begun. The British swept into the swale and were met by Mercer's Brigade. Brigadier General Hugh Mercer went down and was bayoneted seven times by the British. Delaware's Colonel John Haslet was killed, Captain William Leslie of the 17th Regiment was mortally wounded. The British had the advantage and began to advance across the once Quaker farms of William Clarke and his brother Thomas as the Americans retreated. From the high ground near the Thomas Clarke farmhouse, American artillery units under Captain Joseph Moulder opened fire which was returned by British artillery. The sharp sounds of muskets were heard all over the field, and men from both sides went down.

Dignitaries Gathered at the Battlefield Colonnade

As the battle hit its peak, General George Washington appeared from the northeast side of the field leading two regiments of experienced New England Continental troops, sweeping the outnumbered British back in retreat. Washington and his troops had won the day. The staged battle was over, and the large audience of spectators applauded.

Reenactors remained on the battlefield afterwards and spoke to spectators, providing more insight and historic interpretation. Their level of interest in representing the "Ten Crucial Days" of the American Revolution and the Battle of Princeton provided the public with a wealth of understanding about our heritage and why living-history is beneficial for our fellow citizens. *"Experience the Battle of Princeton" was a fantastic success. www.pbs1777.org*

Following the re-enactment, a wreath-laying ceremony at the Colonnade honored the soldiers who died at the Battle of Princeton and the twenty-four unknown British and American soldiers memorialized at the adjacent Memorial Grove. Three members of the SRNJ directly participated in the wreath-laying, including T. Jeffrey Clark, Scott Scammell III, and Logan Brown. The SRNJ Color Guard, led by Commander Scammell, was also present with a contingent of supporters for the event.

The Historical Battle

Princeton was one of three important battles at the dawn of 1777 between the British and Washington's Continentals, over a two-week period in central New Jersey. After Washington led the Patriots on a daring crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas Night, 1776, in a howling snowstorm, the first of these battles occurred the next day. The Battle of Trenton was a surprise attack on, and victory over, a large garrison of Hessians. The Americans suffered few casualties and confiscated badly needed food and clothing from the enemy.

About a week later, on January 2nd, 1777, the adversaries met again in Trenton at the Battle of the Assunpink Creek, when Washington's army squared off against British regulars led by Gen. Cornwallis. Finally, the Battle of Princeton took place on January 3rd, 1777. These battles, and the impressive victory at the first battle of Trenton, were seen as key turning points of the war. It showed soldiers, patriots and the fledgling revolutionary leadership that our troops had the wherewithal to defeat the most powerful army in the world.

This was particularly important because of its timing. The disastrous defeats in the 1776 New York campaign and the rapid retreat across New Jersey had left the prospects for American independence in doubt. Rather than retreat to winter quarters, Washington chose to attack in the dead of winter. Washington's victories completely reversed the fortunes of the Continental Army and the prospects for the young country. Washington's victories and the effective guerrilla warfare waged in the New Jersey countryside forced the British lines back towards New York City.

SR members at house of Pvt Cromwell

NJ Sons Attend Cromwell Ceremony

On April 27th, several members of the SRNJ attended a special event in Burlington, NJ, honoring the service of Pvt. Oliver Cromwell. This man fought in seven battles of the Revolution, including Trenton, Brandywine, Yorktown and Monmouth. He participated in the Christmas Crossing of the Delaware River with Washington, too. Washington awarded him the Badge of Merit "for six years of faithful service" and signed Cromwell's discharge papers on June 5, 1783.

Oliver Cromwell
poster by Lauren Lopez, philacarta.com

The Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored the re-dedication of the historical marker at the home of Private Oliver Cromwell. It was also an opportunity to clarify history by celebrating the diversity in the fight for independence.

The event was attended by over 100 people, many of whom were decendents of Mr. Cromwell. The ceremony lasted about an hour with speeches from members of the family, the DAR, local and state dignitaries, and the SAR. SRNJ supported the event with a faction of its color guard. A black member of the DAR spoke and shared why she is a proud member and noted that almost 200 members of the DAR are black.

"Our society's core mission is to honor the men and women who achieved American independence. And so, we are proud to today recognize the faithful Revolutionary War service and inspiring courage of Oliver Cromwell," said Denise Doring VanBuren, president general of the National Society of the DAR. VanBuren said DAR is committed to sharing the stories of men and women of color who fought for our country's freedom.

Public gathers outside the home of Pvt Oliver Cromwell

Oliver Cromwell was born in 1753 in Burlington County, New Jersey and lived to be 100 still residing in the county. He served as a private in the 2nd New Jersey Regiment between 1777 and 1783 fighting in many of the battles that led to American victory and independence. During his later years he sat outside his home on East Union Street engaging with passersby and neighbors alike.—*text and photos submitted by Charles Scammell*

Tallmadge Day Celebration

Author and Newsday Staff Writer, Bill Bleyer

On Monday, January 24, 2022, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York commemorated the birthday of Frederick Samuel Tallmadge, the second president of our esteemed Society. His generosity enabled the Society to acquire the Fraunces Tavern in 1904. We were delighted to welcome special guest Bill Bleyer, author and prize-winning staff writer for the Long Island daily newspaper Newsday. Mr. Bleyer gave a virtual presentation on the subject of his most recent book, *George Washington's Long Island Spy Ring: A History and Tour Guide*, published in May 2021. Over the years, many legends have surfaced about George Washington's famous Culper Spy Ring. Mr. Bleyer separated facts from fiction and detailed the ingenious operation of the intelligence network that helped the Patriots win the war.

145th Annual Washington Birthday Ball

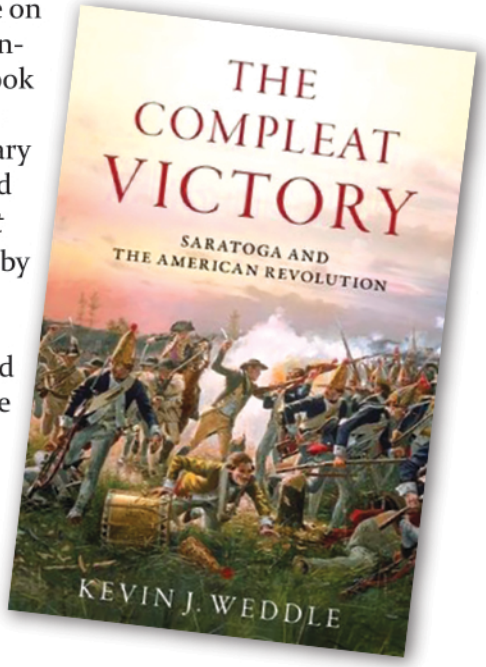
On Friday, February 25, 2022, Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, Inc. hosted their 145th annual George Washington Birthday Ball in honor of the First President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. This event, held at the Metropolitan Club in New York City, benefits Fraunces Tavern® Museum. This year's Distinguished Patriot was the Honorable George E. Pataki, Governor of New York from 1995 to 2006.

Joining us, and participating in our procession of honored guests and traditional toasts, were Ivan Bennett, General Vice President, GSSR; Ambrose Richardson III, General Secretary, GSSR; Richard F. Pagano, President of the Pennsylvania Society, and Richard Gregory, President of the Florida Society. The digital 2021 Ball Journal is available at https://www.frauncestavernmuseum.org/gw-ball-journal-digital.

2022 Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award

2022 FTM Book Award Winner Kevin J. Weddle

On April 25, 2022, the SRNY commemorated the Battles of Lexington and Concord, which took place on April 19, 1775. At this commemoration, they also honored the winner of the Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award, presented annually to the author of the best newly published work on the American Revolutionary War that combines original scholarship, insight, and good writing. This year's winner was ***The Compleat Victory: Saratoga and the American Revolution*** by Kevin J. Weddle.



Honorable Mentions were also awarded to John Knight for War at Saber Point: Banastre Tarleton and the British Legion, and Patrick K. O'Donnell for The Indispensables: The Diverse Soldier-Mariners Who Shaped the Country, Formed the Navy, and Rowed Washington Across the Delaware. Special recognition has also gone to Woody Holton for Liberty Is Sweet: The Hidden History of the American Revolution.

Since 1972, the Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award has been presented annually to the author of the best newly published work on the American Revolutionary War, combining original scholarship, insight, and good writing.

WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY BALL PHOTOS

SRNY Color Guard Activities

On May 30, 2022, our Color Guard participated in the Memorial Day commemoration held at Shearith Israel's Chatham Square Cemetery in lower Manhattan, where nineteen patriot soldiers are buried. Also buried there is Gershom Mendes Seixas, known at the "Patriot Rabbi," who was one of four clergymen in attendance at George Washington's inauguration in 1789.

Less than two weeks later, on June 10, our Society held its annual Flag Day Celebration & Open House, to commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The SRNY Color Guard traditionally marches in the parade. The New York Society has celebrated Flag Day since 1916. This year's program was held in our Fraunces Tavern Museum's Davis Flag Gallery, formally the Kathryn & Shelby Cullom Davis Educational Center for American History.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS (LOC.GOV)

Flag Day Procession, 1916, at Fraunces Tavern.

On July 4, the Color Guard participated in the Lower Manhattan Historical Association's downtown Manhattan Independence Day parade, which processed along an historic route beginning at Castle Clinton in the Battery, past Fraunces Tavern, the New York Stock Exchange, and Federal Hall before concluding at the South Street Seaport.

PHOTO COURTESY FTM.

A new permanent exhibit at FTM shows the Department of Foreign Affairs as it was in 1785-1788, when the federal government leased space at the Fraunces Tavern.

New Permanent Exhibit at FTM

In June 2022, the Fraunces Tavern Museum opened a new permanent exhibit, "Governing the Nation from Fraunces Tavern," honoring Stanley and Elizabeth Scott, generous supporters of the Museum. This exhibit tells the story of Fraunces Tavern's role as our nation's first executive governmental building from 1785 to 1788, when New York City was the nation's capital. During those years, Fraunces Tavern was leased to house three offices of the Confederation Congress, namely, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of War, and offices of the Board of Treasury.

Thanks to an extraordinary document—a cashbook that detailed the purchases for the Department of Foreign Affairs during its time at the Tavern—and which is now housed at the National Archives, the Department's office has been faithfully re-created. Featuring approximately sixty objects, most of which are authentic to the period and many have never been on public display. They include tables, chairs, desks, maps, newspapers and other items. Visitors will have the opportunity to travel back to post-colonial New York City and see the Department of Foreign Affairs office as it appeared during a fascinating period in the nation's history, when John Jay was the first Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Younger Members Christmas Party

The annual Younger Members Committee Christmas Party was held on Wednesday, December 8th at the Historic DuPortail House in Chesterbrook. Built in 1740 by Welsh Quakers, the Duportail House served as the headquarters of General Louis Lebeque DuPortail, Chief Engineer of the Continental Army, during the encampment at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-1778. The house is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

All members were invited to attend this event, and we had a great turnout by all ages. The evening included open bar featuring our new PSSR Punch, a vast assortment of heavy hors d'oeuvres, cigars on the heated patio and Christmas caroling. Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Van Gulick, Jr. took both the men's and women's categories in a contest of best Christmas attire. A special thanks goes to Younger Members Committee Chairman Andrew C. Colket and his committee for an outstanding evening.

Wreaths Across America

At right, C. Michael Whelan presents a wreath alongside a Union soldier.

Member Ed Hart III, rear, presents a wreath alongside a WWII soldier.

The PSSR participated in two different *Wreaths Across America* ceremonies in December. The first was on Saturday, December 18th at Paoli Battlefield Park in Malvern. The program was officiated by James Christ, President of the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund. PSSR members Andrew C. Colket, Edwin S. Hart IV, William C. Wolffe and C. Michael Whelan laid wreaths at the mass grave site of the fifty-one men of the Continental Army who perished there.

The following day, the Jeptha Abbot Chapter of the DAR along with the Old Eagle School (Wayne, Pennsylvania) hosted a Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Old Eagle School Cemetery. That burial place has over a hundred graves that include many early settlers and several Revolutionary War soldiers. The event was supported by members of the PSSR Color Guard who were led by Captain Eric E. L. Guenther Jr.

Elegance befitting of the occasion

George Washington's Birthday Ball

The PSSR celebrated the 290th Anniversary of the birthday of General George Washington on Saturday, February 26th at Philadelphia Country Club in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania. The evening began with a receiving line of PSSR officers and members of the Board of Managers who greeted society members and their guests before enjoying a reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres that began at six o'clock.

At half past seven o'clock, everyone was asked to take their seats in the ballroom area for the presentation of the PSSR colors and standards. The Color Guard, under the direction of Captain Robert J. McNelly, performed their duties perfectly. In the absence of PSSR Chaplain G. Clayton Ames III, Reverend Richard Alton gave the invocation prior to the traditional toasts at this event.

Our special guest, SR General President Russell Rich, gave the first toast to General George Washington. PSSR Vice President Wayne R. Strasbaugh, Esq., gave the toast to the President of the United States; Vice President C. Michael Whelan gave the toast to the Continental Forces; and Vice President William F. Forbes gave the toast to the Allies of the Continental Forces. President Pagano then recognized PSSR Presidents Emeriti Wolf, Burke, Gordon, Fenstermacher, and Cheyney, who were all present. He thanked them for their service to the Society.

PSSR Society Historian, Ben Ramsay Wolf, Jr. had the audience charge their glasses thirteen times as he spoke of George Washington and his early writings and poetry. He concluded the speech by reciting one of Washington's poems. Mr. Wolf's presentation was followed by the keynote speaker Tom Kehoe, Founder and Brewmaster for Yards Brewing Company in Philadelphia, who gave a presentation of the importance of beer to our ancestors as both a staple of life and a commodity of the armed forces.

Capt. Robert J. McNelly

Open bar remained after dinner to keep the party going until late in the evening. We had record attendance, with 194 reservations. Thanks go to V.P. of Events Kenneth W. MacNeal, Washington's Birthday Ball Chairman William H. Handy II, Assistant Chairman Harvard C. Wood, IV, the members of the Washington's Birthday Ball committee, Color Guard Captain Robert J. McNelly Esq. and the Color Guard itself and Executive Director Schuyler C. Wickes for executing a great event.

Richard Pagano gives his President's Report

PSSR Annual Meeting

The 134th Annual Meeting of the PSSR was held at the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry's Armory in Philadelphia on April 13th. Prior to the meeting the slate of nominations for officers and managers was circulated to the membership by mail as part of the announcement for the meeting.

The meeting began at 5:00 p.m., with over 125 members in attendance. The PSSR Color Guard, led by Captain Robert J. McNelly, presented the standards and colors to President Richard F. Pagano before the meeting was called to order. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, PSSR Chaplain G. Clayton Ames III led the group in the invocation prayer to bless the proceedings.

Officer reports were then given. A total of thirty-nine new PSSR members had been admitted since the last Annual Meeting, and the fourteen who attended were recognized and presented with Society rosettes by President Pagano and Assistant Secretary Dougherty. That was followed by a similar ceremony for members reaching their fiftieth year of membership. Following this, President Pagano then read the names of the PSSR members who had passed away in the past year, and PSSR Chaplain G. Clayton Ames III led the group in prayer to remember these men for their fraternity and service.

Attendees were then treated to a presentation by Junior Member William Gresh who outlined his involvement with the Pennsylvania Children of the American Revolution (PCAR) in terms of fundraising efforts, the 125th anniversary of the PCAR, membership activities and service activities.

The membership in attendance voted unanimously to approve the officers and managers as submitted by the Nominations Committee.

A portion of the year's New Members being recognized.

The list of officers is as follows:

Richard Francis Pagano—President • William Frederick Forbes—Vice President

Kenneth Walter MacNeal—Vice President • Richard Renato Paul Di Stefano, Esq.—Vice President

Wayne Ralph Strasbaugh, Esq.—Vice President • Christopher Michael Whelan—Vice President

Joseph Thomas Coleman—Secretary • David Christopher Hill Byrne—Assistant Secretary

Austin William Lamac—Treasurer • Francis M. Spano, III—Assistant Treasurer

James Kipp Gearhart, IV—Registrar • Hans Joseph Klotzbach—Assistant Registrar

Edwin Sipler Hart, III—Historian • Andrew Crawford Colket—Assistant Historian

Rev. George Clayton Ames, III—Chaplain • Albert Lindsay Doering, IV, Esq.—Counselor

Rev. G. Clayton Ames, III

Annual Church Service (Valley Forge Commemoration)

The Annual Valley Forge Commemoration Church Service was held on Sunday, April 24th at Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe, Pennsylvania. The church service commemorates the encampment of the Continental Army at Valley Forge in 1777and 1778 and recognizes those PSSR members who have passed away during the past year.

The Augustus Lutheran Church was chosen as this year's site because of its prominence in U.S. history. The Reverend Henry Melchior Muhlenberg arrived from Germany in 1742 and settled in Trappe. In 1743, the congregation began building the "Old Trappe Church" using native stone and materials gathered by hand. Henry Muhlenberg's eldest son, the Reverend Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, also served as pastor there prior to joining the Continental Army and becoming a major general.

The service began with a presentation of the colors and standards of the PSSR led by Color Guard Captain Robert J. McNelly, Esq. The Rev. G. Clayton Ames III presided and gave the call to worship and led the group in remembrances for the fallen. Selected readings were given, followed by Rev. Ames leading the group in reciting Washington's Prayer, adapted from the closing paragraph of Washington's letter to the Governors of the Thirteen States in 1783.

Following a prayer of thanksgiving, Annual Church Service Chairman Hans J. Klotzbach read the necrology of the twenty-one PSSR members who had passed away since the last church service. Reverend Ames then led the assembled in a memorial prayer before giving the benediction to conclude the service.

The Color Guard then marched to the church graveyard to display the colors on a beautiful spring day, while those in attendance toured the grounds and the original church building. President Pagano and Color Guard Captain McNelly laid wreaths at the grave of unknown Revolutionary War soldiers and at the grave of Rev. Henry Muhlenberg.

PSSR Color Guard at Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe, Pennsylvania.

Let Freedom Ring

This year's *Let Freedom Ring* celebration hearkened back to more traditional norms than the past couple of years allowed. We held the luncheon and reception at the Marriott Old City Hotel, followed by the procession to Washington Square. The PSSR Color Guard under the direction of Captain Robert W. McNelly led the procession, along with members of the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry. The Watson Highlanders Pipe & Drum provided

The PSSR Color Guard marches to Washington Square, led by the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry.

Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence gather to tap the Liberty Bell at 2 p.m. Joining them is Park Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod.

Singers of the Orpheus Club of Philadelphia, a staple at Let Freedom Ring celebrations.

the stirring music, and, as in years past, the Orpheus Club of Philadelphia performed musical accompaniment.

President Pagano addressed the crowd assembled at Washington Square and spoke about the challenges we face in America today on many fronts, and challenged everyone to be an active participant in being better patriots and citizens, and to take pride in our country. Following his address, PSSR member and retired history teacher Peter Stokes, who taught at The Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, gave a rousing speech on his ancestry and their involvement in events that have shaped our nation.

The ceremony concluded with members of Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence tapping the Liberty Bell in unison with the bell at Independence Hall at 2:00 pm. Several churches and organization participated in the bell ringing, including Christ Church in Philadelphia, Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge, St, David's Church in Radnor and the Battleship New Jersey. Executive Director Schuyler Wickes is to be commended for overseeing so many of the details and plans for this event. Thanks go to LFR Committee members and to PSSR Color Guard Captain Robert McNelly and Color Guard Flag Chairman William Forbes.

Lancaster County Chapter

The Lancaster County Chapter celebrated Capital Day on Monday, September 27th to commemorate the 244th anniversary of Capital Day, the day in 1777 when Lancaster was Capital of the United States. The event was held on the grounds of the Lancaster Theological Seminary, and included a casual luncheon, brief program and time afterward for socializing. Lancaster County Regent Troy Keener opened the event and introduced the special guests for the day. The event was attended by about forty people, including Lancaster County Commissioner Joshua Parsons and guest speaker Stephanie Townrow of the Lancaster County Historical Society. President Richard F. Pagano, William F. Forbes, and Joseph T. Coleman of the Philadelphia area were in attendance as well.

On Friday, November 19th, Lancaster County Chapter Regent Troy Keener and Chapter Historian Kevin Byrne were present for a Naturalization Ceremony held in Lancaster's historic Courtroom A. Twenty-one individuals from thirteen different countries were sworn in as new American citizens. The Lancaster Chapter representatives distributed a pocket copy of the US Constitution to each naturalized citizen.—*text and photos submitted by PSSR VP C. Michael Whelan*

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN BUCKLEY.

Regional SR members at Carolina Day, from left, Steven Westgate, Chris Blaine, Frank Hardeman, Jeff Murrie, David Kahn, Matthew Breen.

245th Carolina Day Celebration

Members of the South Carolina and Georgia Societies again jointly celebrated Carolina Day on June 28th, which annually commemorates the Patriot victory at the Battle of Sullivan's Island. First known as "Palmetto Day," Carolina Day has been celebrated for 245 years—since 1777. On June 28, 1776, an assault by combined British forces attempted to seize Charles Town, at the time the fourth largest port city in the Colonies but far and away the wealthiest city in North America. A small force of Carolina patriots on Sullivan's Island successfully repelled the British navy from entering the harbor. The victory fired up the passions of patriotic Americans up and down the eastern seaboard and would delay by three years another British attempt to take the city.

Sullivan's Island at that time was a geographic obstacle that shielded and protected the inner-harbor. For South Carolina, it produced a confidence in the government led by President John Rutledge.

Traditionally, Carolina Day in Charleston includes a service of Thanksgiving at St. Michael's Anglican Church, followed by a procession to White Point Garden at the tip end of Charleston Peninsula. Church bells ring throughout the city. This year the procession had to be cancelled due to a downpour, but keynote speaker Douglas MacIntyre presented his talk on the eighteenth-century British perspective of the war for American independence at St. Michael's. After the conclusion of scheduled events, members from both Societies removed to the Grit Counter in Mount Pleasant, SC, where they enjoyed delicious food and fellowship.

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN BUCKLEY.

The Reverend Randy Shirley, St. Michael's Anglican Church.

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN BUCKLEY.

A Sgt of the 2nd SC with SRSC President Jeff Murrie on Carolina Day

A New, Unique Seal for SCSR

One of the goals of SCSR President Jeff Murrie has been to work toward overcoming the common public impression that the Sons of the Revolution is "simply a mirror image of other groups." To that end, he is leading an effort to distinguish the South Carolina Society with its own identity and traditions. "Our potential members will never desire to join the Sons of the Revolution if we are simply a mirror image of other groups. We must create our own identity, our traditions, our Society composed of gentlemen," he wrote in a recent Society newsletter. "We must all clearly understand that there is an entire group of men in our state who do not even know we exist, and if they did, are unsure what we stand for."

Part of that work has been the creation of a new, unique seal for

The Society's new insignia

the SCSR. The border of the seal is surrounded by a thin fluted bezel encompassed by a double band. The image of the seal is dominated by a tall palmetto tree and an oak tree, fallen and broken. The palmetto tree is the State Tree of South Carolina and commemorates the Battle of Sullivan's Island on June 28, 1776 and the famous Fort Moultrie constructed of palmetto logs. The oak tree, fallen and broken, represents the defeated British. The position of the trees is also significant in that the palmetto, standing, represents the victorious defenders, and the fallen oak is the British Fleet.

The crossed cannons pay homage to the martial prowess and sacrifices of South Carolina and her people during the Revolution. These cannons are modeled after a pair of cannons owned by the Society of the Cincinnati of the State of South Carolina. One is on loan to the Charleston Museum and one resides at Anderson House, the headquarters of the General Society of the Society of the Cincinnati. These cannons are very unique and prized as they are some of the very few existing Revolutionary War cannons that were made in the colonies as most American armaments were made in England.

In gothic font appear an "**S**," "**C**," and "**R**." The "**S**" is positioned to be able to be duplicated when read so that the letters spell out the acronym S.C.S.R., meaning South Carolina (Society) Sons of the Revolution. Towards the bottom of the seal is a banded motif encompassing thirteen stars representing the thirteen original American States. Below this band are two years, 1775 and 1876. The first commemorates the year in which the Revolutionary War began. The second represents the centennial year of independence and the year our Sons of the Revolution was founded. A small diamante separates the two dates. Two bands round out of the bottom of the seal.—*text by President Jeff Murrie*

Other Developments

Earlier this year, members living in the Florence, S.C., area gathered at the residence of David Kahn, Jr., to sign the charter of the Florence Chapter of the SCSR. Society President Jeff Murrie said that founding the Florence Chapter was an important event for the continued growth of the Sons of the Revolution in South Carolina. "The continued growth of our membership is of the utmost importance," he said.

In March, the Society grieved the loss of Mrs. Genie Ayer Futrell, wife of Greenville Chapter President Al Futrell, veteran of the US Air Force. The couple had been married for fifty-four years and raised a family. For several decades, Genie was an active member of Simpsonville United Methodist Church, where she taught preschool for many years. She enjoyed sewing, shag dancing, reading books and was a retired library clerk for Hillcrest Middle School. Genie cherished her friendships and enjoyed spending time on the Carolina coast and mountains. She especially loved being with her grandchildren.

In July, the SCSR suffered another death. US Air Force retired "Top Gun" George P. Summers passed away on Sunday, July 10, 2022. George was a highly decorated fighter jet pilot in the Air Force. He and his wife, Carole, in their retirement years established the Annual Francis Marion Symposium and launched the creation of a trail of large, outdoors murals celebrating Revolutionary War Brig. Gen. Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox" (see Drumbeat Volume 39, No 3-4). The murals, now over thirty in number, are located mainly between Turbeville, Manning, and Summerton, SC.—*text and photos submitted by VP Matthew Breen, Esq.*

George Summers

John Rice Irwin

A Tribute to John Rice Irwin (1930-2022)

The Tennessee Society and the entire Sons of the Revolution have lost a key member and cultural icon with the passing of John Rice Irwin, who died in February of this year. He was a life member with over thirty-five years of dedicated service to the Tennessee Society. Ultimately, the Anderson County Chapter of the TSSOR was named for him: The John Rice Irwin Chapter of the Anderson County, Tennessee Society Sons of the Revolution.

Mr. Irwin, born in 1930, was considered one of the leading authorities on the history, culture, and music of the southern Appalachian region. During his lifetime he built up a respectable museum, wrote several books, and lectured on the subject throughout the eastern United States. *The New York Times* called him the "Guardian of Appalachia's Past" and it named his Museum of Appalachia in Clinton, Tennessee the "nation's premier museum of Appalachian history."

After graduating from high school, John enrolled at Tennessee Tech University but his college career was cut short when he enlisted in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After returning from overseas duty, he completed a Bachelor's degree in economics and history and later a Master's in Inter-national Law. After college, John taught for several years in the Anderson County public schools. Additionally, he taught at Lincoln Memorial University and the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. In 1962, John served as Superintendent of the Anderson County School System and later became Executive Director of the Tennessee Appalachian Educational Cooperative.

It was during John's career in education when he seriously began pursuing his love of his Appalachian roots. In his spare time, he traveled to remote areas of southern Appalachia collecting over a quarter million items which he used in founding the Museum of Appalachia. Even today, visitors come from all over the world to view the splendid preservation of southern Appalachia. TSSOR member Dennis Eggert said of John Rice Irwin: "His deep love of the southern Appalachian Mountains and its people will continue to resonate for generations to come."

Great Smoky Mountain Sports Camporee

In early March, the Great Smoky Mountain Council of Scouts BSA held a shooting sports camporee at John Sevier Range in Knoxville, Tennessee. Along with the TNSSOR, the Monroe County Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Tennesseans For Living History participated in this event that educated approximately 400 boys and girls. The TNSSOR provided an exhibition of loading and firing flintlock rifles and muskets, as well as demonstrating 18th century militia drill. Scout participants competed in shooting sports that included shotguns, small-bore rifles, high-caliber rifles, cap lock muzzleloaders, and handguns. This event emphasized gun safety and proper use of firearms.

A scene from the Shooting Sports Camporee

Additionally, and directly related to the American Revolution, the Scouts were given a presentation recounting the events of the battles of Lexington and Concord and why those events were important. The military engagements at Lexington and Concord were the first battles of the Revolutionary War. Our revolution was, in a much larger sense, a desire for self autonomy within a new order. Rather than submit to the divine rights of a king, the framers of our country formed a new nation giving the people a much greater say on how they should be governed. We became a self-governing people. Guided by the grievances outlined in the Declaration of Independence, a Bill

of Rights was incorporated into our Constitution. It presented and guaranteed basic, inalienable freedoms: the right of free speech, the right to assemble and petition, the right to bear arms, the right to a jury of peers, among others. Our system of government was unique when founded, and today it has been copied around the world to varying degrees of success. Still, the oldest living codified constitution in the world is the U.S. Constitution.

Anderson County Chapter Presents Two Scholarship Awards

In May, two $500 scholarship awards were presented to two outstanding and deserving students from Anderson County area high schools. On May 10th, the $500.00 Harry Patton Memorial Scholarship was presented to Anderson County High School student Shelby Freyre for her essay on "Of the first ten Amendments to the Constitution, which is the most important and why?" This award was presented by Gene Patton, son of the late Harry Patton who was past president of the Anderson County Chapter and also past mayor of Clinton, Tennessee.

On May 19th, the $500.00 Jim Greene Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Clinton High School student Shane Miller for her essay on "What was the importance of the French in the American Revolution?" Her award was presented by Anderson County Sons Chapter President Jerry Cox. This scholarship is in memory of the late Jim Green, who was past president of the Anderson County Chapter. Ms. Freyre and Ms. Miller's essays demonstrated a maturity beyond their years. They exhibited high academic skills in both research and writing. We thank these young ladies for their participation in our scholarship program and wish them continued success.

For the past three years, the Anderson County Chapter TNSSOR has been sponsoring this annual contest. Under the direction of SOR member Steve Portwood, this successful project has been steadily growing with more and more essays being submitted.

The John Sevier Family Bible on display in at the West Village Christian Church in Oak Ridge, Tennessee

First Annual Heritage Day at King Family Library

The King Family Library in Sevier County hosted its first Annual Heritage Day on May 7, 2022. The theme was "Appalachia: A Backwards Glance," which emphasized the mountain culture of East Tennessee. Craft exhibits included spinning, candle making, soap-making, leather working, quilting, and glassblowing. Cooking demonstrations, mountain music, storytelling, and oral histories gave visitors a greater insight of the East Tennessee culture.

Bob Jones and Dennis Eggert represented the TNSSOR during this event. Bob, portraying John Sevier in period attire, provided visitors the story of John Sevier, Commander of the Revolutionary War Overmountain Men and Tennessee's first governor. Our Society's Sevier Family Bible was on display for all visitors to see. This unique Bible along with Bob's presentation in period attire created much interest among the visitors.

The very next day, May 8th, the John Sevier Family Bible was on display at the West Village Christian Church in Oak Ridge, Tennessee during its Sunday services. This church had previously and graciously allowed the Anderson County Sons Chapter the use of their fellowship hall for their annual October 2021 fellowship and banquet. Pastor Ric Cross, along with church elders Eddie Bailiff, David Poe, and Joe Inman were very receptive to having this historic Bible on display. Pastor Cross stated, "I know that no other book has had as much influence in East Tennessee as the Holy Bible. We were honored to have the John Sevier Family Bible prominently displayed within the church sanctuary before and during services. The members of our congregation were thrilled to see it."

Over the years, the John Sevier Family Bible has been displayed at many events and festivals throughout East Tennessee; however, we believe this is the first time it's ever been shown in a church during Sunday worship services. *—articles and photos taken from The Tennessee Rifleman*

Dennis Eggert, Pastor Ric Cross, Gary Love

Mark Jakobowski speaks at the unveiling of the Comte du Rochambeau statue, Yorktown Riverwalk Landing.

Commissioning of the Rochambeau Statue

The Virginia Society was one of the two largest contributors to commission a bronze statue of the Comte du Rochambeau to join the existing statues of Revolutionary War leaders on the waterfront at Yorktown, Virginia. The other likenesses are of General George Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, and Comte du Grasse. The statue was unveiled on October 18, 2021, in front of over 250 attendees. Vice President Mark Jakobowski represented the Virginia Society and was guest speaker at the unveiling.

A gathering of four Revolutionary Heroes —Washingon, Lafayette, Rochambeau, and du Grosse.

SOURCE: FACEBOOK/AMIS DE ROCHAMBEAU.

George Washington Birthday Dinner

Our Society marked its return to holding live events with the 125th Annual George Washington Birthday Dinner held February 26th at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond, Virginia. Over 220 VSSR members attended the popular black-tie event. The keynote speaker was Vice Admiral Thomas R. Wilson, U.S. Navy (Retired). Admiral Wilson is the former director, Defense Intelligence Agency and former Director of Intelligence for The Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time of the attack on America on 9/11/2001.

The 2022 George Washington Birthday Dinner

Other honored guests were Vice Admiral Andrew L. Lewis, USN (Ret.) Rear Admiral Robert P. Wright, USN (Ret.), Major General Robert D. Carlson, USA (Ret.), Major General Scott G. West, USA (Ret.), Major General Paul W. Brier, USMC (Ret.), Brigadier General Chad T. Manske, USAF (Ret.) and Rear Admiral Hilaire Ducellier, French Marine Nationale.

As this was our first live event since the outbreak of the pandemic, we recognized a

GW Birthday Dinner guest speaker, Vice Admiral Thomas R. Wilson, U.S. Navy (Retired)

New VSSR members of 2021 present at the GW Birthday Dinner in Richmond, February 2022.

number of new members who joined in 2021. The Society grew by forty-two new members in 2021 and over twenty of them attended this event and were formally welcomed into the VSSR.

2022 Springtime Annual Meeting

The weather was perfect on May 2nd for the Society's 2022 Annual Meeting at the Tuckahoe Women's Club in Richmond Virginia. The Board of Managers approved the continuation of officers for 2022 – 2023 and Patriots Fund Donations as follows; $5,000.00 for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, $3,000.00 for the James Monroe Memorial Foundation, $1,000.00 to provide for Society Membership grave markers, and a scholarship award of $2,500.00 to the Bayes Business School - the City, University of London, on behalf of Meriweather Roberts.

Following the meeting, our annual Garden Reception was held with over 165 members and guests in attendance. We had the pleasure of receiving Ms. Linda Edwards, President General of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, attend as an honored guest.

Planned Fall Events

The Virginia Society is planning to introduce an informal "Boots, Blue Jeans, and BBQ" fall event planned on October 9th at a beautiful Virginia country hunt club venue. This will be an event for members and guests, with barbecue, oysters, and music by a bluegrass band. Near the end of October, we will hold our annual new member event featuring bourbon and cigar bars at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond. In November we will continue our support of the Society of Colonial Wars and the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in co-sponsoring their Annual Oyster Roast at Wilton House in Richmond.—*text and photos submitted by 1st Vice President Mark M. Jakowbowski*

Who was Ebenezer Stevens?

Besides Being the Grandfather of Our Founder

By Laurence S. Simpson, DDS
General President Emeritus

Ebenezer Stevens (1751-1823) With permission of the New-York Historical Society.

Many members of the General Society already know that Ebenezer Stevens was an officer in the Continental Army and the grandfather of our Society's founder, John Austin Stevens, Jr. Other than that, who was he really? By the sweat of his brow, the Boston-born Stevens began his working life as a common laborer. He joined the Sons of Liberty, became an artillerist during the Revolution, later was commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel, and after the war joined the Society of the Cincinnati and became wealthy as a New York City merchant.

In 1800, he was elected assemblyman in the New York Assembly. During the War of 1812, Stevens was a Major General in the NY Militia encharged with leading the defenses of New York City. Fort Stevens, a coastal fortification established in 1814 at Hallett's Point in Queens County, was named in his honor.

Stevens' Cincinnati Eagle insignia and ribbon. With permission from the New-York Historical Society.

An essay published by Marist College (Poughkeepsie, NY) calls Stevens an authentic revolutionary. In 'Ebenezer Stevens: An Untold Story of an American Revolutionary, (1751-1823),' reproduced below, he is described as one of the unknown and ordinary people who dedicated their lives to our nation's independence.

"The birth of America is often credited to figures such as Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, James Madison, and the other prominent founding fathers. We spend so much time analyzing and dissecting their contributions, that we may have forgotten how many stories still remain untold. One of these stories is that of military official, merchant, and revolutionary Ebenezer Stevens. This is a man who threw tea into the harbor in the Boston Tea Party, who worked alongside his fellow revolutionaries as one of the Sons of Liberty, who fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill, who rose to the rank of Major General. This man led his troops into the war of 1812 and guided the defense initiative for the state of New York, yet still so few people know his name.

Born in Roxbury, Massachusetts in 1751, Stevens came of age in the era of revolution. In his early life, he participated in radical activities such as the Boston Tea Party and the Sons of Liberty, both of which protested the British control over the colonies. He went on to become an artillery officer

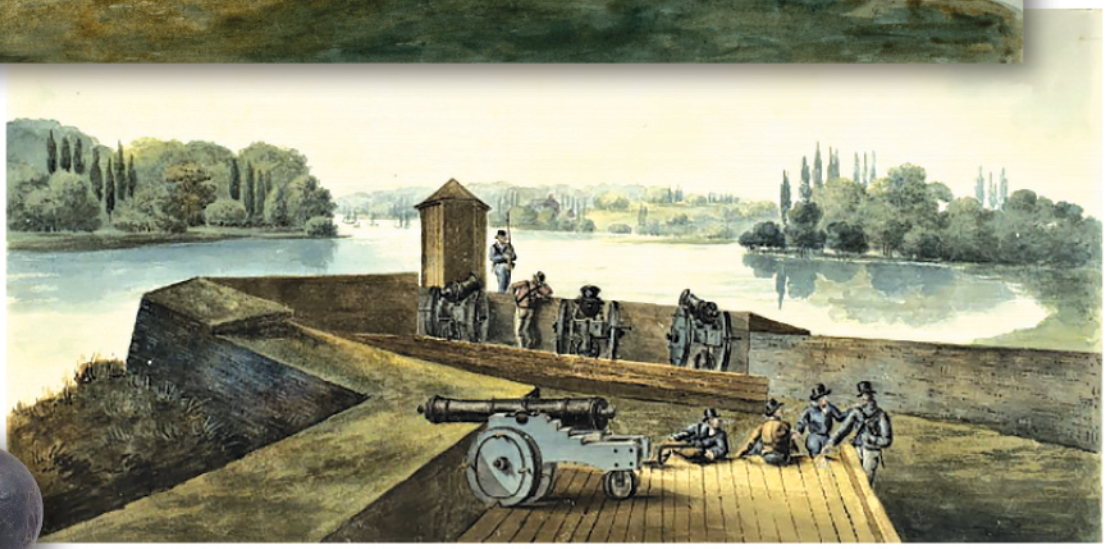
Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY. with permission of Marist College

Stevens' Continental Army tailcoat. With permission from the New-York Historical Society.

and later commander in the Revolutionary War, witnessing and contributing to some of the most significant military events of the war such as the Battle of Bunker Hill, the surrender of the British General Burgoyne at Saratoga, and the siege of Yorktown. Following the Revolutionary War, Stevens rose to Major General and aided in the defense of New York during the War of 1812. Apart from his military professional life, he was a member of the New York State Assembly and was a successful merchant to people such as Thomas Jefferson and Horatio Gates.

The events that have acted as the foundation of our nation have been defined as revolutionary. Here we see one individual, engaged in all these radical ideals and events, in a way that strays from the lens we traditionally use to look at this era. Ebenezer Stevens represents an authentic revolutionary. His story signifies that our predisposed image of a radical is not only the image of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, but also the images of the unknown and ordinary people who dedicated their lives to revolution. In these cases, we can see an individual whose passion and allegiance to the revolution helped him to become an integral part of the victory in the revolutionary war. Through his success as an artillery officer and the recognition he received from the most distinguishable figures in the nation, Stevens was able to move up in military ranks and help lead the defense of New York in the War of 1812. Relics such as his uniform and badge act as symbols of our history and give us pride in our ancestors who are responsible for the birth of our nation."

In another published account reproduced on the following page, Stevens is credited as the first person to debunk the myth that the participants in the Boston Tea Party had disguised themselves as Indians. John L. Bell, a Massachusetts writer and owner of the renowned Revolutionary blog 1775 Boston, published the following account in 2006. It appears in the *Drumbeat* with permission from the author (see next page).



Paintings of Fort Stevens, at Hallett's Point, Queens County, by John Joseph Holland (1814). With permission from the New-York Historical Society.

Ebenezer Stevens on the Boston Tea Party

Back in February I spent an afternoon in the New York Public Library, a trip that produced some material on the legend of George Washington's Hanukkah. But my real find that day was the original publication of Ebenezer Stevens's recollection of the Boston Tea Party. I'd found that material quoted in many places, from Francis S. Drake's *Tea Leaves* to Edith Wharton's memoir *A Backward Glance* (she was a Stevens descendant). But I hadn't found its earliest manifestation, even in Stevens' family papers at the New-York Historical Society.

But it turned up in a small volume called *Biographical Sketch of Ebenezer Stevens, Lieut.-Col. of Artillery in the Continental Army*, by John Austin Stevens. Though this book doesn't have a date, internal evidence shows it was prepared after 1877 (i.e., it mentions someone dying that year). It was apparently printed for members of the family, and a copy ended up at the N.Y.P.L. [ADDENDUM: I've since discovered that this material was first published in *The Magazine of History* in 1877, then reprinted on its own in 1900.]

The book discusses Stevens' service in Boston's prewar militia artillery company, commanded by Adino Paddock. Then the tea ships arrived, producing a split in the company, as the author describes: "Paddock's company was called upon…to guard the tea and prevent its landing. Paddock, whose sympathies were with the Royal authorities, refused his consent, but at a company meeting the charge was accepted and undertaken by them, First Lieut. Jabez Hatch taking the command. Stevens was among those who volunteered on this service."

That squares with the minutes of the tea meetings kept by town clerk William Cooper, which describe militia companies patrolling the wharf where the first ship docked. Indeed, those notes list one of the early volunteers as "Benjamin Stevens," which could have been a mistake for Ebenezer. It also squares with how the artillery company broke apart in 1774, with Paddock reaffirming his loyalty and many of his men joining the provincials.

Stevens told his family that he was also at the big public gathering in Old South Meeting-House on the night of 16 Dec 1773, when word came that the governor had refused to let the tea ships depart without unloading. This is Stevens' own recollection of the affair, as taken from his words at a later period by one of his sons:

"I went from the Old South Meeting House just after dark; the party was about seventy or eighty. At the head of the wharf [Griffin's wharf] we met the detachment of our company on guard, who joined us.

"I commanded with a party on board the vessel of which [Alexander] Hodgdon was mate, and as he knew me, I left that vessel with some of my comrades, and went on board the other vessel which lay at the opposite side of the wharf; numbers of others took our places on board Hodgdon's vessel.

"We commenced handing the boxes of tea on deck, and first commenced breaking them with axes, but found much difficulty, owing to the boxes of tea being covered with canvass—the mode that this article was then imported in. I think that all the tea was discharged in about two hours. We were careful to prevent any being taken away; none of the party were painted as Indians, nor, that I know of disguised, excepting that some of them stopped at a paint shop on the way and daubed their faces with paint."

In the past I've expressed skepticism about family accounts published long after the fact without contemporaneous documentation (as in the case of Sybil Ludington). But I'm inclined to believe this account. Why? First, there's earlier support for Stevens's participation in the tea destruction. His name is on the earliest list of Tea Party participants, published in 1835. That list includes a lot of artillerists, and his account helps to explain why. Among those men was John Crane; he and Stevens left Boston shortly afterwards and set up a carpentry business in Rhode Island before returning to greater Boston as provincial artillery officers.

Second, Stevens' story contains a detail that isn't really important to the event, may even be a little embarrassing, and smacks of how real life works: As he started to board the *Dartmouth*, he found that its mate was Alexander Hodgdon, brother of the woman he was courting. Rather than risk being identified or compromising his future in-law, Stevens quickly took his squad to another ship. Finally, when Stevens's account goes against the established story of the Tea Party, it doesn't do so in a way that makes him appear more heroic or romantic. In fact, it denies the most picturesque aspect of the event: that the tea destroyers dressed as Indians. Stevens told his son of improvised disguises instead. I think newspapers emphasized the notion that the men were indistinguishable from "Mohawks" in the weeks that followed as a way to discuss the event without acknowledging who had really done it. The many artists who depicted the event after the war [and] up to now also seized on that striking visual detail, and who can blame them?

Georgia's Earliest Naval Action:

16,000 pounds of British powder seized

By David W. Swafford, Editor

Liberty replica

The following article describes the historical actions of Georgia's first naval schooner, Liberty. *In mid-1775, a commercial vessel was obtained by the Georgia Provisional Congress, repurposed, outfitted with ten cannon, and commissioned the* Liberty. *She successfully seized the military stores of a British commercial ship approaching Savannah. For the nation's bicentennial, the Georgia Society of Sons of the Revolution erected a historical marker about the occurence. Between last year and this year, the Society relocated the marker and landscaped it handsomely.* *See page __ for more details.*

As soon as news of the events of April 19, 1775 reached the Deep South, support in Georgia for the government of Royal Governor James Wright quickly evaporated. The Shot Heard 'Round the World was the last straw for independence-minded people in the province, and it provided the necessary motivation for the pro-patria movement there to fully organize. Up to that point, the push to sever political ties with Britain had been lukewarm at best.

Circumstances in Georgia were far different than they were in Boston, New York, or Philadelphia. The population was quite sparse—33,000 as of 1773—and the vast majority were poor. Furthermore, Gov. Wright had been a popular leader. Steadfast in his loyalty to the king, he had led the colony ever since 1760. Frankly, the potential for raids from Spanish Florida and from Indians to the north and west was more worrisome to most Georgians than the perceived injustices of the king and his Whig government.

"Youngest and poorest among the colonies," writes Amanda Johnson in the Winter 1932 issue of *The Georgia Historical Quarterly,* "[Georgia] had felt less the burden of laws against colonial trade and manufacture, and far removed from the hot-bed of the rebellion, puritan Massachusetts, she was not so apt to be influenced by the rising spirit of opposition to Britain."

Artist's rendition of the Liberty*'s flag*

A Disgruntled Minority

Those persons harboring the most patriotic zeal were deeply disgruntled by the province's tepid response to the growing independence movement. The twelve other colonies along the Atlantic seaboard had sent their delegates to the Stamp Act Congress in New York City (October 7 – 25, 1765) and to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia (September 5 – October 26, 1774), but Georgia went unrepresented in both bodies.

Congressmen in 1774 declared that any colony not willing to join the Association was "unworthy the rights of freedom and inimical to the liberties of the country." South Carolinian delegates, ashamed of their neighbor to the south, proclaimed their state would have no further dealings with such an "infamous" territory.

That being the case, how, then, did the situation change so quickly in 1775? In just forty-seven days (from July 4th to August 20th), Georgia convened its Second Provincial Congress, got solidly behind the Continental Association, appointed delegates to the Second Continental Congress, and greatly expanded the powers of the executive Committee of Safety. Additionally, the province contributed 5,000 pounds of badly needed gunpowder to the ongoing siege in Boston. The catalysts for the about-face were the province's geographic proximity to South Carolina and the rise of two brave, outspoken Patriots in the names of Oliver Bowen and Joseph Habersham.

Governor James Wright

According to the New Georgia Encyclopedia, the single most important democratic action of the Second Provincial Congress was "the establishment of local committees to enforce the Association's ban on trade with Britain. Thus, political power devolved upon artisans and farmers," considered by Governor Wright to be the 'wrong sort' of persons for governing. Bowen and Habersham were delegates in the Second Provincial Congress and sat on more than one important committee.

Joseph Habersham

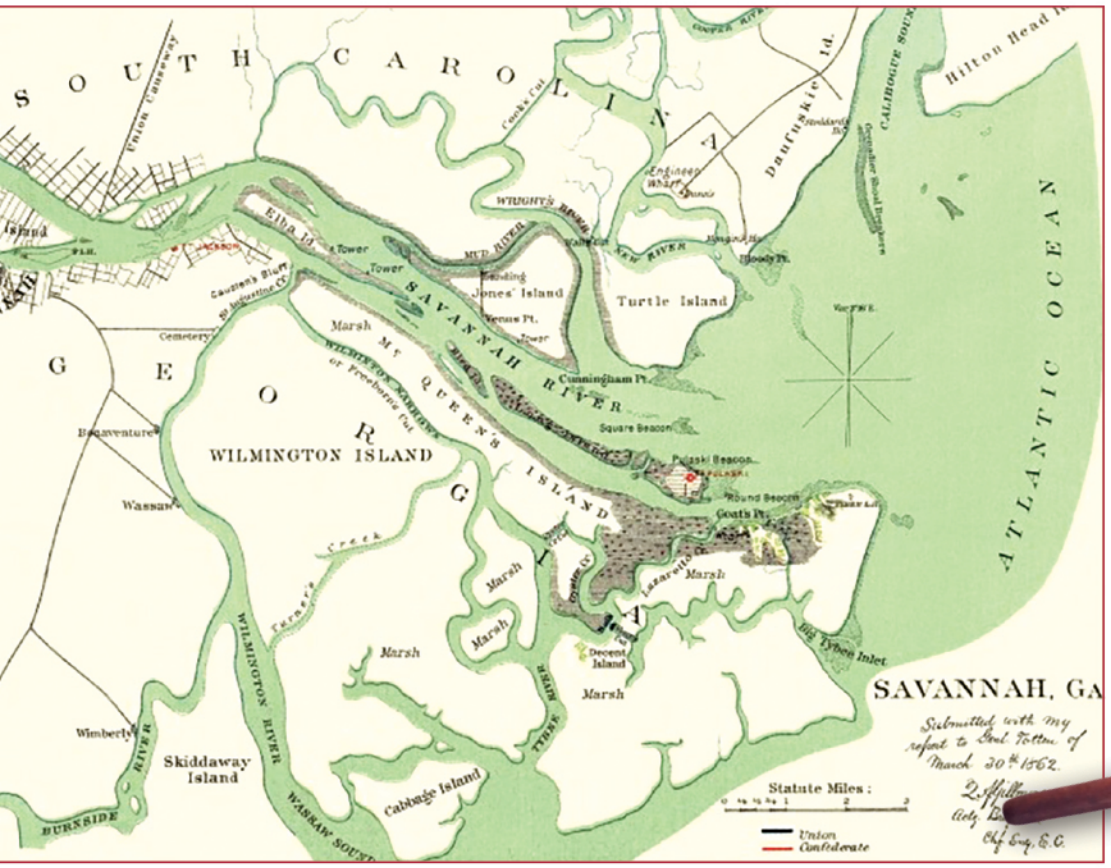
Neighborly Coordination

Just four days after the state's second congress convened, Georgians decided to join with South Carolinians in a naval action against an approaching British schooner named *Philippa.* Instead of carrying general merchandise, the ship was stocked with six-and-a-half tons of gunpowder, assorted firearms, flintlocks, lead, and musket balls. The cargo was destined not for Charleston, but rather for British officials in Florida looking to trade with local Indian tribes. "The Privy Council in London had banned the shipment of such arms and ammunition to regular colonial ports in October 1774, but the Floridas were excluded from this edict," writes Sheldon S. Cohen in the Fall 1985 issue of *The Georgia Historical Quarterly.*

Before proceeding to Florida, the Philippa's captain sailed her toward Savannah, unaware that a receiving party awaited him there. South Carolina had dispatched two barges to the mouth of the Savannah River to intercept the vessel and if possible confiscate her cargo. In seeing the need for an American schooner to counter the British schooner, Georgia's congress appropriated a trading schooner, *Elizabeth,* from merchants Samuel Price and Richard Wright and converted it into the colony's first naval vessel. Equipped with ten cannons and numerous small armaments, the vessel was renamed *Liberty* and placed under the command of Bowen and Habersham.

The *Liberty* intercepted the *Philippa* off the coast of Tybee Island, near the entrance to the Savannah River. She was escorted up the river, boarded, and searched. There, Patriots from the *Liberty* confiscated all the cargo of a military nature. The munitions seized consisted of "16,000 pounds of gunpowder, seven-hundredweight of lead bullets, and small arms," reports Sheldon Cohen. The Georgians and South Carolinians divided the spoils of war. Later, the Georgians shipped three tons of the gunpowder to the Continental Army in Boston. With that shipment, George Washington was able to continue his Siege of Boston until the British evacuated that city.

Cohen makes an apt and related observation about the Revolutionary period. "The hostilities of the American Revolution included many seemingly minor events which played key roles in [subsequent] Patriot triumphs." Such was this incident that occurred off Tybee Island in July 1775. It had a very favorable impact on the war at large.



1862 map of the Savannah River.

Battles at a Glance

John Stark Repels Famed 23rd Foot at Bunker Hill

Date: June 17, 1775

Location: Charlestown Peninsula, Boston, MA

Patriot Commander(s): Israel Putnam, with William Prescott, Joseph Warren, and John Stark

British Commander(s): Thomas Gage, with William Howe and Sir Robert Pigot

British casualties: 1,054

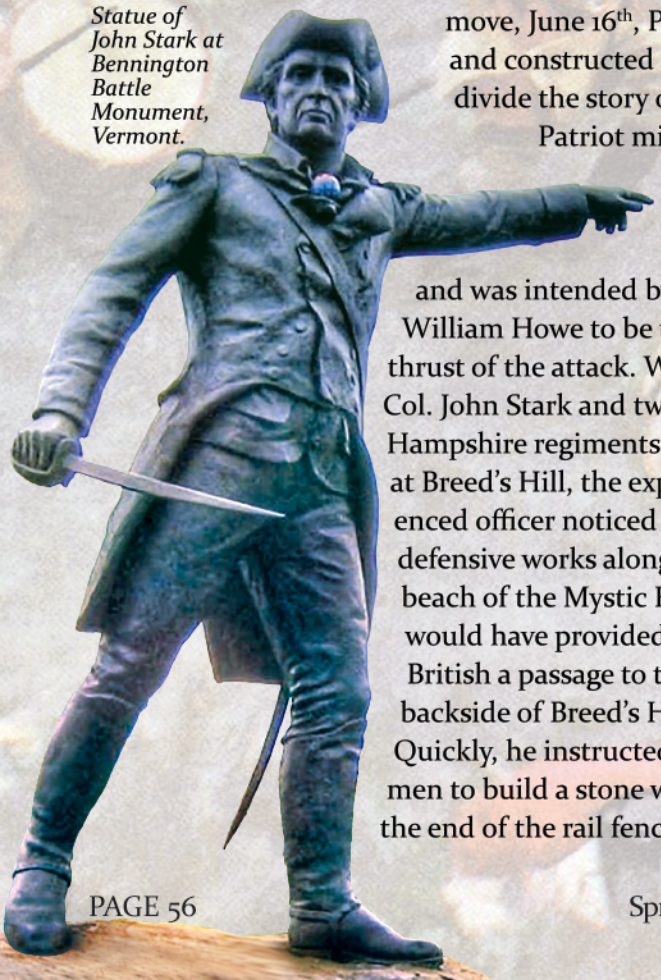
Patriot casualties: 450

Outcome: British victory (technical), but with heavy casualties. General Henry Clinton was to remark, "A few more such victories would have shortly put an end to British dominion in America."

John Stark at Bunker Hill

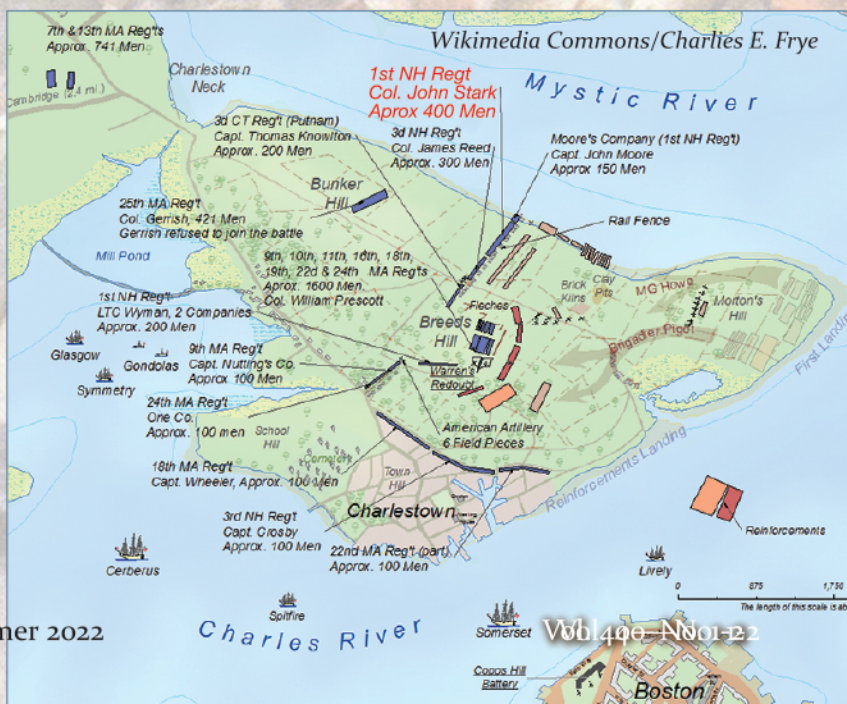
Much has been written about this formidable battle, which for Britain was the deadliest of the entire Revolutionary War (1775-1783). The British sustained heavy, heavy losses. The battle occurred as 7,600 Patriot militia had gathered in Cambridge from various states after the Battle of Lexington-Concord to confront the 5,000 British regulars stationed in Boston Peninsula. Meanwhile, Patriot intelligence learned of British plans to occupy the strategic hills of Charles Town Peninsula.

Col. John Stark of New Hampshire did much to foil those plans. On the night before the British move, June 16th, Patriot soldiers took possession of Breed's Hill (instead of Bunker Hill) and constructed a redoubt and breastwork to defend the Peninsula. Most history texts divide the story of the next day's clash into three assaults by British forces upon the Patriot militiamen (two at a rail fence extending down from the breastwork, and the last at the redoubt on top of the hill). This oversimplification leaves aside a very important fourth assault.



Statue of John Stark at Bennington Battle Monument, Vermont.

In sequential order, the fourth assault was actually the first assault and was intended by Gen. William Howe to be the main thrust of the attack. When Col. John Stark and two New Hampshire regiments arrived at Breed's Hill, the experienced officer noticed a gap in defensive works along the beach of the Mystic River. It would have provided the British a passage to the backside of Breed's Hill. Quickly, he instructed his men to build a stone wall from the end of the rail fence to the



water's edge. There, he retained his best marksmen—John Moore's company from Derryfield, N.H. The rest of his men were sent to reinforce the under-manned rail fence.

Stark instructed the sharpshooters to squat behind the wall in three rows. Once the first row fired, they would immediately fell back to form the new third row. As the next two rows dispensed fire, the third row had time to reload and come forward. The effect would be a constant blaze of musket fire upon the enemy.

The first assault by the British forces came from the Mystic River beach when Howe gave the order for his soldiers to overrun the rail fence and the breastworks below the redoubt. John Moore's company repulsed three charges by the renowned 23rd Foot, the Royal Welch Fusiliers, one of the premier regiments of the Crown Forces in North America. The New Hampshiremen handed King George III substantial losses among his finest soldiers. While the "fusilier" companies of the 23rd Foot were not involved, the losses to the Grenadier and Light Infantry companies were extremely heavy. Among the Grenadiers, only five men were left not killed or wounded. To quote from *Willey's Semi-Centennial Book of Manchester 1846-1896*: "Stark's forces were assailed by the Welch Fusileers [sic], a crack regiment that had fought at Minden with distinction. They entered the field at Bunker Hill seven hundred strong, and the next morning only eighty-three answered at roll call."

Perhaps taking note of Stark's successes at Bunker Hill was a captain named Daniel Morgan. He had led his company in a 600-mile beeline march from Winchester, Virginia to Boston (Cambridge) in just twenty-one days. Much later in the war, the promoted Brigadier General Morgan employed a similar movement of three lines of men firing upon the British at the Battle of Cowpens. The result was another Patriot rout—and increased momentum toward independence.

"Battle of Bunker Hill" by Edward Percy Moran Giclee (1909).

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Her STORY: Anna Smith Strong

A PATRIOT SPY'S STORY

A Revolutionary War Spy's Service

COURTESY FINDAGRAVE.COM/ARLEEN COELLO

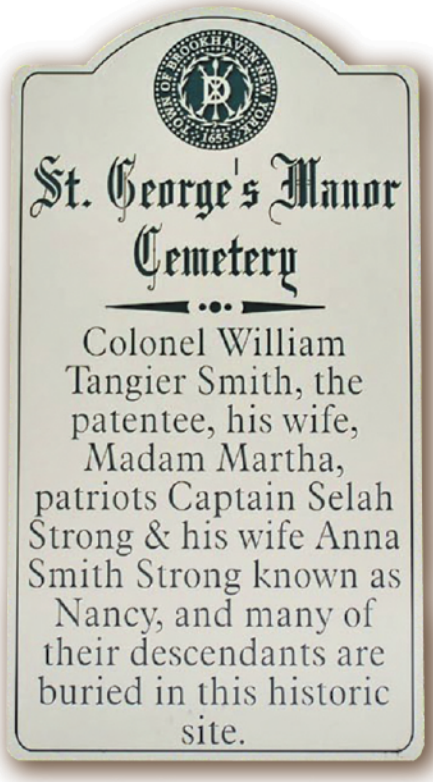
Anna and Selah Strong gravesite monuments, St. George's Manor Cemetery, Setauket, Long Island.

Anna "Nancy" Smith Strong fell into the role as a Patriot spy in the famed Culper Ring, a.k.a. Setauket Ring, due to her loyalty to her imprisoned husband, Selah Brewster Strong III. They were both Patriots, and he had been active in provincial politics since the 1760s and by 1775 was a Captain in Colonel Josiah Smith's NY Militia regiment. A year later, he was made Captain of the Brookhaven (Long Island) Minute Men. Selah was a town leader and apparently outspoken. He attracted the attention of British authorities and was imprisoned in 1778 for "surreptitious correspondence with the enemy." Initially held at a sugar house, he was subsequently transferred to the HMS *Jersey*.

Because Anna had wealthy Tory relatives, she was later able to free her husband indirectly in exchange for his parole to Connecticut for the remainder of the war. While Selah took the couple's children with him, Anna stayed behind to occupy the family's manor house at Strong's Neck in Setauket, Long Island. Women of privileged families in and around New York often did this since their presence oftentimes saved their homes from destruction. British officers viewed them as non-combatants.

In the same year that Selah Strong was imprisoned, George Washington tapped Benjamin Tallmadge, a twenty-four-year-old major from Setauket, to recruit a network of persons to collect and pass on intelligence from occupied New York City. Anna Smith Strong was one of his recruits. Her responsibility was to relay signals between Abraham Woodhull, her neighbor, and Caleb Brewster, a knowledgeable whaleboat captain. Woodhull retrieved intelligence from New York City either on his own or through Robert Townsend or Austin Roe. Via Brewster, he would send the messages to Tallmadge in Connecticut, who would transfer them to Washington.

When Woodhull had information to give to Brewster, Anna would take her laundry out to the tip of the peninsula, where her clothesline was plainly visible from the water. A black petticoat on the clothesline indicated to Brewster that a message was ready to be picked up, and the number of white handkerchiefs beside it identified the cove on Long Island Sound where he was to meet with Woodhull. The Culper Ring was active until 1783 and was never discovered,



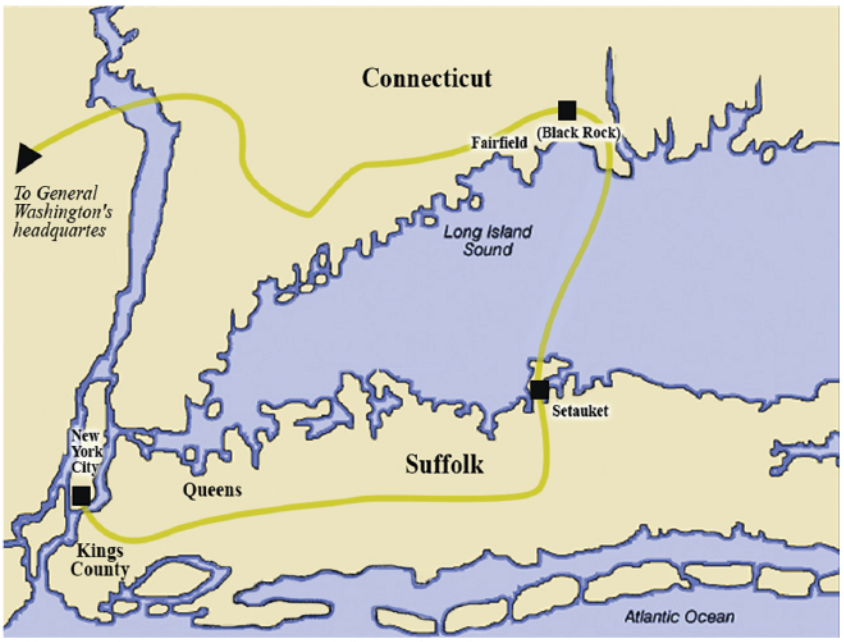
COURTESY HMDB.ORG/BILL

Historical marker, St. George's Manor Cemetery, Setauket, Long Island.

although the British suspected Brewster as a spy.

The network's busiest time was from 1778 thru 1781. The Culper Ring is attributed with uncovering British plans to ambush the French in Rhode Island and with discovering Benedict Arnold's secret plot to hand over the fortress at West Point in return for £20,000 and a command in the British army. After the British evacuation of New York City, Selah returned to Setauket, where he and Anna lived out their days in peace and quiet.

In 1790, when President George Washington toured the thirteen United States, he spent a night in Setauket at Austin Roe's tavern, where he thanked all those who had participated in the Culper Ring, including Anna and Selah. Anna lived until 1812. Selah succumbed in 1815. They are buried near the spot where her clothesline was located, in the St. George's Manor Cemetery. Their progeny included Keturah Strong, Thomas Shepard Strong, Margaret Strong, Benjamin Franklin Strong, William Smith Strong, Joseph Strong, and George Washington Strong. Two other children died in infancy.



Culper Spy Ring map. Courtesy College of William & Mary.

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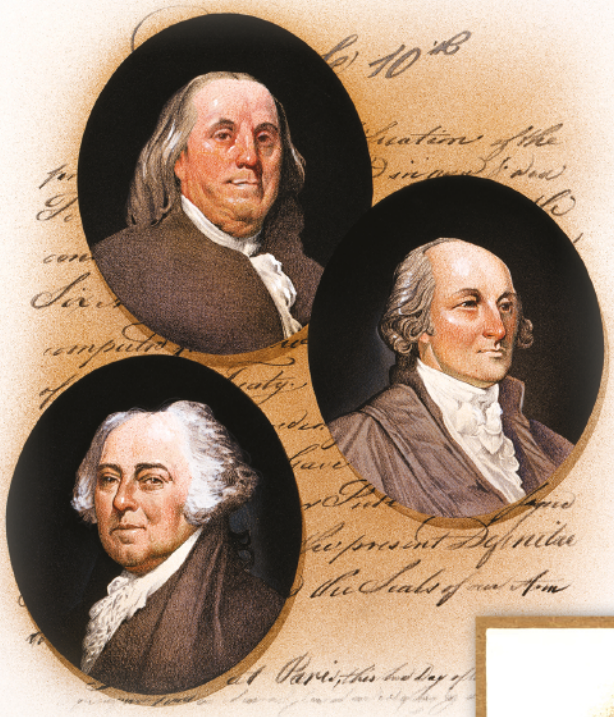
Treaty of Paris Inspires Postal Artwork

First-Day Covers of the Treaty of Paris Bicentennial Stamp

With this issue of the SONS Drumbeat, *we launch a new serialized feature on the cacheted First-Day Covers (FDCs) of the Treaty of Paris Bicentennial Stamp. In 1983, the US Postal Service issued a stamp to commemorate the 1783 Treaty of Paris. Said treaty, signed on September 3, brought the Revolutionary War to an end and recognized the independence of the United States. Nearly simultaneously, the French postal service issued its own stamp commemorating the signing of several related treaties that day in Paris and Versailles.*

An FDC is typically a franked postcard or envelope that displays the new stamp with a postmark indicating city and date where the stamp was first issued. A "cacheted" FDC is an identical postcard or envelope that also features artwork. The cacheted FDCs reproduced here in the SONS Drumbeat *were issued by the Fleetwood Company, following release of the new stamp. At the time, Fleetwood was the largest producer of cacheted FDCs in the country and was known for including artwork of outstanding quality.*

For the artwork printed in this featured series, Fleetwood contracted renowned artists Jim Butcher and David K. Stone. We begin by looking at Butcher's work. —Ed.



American signers of the 1783 Treaty of Paris

American artist Jim Butcher created the original paintings for Fleetwood's cacheted FDCs relating to the joint set issue of the US and French stamps celebrating the Treaty of Paris. Butcher was born in Maryland and joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1964. He produced over 150 paintings documenting the Vietnam War and later did a number of original paintings on the American Revolution and the US space program for Fleetwood, among other things. The company described Butcher as an artist of "exceptional perception and skill."

For the FDC displaying the American stamp only, Butcher created a painting featuring Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay (the three American negotiators at the Treaty of Paris talks) superimposed over a page from the Treaty. For the FDC displaying the French stamp only, he superimposed the images of Rochambeau, Lafayette, and DeGrasse--three of France's top

French signers of the 1783 Treaty of Paris

officers—over the same background.

While the US stamp commemorates just the single treaty between Britain and the United States in Paris, the French stamp commemorates multiple treaties signed that day between France, Spain, Britain, and the United States in Paris and Versailles. The design of the American stamp was produced by David Blossom, who based it on an unfinished Benjamin West historical painting termed, "American Commissioners of the Preliminary Peace Negotiations with Great Britain." The French stamp depicts the reverse side of Benjamin Franklin's Libertas Americana medal, which was included in the recent *Drumbeat* series of Comitia Americana medals (see page 60, Vol. 39, No. 3-4). The medal's design is an allegorical representation of France's assistance to the Colonies during the American Revolution.

American Commissioners of the Preliminary Peace Negotiations with Great Britain, 1783 (The work was started but not finished.)

The famous painting by Benjamin West portrayed five Americans: John Jay, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Henry Laurens, and William Temple Franklin (Benjamin's grandson). He intended to paint the British delegation, too, including Commissioner Richard Oswald and his secretary, Caleb Whitefoord, but they never sat for him. As a result, the painting was left with a gaping empty space where the British delegation was to have been represented.

John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the United States, discussed this painting in his diary: "As I very strongly expressed my regret that this picture should be left unfinished, Mr. West said he thought he could finish it . . . I understood his intention to be to make a present of it to Congress." Instead it remained unfinished. The original is now at Winterthur Museum in Delaware.

In Memoriam

J. Robert "Bob" Lunney

1927 – 2022

General President Emeritus J. Robert "Bob" Lunney passed away in early March at the age of 94. He leaves behind a bold legacy that includes his passion for life, his conviction to principle, and his love of country and the United States Navy. Bob was a sea-dog through and through. Enlisting in the Navy at 17 years old, he toured the Pacific in 1945-46. During the Korean War, he was a staff officer for the Military Sea Transportation Service. Following the wars, he served forty-three years in the Naval Reserve, retiring as a Captain in 1987.

At that point, the Governor of New York promoted him to Rear Admiral in the NY Naval Militia, where he served as a Judge Advocate and Commander of the Judge Advocate General Corps. He was appointed to the National Naval Research Policy Board and in 1994 received the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award.

Admiral Lunney had earlier been awarded the Navy Combat Action Ribbon, Merchant Marine Gallant Ship Citation, and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation. His Gallant Ship Citation commended him for his courage and resourcefulness in participating in "one of the greatest marine rescues in the history of the world" at Hungnam, North Korea, in December 1950. His ship, SS Meredith Victory, successfully transported 14,000 refugees to safety as the Chinese military closed in.

Bob became a member of the Sons of the Revolution in 1968 through his ancestor Jeremiah Overbagh and served the Society in many capacities, including as SRNY President, 1987-1989. He went on to serve as General President in the new millennium, 2000-2003.

A Matter of Principles

Bob's unrelenting zeal led him as a young man to become a litigator, first as a prosecutor, then as a lawyer in private practice. After graduating from the School of Law at Cornell, he served five years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, SDNY (1955-1959). Later he spent nine years with Shearman & Sterling and still later founded his own firm. All the while he worked, he also played. He became a private pilot, scuba diver, skier, and in earlier years, a sky-diver.

But it was his dogged conviction to righting wrongs that led him on a nine-year odyssey to return a deceased Navy veteran's Medal of Honor to his rightful next of kin. This particular Medal of Honor had been intended for Peter Tomich, a a Croatian-American, who died aboard the *USS Utah* during the attack on Pearl Harbor. When *Utah* began to capsize, Tomich remained below deck, securing the boilers. Sacrificing his own life allowed many crew added time to escape unharmed.

During the war, the Navy tried finding a close relative of Tomich's, but was unsuccessful. The medal later circulated to different naval buildings, when Mr. Lunney learned of its fate. Thus, the real search for a next-of-kin began. Finally, in 2006, after Bob had on his own proven and verified a living relative, the Navy conceded the medal to Croatian Army Lt. Col. (ret) Srecko Herceg Tonic, a distant cousin. The presentation took place onboard the USS Enterprise. A year later, Croatian President Stipe Mesic awarded him the Order of the Croatian Trefoil for his charitable efforts.

Among Bob's many other memberships, he was a longtime board member of the Lavelle School for the Blind. Mr. Lunney leaves behind his loving wife of 46 years, Joan, and their son Alex and his wife, Melissa.—*Editor*

Dr. Jack J. Early
1925 – 2022

General Chaplain Emeritus the Rev. Dr. Jack Jones Early, of Louisville, KY, age 96, passed away on January 22, 2022. Above all else, Jack was a consummate humanitarian, and his death signifies a rupture in the greater common good. Having earned a degree in Education and doctorates in Divinity and Law, his academic preparation dwarfed that of the average man but his humility and grace made him very approachable and likeable.

As his obituary stated, "He didn't know a stranger." A visitor to his online memorial said, "I always enjoyed asking Jack, 'How are you, Jack?' He would always reply, 'Healthy, happy, and terrific!'"

He became an ordained minister in the Methodist Church in 1954 but had preached since he was very young. He had been an employed preacher throughout the '40s and suffered a medical condition that precluded him from serving in the military. He continued preaching for most of the '50s, too. In 1958, he became President of Dakota Wesleyan University (SD) and was the youngest college president in the nation at that time.

Later he served as college president at Pfeiffer College in Misenheimer, North Carolina (now Pfeiffer University). Upon Dr. Early's death, fifty years had elapsed since his tenure at Pfeiffer Upon Dr. Early's death, a full fifty years had elapsed since his tenure at Pfeiffer; nevertheless, the school announced his passing with demonstrable grieving and respect. In addition to those two schools, Dr. Early went on to preside over three other colleges and direct the Kentucky Independent College Fund.

Through the years he became closely associated with W. Clement Stone and Napoleon Hill, two pioneering leaders in the field of self-help. He traveled the globe with both men, conducting numerous educational and motivational trainings. He thoroughly believed in the power of choosing optimism and, like his famous associates, knew that in adversity oftentimes lay the seeds of success. In 2006, he was named to the Alumni Hall of Fame of the Education School at the University of Kentucky, and in 2019, Jack was made a Kentucky Colonel. He was very involved in many civic, patriotic and lineage societies, including having served as General Chaplain of the Sons of the Revolution.

The Rev. Dr. Early was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 64 years, Nancye, and son-in-law John Best. He is survived by his daughters Lela Martin (Harold) of Midlothian, VA, Judy Best of Edwardsville, IL, and Laura Early (Randy Davis) of Lake Carroll, IL. He is also survived by grandchildren and a great-grandson.—*Editor*

As adapted from the 2009 Triennial Prayer Service, a prayer by Rev. Jack Jones Early:

"O LORD our CREATOR, whose glory is in all the world, bless us, we beseech thee, and defend our venerable Society created to honor those who in time of oppression strove to bring to it the light of liberty and freedom. Bless our endeavors to sustain those principles for which our forebears gave full measure of devotion. Guide us in our deliberations this day that we may always have in mind the welfare of our members and the good of our nation, and that all may be done for thy honor and glory. Amen."

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE DATES

Issue	Deadline Date	Issue Mailed
No. 1	April 1	April 30
No. 2	Aug 1	Aug 31
No. 3	Dec 1	Dec 31

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