



The
SONS
DRUMBEAT

Volume 42

Spring '24

No. 1

Philadelphia Triennial
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Publication of the General Society Sons of the Revolution

President's Message



With the final months of my term in view, I would like to thank all who have shown their support and loyalty to me and to the Sons of the Revolution during the past three years, even as my health has suffered. In particular, I doff my cap to the volunteer members of the Executive Committee, who have done a superb job in streamlining the various operating committees and generally helping guide the Society forward. The gentlemen comprising the Executive Committee are Charlie Scammell, Ambrose Richardson, Buzz Carmichael, Jefferson Moak, Ron Fenstermacher, Reeve Bright, and Ivan Bennett. I would be remiss without also mentioning the excellent work and leadership of Allen James on our Finance Committee.

Going forward, gentlemen, I remind all members that we are a Society of volunteers. Without a unified and common commitment to our mission and our cause, the organization will suffer. I urge each of you to consider becoming more involved in your State Society and volunteer for committee work on the General Society level by contacting C.L. Sigmon at our headquarters in Williamsburg. For those who are active, the Sons represents not only a way to recognize and demonstrate our gratitude to our patriot ancestors, but it can and often does inspire close friendships that last a lifetime.

Almost three years ago, I was honored to be elected as your General President. With the 45th Triennial Meeting approaching later this year in Philadelphia, it will be time again to elect a new slate of General Society officers. If you have never attended a GSSR Triennial Meeting, I would encourage you to think about it. The Triennial is a time of great fanfare, congeniality, fraternity, and tradition. This year's event, held in one of our most historic cities, promises to be a memorable occasion.

Best wishes,
Russell Rich, Sr.
General President



GENERAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Milam Appointed Region 6 Vice President



The General Society is pleased to announce the Rev. John David Edward Milam, a member of the Alabama Society, has been appointed Region 6 Vice President. Rev. Milam lives in Tucson, Arizona, and has been an active member for several years, having joined the Alabama Society in 2017. In his secular life, David is experienced in the aerospace and defense industry, having often provided in-depth program analysis for integrated master schedules, program planning and operations. In his religious life, he presently serves as the Rector of St. Jude's Anglican Church in Tucson.

He has been associated with top names in aerospace and defense, such as Martin Industries, DRS Technologies, Radiance Technologies, Booz Allen Hamilton, Raytheon, and Basic Engineering Concepts and Technologies. He has served as a consultant to the Army, Air Force, Navy, and the Marines.

He considers his greatest accomplishment on a spiritual level is to serve as the Spiritual Cure of St. Jude's Parish and Deacon-in-Charge of the parish of St. Charles King and Martyr. David has a B.S. degree from Athens State University and additional undergrad studies from Tulane and the University of Alabama. He is a member of several lineage societies, a Mason, a Knight Templar, and a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite member.


GSSR HQ Receives Visitor



Coleman and Jessica Sellers

In December, PSSR member Coleman Sellers, VI, and his wife, Jessica, visited the SR HQ in Williamsburg, VA. Coleman was accepted into the PSSR in May 1991 and for a time was involved in a start-up Delaware Society. The HQ is open to visitors from all State Societies.





45th TRIENNIAL
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024
to
Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024

Venue: Hilton Philadelphia
at Penn's Landing
(201 S. Christopher Columbus Blvd,
Philadelphia, PA 19106)

Negotiated Rate: \$259/night
For Reservations Call
(215) 521-6500
Please mention

"Sons of the Revolution Triennial"

To Register for the Meeting, visit the Event Page on the
PSSR website and scroll down: <https://amrev.org/events/>

45th TRIENNIAL MEETING

Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3rd

3:00 - 5:00 pm
5:30 pm

Triennial Registration at Hilton Hotel
Board buses for Reception at
Museum of American Revolution (MAR)
Welcome Reception at MAR
First buses return to Hilton Hotel
Washington Tent Show
Buses return to Hilton Hotel

6:00 - 8:15 pm
7:00 pm
8:00 - 8:12 pm
8:15 pm

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4th

7:00 - 9:00 am
9:00 am

Continental Breakfast at Hotel
First Business Meeting at MAR
(*Coat and Tie*)
Lunch Recess (*lunch provided for members*)
Resume Business Meeting at MAR
PSSR Color Guard Reception at
National Constitution Center

12:30 pm
2:00 - 4:00 pm
6:00 - 9:00 pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5th

7:30 - 9:00 am
9:00 - 1:00 pm

Full Breakfast at Hilton Hotel
Second Business Meeting at Hilton Hotel
(*Coat and Tie*)
Necrology and Farewell Reception
Lunch on your own
Many city tours to choose from
Formal Reception & Banquet—Hilton
Hotel Ballroom
(*Black Tie, White Tie, or Mess Dress*)

1:00 - 5:30 pm
5:30 - 10:00 pm

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6th

10:00 am
By 1:00 pm

Church service at Christ Church Philadelphia
Check out of Hilton Hotel

45th TRIENNIAL MEETING

Historic Sites in Philadelphia

OLD CITY HALL

SECOND BANK PORTRAIT GALLERY

LIBERTY BELL CENTER

INDEPENDENCE HALL & CONGRESS HALL

BETSY ROSS HOUSE

ELFRETH'S ALLEY

THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE

MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

CHRIST CHURCH AND THE
CHRIST CHURCH BURIAL GROUND

CARPENTERS' HALL &

POWEL HOUSE

HILL-PHYSICK HOUSE

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL
SOCIETY MUSEUM



45th TRIENNIAL MEETING

America Turns 250

No other city in the United States matches Philadelphia's place in the story of America. While Boston was the birthplace of the child Independence, she grew and flourished in Philadelphia. The Continental Congress gathered there. The Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were written and signed there.

At one time, four of our nation's founders lived along Market Street: Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, and Adams. These men were disparate in character and background, but the child brought them all together—united behind a Cause.

And now, just shy of America's 250th, the Sons of the Revolution is convening in Philly for its 45th Triennial. There is no time like the present to see your country's crib of sovereignty and walk the streets your founders walked. See you there!



GSSR MERCHANDISE FOR SALE



Pocket Patch Insignia



Antique Rosette



Lapel Pin Insignia



Silk Rosette Pin



Veteran Lapel Pin



Bow Tie & Cumberbund



Peter Blair
Necktie &
Bowtie



Highball Glasses



Rocks Glasses



The General Society Sons of the Revolution

PRODUCT	PRICE	QTY	COST
Pocket Patch Insignia (Clutch Back)	\$60.00	_____	_____
Peter Blair Necktie (Regular Length)	\$85.00	_____	_____
<i>Four in Hand - 100% Premium Silk</i>			
Peter Blair Bowtie (Not Tied)	\$50.00	_____	_____
<i>80% Silk/20% Poly</i>			
London 400 (Extra Long)	\$45.00	_____	_____
<i>80% Silk/20% Poly</i>			
London 400 (Regular Length)	\$35.00	_____	_____
<i>Four in Hand - 80% Silk / 20% Poly</i>			
London 400 Bowtie (Not Tied)	\$30.00	_____	_____
<i>Four in Hand - 80% Silk / 20% Poly</i>			
London 400 Bowtie (Pre Tied)	\$35.00	_____	_____
<i>80% Silk / 20% Poly</i>			
Cummerbund (Silk Face)	\$50.00	_____	_____
Cummerbund (Silk Face)	\$80.00	_____	_____
<i>(paired w/ pre-tied bowtie, 80% Silk / 20% Poly)</i>			
Silk Rosette Pin	\$15.00	_____	_____
Antique Rosette	\$30.00	_____	_____
SR Insignia Pin	\$10.00	_____	_____
Military Veterans Lapel Pin	\$10.00	_____	_____
Highball Glasses (4)	\$72.00	_____	_____
Rocks Glasses (4)	\$72.00	_____	_____

	COST _____
* Regular Packaging and Shipping—\$10.00	SHIPPING _____
** Glasses Set(s) Packaging and Shipping—\$15.00	TOTAL COST _____

Ordered by:	Ship to:
Name: _____	Name: _____
Society: _____	Society: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City//State/Zip: _____	City//State/Zip: _____

Please remit payment (check) with your order to:
The General Society Sons of the Revolution • 412 W. Francis Street • Williamsburg, VA 23185-4046

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

GENTLEMEN! REMEMBER TO GIVE TO THE CAUSE!

*Become a part of the "Society of '83"
The Society within the Society!*



\$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.

**These membership levels may be thought of as targets.
Once you pledge a certain level of giving, you are not required to give
the full amount in one lump sum.
You may spread out your giving for a period of up to 10 years.*

**"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-EX-
TENSIVE WITH THE WORLD, AND STAMP POLITICAL HAPPINESS OR
MISERY ON AGES YET UNBORN."**

—GEORGE WASHINGTON,
TO THE PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE
12 SEPTEMBER 1789

State Reports



This year 28 members, prospective members, and distinguished guests attended the annual birthday wreath laying at the tomb of George Washington. Among members present were former cabinet secretary Alex Azar and former USCAAF Chief Judge Scott Stucky. Guests included two active Air Force officers (US and UK), Col. Cynthia Kearley and Group Captain Pete Warmerdam, respectively.—Photo submitted by Ed Rodriguez.



SC Evacuation Day

On December 16, 2023, Georgia SR members Mitchell Bush, Chris Frame and Jeff Loomis attended the Annual Evacuation Day in Charleston SC. This was the second year the event was hosted by SCSR President Jeff Murrie at the Glory Foods Mansion. This black-tie event is rapidly becoming the “event” of the season for historical societies affiliated with the American Revolution.



Porcher-Simonds House, 1856



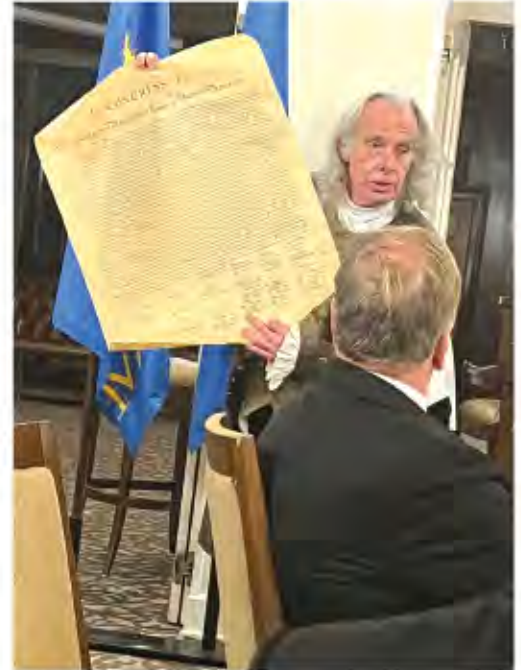
SR-GA Annual Meeting

The Georgia SR held its annual meeting at St John's Episcopal Church, where officers gave their annual reports, elections were held, and memorials were read for our fallen members. Charles Williams was unanimously elected to Society President, a position he held previously from 2003 – 2004.

L-R: Steve Westgate, Sammy Strode, Gilbert Wells, Frank Brown, Charles Williams, Frank Hardeman, Roger Coursey and Ron Freeman

Annual George Washington Birthday Banquet

On February 16, the Society held its annual George Washington banquet at the Savannah Yacht Club. Approximately 80 members and their guests attended the black-tie affair. Mr. Mark Pace from North Carolina was the guest speaker. Mr. Pace portrays John Penn, a Declaration of Independence Signor from North Carolina. Mr. Pace serves as the NC Room Specialist at the Thornton Library in Oxford NC.



Mark Pace as John Penn



Gus Succop and Frank Hardeman

NC Annual Luncheon

Region 3 Vice President Frank Hardeman, III, attended the North Carolina annual luncheon in Pinehurst NC. Steven A. Campbell who spoke gave a wonderful talk on the younger George Washington, during his developmental days. Frank was accompanied by his wife, Julie.

South Atlantic Chapter Visit

March 15, Frank and Julie, were guests of the newly formed South Atlantic Society in Palm Beach, FL. The event was held at the Sail Fish Club. The speaker was Reverend Tim Schenck of the Church of Bethesda by the Sea.

126th DAR Conference

Society President Charles Williams gave greetings from the Sons of the Revolution to the Daughters of the American Revolution at their 126th Georgia State Society Conference. The Conference was held March 21-24, and President Williams attended on

March 22. The venue was the Atlanta Marriott Northwest at Galleria, Atlanta.—text and photos submitted by Frank Hardeman



Charles Williams, SOR-GA President

Upcoming Events

Please visit the Georgia SR website for dates of upcoming events including the summer BBQ and the Fall Oyster Roast. We cordially invite our friends from other State Societies.

GEORGIA SOCIETY'S 132nd GW BIRTHDAY BANQUET





Lafayette Projects, Children's Books

The donations of the Maryland Society over the years have supported a wide variety of projects. This year's grants will support a number of events that commemorate the return of the Marquis de Lafayette to Maryland in 1824.

Possibly the most important donations the Society makes, however, are to instilling in youths today an appreciation for the importance and relevance of George Washington and other patriots. As such, through the summer of 2024, the SRMD will be offering children's books about the American Revolution to Maryland elementary school social studies teachers.

This program is very similar to that which the General Society launched in the summer of 2022, under the guidance of General President Russell Rich, Sr. The SRMD started with a list of about eighty titles developed by the General Society, which we narrowed down to twelve selections.

The Society will reach out to the teachers through the Maryland Department of Education. Interested teachers will choose a title from our booklist, and the Society will ship the selected book via Amazon.com to the teacher for instructional use in their classroom. The SRMD expects its program to be similarly successful.

George Washington Teacher Institute

Every year the Maryland Society donates \$5,000 to Mount

Vernon to sponsor a K-12 teacher from Maryland for a five-day "immersive professional development experience" to explore the life, leadership and legacies of George Washington. This takes place at the George Washington Teacher Institute Summer Residential Program at Mount Vernon. Those teachers then return to their schools to teach acquired insights to their students and colleagues. Any State Society may sponsor a teacher from its state to attend the program.

Senate Ceremonial Gavel

Last year, the Maryland Society donated a special ceremonial gavel to the State Senate. This gavel was the inspiration of SRMD member J. Scott Watkins. The Society underwrote most of the cost of its design, construction, and presentation. The woods used to create the gavel, its sounding block and presentation case were harvested from Maryland's historic Liberty Tree and the Wye Oak, which before it succumbed was the largest white oak tree in the nation. The gift to the state coincided with the 250th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the State House in Annapolis. The President of the Senate uses the gavel each year to open the ceremonial first day of the General Assembly. (For more detail, refer to *SONS Drumbeat*, Vol. 40, No. 1-2.)—text and photo submitted by SRMD



A unique gift of Marylander heritage

NEW JERSEY



Author and historian Arthur S. Lefkowitz gives a talk on his book, *Eyewitness Images from the American Revolution* (Pelican Publishing, 2017). This occurred at the Nassau Club in Princeton last December, at our holiday party.

Bottom left: A scene from the annual re-enactment, "Experience the Battle of Princeton," held this year on January 7. The date of the battle was January 3, 1777. Bottom right: SRNJ President Ben Strong and the SRNJ Color Guard participated in the wreath-laying ceremony, along with several other patriotic lineage societies.—Photos and captions submitted by Ben Strong.





In early October, the New York Society installed in its Zabriskie Gallery a custom-built bookcase to house books and other papers relating to the Loeb-Lehman families. L-R: Ambrose Madison Richardson III, Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr., and Peter C. Hein.



Annual Evacuation Day Commemoration on November 25. The event included a ceremonial lowering of British flag and raising of the American flag, sponsored by the Lower Manhattan Historical Association. L-R: GSSR VP Region 2 Charles Scammell; honored guest Colonel Arnault Rouger, Military Advisor, French Mission To The United Nations; GSSR VP Region 1 Shervin Hawley.



The SRNY Color Guard gathered October 21 to commemorate the Battles of Saratoga and Yorktown at St. Paul's Chapel, an event organized by the Lower Manhattan Historical Association. L-R: Gary Hess (VCASNY); Scott Dwyer, Alain Dupuis (French veteran), Peter Hein, Thomas Richards, Josiah de la Motte, and Rob Donaldson.



Left: During the 147th Annual George Washington Birthday Ball, the Society honored Coast Guard Captain Zeita Merchant, Commander of Sector New York, with the Distinguished Patriot Award. Sector New York is the largest Coast Guard operational field command on the East Coast.



Above: On February 23, the SRNY hosted the 147th Annual George Washington Birthday Ball for the benefit Fraunces Tavern Museum. Held again at the Metropolitan Club in New York City, the Society honored Coast Guard Captain Zeita Merchant, Commander of Sector New York, as its Distinguished Patriot. Sector New York is the largest Coast Guard operational field command on the East Coast.



Above: On February 25, the SRNY held its 134th Annual Church Service at the Church of the Incarnation, during which a memorial was held for those members who had passed during the previous year. Following the service, members gathered for a Coffee Hour.



On September 25, 2023, the SRNY Color Guard participated in a commemoration of the birth of Hercules Mulligan at Trinity Church in Lower Manhattan, co-sponsored by the Bowling Green Association. During the Revolution, Mulligan was a patriot whose intelligence work in British-occupied New York saved George Washington's life on two occasions.



The Fraunces Tavern Museum again presented reenactments of George Washington's farewell to his officers in the Museum's Long Room throughout the day on December 3, 2023. The original farewell occurred on December 4, 1783. The same actors from the 2022 event were secured for the 2023 event.



GSSR Secretary General and LMHA President Ambrose Richardson, right foreground, presided over the Evacuation Day commemoration, held on November 25, 2023. The event featured the lowering of the British flag and raising of the American flag, sponsored by the Lower Manhattan Historical Association. The Veterans Corps of Artillery and Gold's Dragoons, a colonial militia, conducted the flag movements.



The Society held its Annual Meeting at the Fraunces Tavern Museum, on December 4, 2023, to coincide with the date of George Washington's farewell to his officers in the Fraunces Tavern. The following officers were elected for a one-year term: Peter C. Hein, President; Peter J.W. Sherwin, 1st Vice President and Exec Committee Chair; Raymond J. Manning, 2nd Vice President; Andrew W. Russell, 3rd Vice President; Owen A. Kloter, Esq., Secretary; Mark S. Kopinski, Treasurer; Scott A. Jeffrey, Registrar; and Christopher M. Cullen, S. J., Chaplain.—All photos and captions submitted by FTM Executive Director Scott Dwyer.



L-R: Jeff Murrie, SCSR President; Randy Sprinkle, SRNC Vice President; Gus Succop, SRNC President; and (seated) Mitchell Bush, General President Emeritus

George Washington Commemorative Luncheon

The North Carolina Society convened on March 2, 2024, to commemorate the 292nd birthday of George Washington. The venue was the commodious and hospitable Pine Crest Inn, Pinehurst, NC. Local arrangements were coordinated by NCSR VP Randy Sprinkle and Pine Crest Inn General Manager Drew Gross.

After a Board Meeting where guests were introduced and New Members were received into the Society, a superb luncheon followed and was enjoyed by several dozen attendees. The speaker was Steven A. Campbell, a retired thirty-year veteran of the High Point Police Department and current NC Ambassador for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia.—*text and photos submitted by NCSR President Gus Succop*

NC Sons in Charleston for Victory Day

A delegation of the North Carolina Sons attended the observance of South Carolina's Evacuation Day, or Victory Day, held Dec. 16, 2023, in Charleston. Hosts Frances and David Kahn were gratefully acknowledged by SRSC President Jeffery Murrie. Attending from the North Carolina Society were Carlton Mansfield, Randy Sprinkle, Joe Steele, and Gus Succop.

The 241st anniversary of that historic day (Dec. 14, 1782) marked the occasion of the British army's departure from Charleston, after thirty-one months of occupation. Gen. William Moultrie exclaimed the day "ought to be a day of festivity" by all Carolinians. It was the last British army between New York City and Saint Augustine, Florida, to weigh anchor in defeat. Gen. Anthony Wayne's Continental Regiment of light dragoons provided the Redcoats an escort to their ships awaiting departure.



Speaker Steven A. Campbell

PENNSYLVANIA

On Saturday, December 16, the Pennsylvania Society participated in two events as part of Wreaths Across America. One was at the Old Eagle School in Strafford, sponsored by the Jephtha Abbot Chapter of the DAR, and the other took place at Paoli Battlefield Park in Malvern, sponsored by the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund. PSSR Color Guard members served as the Honor Guard for the ceremonies at Paoli.





Dr. Joseph Foster, assistant professor of history at Temple University, addressed the Society on January 23 at Historic Waynesborough, as part of our speaker series on the American Revolution. A nearly full house enjoyed his talk, entitled "The Changing Face of Philadelphia, 1775-1780."



On Saturday, February 17, over 180 members and guests gathered at The Union League in Philadelphia to celebrate the 292nd anniversary of the birth of George Washington. Our guest speaker was noted historian Craig P. Shirley, who spoke on Mary Ball Washington's influence on her son George. Attendees enjoyed a special dessert, a pear-and-cranberry tart with ginger ice cream, topped with a toffee sauce containing Mount Vernon Rye Whiskey.



The Lancaster County Chapter held its Annual George Washington's Birthday Dinner on Saturday, February 24, at the Historic Rock Ford Barn in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Samuel C. Slaymaker, director of the Rock Ford Foundation, then gave a brief history of the property and the collection of art and artifacts contained in the museum. The evening concluded with a champagne toast to George Washington and a sumptuous meal of filet mignon and crab cake.

The John J. Snyder Jr. Gallery of Early Lancaster County Decorative Arts





A section of the George Washington Window now being restored, thanks to a gift from the PSSR Color Guard. The window fronts the George Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge.

The restoration project is being led by Washington Memorial Heritage, a non-profit dedicated to preserving the chapel. The windows are being restored one-by-one by the Beyer Studio, founded by Joseph Beyer. Gardiner P. Pearson, both a Washington Memorial Heritage board member and a PSSR member, has been a guiding force behind the work. A former State Department diplomat, he gives tours of the chapel and has co-authored a guidebook.

"I am a patriot, and I feel that restoring and preserving these windows, which reflect and tell the story of the founding of America, is very important," he says.—*all text and all photos submitted by Vice President Michael Whelan*

George Washington Window Nearly Restored

A years-long project to restore the massive George Washington Window in the front of the Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge—a project underwritten by the PSSR Color Guard—will be finished this spring, if all goes well. The stained-glass window consists of forty-two sections and thousands of pieces of glass.

The Washington Window depicts thirty-six scenes in the life of America's most-essential Founding Father. It will soon be reinstalled to command a sweeping view of Valley Forge National Historical Park. The gothic-revival window is one of thirteen designed by Italian immigrant artist Nicola D'Ascenzo and installed between 1917 and 1928.



Interior view of chapel window prior to restoration.

WWW.WMHERITAGE.ORG



The South Atlantic Society continues to grow. In its first fifteen months, the Society (based in Palm Beach, Florida) under the strong leadership of President William B. Richards has grown from an initial forty-five members to nearly one hundred. Many are coming from other lineage societies, due to the energy we are exerting in the South Florida area. At the present time, the Society meets for six monthly luncheons (November to March) held at The Sailfish Club in Palm Beach and for an April luncheon at the Hobe Sound Yacht Club in Hobe Sound, Florida. President Richards invites all SR members (regardless of State Society) to attend any SA- SR event. To be added to our newsletter distribution list, please contact the editor: psty2k@yahoo.com or call 610- 304-2392.

Annual Essay Contest

The Essay Contest, which is an annual event at The Oxbridge Academy, West Palm Beach, is currently underway and is directed by SR member Andre Cook. The winning essay will be announced at the April luncheon and published in a future issue of the SONS Drumbeat.



L-R: New member Peter B. Doten, new member Thomas Charles Krumenacker, Registrar Powell S. Thomas Jr., President William B. Richards and new member Kevin Delahanty.



The guest speaker at the annual meeting was archaeologist Dr. Steven Smith of the U of SC.

SC-SR Hosts Annual Meeting, Evacuation Day

On Saturday, November 18, 2023, the SC-SR held its annual meeting in Columbia at the Palmetto Club. Our speaker for the luncheon was Dr. Steven Smith, of the South Carolina Institute of Archeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Smith was the lead archeologist on the 2023 excavation of the remains of thirteen Revolutionary War soldiers discovered in Camden, SC (see *SONS Drumbeat* Vol. 41, No. 1-2). During the meeting, President Jeffery Murrie along with Vice President Matthew Breen introduced thirteen new members of the Society.

Nearly a month later, on December 16, the Society hosted its annual Evacuation Day celebration at the historic Porcher-Simmons House on the Charleston Battery. Members from the Georgia and North Carolina Societies joined the celebration. President Murrie welcomed everyone, and VP Breen gave an excellent presentation of Evacuation Day history.—*article and photos submitted by Jeff Murrie*

Thicketty Fort Battle Anniversary

The SCSR sponsored the 243rd anniversary of Thicketty Fort Liberation Day on Saturday, July 29. Past President Tom Weidner and members Mike Miller and Wayne Lester were on hand representing the Society, during which they presented a memorial wreath. U.S. Congressman Ralph Norman was the keynote speaker at the event. The fortress is located in Gaffney, SC, and is noted among other things for the large size of timber used in its construction.

The Cherokee Historical and Preservation Society has received grants from SC 250 for archeological and historical research at the fort and hopes to finish the site reconstruction work by 2030. Since it purchased the site in 2014, that organization has worked steadily to raise funds for ongoing preservation and reconstruction efforts at the historic Revolutionary War site.—*compiled from reports*



Re-enactors fire a musket salute on Thicketty Fort Liberation Day, Gaffney, SC.



U.S. Congressman Ralph Norman speaking at the event.



SCSR President Jeff Murrie, foreground, and SCSR Vice President Matthew Breen at St. Michael's Church on Carolina Day.

246th Annual Carolina Day

Earlier in the year, June 28, patriotic Americans celebrated the 246th Carolina Day, commemorating the Carolina militia's victory at the Battle of Sullivan's Island. A church service in Charleston was held at St. Michael's Church (where SC-SR member Dr. Michael Hull, MD, participated as Crucifer); afterward, representative patriotic groups marched to Washington Park and from there joined a parade procession to White Point Garden, at the tip end of the Charleston Battery. Church bells rang out in celebration across the city.

After the conclusion of the scheduled events, SCSR members and GA-SR members who attended removed to Shem Creek in Mount Pleasant, SC, where they enjoyed delicious food and fellowship. Carolina Day continues to be a successful joint event between South Carolina and Georgia, evidencing the collaboration of SR State Societies in Region 3.

On June 28, 1776, a combined British naval and infantry force attempted to seize Charleston. The port city was, at the time, the fourth largest city in British North America and far and away the wealthiest city along the eastern seaboard. During the historical battle, a small force of patriots, including South Carolinians, North Carolinians, and Native Americans, was stationed at both ends of the island.

Colonel William "Danger" Thomson's crack sharpshooters turned back a poorly planned British invasion at Breach Inlet. On the other end, at Fort Sullivan, enormous sand bunkers held together by palmetto logs provided a crucial defense and staging area for Patriot artillery. British cannonballs sank harmlessly into the bunkers. It was the amount of sand — not the palmetto logs themselves — which provided the impressive defense.

The victory greatly strengthened the resolve for independence up and down the eastern seaboard. Even by the end of July, many congressional delegates had not actually signed the Declaration of Independence yet, but on August 2, 1776, after learning of this great triumph in Charleston Harbor, fifty of the fifty-six signers actually inked the famous document.—*text and photos submitted by Vice President Matthew Breen.*



GSSR Region 3 members in Charleston for Carolina Day.



Everyone enjoyed the music from the Cary Street Band, as well as the BBQ and oysters.

Richmond, which was a great success. To wrap up the year, in November the VSSR supported 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.

George Washington Birthday Dinner

On February 24, our Society held its 127th Annual George Washington Birthday Dinner at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond. The black-tie event again sold out early and was attended by over



Our Annual Meeting's Guest Speaker Brigadier General Chad Mansk with Registrar C.L. Sigmon.

Barbecue & Oysters

The Virginia Society Sons of the Revolution (VSSR) have kept a busy calendar since late 2023. The Society held its Second Annual "Boots, Blue Jeans, BBQ and Bluegrass" event on Oct 8, 2023, at the Deep Run Hunt Club. The weather was once again perfect for the event, which was attended by over 160 members and guests. All enjoyed the food, music provided by the Cary Street Ramblers Bluegrass Band, and the oysters donated by Huntley Galleher on behalf of Christchurch School. The 2024 event is already in the works for October 13, 2024, to be at the beautiful Virginia countryside Fox Hunt Club.

Later in October, Membership Director Scott Bussells again organized the annual "New Member Bourbon and Cigar Tasting" event at the Commonwealth Club in



A beautiful day for our Boots, Bluejeans, BBQ, and Bluegrass event at the Deep Run Hunt Club.

225 Society members and guests. Our guest speaker was Brigadier General Chad T. Manske, USAF (Ret.), who doubled as a new member.

Gen. Manske spoke on the lessons we should remember from the American Revolution as we deal with current events and the political divide affecting our country. He related key incidents and stories of individuals in the Revolutionary War to many of the current day's conflicts we face socially, politically, and militarily. Highlighted by his own military experiences, his message of learning from the past was inspiring and well received by all.

Other honored guests for the evening were Vice Admiral Thomas Wilson, USN (Ret.), Rear Admiral Robert P. Wright, USN (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 Frederic du Rupilly, French Marine Nationale.

During the Presentation of Colors, the VSSR introduced three new Revolutionary War flags that were subsequently added to our Society's Stand of Colors at the American Revolution Museum in Yorktown. The three additions were: the Touraine Regiment Flag, the



Our 2024 George Washington's Birthday Dinner honored military guests.



Reception area to the 2024 George Washington's Birthday Dinner. Three new flags have been added to our collection.

Mondhare Flag Sheet, and the 9th Virginia Regiment Flag. Our total now is sixty-ones flags.

A total of forty new members, including Gen. Manske, were formally welcomed into the VSSR during the proceedings.

Halifax Resolves Day

VSSR Past President Matson Roberts and President Mark Jakobowski represented the Virginia Society on April 12th at the Halifax Resolves Day ceremonies in Halifax, N.C. The two joined with many other organizations to hear a reading of the Resolves, the historical document which preceded the Declaration of Independence by a little over two months. The VSSR presented a ceremonial wreath in honor of the occasion.

This year marked the 248th anniversary of the Resolves, which was the first official action by a single colony recommending independence from Great Britain. This event was sponsored by the Historical Halifax Restoration Association.—text and photos submitted by VSSR President Mark Jakobowski



VSSR President Jakobowski and Past President Roberts at the Halifax Day North Carolina wreath laying on April 12, 2024.



President Jakobowski presents a check for \$2,500 to Peter Broadbent for the James Monroe Foundation.

All photos courtesy VSSR

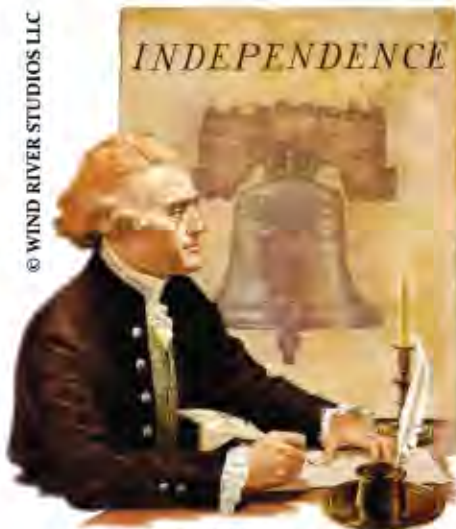
Treaty of Paris Bicentennial Inspires Postal Artwork

First-Day Covers of the Treaty of Paris Bicentennial Stamp

With this issue, we continue our examination of Fleetwood Company's "cacheted" First-Day Covers (FDCs) celebrating the 1983 Treaty of Paris Bicentennial Stamp. The U.S. Postal Service typically prints a franked post card or envelope for every new stamp produced that shows the date and location of the stamp's premiere issuance. Third-party companies will then contract artists to add original, related artwork to the FDC and sell copies to collectors.

In 1983, Fleetwood Company was the largest producer of cacheted FDCs in the country and was known for including artwork of outstanding quality. In the last *SONS Drumbeat*, we featured the John Adams portrait in Fleetwood's 'Champions of Freedom' series by David K. Stone. In this issue, we move on to Stone's next rendering in the series: Thomas Jefferson.

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by David K Stone

Whereas George Washington married into great wealth, Thomas Jefferson inherited his. As the second Vice President of the United States and third President, Jefferson was a rather quiet man and somewhat socially awkward. Taller than most, he avoided speaking in public but was gifted with his pen. Of the three men who formed the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence (Adams, Franklin, and Jefferson), it was Jefferson who had the superior writing skills.

Responsibility for its final drafting fell upon him, as a thirty-three-year-old. He set down a phrase therein that underlies the soul of this country and simultaneously both inspires and torments Americans to this day: "All men are created equal." What exactly did he mean by that? Were women excluded from that ideal? Did it apply to Native Americans? Why did the author of such a statement not manumit the hundreds of persons (aside from the Hemingses) that he held in bondage? Washington left a will that manumitted all his slaves upon Martha's death.

Writing the Declaration was just one of Jefferson's many acts in public service. His leadership coalesced the founding of republicanism and anti-federalism into a political party. He crafted a bill establishing religious freedom in Virginia, and he designed what became the heart of the University of Virginia. He was also a diplomat to France, and during his presidency, the United States acquired the Louisiana Purchase from Napoleon Bonaparte, more than doubling the nation's size.

The question becomes, how does an artist capture the essence of a man that fulfilled so many important functions and oversaw so many milestones in American history? For Stone, he chose to render a profile of Jefferson in middle-age, with touches of gray in his reddish hair. And of course, the quill figures centrally in his portrait of the man. The word "Independence" and the image of the Liberty Bell serve as the backdrop of the portrait. For as powerfully American and genuine as these symbols are, they also underscore the uncomfortable truth that not everyone in this nation enjoyed liberty back in Thomas Jefferson's day.



In Memoriam

G. Clayton Ames, III

1944 – 2023



There are those who give and those who take, and some who do a little of both. The late Rev. G. Clayton Ames, III, was a genuine giver through and through. Clayton gave of himself wholly and completely for the betterment of those around him. And in the end, when his journey was done, he said, "Take me, Lord, for I am Yours." No doubt others knew him much better than I, but it seems that even from a distance, without knowing him extremely well, one could know him immediately. Clayton gave to the world from his heart and didn't hold back. What you saw is what you got.

God blessed him with an inborn love for his city's baseball team, the Philadelphia Phillies, and a baritone voice that could rise above the din and carry the day. The twinkle in his eye conveyed the goodness in his soul and the compassion in his humanity. Clayton was a patriotic and affably social man, a man-of-the-cloth who was drawn to lineage societies such as this one. In addition to the Sons of the Revolution, he was a proud member of St. Andrews Society of Philadelphia, First Troop Philadelphia, the Huguenot Society, and others. One commenter on the tribute wall of his electronic obituary said, "[He] loved Philadelphia like the fictional Dr. Charles Emerson Winchester III [from TV's M*A*S*H] loved Boston." One could pick up on that by listening to him talk about the Phillies.

Rev. Ames, whom his close friends called Clay, loved singing and was a singing member of the Orpheus Club of Philadelphia. At Christmastime, he would give friends and acquaintances a CD of the latest recordings of the choir. He was a staunch supporter of his alma mater, Lafayette College of Easton, where he earned his first degree and where the Delta Kappa Epsilon welcomed him into its fraternity. Another commenter posted, "Clayton was a beloved and respected brother in the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity... [W]e will all miss him greatly. Knowing Clayton made our lives better."

A third commentator posted: "I called Rev. Ames to have prayer. He informed me that he loved the Lord with all his heart. I will never forget that heart-felt moment."

Chances are good that most of us picture him wearing his reading glasses on the tip of his nose and glancing above them when speaking to people. But when he stood behind a pulpit or led a wedding ceremony or sat down in his favorite chair, they were situated perfectly for glancing down to read scripture, history, and myriad other subjects.

In the PSSR and the GSSR, he served as Chaplain for many years and was viewed by all as a solid and sturdy fixture, helping give proceedings the stamp of familiarity. He regularly led the necrology services in the Sons, and when it came time to honor him among those who had recently passed, his absence was noticeably felt. At the 2023 GSSR Annual Meeting held in Williamsburg, General President Emeritus Curt Cheyney placed a rose in the vase to honor Clayton among others of the PSSR who succumbed during the year.

He had served as a pastor at Southwestern Presbyterian Church for the last sixteen years. His proudest moment of achievement was being selected to preach for the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, in Philadelphia, January 2007.

He is survived by his brother Rich M. Ames and his sister Dr. Meg Mann and numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held for him on December 11, 2023, at the Arch Street Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. Burial followed in The Woodlands Cemetery. Contributions may be made in Clayton's memory to either Lafayette College or Princeton Theological Seminary.—*Editor*

A Prayer of Thanksgiving for The Rev. G. Clayton Ames III

Offered by The Rev. Dr. Augustus E. Succop III, Assistant General Chaplain

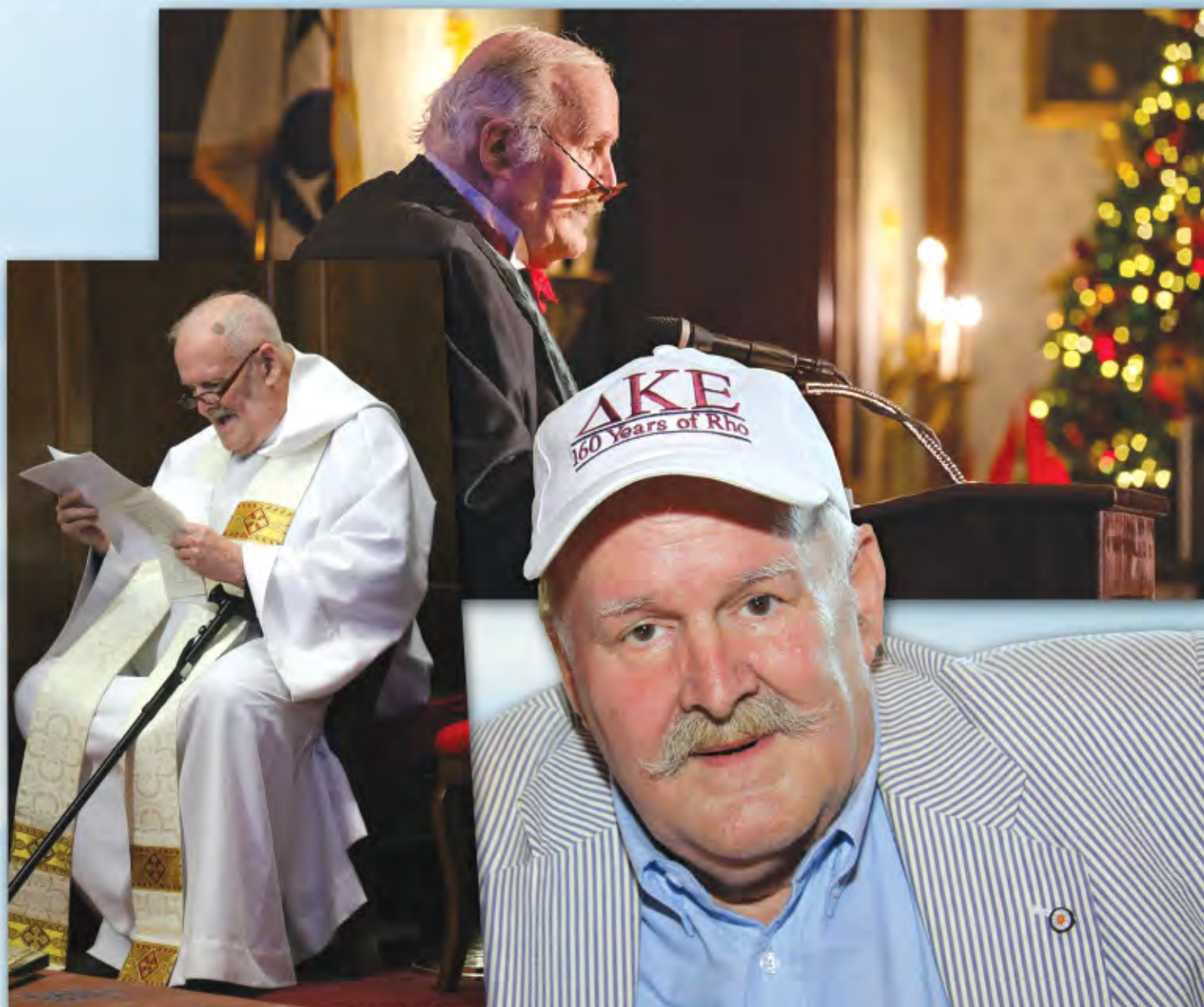
Holy and Merciful God, by Whose grace we are given life and a secure lodging in the life to come, we give You hearty and humble thanks for the life and service of Your servant, Clayton.

Guard and preserve, for the sake of family and friend, the greater expressions of his friendship and devotion. May the memory of his words and deeds live on to inspire us, and through the ways he lived his life may we recall with good cheer and gratitude how he blessed us with his company, his laughter, and his patriotic witness.

Lord, may Clayton's witness to Your Kingdom and to our nation continue to bear the good fruit of faithfulness and unalloyed patriotism. May we not forget the ways he pointed to the blessings You bestow upon us, our democratic form of government, and those who have defended her cause on the field of battle, and no less when peace was heard in the land from sea to shining sea.

And then, O God, keep us vigilant that we may yearn to see by faith that bright day when we are united in the grand Kingdom of Your Son, where, having fought the good fight and finished the race, we sing together, "Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia."

We make our prayer to the greater glory of Jesus, the risen and reigning Christ, the very One Who has welcomed Clayton to his eternal rest with the immortal words, "Well done, good and faithful servant; well done!" And may all the people of God say together, "Amen!"



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No. 2	Nov 1	Nov 31

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