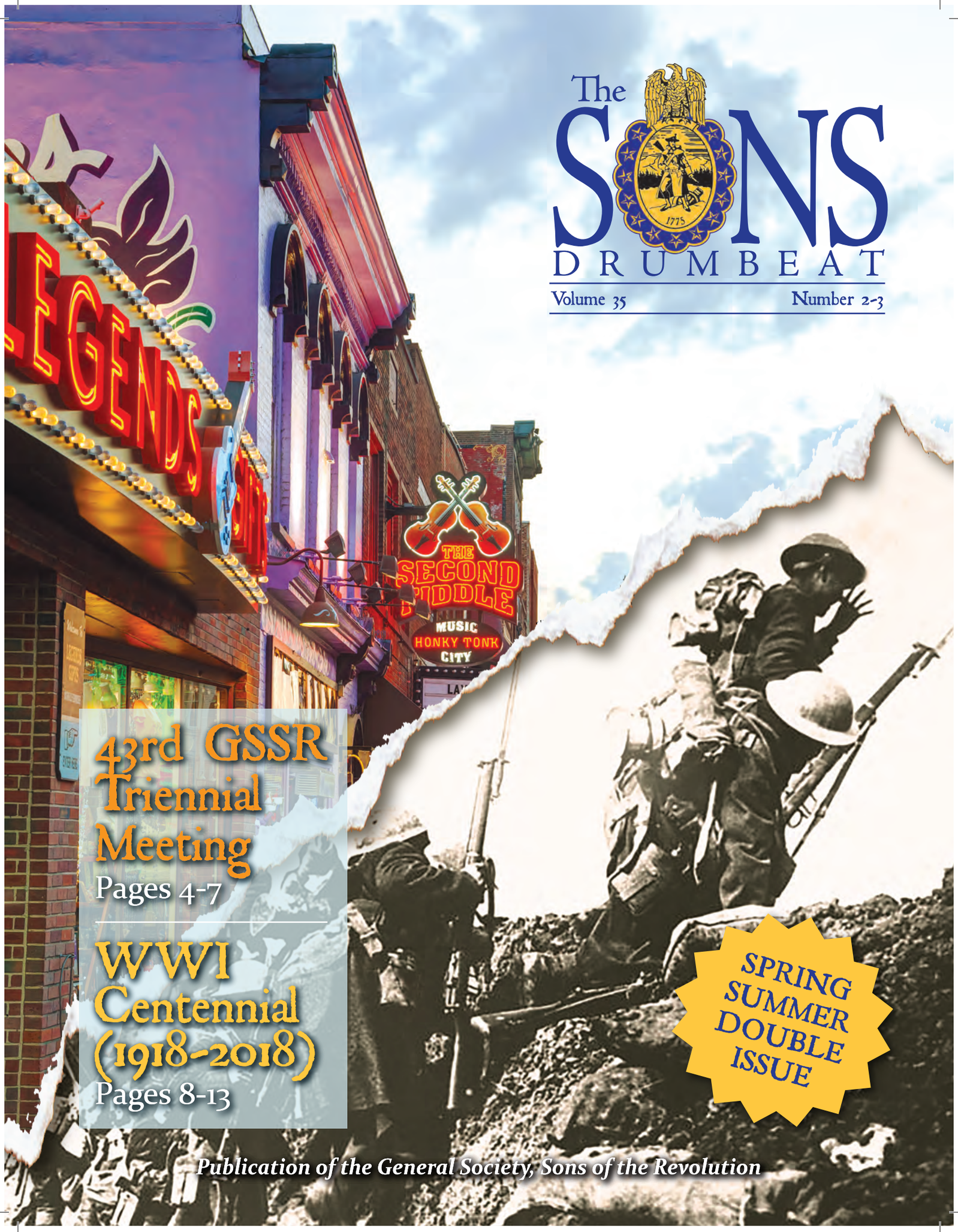

The SONS DRUMBEAT

Volume 35 Number 2-3

43rd GSSR Triennial Meeting

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WWI Centennial (1918-2018)

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SPRING SUMMER DOUBLE ISSUE

Publication of the General Society, Sons of the Revolution

National Report

Inaugural Member of "Society of 83"

This spring, South Carolina Society President Ivan S. Bennett became the inaugural member of the General Society's newly established *Society of '83*, a giving campaign that rewards members with a distinctive jacket for their rosette.

Ivan joined the SR in early 2015 and is one of the most active members in the country. "After conferring with my wife, Susan, I decided to give back to the GSSR a proportion of what the GSSR has given me in the past three years. Being a member of the Sons of the Revolution has elevated my life in purpose and identity. I am very grateful for meeting so many members who share my values."

For donations of $1,000 - $20,000, members will receive a buff-, blue-, or gold-colored rosette jacket, depending on the amount donated. The donations may be given in increments over a period of years

For more information on the *Society of '83*, contact Executive Director Jeff Lambert at (800) 593-1776 or GSSR@sr1776.org.

SRSC President Ivan S. Bennett presents his donation to GSSR Executive Director Jeff Lambert.

PHOTO COURTESY JACK GAINER.

2018 Annapolis Cup Winner John Joseph Gainer, Jr.

2018 Winner of the GSSR Annapolis Cup

Each year, the General Society awards the Annapolis Cup to the Naval Academy Midshipman with the highest academic achievement in Naval Weaponry and Systems Engineering. This year the award was given to ENS John Joseph Gainer, Jr., originally of Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Jack graduated from the US Naval Academy Class of 2018 with a degree in Systems Engineering (Honors). While at the Naval Academy, he was a member of the 6th Company and a four-year member (two-time letter winner) on the Heavyweight Crew Team. Additionally, he completed an independent research project apart of the Trident Scholar Program entitled, "Persistent Target Detection and Tracking by an Autonomous Swarm," as his senior capstone.

Mr. Gainer has been selected for Submarine service, where he will attend Nuclear Power School in Charlestown, S.C. Until his report date, he will continue research on his senior project and present it at an American Society of Mechanical Engineer's (ASME) conference in Quebec City this August.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends,

I invite you to consider WWI for a moment. Exactly one hundred years ago, during the second half of 1918, the world experienced the bloodiest months of the Great War. From the spring of that year until the Armistice was signed, 10,000 new American troops arrived daily to the Western Front.

Perhaps by now the meaning of that war has been lost on some. Above all else, it was a struggle for self-determination and sovereignty. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife on June 28, 1914 in Sarajevo, Bosnia, can be likened to an enormous clock tower sounding the final bell toll on absolutist monarchies across the old Continent. Much of Europe would reject its kings and queens and the notion of kingdoms in favor of nationhood and democracies.

Therein lies a great parallel between early twentieth-century Europe and late eighteenth-century America. Although Britain's monarchy had ceased being absolutist by 1688, still there was growing opposition in the Thirteen Colonies to having to answer to a king. The Founding Fathers of the United States threw off the shackles of monarchy some 140 years prior to the Europeans doing the same.

Once Britain surrendered to the rebelling colonists from Massachusetts to Georgia, nearly all colonies throughout the Americas took up arms against their sovereign rulers. Even in Europe itself, the French Third Estate rose up in part due to the success of the American Revolution. Closer to the United States, independence movements took off throughout the Western Hemisphere in a domino effect a few years after the Battle of Yorktown.

Haiti started the wave in 1791. Spanish South America and eventually Mexico followed. Brazil was the last, coming to a bloodless exchange of rule in 1899.

It is sad that much of this broader, universal understanding of the context of the American Revolutionis is escaping our children and even our present-day adult generations. In many of our schools, we have lost the will to teach the many positive things that were accomplished by our founders. Much of today's pop-culture does not revere the founders, but nearly disdains them. Every one of them except maybe Benjamin Franklin, and as of late, Alexander Hamilton, has lost allure.

We owe it to ourselves, our patriot-ancestors, and our progeny to rise against this trend. We must re-educate American youth. We must regain our sense of pride and stand up for what is right! Do not allow our public schools to disown this crucial aspect of American history.

American culture has forgotten that we were (are) the world's first democracy. George Washington broke rank when he resigned his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and retired to Mount Vernon. The Constitution with its checks and balances between the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches was a bold experiment that shaped the world.

Yet where on our National Mall or its surroundings in Washington, D.C. do we see a monument to the Revolutionary War? We have the wonderful monument to our nation's first President, but what about the Revolutionary War? The soldiers of the American Revolution deserve their own Iwo Jima Memorial.

The Sons of the Revolution can lead the way toward making this a reality. All the better if we could get all Revolutionary-era lineage societies to come along with us. Imagine the collective will-power behind a united front between the SR, SAR, DAR, Cincinnati, and others!

As President Ronald Reagan once said,

"If not now, when...

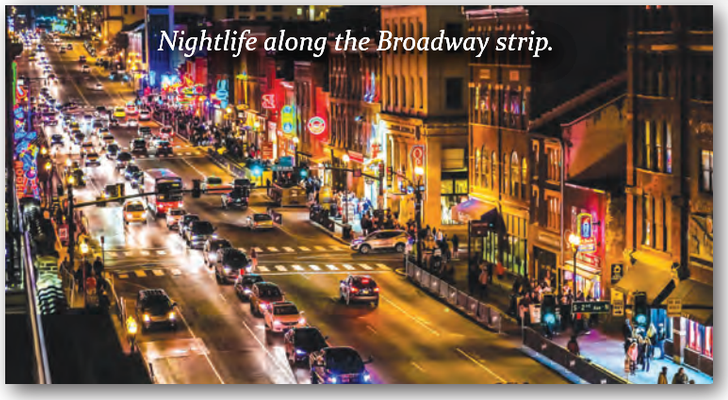
Join Us for the 43rd Triennial Meeting:

Nashville, Tennessee * Oct. 4-7, 2018

Venue & Registration Details Enclosed

Downtown Nashville as seen from the Cumberland River.

SOURCE: HEROCREATIVEMEDIA.COM



Nightlife along the Broadway strip.

Andrew Jackson's "Hermitage."

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA.ORG

SOURCE: PINTEREST.COM

The Nashville Parthenon, Centennial Park.

CREDIT: TIMES FREE PRESS.

Exterior of the Tennessee State Museum, Nashville.

Sons of the Revolution National Triennial 2018
October 4 – 7, 2018
Host hotel: Cold Springs Marriott located in Franklin, TN

Thursday, October 4, 2018:

3 P.M.	SR Registration begins at Marriott Hotel (available all weekend for late arrivals)
5:30 P.M.	Bus transport from Marriott Hotel to the University Club at Vanderbilt University
6:00 P.M.	PA Society Color Guard-sponsored Opening Reception, featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres
8 – 8:30 P.M.	Buses return to the Marriott Hotel
9:00 P.M.	GSSR/TNSR Hospitality Suite at Marriott Hotel

Friday, October 5, 2018

8 A.M.	Continental Breakfast at GSSR meeting room in Marriott Hotel
8:30 A.M.	Opening GSSR Business Meeting at Marriott Hotel
Noon	Box Lunches Provided
2 P.M.	Bus transport from Marriott Hotel to TN State Capitol
2:30 P.M.	Tour of TN State Capitol and greeting by TN Governor Haslam
4:00 P.M.	Buses leave the Capitol area and travel to The Hermitage
4:30 P.M.	Tour of The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson. SR reception and buffet dinner in a tent on the grounds, following tour.
7:00 P.M.	Buses return to the Marriott Hotel
9:00 P.M.	GSSR/TNSR Hospitality Suite at Marriott Hotel

Saturday, October 6, 2018

8:00 A.M.	Continental Breakfast at Marriott meeting room
8:30 A.M.	Continuation of GSSR Business Meeting
NOON	Annual Memorial Service by Rev. Ames in Marriott Meeting Room
12:45 P.M.	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN. Remainder of afternoon is free time. Hotel will provide shuttle service to the Cool Springs shopping malls for those who desire.
6:00 P.M.	GSSR Reception at Marriott Hotel
6:30 P.M.	Triennial Dinner and Festivities (Black Tie, White Tie optional)
9:00 P.M.	GSSR/TNSR Hospitality Suite at Marriott Hotel

Sunday, October 7, 2018

9:00 A.M.	***Optional*** Church Service at the Marriott Hotel by Rev. Clayton Ames, GSSR Chaplain

Triennial Meeting Delegate Rate - $295.00 (all delegate events)
Guest Rate - $250.00 (all guest events)
Attendees must complete Registration Form next page. Registration Deadline is Aug. 15, 2018

** **Hotel Rate and Saturday lunch (not included)**

Send your Triennial Meeting Registration check and completed form to:
TN State Society
PO Box 7322
Knoxville, TN 37921

Hotel Reservations - The SR is utilizing two hotels for overnight accommodations. For a remaining room, contact the Embassy Suites by Hilton below and ask for SR rate of $169 per night, double-occupancy. After all SR rooms are taken, pricing will revert to standard rates.

Triennial Host Hotel:
Franklin Marriott/Cool Springs
Convention Ctr Hotel
700 Cool Springs Boulevard
Franklin, TN 37067
Tel. (615) 261-6100, or (888) 236-2427

Other SR Accommodations:
Embassy Suites by Hilton
Nashville South - Cool Springs
820 Crescent Centre Drive
Franklin, TN 37067
Tel. (615) 515-5151, or (888) 690-5247

General Society Sons of the Revolution
2018 Triennial Meeting Registration Form

October 4th – 7th, 2018

Name_____

Highest SR/GSSR Office held_____

State Society_____

Official State Delegate Yes____ No_____

Phone ( ) _____ E-mail_____

Name of spouse/guest attending_____

Date and time of check-in_____

Please check off events/meetings that you will attend:

Thursday 10/4/18

___ 6:00 P.M. PSSR Color Guard-sponsored Opening Reception at University Club/Vanderbilt University

Friday 10/5/18

___ 8:00 A.M. Continental Breakfast at GSSR Meeting Room

___ 8:30 A.M. GSSR Business meeting at hotel

(box lunches provided)

___ 2:00 P.M. Transportation to TN State Capitol

___ 2:30 P.M. Tour of TN State Capitol with greeting by Gov. Haslam

___ 4:00 P.M. Transportation to The Hermitage

___ 4:30 P.M. Tour of The Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson. Followed by SR reception and buffet dinner on the grounds.

Saturday 10/6/18

___ 8:00 A.M. Continental Breakfast at GSSR Meeting Room

___ 8:30 A.M. GSSR Business Meeting at hotel

___ Noon – 12:45 P.M. Annual Memorial Service

(lunch and afternoon, on your own)

___ 6:00 P.M. GSSR reception at the hotel

___ 6:30 P.M. GSSR dinner & program at hotel

Sunday 10/7/18

___ 8:30 A.M. Church Service and farewell sherry at hotel (attendance is optional)

****Meeting Registration Deadline August 15th, 2018**

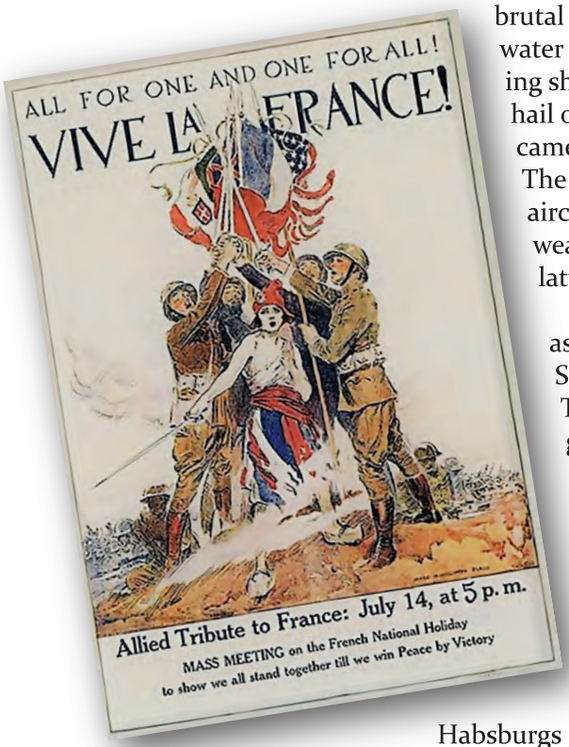
WWI Centennial (1918-2018)

By David W. Swafford, Editor

As the Centennial Armistice of WWI approaches this November, the Great War deserves more of our attention and appreciation. Above all else, the war's brutal carnage must never be forgotten. Nearly ten million soldiers lost their lives, most of them in horrid manners.

"Humanity is mad," wrote French Second Lieutenant Alfred Joubaire in his diary just before he was killed. "What a massacre. What scenes of horror and carnage! I cannot find words to translate my impressions. Hell cannot be so terrible! Men are mad!"

Countless diaries left behind of the western and eastern fronts give mention to the brutal loss of comrades, the mud and chest-deep water in the trenches, the terrifying and deafening shock of artillery blasts, the near constant hail of bullets, and the enormous rats that came to feast on the stinking, bloated dead. The tank, the flamethrower, the fighter aircraft, and poisonous gases debuted as weapons of choice in WWI, though the latter has since been banned.



The war that eventually engulfed the world began with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife on June 28, 1914 in Sarajevo, Bosnia. The Archduke was heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The assassin was a Serbian nationalist of the Black Hand Society, an underground terrorism group that promoted freedom for Serbs living under Habsburg or Ottoman rule. In other words, the killing of the archduke symbolized rejection of absolutist monarchies.

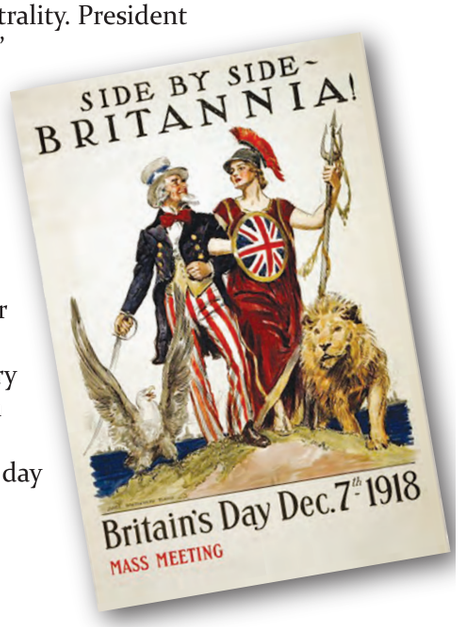
Across Europe, the assassination had the effect of striking a match in a dry forest. A month afterward, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, Russia mobilized in Serbia's defense, Germany then declared war on Russia, and France came to Russia's defense. Later Britain joined France and Russia against Germany and Austria-Hungary.

By the end of the war, four long-serving dynasties were crushed: the Habsburgs (Austria-Hungary), the Romanovs (Russia), the Ottomans (Turkey), and the Hohenzollerns (Brandenburg-Prussia). Nationhood came of age across the old Continent. Out of the four dynasties ended, several new nations rose up: Finland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Latvia, and Lithuania. Romania and Poland were enlarged.

When the war began, the United States viewed it as a European war and claimed neutrality. President Woodrow Wilson at the end of 1916 was re-elected on the mantra, "He kept us out of war." But as time wore on, Germany provoked the U.S. by its ongoing U-boat attacks upon neutral shipping and especially by the (intercepted) Zimmermann Telegraph. In January 1917, the German Foreign Ministry secretly proposed to Mexico a military alliance that, in the event of victory, promised Mexico the return of Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico—geography it lost in the 1848 Mexican-American war.

The public pressure to enter the war became too great. Congress legislated a wartime draft. From April 1917 to November 1918, American soldiers participated in WWI. Modest in the beginning, U.S. forces in France reached 650,000 by the spring of 1918. That number grew by 10,000 more per day throughout the remainder of the war.

Americans fought on the Western Front during the Aisne Offensive (at Château-Thierry and Belleau Wood) in June 1918 and in the Saint-Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne Offensives in late 1918. The great influx of American troops to assist the Allied cause ultimately turned stalemate into victory. Germany signed the armistice at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year.



The Battle of Argonne Forest:
Gettysburg in France

WWI American Victory Medal

The Germans launched four heavy attacks between late March and mid-July of 1918, but they could not defeat the British army nor drive a wedge between the British and French divisions. The closest that Stormtroopers got to Paris was thirty-five miles, at the Third Battle of the Aisne in late May. They were stopped at the River Marne.

General Erich Ludendorff had transferred fifty divisions from the eastern front to the western front to launch one last, great offensive that they hoped would force the Allies to sue for peace. But the Spring Offensive left the German army exhausted and starving, with a million fewer troops, sorely lacking supplies, deep inside France, and vulnerable to counter-attacks.

Starting on August 8, 1918 the Allies launched their own offensive (a counter-push) known as the Hundred Days' Offensive. This included the Battle of Amiens, the Second Battle of the Somme, and the infamous Battles of the Hindenburg Line, which stretched north-south from Arras to Laffaux, near Soissons on the Aisne.

CREDIT: ABMC.GOV

Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery

The Allies, along with the autonomous American army, pushed the Germans back and ultimately broke their defenses by attacking the line in three locations (the Meuse-Argonne offensive). By late September, there were over a million American soldiers fighting on the front.

The southern-most battle of that offensive took place in the Argonne Forest, a wooded and hilly region of northeast France, near Belgium, between the Meuse and Aisne rivers. In that gruesome battle, Americans suffered 26,000 deaths. Another 95,000 were wounded.

Those are ghastly numbers, revealing the horrors of trench warfare. Body parts lay everywhere. Occasionally the screams of men would rise above the screams of incoming artillery. According to the NARA, Argonne Forest remains the worst battle in American history in terms of soldiers killed-in-action (KIA).

"At stand-to one morning, a flight of whizz-bangs skimmed the top of the trench," writes Private Harold Saunders of the 14th London (London/Scottish) in Everyman at War (1930). "The man next to me went down with a scream and half his face gone. The sand-bag in front of me was ripped open and I was blinded and half-choked with its contents...

"Twice I was blown off my feet by the concussion of bursting shells. The whine of falling shrapnel filled the air. I seemed to be all alone in a world tottering into ruin. If only the noise would stop, I felt I might keep my reason. I think I prayed for a direct hit to end it all. By a miracle, however, I was not even touched."

By the last week of October, the combined forces had cleared the woods of both trees and Germans. Literally, in the field of fire not a single tree remained standing. Hundreds of thousands of pieces of flying metal, traveling at great velocity, had given Mother Nature a haircut whether she wanted it or not.

One of the most heroic efforts during the Argonne Forest showdown came from "the Lost Battalion."

A Few of the Many Heroes

War can make heroes of ordinary people under extraordinary circumstances. Society may learn of some but many others remain unsung and deserving of notoriety. We of this Society salute all veterans of the U.S. armed forces. For a much more comprehensive listing, please visit "Pershing's 100" (www.worldwar1.com/dbc/p100.htm) and the U.S. Army's Medal of Honor Recipients for WWI (https://history.army.mil/moh/index.html).

Louis Cukela

On July 18, 1918, as the 5th Marines advanced through the Forest de Retz, near Villers-Cotterets, France, Cukela crawled out from the flank and advanced alone toward a strong point in the German lines. Despite heavy enemy fire, he approached an enemy gun pit in the strong point, bayoneted the crew, and captured their machine gun. With their hand grenades, he demolished the remaining portion of the strong point. The Marines took four prisoners and captured two undamaged machine guns due to his efforts.

Cukela was awarded the two Medals of Honor and the Silver Star by the Army; he was further awarded several French medals, including the Médaille militaire (the first Marine officer ever to receive this medal); the Croce al Merito di Guerra by Italy; and the Commander's Cross of the Royal Order of the Crown of Yugoslavia, among other citations. After the war, Cukela was selected for a commission in the regular Marine Corps. He died in 1956 at the rank of major and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

CREDIT: WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Daniel J. Daly

The 5th and 6th Marine Regiments, under the command of the U.S. Army's 2nd Division, were tasked with capturing Belleau Wood and clearing it of German soldiers. The Battle of Belleau Wood took place in June 1918, near the commune of Chateau-Thierry.

In the beginning days of that infamous battle, then-First Sergeant Daly risked his life to extinguish a fire in an ammunition dump at Lucy-le-Bocage. The same week, while his position was under violent bombardment, he visited all the gun crews of his company and cheered on his troops: "For crissake, men—Come on! Do you want to live forever!?"

On June 10, acting alone he attacked an enemy machine-gun emplacement and captured it using hand grenades and his automatic pistol. On the same day, during the attack on Bouresches, he brought in several wounded under fire.

For action in WWI, Daly received the Navy Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal. From the French, he received the Medaille Militaire. He died in 1937 and is buried in the Cypress Hills National Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.

Henry Johnson

Henry Johnson enlisted in the U.S. Army on June 5, 1917 and was assigned to Company C, 15th New York (Colored) Infantry Regiment—a National Guard unit. Pvt. Johnson and his fellow reservists were brigaded with a French army unit and saw heavy action in the Argonne Forest. His unit was called "the Harlem Hell-fighters."

On May 15, 1918, Johnson and a fellow soldier, Pvt. Needham Roberts, were on sentry duty at a forward outpost when

they received a surprise attack from a German raiding. While under intense enemy fire and despite his having received several wounds, Johnson mounted a brave retaliation by every means possible, resulting in several enemy casualties. In the milieu, he took out his Bolo knife and stabbed it through an enemy soldier's head, thus holding back the Germans. He also prevented Roberts from being taken prisoner after the latter was wounded.

For his battlefield valor, Johnson became one of the first Americans to be awarded the French Croix de Guerre avec Palme, France's highest award for valor, but at the time he was not given any of the American medals for such valor. He died in July 1929. President Clinton awarded Johnson the Purple Heart in 1996. He then received the Distinguished Service Cross in 2002 and the Medal of Honor in 2015. Johnson is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

CREDIT: WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Charles W. Whittlesey

Charles W. Whittlesey, a New York City lawyer, was awarded the Medal of Honor for commanding the famous "Lost Battalion" of the 77th Infantry Division during the Battle of Argonne Forest. On October 2, 1918, Whittlesey and his command of 554 soldiers were ordered to move against enemy lines. Due to several factors, Whittlesey's troops out-distanced their flanks and were caught behind enemy lines. The men remained there for five days without food, water, and adequate munitions. They became known as the "Lost Battalion."

During that time, they resisted enemy sniper attacks and soldiers armed with grenades, trench mortars, and flame throwers. They also came under friendly artillery fire at one point. On the fourth day, Whittlesey received from the Germans a proposition to surrender, but he ignored it and maintained his force's position in an improvised dugout on the side of a hill.

On October 7, they were rescued. Of the 554 soldiers initially involved in the advance, only 194 were able to walk out unharmed. Despite his promotion to lieutenant colonel and reception in the U.S. as a war hero, Whittlesey struggled with his war experiences. In late November 1921, he jumped overboard while traveling on a ship en route to Havana. His body was never found.

Samuel Woodfill

In April 1918, he was dispatched to Europe as part of the 60th Infantry, Fifth Division. First Lt. Samuel Woodfill was given command of M Company of the 60th Infantry and saw heavy action on the Meuse-Argonne front in the fall of 1918.

On the morning of October 12, near Cunel, his company came under heavy machinegun fire, holding up the advance. Woodfill, accompanied by only two privates who followed at a distance, Woodfill approached a total of four enemy machine gun nests and engaged in close combat with a number of German soldiers. He killed ten or more, confiscated their weaponry, and brought others in as prisoners.

In one of the nests, he was unable to kill the gunners with his revolver. He noticed a trench-pick on the ground and used that to subdue them.

For his actions, Woodfill was awarded the Medal of Honor, presented to him by General John Pershing at a ceremony in Chaumont on February 09, 1919. In addition, he was awarded the Croix de Guerre with palm by the French Government and made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. He would later also be presented with the Meriot di Guerra by the government of Italy and the Cross of Prince Danilo by Montenegro. He was also promoted to the rank of captain.

A Memorial to Liberty...

Lest We Forget, Lest We Forget

Soon after WWI ended, leaders in Kansas City, Missouri formed an organization to raise a lasting monument, worthy of national caliber, to the men and women who had sacrificed their lives for liberty's sake.

In 1919, the organization and some 83,000 local benefactors raised more than $2.5 million (nearly $35 million today) in just ten days. It was a staggering accomplishment by anyone's reckoning. The site chosen for the memorial was the high ridge overlooking the south side of the city's bustling Union Station.

Posing together in 1921, left to right: Lt. Gen. Alphonse Jacques ce Dixmude, Belgium; Marshal Armando V. Diaz, Italy; Marshal Ferdinand Foch, France; Gen. of the Armies John J. Pershing, and Adm. David Beatty, U.K.

In 1921, more than 100,000 people gathered to see Vice President Calvin Coolidge and the five supreme Allied commanders (from Belgium, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States) gathered together to dedicate the site. It was the first and only time the five commanders met in one spot.

Later, New York architect Harold Van Buren Magonigle won the memorial's design contract by competition. Construction on the cylindrical, Egyptian Revival-style tower was completed in 1926, and the finished memorial was commemorated by President Calvin Coolidge on November 11 in front of more than 150,000 people, which included a young Harry S Truman. At that point in history, it was the largest crowd a U.S. President had ever addressed. Coolidge remarked:

The 1926 dedication of the Liberty Memorial, Kansas City.

"It has not been raised to commemorate war and victory, but rather the results of war and victory which are embodied in peace and liberty.... Today I return in order that I may place the official sanction of the national government upon one of the most elaborate and impressive memorials that adorn our country. The magnitude of this memorial, and the broad base of popular support on which it rests, can scarcely fail to excite national wonder and admiration."

In the years following its unveiling, the Liberty Memorial tower proved to be a dynamic addition to Kansas City. In fact, it immediately became the city's most iconic symbol—akin to the Gateway Arch in St. Louis or the Statue of Liberty in New York.

The tower itself rises 217 feet above the main courtyard and 268 feet above the North Lawn. It measures thirty-six feet in diameter at its base, tapering to twenty-eight feet in diameter at the top. Guests can take an elevator followed by forty-five stairs to the open-air observation deck for a breathtaking view of the city's skyline and surroundings.

Expansion in 1998

Over time, the physical structure of the Memorial began to deteriorate; it was closed in 1994 due to safety concerns. In 1998 voters passed a limited-run sales tax to support the restoration. Thanks to the additional support of the city, the state, the federal government and generous individuals, more than $102 million was raised for the restoration and expansion.

In addition to revitalizing the Memorial, plans took shape to significantly expand the accompanying museum to better showcase the WWI-related objects and documents which the Liberty Memorial Association had been collecting

since 1920. In 2004, Congress designated the site as the nation's official World War I Museum and Memorial. With that, construction began on a new museum and research center underneath the tower.

The year 2006 was significant. In September, the Liberty Memorial tower was designated a National Historic Landmark. Three months later, the National WWI Museum and Memorial opened its doors to international acclaim. The The subterranean expansion was designed by Ralph Applebaum Associates and features two large galleries: one focusing on the beginning of the war prior to U.S. involvement, and the second on U.S. military and civilian involvement in the war and efforts for peace. In 2014, Congress re-designated the site as our National World War I Museum and Memorial.

For more information, visit theworldwar.org.

All photos courtesy theworldwar.org

Early Evangelical Lutheranism in Pennsylvania

By Ivan S. Bennett, SCSR President

The Augustus Evangelical Lutheran Church in Trappe, Pennsylvania (ten miles north-northwest of Valley Forge) is the oldest unaltered Lutheran church building in the United States. It is often referred to as the Old Trappe Church.

Dedicated in 1745, the building illustrates Pennsylvania's mid-eighteenth-century German traditions of design and construction. The interior features heavy, oaken beams and a pulpit made of native Black Walnut. The roof is made of cedar shingles, and the outer walls were fashioned out of rock, later covered with stucco.

Not only does the building represent the Commonwealth's German heritage, but it also symbolizes the roots of Pietist Lutheranism in America. One of its earliest pastors, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, was instrumental, even crucial, in the development and growth of Protestant pietism in the United States.

The settlement of Trappe, initially named Providence, was founded in 1717. It was located along the Manatawny Great Road, which followed the Perkiomen Creek. The community was first settled by Englishmen. By the 1730s, though, hundreds of Germans and dozens of Welsh had put down their stakes there, too. From 1717 to 1745, Trappe (Providence) did not have a physical Lutheran church. Until then, the community's first Lutheran congregation worshiped in a barn, where congregants sat on the earthen floor to hear itinerant or "circuit" pastors. The first circuit pastors were not committed and didn't last long. The congregation luffed in the wind for several years prior to Henry Muhlenberg's arrival.

The underdeveloped condition of Lutheranism in Trappe was emblematic of its condition throughout much of "Penn's Woods" at the time. Lutherans in Philadelphia, Germantown, New Hanover, Trappe and elsewhere came together and sent urgent messages to church fathers in Europe for a trustworthy pastor to answer their needs. Finally, after some eight or nine years in the waiting, their pleas were met.

Henry Muhkenberg

The Pastor's Work

According to Rev. E. T. Kretschmann's book, *The old Trappe Church, 1743-1893, a sesquicentennial...* (1912), Henry Muhlenberg came to America as a missionary in October of 1742 and had found his way to the Trappe area by December. After Muhlenberg had led just a few services in the barn, the parishioners felt the time had arrived to build a church.

By early 1743, men began hauling stones to the site for the building's construction. The first service was held in an unfurnished interior September 12, 1743, but the finished church was not dedicated until October 6, 1745. It was named in honor of August Hermann Francke, founder of the Francke Foundations in Halle, Germany, where Rev. Muhlenberg had studied.

Still, extant records indicate Lutheran burials and baptisms were occurring as early as the 1730s. The earliest entry in the church's records is a baptism dated March 8, 1730. The oldest legible headstone today in the church's cemetery bears the date September 9, 1736.

After stepping off the ship in the autumn of 1742, Muhlenberg soon ascertained that evangelical Lutheranism in Pennsylvania was in dire straits. "So sad, so degraded is the condition of our poor Lutheran people," wrote Muhlenberg, "that you could hardly bewail it enough with tears of blood. The children are growing up without baptism, without instruction, without training, and so they sink into heathenism itself.

"Such was the state of affairs when I first came to Philadelphia. [The congregants] were as sheep not having a shep

WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Backside of Old Trappe Church.

herd, and wolves stole in and tore the sheep. Unprincipled 'vagabonds,' who assumed the pastoral office, imposed themselves upon the people."

Author E.T. Kretschmann affirms it was Muhlenberg's steady and firm discipline—and untiring work—that turned Lutheranism around in early America. What did he do? For two years he preached at Philadelphia, Germantown, Trappe, New Hanover, and other places, traveling back and forth. Working alone, he proved to the people that he was regular with worship. He preached sermons based on scripture, instigated sacraments, and developed a uniform liturgy. He was honest and trustworthy, quick with an encouraging word. He filled a spiritual void for many Lutherans, first in Pennsylvania, then elsewhere in the mid-Atlantic.

Kretschmann writes, "Though he performed gigantic tasks, [the work] was overwhelming. He entreated the fathers to send him co-laborers, and at last he received assurance of help." Peter Brunnholtz arrived at Philadelphia January 26, 1745. Due to Rev. Brunnholtz' questionable health, the fathers assigned him to Philadelphia and Germantown only, while they gave all outlying areas to Rev. Muhlenberg. The latter gave services in both German and English. He also spoke Latin fluently.

Frederick Muhlenberg,first Speaker of the House

The winter months always presented him challenges with the elements. "During the winter months," he recorded, "one must be glad, if the general duties in the churches and at the outposts can be attended to. Frequently the roads, the rivers, the storms, the cold, the snow, the weather, are such that one would not like to drive his dog out of the house."

In many of his rounds to smaller outposts, he encountered circumstances he considered vile and sinful. Nevertheless, he persisted in his calling that introduced a more personally accountable side to Lutheranism.

After coming to America, Muhlenberg's Trappe parishioners convinced him to make a home there. They also urged him to take a wife. He married the former Anna Maria Weiser, daughter of the celebrated Indian agent and interpreter, Col. Conrad Weiser. After Henry asked for Anna Maria's hand, his father-in-law helped him build a house near the church. The couple had eleven children, and an American dynasty in public administration, military, academia, and several other areas was born.

Eventually, Rev. Muhlenberg provided leadership to a series of congregations from Maryland to New York, and he became the head of the Synod for a number of years.

During the Revolutionary War

Pastor Muhlenberg had hoped to keep his church(es) and others of the Lutheran faith neutral during the Revolutionary War. But that would have been a Herculean effort to try to combat. Right away, Lutherans up and down the seaboard enlisted either in Washington's army or in their local militia, including one of Henry's sons, John Peter.

John Peter returned to Pennsylvania from studying in Germany in 1767 and was ordained a Lutheran minister the next year. His first pastoral job came at a church in Bedminster, New Jersey. He later moved to Woodstock, Virginia, where he continued to serve a Lutheran congregation. It was in Virginia where he became involved in local government and met George Washington.

In late 1775, Washington asked him to raise and command the 8th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Army, which he accepted. His nephew later wrote that he advised his Virginia congregation there was a

COURTESY IVAN BENNETT

Continental Army soldiers in Old Trappe Church cemetery.

time and a season for all things, and that it was time for him to serve in the Patriot cause. John Peter saw combat action in the Battles of Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth.

When the Continentals marched to Germantown and later retreated, they passed directly in front of Henry Muhlenberg's Augustus Evangelical Lutheran Church. As with many local churches, Washington used it as a makeshift camp/hospital. Henry Muhlenberg wrote that the men appeared in "wretched condition," noting that the hungry soldiers were short of supplies, "their uniforms worn, and over 1,000 men barefooted." Some of the injured men were nursed there, and some died there.

Behind the church today, one of the cemetery's headstones marks a spot where fifteen unknown soldiers of the Revolutionary War are buried.

Meanwhile, John Peter's younger brother, Frederick Augustus, was serving as pastor of New Hanover Lutheran Church between 1777 and 1778. After the Army's significant losses at Brandywine, the nearby and impressive stone church at New Hanover was immediately put to use as a hospital. Fifty Revolutionary War soldiers are buried in the New Hanover Lutheran Church's cemetery.

Rev. Dr. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg passed away on Oct. 7, 1787, less than a month after the Constitution was signed. His death came forty-two years and one day after the dedication of the Old Trappe Church. He was 76. Mrs. Muhlenberg died in August 1802, at the age of 75. They are buried under a marble slab outside the north walk of the old church. Next to them is the tomb of their son Major General Peter Muhlenberg, who died October 1, 1807.

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Rev. Muhlenberg's final resting place

The author's parents were married in Augustus Lutheran Church, and he himself was baptized there. Additionally, he has several maternal relatives and ancestors who are buried in the cemetery there.

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State Reports

Celebrating 125 Years

This year marks the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the California Society. The year's events began with the Annual Meeting on January 27, held at the historic Tam O' Shanter Restaurant in the Los Feliz neighborhood of Los Angeles. The restaurant, serving Scottish cuisine, opened in 1922 and is the oldest eating establishment in the city continuously owned by the same family. Walt Disney and John Wayne are among past clientele of this location.

Outgoing President Emeritus Dr. Paul Gray capped off a successful 2017 by turning the gavel over to the Society's dynamic new president, Glenn X. Thornhill. President Thornhill promised an ambitious agenda of growth and activism in 2018. His team of officers sworn in include: Vice President Paul W. Gray, Ed.D.; Vice President John L. Moriarty; Secretary Douglas R. Boyd, Sr.; Treasurer Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.; and Genealogist Wayne J. Rogers.

HQ Plaque

Exterior of Tam O'Shanter Restaurant

On Presidents Day, February 19, the Society held its annual George Washington birthday bash at the Society's American Heritage Library and Museum. The occasion was celebrated with our traditional portrait sheet birthday cake and hearty toasts with Washington's favorite beverage, Fish House Punch. Portions were small, as this Punch packs a wallop in each tiny glass! President Thornhill evoked the wit and oratory for which he is well known, and a good time was had by the whole crowd.

Looking Ahead

The California Society's Annual Fourth of July luncheon was held Saturday July 7 at noon at Southern California's most prestigious private club, the California Club, which dates from the 19th Century. President Thornhill had arranged a special, "surprise" guest for this event. Our tradition is to have a groundbreaking historical keynote speech at this event.

In the fall we look forward to the annual Saratoga/Yorktown Luncheon, which honors the victorious culmination of the American Revolution and the beginning of our national history of freedom and world illumination.—*submitted by Secretary Douglas. R. Boyd, Sr.*

Interior of Tam O'Shanter Restaurant

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The D.C. Society held its annual wreath-laying at George Washington's Mount Vernon on February 22, 2018, the 286th anniversary of his birth. Member Peter Arrott Dixon arranged for a lovely wreath for the occasion. Those assembled proceeded to the Mount Vernon Inn for a lunch in the Tavern Room and celebrated the life our nation's first president. This wreath-laying has been a proud D.C. Society tradition for many years.

Dan Christman

On Tuesday, May 1, the D.C. Society held its annual Mess Dinner at which LTG Daniel Christman (USA, Ret.), former Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point, was the honored guest and speaker.

General Christman currently serves as Senior Vice President for International Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where he is a colleague of D.C. Society 1st Vice President Sean P. Redmond. General Christman graduated first in his class at West Point in 1965 and served as Superintendent there from 1996-2001, and he is a four-time recipient of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal.

As custom dictates, members of the D.C. Society gathered first for potables before dinner commenced. The Society's President, Gary Nordlinger, presided over the evening and members enjoyed a finely prepared meal of roast beef with ample amounts of cabernet sauvignon that paired nicely with the meal. Following dinner, members relaxed with Madeira, the fortified wine that helped fuel the American Revolution, and the program featuring General Christman ensued.

He spoke in great detail about the history of West Point and its considerable importance to the defense of the colonies during the Revolution, even prior to the establishment of the military academy that later was founded there in 1802.

Upcoming Events

The D.C. Society is looking forward to its annual Champagne Brunch at the Cosmos Club in Washington, which has been a longstanding tradition of the D.C. Society. It is always well attended by long-time and newer members alike. This year's Champagne Brunch will be held later than usual, in the summer, due to the postponement of the Society's Mess Dinner caused by a rare mid-March snowstorm.

Following the Champagne Brunch, the Society will enjoy summer hiatus and resume its programing with its annual Yorktown-Saratoga dinner held in October. The Annual Meeting and dinner are planned for December 11 at a private club in Chevy Chase, Maryland.—*submitted by Society 1st Vice President Sean P. Redmond*

FLORIDA

Joint Annual Meeting

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of Florida held its Annual Meeting on June 16, 2018 at the Capital Grille in Fort Lauderdale. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Florida. Approximately twenty members and guests attended the festive afternoon.

Deputy Treasurer Richard A. Gregory addresses the Annual

Lewis Sherwood Elliot led with an invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Robert McGuire. Society President Jonathan Jensen welcomed the assembled and led the group in some business matters. He announced that the Florida Society had become the inaugural member at the Ambassador Level of the Fraunces Tavern Museum. Members will receive email communications from the Museum and will have free admission to the Museum when visiting New York City (see page 29).

Treasurer Duay noted that the Society was in sound financial condition. The Registrar reported that nine new members had been admitted in the past year: General VP Roger Warren Coursey; Robert Alan Hatch; Lowry Rush Watkins, Jr.; William Douglas Parmelee; David Milne IV; Andrew Taylor Parker; Richard Austin Tilghman;

Douglas Harold Parker, III; and John Brian Walsh. Of that group, Messers Taylor and Trey Parker were presented their membership rosettes by Joseph A. McChristian, Jr. on behalf of the Society.

Following the luncheon, Deputy Treasurer Richard A. Gregory gave an engaging talk on the Veterans Corps of Artillery in the State of New York and the Military Society of the War of 1812. The next meeting of the Florida Society will be on October 27, 2018 in Naples. Snowbirds, members of other State Societies, and prospective members are most welcome to attend. For more information, the Florida Society may be reached at SRFlorida@outlook.com.

Trey and Taylor Parker received a warm welcome into the Society. Here they flank Joseph A. McChristian and their mother, Kim Parker.

Buckles Grave Marking

Also in mid-June, State Secretary Mark Buckles and his father, Lee, spearheaded an emotionally-moving grave marking ceremony for their propositus, Capt Charles Buckles, Sr. (1702 – 1790). He is buried on what is now private property in Uvilla, Jefferson County, West Virginia. Capt. Buckles served in the Revolutionary War as well as the French & Indian War. He was previously represented in the SR by Frank Woodruff Buckles, whom, at the time of his death in 2011, was the last surviving American veteran of WWI (see his 2010 SR interview on following page).

L-R: Lee Buckles and Mark A. Buckles with Susannah Buckles, Rachel Carlson, and Rebecca Carlson at the grave-marking for Capt. Charles Buckles, Sr.

West Virginia site where Capt. Charles Buckles, Sr. is buried

Accompanying Lee and Mark at the cemetery were representatives of the General Adam Stephen Chapter of the SAR as well as cousins Susannah Buckles (DAR member and Frank W. Buckles' daughter), Rachel Carlson (DAR), and Rebecca Carlson (DAR).

Palm Beach Chapter

Concurrent with the State Society's activities, the Palm Beach Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Florida had a busy winter season. Luncheon meetings were held monthly from November through April at the Sailfish Club. For the 2018-2019 season, there will be at least six meetings, including a cocktail reception to celebrate George Washington's birthday, held on February 22, 2019 at The Old Guard Society in Palm Beach.

The celebration is sure to be a festive follow-up to last year's celebration, when General Washington himself (William B. Richards) addressed the Chapter about the Commander's own spy-ring.

The Palm Beach Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Florida proudly underwrote the audio portion of Dr. Laurence S. Simpson's videos, one being on the history of Fraunces Tavern and its relationship to the Sons of the Revolution, and the other on the twenty years Samuel Talmadge was President of the New York Society (1884-1904). The videos are available for viewing on YouTube.

Those who desire further information about the Palm Beach Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Florida are encouraged to contact Chapter President Joseph A. McChristian, Jr., via Joe@McChristian.com.—*text and photos submitted by Society President Jonathan Jensen.*

Frank W. Buckles: VSSR Member and WWI Veteran

By Douglas Payne, VSSR Secretary

This year, due to foul winter weather, Virginia Sons member Frank Woodruff Buckles couldn't make it to Richmond for the annual George Washington Birthday Dinner. So Richmond went to him—all the way to his 18th-century farmhouse, *Gap View Farm*, in Charles Town, W.Va.

Less than a week after this year's 114th dinner to celebrate our Founding Father, Virginia Society President Thomas Vance and I made the three-hour trek between the two cities. It seemed a most appropriate gesture.

At 109, he is not only the last of the nearly five million U.S. veterans of World War I; he is also the longest-serving member of the Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth. Mr. Buckles was first inducted into the Virginia Society in 1948, and he has many fond memories of traveling to Richmond annually for the occasion.

Frank Buckles, 2010

Society President Tom Vance, right, chats with Frank Buckles at his W. Va. farm. *Photos courtesy of Douglas Payne.*

On behalf of the Virginia Society, we presented the veteran of both World Wars with a Virginia Society medal originally struck in the 1920s for veterans of "The Great War." The Society also presented him with a $5,000 check for his World War I Memorial Foundation. (The Foundation is promoting a permanent World War I memorial to be built on the National Mall in Washington.)

Said his daughter, Susannah Buckles Flanagan: "Papa told me just the other day the difference between the Sons of the Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution. He is very proud to be a member of the Virginia Society."

Indeed. His Society membership certificate hangs high on the wall of his study, above all other photos and memorabilia he's collected. Among the mementos, most poignant is the chipped white metal mug he used as a ration cup during World War II, when he was a civilian prisoner in the Philippines. He received ¾-cup of rice each day and sometimes had to fight to keep his cup.

No doubt Frank Buckles comes from hearty stock. His ancestor, Robert Buckles II, was a lieutenant in the Virginia Militia during the War of the Revolution. Down the line, his people lived long and productive lives; his own father lived to be 95 and was a Missouri cattle farmer.

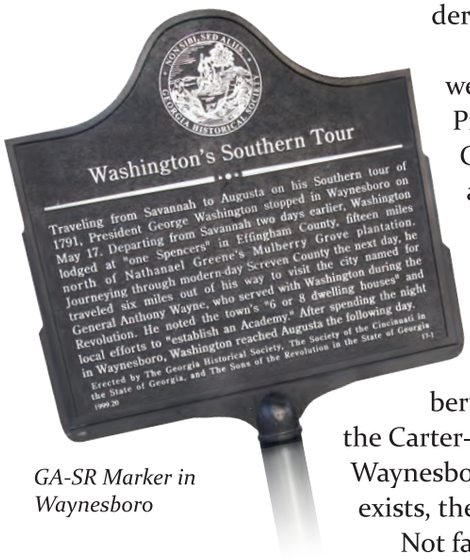
He once met fellow Missourian Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, the leader of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe. Pershing heard Mr. Buckles' Missouri accent and asked where in the state he was from. After Buckles' reply, Pershing told him: "That's thirty-three miles as the crow flies from where I was born, near Laclede.

"I had great respect for Pershing," Mr. Buckles said, evidenced by his Pershing medallion bolo tie he wore. "He was real tough. He didn't have a smile on his face, but that was all right with me."

For more information on Mr. Buckles and the Foundation, visit *http://www.frankbuckles.org/* ■

Washington's Southern Tour

Just after February 22 this year, *The True Citizen* newspaper of Waynesboro, Georgia published a photo of the 1932 DAR monument that honors Washington's stop there during his 1791 Southern Tour. In the photo, descendants of the Georgia homeowners who hosted the President stood behind the boulder-with-plaque.



GA-SR Marker in Waynesboro

The photo and accompanying text were submitted by Dot Cauley, Vice President of the Richard Warren Georgia of Colonial Dames. Her article drew connections between living Screven Countians and locations within the county where the Commander-in-Chief had spent the night. Those places were the Skinner-Streigles-Lambert-Hurst house, near Hilltonia, and the Carter-Poythress-Munnerly house, in Waynesboro. Even though neither home still exists, the stories live on.

Not far from the DAR monument is a newer historical marker erected by the Georgia Societies of the Cincinnati and the Sons of the Revolution in 1999.

When Washington left Savannah on his way to Augusta, he traveled six miles out of his way to visit the town named after one of his most dependable generals—Anthony Wayne. During his visit in Waynesboro, President Washington addressed the townspeople:

"The game is yet in our own hands; to play it well is all we have to do – nothing but harmony, honesty, industry and frugality are necessary to make us a great and happy people."

In 2016, Warren L. Bingham published a book entitled, *George Washington's 1791 Southern Tour,* which helped revive interest again in the historic sojourn. The tour through the Carolinas and Georgia completed Washington's promise to visit each of the thirteen original colonies during his presidency.

—Editor

The 1791 Southern Tour:
Washington's Round Trip from Philbelphia to Georgia

Indiana State C.A.R. Conference

The Indiana Society has come under renewed vigor with Society President Kevin L. Waldroup. In March, he brought greetings on behalf of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Indiana to the Indiana State C.A.R. Conference in Edinburgh, Indiana. While there, he presented a check from his Society to Nathanel Knight, Indiana State President C.A.R., in support of his state project, "Honoring Our Heroes One Last Time."

PHOTO COURTESY KEVIN L. WALDROUP

Indiana State C.A.R. President Nathanel Knight with Indiana SR President Kevin L. Waldroup.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

The monies from President Knight's project will go toward supporting the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Military Funeral Rites Team. The team provides military funeral honors for deceased veterans of foreign wars by performing a twenty-one-gun salute, playing taps, presenting the family with an American flag, and helping the family secure a plaque to be placed at their veteran's final resting place indicating the military branch they served in, how many years they served, and which war they fought in.

Joint Lineage Society Meeting

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of Indiana convened for its Annual Meeting on May 19, 2018 at the Woodstock Club in Indianapolis. Following the business meeting, a joint luncheon was held with the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Indiana, the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Indiana, and the Indiana Branch National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims.

The speaker was Suzanne Stanis, director of Heritage Education and Information with Indiana Landmarks, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. The organization helps people save and revitalize historical properties that might include houses, barns, bridges, churches, schools, downtown districts, and vintage neighborhoods. The topic of her presentation was "Hidden Gems of Indiana," which focused on many historic properties that might otherwise be overlooked if not called out. – *text and photos submitted by President Kevin L. Waldroup.*

PHOTO COURTESY KEVIN L. WALDROUP

Members and guests of the Joint Society Luncheon held on May 19, 2018.

Washington Birthday Sell-Out

On February 16, 2018, members and guests of the Kentucky Society of Sons of the Revolution gathered at the Lexington Club for the Annual George Washington Birthday Dinner. The event was again sold out, as dozens came forward to honor our nation's original Commander-in-Chief and hear from a wonderful speaker.

The Honor Guard of the University of Kentucky ROTC Air Force presented the Colors, and later the cadets sat with SR members at each table. Our speaker, Bill Carrell II, Governor of the Kentucky Society of Colonial Wars, gave an excellent talk on "British Empire and the Genesis of the United States."

Following his talk, Col. Ron Williams, KYSR Registrar, presented a Kentucky Colonel commission to Charles Gurley Williamson, Jr. Chuck is a forty-year member of the KYSR and a former Society President. KYSR VP Bill Swinford presented Chuck a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Society as well as a letter of congratulations from Kentucky Congressman Andy Barr.

Charles (Chuck) Gurley Williamson, Jr., seated, receives his Kentucky Colonel commission.

L-R: Prospective member Price Combs and Frances Dixon, a long-time KYSR supporter.

The sitting Governor of Kentucky each year awards new commissions into the Kentucky Colonels, a non-profit, philanthropic order.

Younger potential members were on hand that evening as well. One of them was Price Combs, the great-great grandson of the Hon. Leslie Combs, one of the Kentucky Society's founders (1894) and its first President (1895). Some years later, Mr. Combs served as U.S. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru.

The William Bates Chapter

On February 3, 2018, the KYSR launched its first chapter, named the Ensign William Bates Chapter, based in Cynthiana, Kentucky. Chapter officers include: Jackie Miller, President; Buzz Carmichael, Vice President; Dr. Larry Leslie, Secretary; Jackie Miller, Jr., Treasurer; and Julian Wills, Chaplain.

The Chapter's namesake, Williams Bates, served as a private in the Revolutionary War. He is also President Miller's fifth great-grandfather. William Bates served in the Second Regiment of the Virginia Line, in the Company of Captain Tarpley White, under Col. William Davies. He saw battle at Guilford Courthouse, Green Springs Plantation, and Yorktown.

The most unique thing about the William Bates Chapter is its Women's and Children's Auxiliaries. This is the first time in recent memory that the Sons of the Revolution have operated auxiliaries at the local level. "We want this to be a family-focused Chapter, and therefore we wanted to have membership on three different levels," Jackie Miller said. "Our country has veered away from family values, and this is one way we want to reverse that trend."

Their function is to support the KYSR and promote more fellowship among members and potential members. The Children's Auxiliary is for youth ages 0-14. With signed parental consent, boys may join the KYSR at age 15. Girls may join the Women's Auxiliary at the same age. Parental consent is needed for any young man or young woman wanting to join under 18.

Janie Whitehead and Patty King Jackson, respectively, are President and Vice President of the Women's Auxiliary.

KYSR President Buzz Carmichael with William Bates Chapter Flag Award winners, in Cynthiana, Kentucky.

Funding for Louisiana Purchase

Jason Wiese of the Historic New Orleans Collection.

Members of the Louisiana Society of Sons of the Revolution enjoyed a recent lunch-meeting with speaker Jason Wiese of the Historic New Orleans Collection (HNOC). Mr. Wiese, associate director of the Williams Research Center there, gave a talk on the letters between Founding Fathers Robert Livingston and James Madison.

The subject of their letters was negotiating and funding the Louisiana Purchase from Napoleon Bonaparte. One of the most interesting points Mr. Wiese made was the challenge of coming up with the necessary capital to purchase Louisiana.

By October 1802, the United States had learned of the secretive transfer of the Louisiana territory from Spain to France. On October 16 of that year, while waiting on the arrival of French administrators to New Orleans, the Spanish arbitrarily ended the American right to deposit cargo in New Orleans duty-free. American merchandise and raw materials headed from the West to the East could no longer be stored in New Orleans warehouses. The entire economy of America's Western territories was in jeopardy.

L-R: Society President Dudley Clifford Jackson, III; speaker Jason Wiese; Society VP Edward Church Bush.

In light of these troubling developments, President Thomas Jefferson signaled to Robert Livingston, U.S. Ambassador to France, to offer $10 million to the French for just the City of New Orleans and parts of West Florida. Congress had authorized $9.4 million for their outright purchase. Then came the lengthy negotiations between Livingston and Napoleon Bonaparte.

ACTE VAN AANDEEL

Voor VIER HONDERD Dollars, in een gemeenschappelyk Bezit van een Capitaal van VYF MILLOENEN Dollars Origineele Americaansche Fondsen, onder bewaaring en directie van

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Share(s) issued in Amsterdam to finance Louisiana Purchase, 1804.

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Bonaparte initially wanted $150 million for the whole of the Louisiana Territory, then offered it for $22.5 million. The United States offered him $8 million for the Port of New Orleans. A compromise was reached at $15 million for the entire territory—encompassing 827,000 square miles.

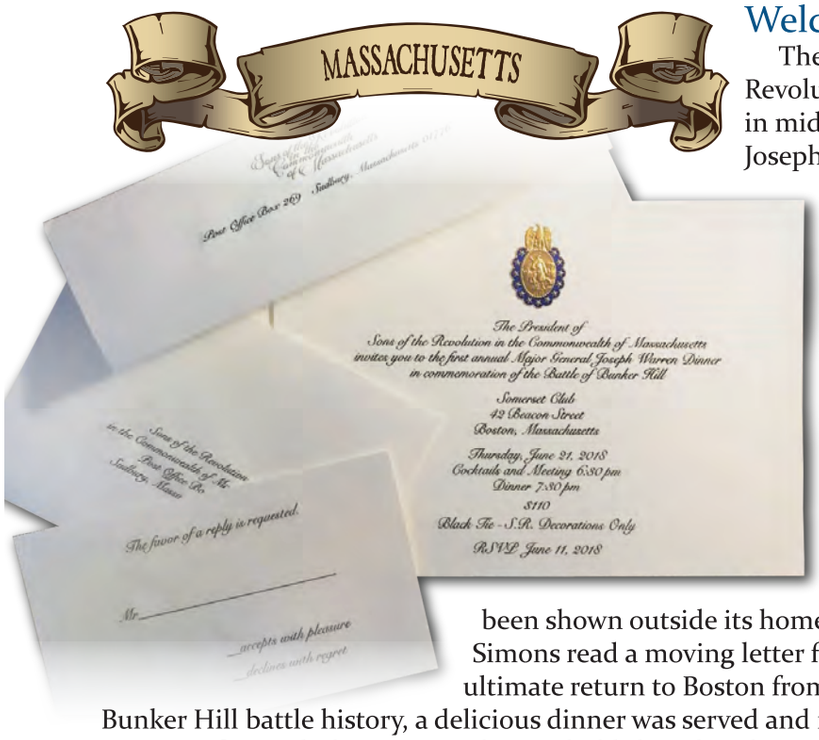
Such a large sum could neither be taken out of revenue nor be borrowed from U.S. investors. It could only be found by borrowing in the European capital markets, which were then dominated by Amsterdam and, to a lesser extent, London. The United States turned for help to the two leading houses in these markets, Hopes of Amsterdam and Barings of London.

The Baring Archives states, "[The Louisiana Purchase] is a rare example in international history of land transfer through voluntary negotiation rather than by military action. It was [also] an event of the utmost importance in the development of international finance, involving for the first time on a significant scale the co-operation of the major European capital markets in financing the requirements of the New World. This was to become the hallmark of international finance in the nineteenth century..."

The two banks brought in other banks which together paid the $15 million cash to Napoleon. Then reimbursement to the banks came in the form of U.S. government bonds, repaid over fifteen years at six percent interest, making the sum total for the Louisiana Purchase around $27 million.—*text and photos submitted by Society President Cliff Jackson*

CREDIT: HNOC.ORG

Interior of Williams Research Center.



Welcome Back, Massachusetts!

The first black-tie meeting in several years of Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts took place in mid-June. The occasion was the First Annual Major General Joseph Warren Dinner in Commemoration of the Battle of Bunker Hill, organized by newly installed Society President Shervin B. Hawley and held at the Somerset Club in Boston.

Over twenty members and guests attended. In light of the Society's revival, and in honor of the occasion's namesake, President Hawley had arranged for a special showing that night—the very projectile that killed Gen. Dr. Warren atop Breed's Hill 243 years ago. It was an awe-inspiring moment to behold.

Society member and New England Historic Genealogical Society President/CEO D. Brenton Simons brought the infamous bullet with him from the premises of the NEGHS. It was the first time since 1840 it had been shown outside its home institution. Before opening the small, round case, Mr. Simons read a moving letter from the individual who was responsible for the bullet's ultimate return to Boston from London. Following that up-close examination of Bunker Hill battle history, a delicious dinner was served and members participated in fellowship.

Going forward, the SRMass plans to hold three key dinners annually to honor Massachusetts heroes. The dates were established around the dates of key events in early American history. In addition to the black-tie Joseph Warren Dinner on or near June 17, the Society will hold the black-tie Henry Knox Dinner on or near March 17 to commemo

President Hawley addresses the gathering

rate Boston's Evacuation Day.

The most formal event, the white-tie John Adams Dinner, will take place on or near September 3 to commemorate the 1783 Treaty of Paris. John Adams played a crucial role in the negotiations of peace between the United States and Great Britain.

At year-end, the SRMass will jointly hold an annual Holiday Gala with the Massachusetts Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots.

President Hawley and officers of his administration belong to several other distinguished lineage societies. He himself sits on the Council of the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is a member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut. He is into his third term as Governor of the Massachusetts Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots.

An advertising and marketing professional with lengthy experience in customer experience design, President Hawley is determined to achieve a thriving, active Massachusetts Society of Sons of the Revolution by drawing sharp distinctions with the SAR. In Greater Boston and Massachusetts, where the SAR is quite popular and has a long tradition of its own, the only viable way forward for the SR is to be different.

Hence, the SR in Massachusetts is first and foremost a "Gentlemen's Club" for descendants of Patriot-veterans of the Revolutionary War. The common ground among its members is a deep appreciation for the risk and sacrifices made by their ancestors and a personal interest in attending genteel gatherings in their honor. Membership will be by invitation.

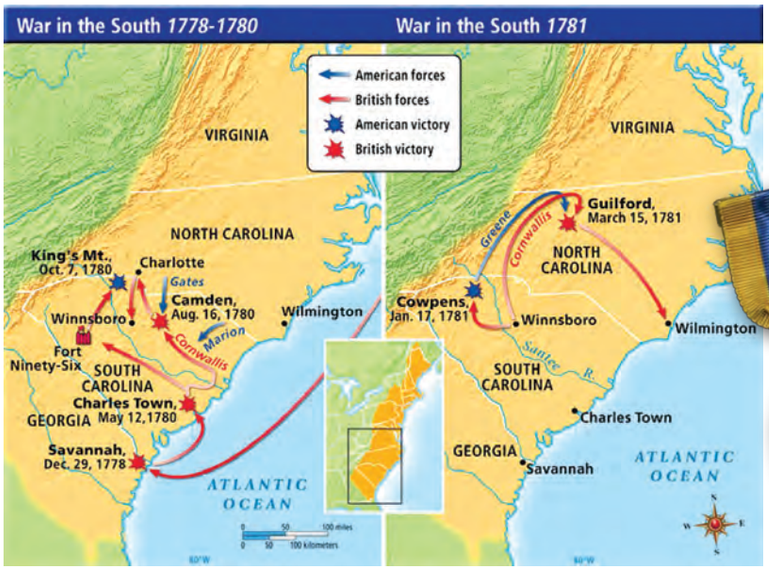
D. Brenton Simons showing the musket ball that killed Joseph Warren.

The current administration of State Society officers was installed in April. They include: President Shervin Hawley; First Vice President Brent Andersen; Second Vice President Brian Marsh; Secretary Thomas Hanson; Treasurer David Schrader; Registrar David Allen Lambert; Historian Henry Curtis; and Chaplain Rev. David Hockensmith.

Directors to 2019 include John Manning, Stephen Jeffries, and Richard Wright; directors to 2020 include James Klim, Henry Curtis, and Steven Hubbard; and directors to 2021 include Henry McCarl, Hans Jackson, and John Wilson.—*Editor*

Musket Ball from a "Brown Bess" similar to the one that killed General Warren

MINNESOTA



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The Minnesota Sons of the Revolution held its Annual George Washington Day Luncheon on Saturday, February 17, 2018. Members met jointly at Jax Café in Minneapolis with members of the Minnesota Sons of the American Revolution. Sixty-two compatriots and their guests were in attendance. Among the guests were Region 5 General Vice President Robert Rati and his, wife, Margaret. Mr. Rati brought greetings to the State Society on behalf of the General Society.

The main item of business for the SR was the election of State Society officers and Board for the new term. The proposed slate was approved unanimously: President, Larry Wray Sisk; Vice President/Asst Registrar, Tracy Ashley Crocker; Secretary/Treasurer, Duane L. C. M. Galles, Esq.; Asst Treasurer, Michael S. Swisher; Registrar, Arthur Louis Finnell; Chaplain, Michael S. Swisher, Solicitor, William R. Johnson, Esq., and Representative to the General Board, Duane L. C. M. Galles, Esq.

Board of Managers: Robert Arthur Minish, Esq. (ex officio), Col. Ronald McRoberts, Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D., James Fredrick Foster, John Hallberg Jones, Edward Reino Lief, Esq., Christopher Willard Moberg, Thomas Truxtun Morrison, Michael Perry Schenk, and Michael LaLond West.

After the business meetings, the attendees joined for the luncheon and speaker. The speaker, Col. Ronald McRoberts, presented a very interesting, illustrated address on the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War, culminating in the great Franco-American victory at Yorktown. The presentation was quite well received, and a good time was had by all.—*submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Duane L.C.M. Galles*

NEW JERSEY

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New Jersey held its Annual Meeting on February 19, 2018, at the Old Barracks in Trenton. The main order of business for the thirty-three members attending was the election of a new slate of Officers and Board of Managers.

The following individuals were elected to the 2018-2020 Board: Michael T. Bates, President; John E. Idenden, Vice President; Edward N. Rianhard, Secretary; Richard J. Peterson, Treasurer; Michael M. Alfano, III, Registrar; Stephen H. Case, Esq., Counselor; Richard M. Burr, Historian; Robert M. Olson, M.D., Chaplain and Surgeon, and F. Richard Gregg, Captain of the Color Guard.

SRNJ Color Guard and the Old Barracks Fife & Drum Corps.

Additional elective members included: J. Logan Brown, T. Jeffery Clarke, Wickliffe Hollingshead, Edward C. Horton, H.L. Boyer Royal, Benjamin W. Strong, and Robert P. Vivian, Jr.

After the business meeting, the SRNJ Color Guard paraded the State Society's flags from the Historic Masonic

Temple to St. Michael's Episcopal Church. By long-standing tradition, the Color Guard was accompanied by the Old Barracks Fife and Drum Corps.

Following a solemn Prayer Service at the Church which commemorated the 286th anniversary of George Washington's birth, the flags were paraded back to the Masonic Temple. Afterward, seventy members and guests gathered for a luncheon there with guest introductions and traditional toasts. Among those in attendance were the heads of the following New Jersey state lineage societies: Daughters of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution, and Sons of the American Revolution.

The program included presentations by David Niescior, professional historian and tour guide at the Old Barracks, and by Society Registrar Alfano. Mr. Niescior discussed and demonstrated the construction and design of the uniforms worn by the Patriots and the British. Mr. Alfano spoke on the early history of the New Jersey Society.

Following those presentations, Society President Michael Bates and Mr. Alfano introduced three new members who were attending their first Annual Meeting: Jonathan McLean, David Vroom, and Kenneth McKeever, presenting them each with a society rosette.

Members and guests at the Historic Trenton Masonic Temple.

Lucy Kramer (Senior State President, NJCAR), Karen Stroever (State Regent, NJDAR), SRNJ President Michael Bates, and Connie Olde (Reporter General, DAR)

Hunterdon County Discussion

On a warm Friday evening in early May, eight members gathered at the home of Richard P. Cushing in Lambertville, NJ, to discuss the reestablishment of a chapter for those residing in Hunterdon County and vicinity. Although the lively discussion yielded no firmed decisions, the group agreed to meet again in early August to decide on a name for the new chapter. Stay tuned.—*text and photos submitted by Society President Michael T. Bates.*

David Niescor discussing uniforms from Revolutionary War period.

FTM Membership for SR Societies

The Fraunces Tavern Museum has introduced a membership level tailored to non-profit organizations, including SR State Societies. The Ambassador Membership Level provides the following benefits to any member of a SR State Society or other non-profit that makes the $250 contribution:

- Free Museum admission for all members and employees
- Subscription to monthly e-newsletter, the Museum Messenger
- Access to Museum Member Early Hours
- Invitation to Museum Member-only events and exhibit openings
- Special offers to Museum programs
- Organizational discount on Museum space rentals (up to 80 people)
- 10% discount on gift items and books

The idea for this category of membership came from the Florida Society. Those persons who wish to use these benefits must present their affiliation with the Ambassador Member organization.

The 141st Annual GW Birthday Ball.

Speaker Robert M. S. McDonald and FTM Executive Director Jessica B. Phillips

A Busy First-Half to 2018

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York maintained its traditionally busy schedule in the first half of the calendar year. It started in February with the 141st Annual George Washington Birthday Ball and Annual Church Service, and continued through mid-June with the traditional Flag Day Parade.

The GW Birthday Ball, hosted by Master of Ceremonies George C. Whipple, was held at The Metropolitan Club on Friday, February 16 for the benefit of Fraunces Tavern. . The evening's special guest speaker was Robert M. S. McDonald, a professor at West Point, published author, and specialist in early American history.

In mid-April, the Society presented another distinguished military speaker: General Denis Mercier, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Transformation. Gen. Mercier, a five-star general of the French Air Force, spoke to a sold out crowd about NATO's structure and how it approaches the changing nature of conflict in today's modern world of robots, artificial intelligence, and cyberwarfare.

CREDIT: NATO

Gen. Denis Mercier

NATO, of course, is a successor to the American Revolution. The Alliance is seventy years old, and Gen. Mercier said he would not change a thing about it. He stressed the fundamental principles set forth in the NATO Treaty (democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law) are the same principles that were espoused by our American Revolutionary forefathers.

The event attracted a diverse crowd of interested persons, including four SRNY Past Presidents: Bob McKay, Bob Lunney, Larry Simpson, and John Mauk Hilliard. The presentation was followed by a reception and dinner.

Book Award Presentation

Ken Chase presents award to Russell Shorto.

On April 23, the Society held its annual Battles of Lexington and Concord Dinner & Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award Presentation. That evening SRNY President Ambrose M. Richardson, III, presented rosettes to new members Charles Rudd Mackenzie and Christopher Cochrane Matteso. He then recognized General President Emeritus Bob Lunney for his fifty years of membership. Mr. Lunney received his 50-year pin.

Since 1972 the Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award has been presented annually to the deemed "best" newly published work on the American Revolutionary War. The award criteria is non-fiction that superbly combines scholarship, insight, and good writing. This year's winner was author Russell Shorto for his book, *Revolution Song: A Story of American Freedom.* Mr. Shorto was present to receive his award. Honorable Mention went to author Harlow Giles Unger for *First Founding Father: Richard Henry Lee and the Call for Independence.* Mr. Unger's editor was on hand to bring greetings and give thanks.

Lastly, the Committee presented a posthumous Lifetime Achievement Award to the late Thomas Fleming, a prolific writer who authored nearly fifty books on the American Revolution. Mr. Fleming's son received the award on his father's behalf.

Ambrose Richardson later praised the Book Award Committee and staff of Fraunces Tavern Museum. "Many thanks to Ken Chase, who heads our book award committee [and] who personally reads at least two dozen books each year, as well as to our staff – Jacqueline Masseo, who oversees the book award process, and Colyn Hunt, who ably stage managed two events in one week."

The month of April came to a close with the Color Guard's participation in the annual reenactment of the inauguration of George Washington at Federal Hall. In May, the SRNY presented its Knox Trophy at West Point to the cadet with the highest academic achievement in the Military Program. For Memorial Day, the Color Guard paid homage to veterans in two events: one at the Shearith Israel Chatham Square Cemetery, and the other at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial on Riverside Drive.

SOURCE: C-SPAN.ORG

Robert P. Watson

John Barry Book Award Dinner

On June 6, the NY Council, Navy League in coordination with the SRNY held its annual Commodore John Barry Book Award Dinner at Fraunces Tavern. The yearly event was established to recognize significant new contributions to American maritime literature. Eighty guests, including SRNY President Richardson, gathered for the festive reception in the Davis Flag Gallery followed by a delicious meal in the Fraunces Tavern Restaurant.

The 2018 Commodore John Barry Book Award went to author Robert P. Watson, distinguished professor of American history at Lynn University, for his outstanding title, *The Ghost Ship of Brooklyn – An Untold Story of the American Revolution.* Mr. Watson was present to receive his award. In a moving delivery, he spoke of the "Ghost Ship," the rotting HMS Jersey moored off Brooklyn during the Revolution.

Conditions were absolutely horrid for the thousands of American rebel prisoners held in the bowels of the ship, mostly seamen. Disease was rampant as prisoners suffered mightily at the hands of the brutal British and Hessian guards. Each morning aboard the Jersey began with the order to "deliver up your dead."

Watson disclosed for the first time hundreds of accounts of British cruelty to prisoners, culled from old newspapers, diaries and military reports. He related how more men died aboard the Jersey and other prison ships than were lost in combat during the entire Revolutionary War. However, as he pointed out, instead of discouraging the colonials, the harsh treatment of the prisoners influenced Americans to greater courage and even greater demands for independence.— *Compiled from reports; photos courtesy SRNY.*

Early 2018 Events

On January 27, members of the Sons of the Revolution in North Carolina (SRNC) and local SAR chapters were present at the 237th anniversary of the Battle of Cowan's Ford. The wreath-laying ceremony was held at Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Huntersville, N.C., site where last year the two lineage societies sponsored a joint monument in the church cemetery.

The monument calls attention to the Revolutionary War veterans buried at Hopewell, including Gen. William Lee Davidson, the N.C. militia general who was killed at the Cowan's Ford battle. That battle became a rout for the British following Davidson's death. The defeat at Cowan's Ford created the need for General Nathanael Greene to revise plans. The revised Patriot strategy ultimately led to the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, which severely weakened Cornwallis' army and facilitated the British surrender at Yorktown.

The SR/SAR monument at Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Huntersville, with Jay Joyce on the left and Gus Succop on the right.

The Charlotte chapter of the SRNC is named after Gen. Davidson. Gus Succop, organizing member of the Gen. Davidson Chapter and incoming SRNC President, provided an Opening Prayer and Benediction at the cemetery.

On February 10, the Society held its annual George Washington Luncheon for the second consecutive year at the State Club on the University North Carolina South Campus. The Board meeting began at 10:30 am, followed by a reception and the buffet lunch at 12:15 pm. The guest speaker was historian Steven Campbell, who spoke on "George Washington at War."

Memorial Day Remembrance

In late May the Society honored the fallen patriots of the Revolutionary War with a wreath-laying and informative booth at N.C. State Historical Site Bennett Place for the annual Memorial Day remembrance program, "The American Soldier through the Ages." Held every year on a weekend, the two-day event features living history reenactors representing soldiers of different time periods. As in previous years, members of the SRNC Color Guard represented the country's first army—during the Revolutionary War.

The wreath-laying ceremony occurs at the foot of the Unity Monument. The Unity Monument was dedicated in the early 1920s and features two Corinthian pillars (representing the North and South) bound at the top by a heavy lintel inscribed with the word "Unity." Over a thousand visitors attended, and by the presence of the Society's informative booth, the SRNC came away with almost a dozen prospective members.

Annual Meeting at Pinehurst

The SRNC held its Annual Meeting on June 9, 2018, in Pinehurst, NC at "The Holly Inn." The formal dinner was served in the Inn's charming Evergreen Music Room, which features octagonal walls covered in walnut, a twenty-eight-foot ceiling, and eight hand-blown glass chandeliers.

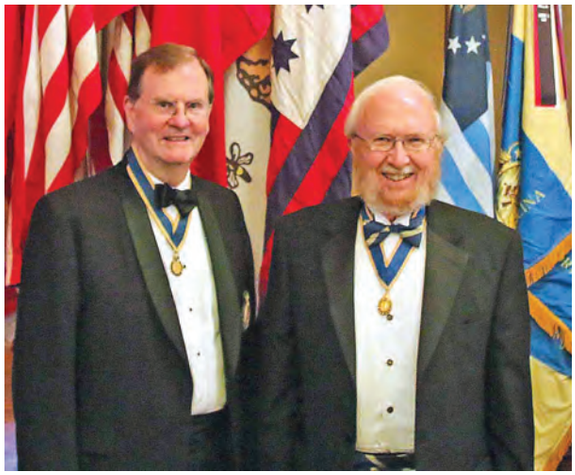
Of historical significance, the SRNC was formed in Pinehurst in 1894 when the Inn was being designed and built as the first hotel within the property of the famed golf resort. Preceded by a Board of Directors' Meeting and a Patriotic Social, the dinner meeting included three informative

The Annual Meeting Dinner at The Holly Inn, Pinehurst.

presentations as well as the election and installation of new officers and directors.

Mr. Angel Garcia, the UNC-Pembroke SRNC Scholarship recipient, gave an overview of his paper, "Liberty Point Resolve: *The Story of Fayetteville Going into the American Revolution.*" He was followed by Hugh Dussek, Professor of History at Central Piedmont Community College. Dr. Dussek provided an historical vignette of the September 1780 Battle of Charlotte.

The keynote speaker, Mr. Steve Lundeen, is a senior instructor with Project Appleseed, a nationwide, educational program of the Revolutionary War Veterans Association. Mr. Lundeen addressed the society on the role of the common soldier in the Battles of Lexington & Concord, and he included from memory the entirety of Patrick Henry's "Give me Liberty or Give me Death" speech. He received a standing ovation for his presentation.



L-R: Incoming SRNC President Gus Succop and Immediate Past President Dan Hopping.

After the speakers, the Society welcomed New Members, presenting them with certificates and rosettes. Then it was on to installing New Officers and Directors:

Augustus E. Succop III, President; Daniel L. Hopping, Immediate Past President; Randall E. Sprinkle, Vice President; William Guy Jarrett, Jr., Secretary; Glenn M. Davis, Treasurer; John R. Harman, Jr., Registrar; James B. Ebert, Sc.D., Historian; Jesse Robert Boykin III, Chaplain; Carlton Mansfield, Esq., Chancellor, and Scott W. Kennedy, Ed.D., Color Guard Captain.

The Board of Directors include: Hollis P. Posey, Paul J. Thompkins, Jr., E. Allen James, Gary L. Hall, Joseph A. Steele, W. Daniel Pate, and Matthew T. Yates.—-- *text and photos submitted by Dan Hopping*

Dan Hopping and Hollis Posey laying a wreath at Bennett Place State Historic Site for Memorial Day Remembrance.

George Washington Birthday Ball

The PSSR held its annual George Washington Birthday Ball at The Union League in Philadelphia on Saturday, February 17. Over two hundred persons were in attendance and enjoyed a cocktail reception followed by a parading of the colors by the PSSR Color Guard prior to the dinner. PSSR officers made the toasts to welcome the guests and celebrate the birth date of our nation's first President. Following dinner, there was dancing well into the evening, and the Younger Members Committee organized an After Party attended by many.

A diverse group of members and guests enjoying the GW Birthday Ball

Game Night at Philadelphia Club

The Society's annual Game Night event was held at the Philadelphia Club on Thursday, March 22. This year, the committee teamed up with the PSSR Color Guard Membership Committee to make the evening a Color Guard recruiting event as well. Members of the Color Guard were in attendance as they looked to bolster their ranks with qualified candidates among the Society's Younger Members. The Younger Members Committee showed a brief presentation of the PSSR revolutionary war artifacts in its possession. It also held a raffle for a premium bottle of single-malt Scotch, with proceeds benefiting the Herbert C. Rorer Memorial Fund.

Annual Meeting

The PSSR Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, April 19, at the First City Troop Armory in Philadelphia. President William Murray Gordon read his final report before officially turning over the office to newly elected president, Ben Ramsey Wolf, who thanked President Gordon for all of his hard work over the last three years. Committee chairmen read their summary reports for the year.

Over one hundred persons were in attendance. Many new members, both young and old, were inducted into the ranks of the Society as part of this meeting. At the meeting's conclusion, members proceeded to a reception with dinner and cocktails. Following the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, the Younger Members hosted an after-party

Annual Church Service and Liberty Tree dedication.

in the NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer) Club. All Younger Members present at the Annual Meeting were encouraged to attend the after-party.

Annual Church Service

The 2018 Valley Forge Commemoration and Annual Church service was held on Sunday, April 29, 2018, at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. Following the service, the PSSR unveiled a new plaque on the church grounds commemorating a Society-sponsored Liberty Tree. The new planting commemoration was hosted by PSSR Historian Peter Adams.

The sapling that was planted there had been one of many seedlings which were propagated from a bud-grafting program on the historic wood of the last-standing Liberty Tree. That venerable tree, which had stood on the grounds of the state capitol in Annapolis, Maryland, was felled in October 1999. It was nearly 400 years old. The Providence Forum of Philadelphia sponsored the bud-grafting program.

Immediately following the tree-planting events at the church, a reception was held at the Merion Cricket Club in Haverford. It was a beautiful spring day, and everyone enjoyed the weather.

Radnor Races

On May 19, members of both the PSSR Color Guard and Younger Members Committee hosted tent and tailgate parties at this annual steeplechase event held on the grounds of Radnor Hunt in Malvern. Despite the heavy rains which deluged both spectators and competitors alike, a good time was had by all. Proceeds from the Radnor Hunt Races benefit the clean water and open space programs of the Brandywine Conservancy in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. Over 63,000 acres are preserved to date. The Radnor Hunt is the oldest continuously active fox hunt in the United States as recognized by the Masters of Foxhounds Association of America.

PSSR Website

The PSSR website, *www.amrev.org*, has been completely redesigned and now offers members the ability to make payments for Society dues and contributions to the Capital Campaign, the Herbert C. Rohrer Memorial Fund. The new site went live in May. All are encouraged to visit the new website and take a tour of its newly expanded capabilities.—*text and photos submitted by Michael Whelan*

Seven New Members

The South Carolina Society of Sons of the Revolution has welcomed seven new members since the November 2017 General Membership Meeting in Simpsonville. They are: Joseph Bennett, Richard Albert Futrell, A.J. Gressette, Jeffrey Murrie, William Raymond Murrie, Daniel Woodruff, and (pending induction) William Suggs. Congrats to these gentlemen. From January 2017 to January 2018, the SCSR roster grew from twenty-three to thirty-eight members.

PHOTO COURTESY JEFF MURRIE.

SCSR new members Jeffrey Murrie, right, with his father, William Raymond Murrie. They used different patriot-ancestors to qualify for membership.

PHOTO COURTESY SUSAN BENNETT.

The new banner of the South Carolina Sons of the Revolution.

Have Banner, Will Travel

It was decided at the General Membership Meeting in November that the SCSR would budget in 2018 for the purchase of a promotional banner that could be shown at different events. The North Carolina Society has a similar banner which they have used frequently the past few years. The SCSR began displaying the new banner at mid-year events and will continue to do so at many events in the future.

Three Wreath Layings

On January 13, 2018 six members of the South Carolina Society participated in the 237th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens near Gaffney, South Carolina. Those attending were Ivan Bennett (President), a Weidner (Vice President), Chuck Swoope (Registrar), Albert Futrell (Regional Upstate VP), Thomas Hanson and Richard Futrell.

Even though it was a cold day in South Carolina, the event was still well attended by several State Societies and Chapters. Vice President Weidner collected the Society's fourth streamer for having attended this event.

On April 7, 2018 the South Carolina Society participated in the "96 Crossroads: Path to Independence" at the Ninety Six National Historic Site. In addition to the wreath-laying ceremony, other highlights of the event included ranger-led battlefield tours and a variety of demonstrations, including historic weapons, military camp life, crafts, trades, and colonial games. There was also a Cherokee culture encampment. Vice President Tom Weidner and Regional Upstate VP Albert Futrell represented SCSR at Ninety Six.

The third wreath-laying was at Buford's Massacre Site, near Lancaster, South Carolina, for the 238th Anniversary of the May 29, 1780 massacre led by Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton (Bloody Tarleton). On that historic day, after the Patriots under Col. Abraham Buford had surrendered to Tarleton and had laid down their weapons, 270 men in Tarleton's army mercilessly attacked some 350 of Buford's forces without giving them the opportunity to load their muskets. More than 100 Patriots were killed.

Society President Ivan Bennett and Registrar Swoope attended the occasion and laid a wreath on the Society's behalf. A bronze plaque lists the names of Buford's men who were slaughtered. One of them was Shadrach Hanson, a Wagoner, the ancestor of SCSR Honorary Member Thomas Hanson.

PHOTO COURTESY SUSAN BENNETT

Society representatives at the 237th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens, January 13, 2018.

James Brigham Historical Marker

On April 13, SRSC Regional VP Upstate, Albert Brigham Futrell, and his wife, Genie, were among the invited guests for the unveiling of a new historical marker in the historic district of Blountville, Tennessee. The marker recognizes Revolutionary War veteran and Tennessee pioneer James Brigham (1744-1814) for his role in the development of the City of Blountville.

James Brigham is Mr. Futrell's fourth great-grandfather and is the patriot-ancestor he used on his SR membership application. Brigham donated thirty acres of land for what became the county seat and set aside the specific location for the municipality's first courthouse and jail.

According to the *Times News* of Kingsport, fifty people attended the unveiling, including Sullivan County Mayor Richard Venable, State Rep. Timothy Hill, Brigham descendants, and members of thirteen lineage societies and chapters throughout the South.

Society VP Futrell spoke about Brigham's life. He was born in Philadelphia, possibly the son of Scottish emigrant John Brigham. By the mid-1770s, he moved to Virginia, near Roanoke, and later married Louisa Looney. Her uncle, Capt. David Looney, was Brigham's commander in the militia.

PHOTO COURTESY ALBERT FUTRELL.

SCSR VP Albert Futrell at the new James Brigham historical marker, Blountville, Tennessee.

In the 1760s both men were active Virginia Militia members in Augusta County, Va., and fought against the Cherokee. By 1776, Brigham was a private on the payroll of Capt. David Looney's militia company garrisoned at the Moses Looney Fort at Gunnings (in what is modern-day Sullivan County, Tennessee) and served as a spy for the militia.

Sources also place Pvt. Brigham as a member of Capt. John Shelby's company and Col. Even Shelby's 10th Regiment of the Virginia Militia organized in January 1777. A December 26, 1777 document states Pvt. Brigham and Capt. Looney were stationed at Fort Chiswell, Wythe County, Va., and may have helped guard the strategically important shot factory and ammunition source there.

In the spring of 1781, Brigham entered a claim for 600 acres along Muddy Creek from the State of North Carolina. He obtained an additional 470 acres. In 1792, he deeded the thirty acres to the commissioners of Sullivan County. By 1796, he moved his family to Montgomery County, Tennessee (Clarksville), where he lived out the rest of his life.—*text and photos submitted by Society President Ivan Bennett.*

Past President Terry Davenport conducts the Annual Meeting.

Annual Washington Banquet

On February 24, 2018, the Tennessee Society Sons of the Revolution (TNSSOR) held its Annual Meeting and George Washington Banquet. The business meeting included consideration of upcoming events and the election and installation of new officers and board members. The slate of new officers includes a mix of older and younger men, the latter of which are a great asset for the continued long-term success of the Society.

Elected were Mr. David Rutherford, (President), Mr. David Daily, (Vice President), Mr. Dennis Eggert, (Secretary), Mr. Jerry Cox, (Treasurer), Mr. Larry Fox, (Registrar), and Mr. Mike Walker, (Acting Chaplain). With the installation of these officers, the TNSSOR is ready to address the challenges for the upcoming year.

The formal banquet was held at Rothchild Catering & Conference Center in Knoxville, Tennessee, and was attended by a large number of our members and their families. Special recognition was given to the Lee family. The matriarch of this family, Ms. Sherri Lee, provided her sons, grandsons, nephews, and grandnephews membership to our organization.

The Lee family's roots extend deep into the TNSSOR, beginning with the honorable Judge Baxter Lee who became a member in 1921 and ultimately State President in 1925. In all, sixteen Lees have joined our ranks through the years.

To honor Ms. Lee and the Lee family service to our Society, Mr. Fletcher Lee was requested to the podium on behalf of his mother to receive a custom-made powderhorn scrimshawed with her Revolutionary War ancestor's name, Pvt. James Lee, along with his service to the North Carolina Militia. The TNSSOR is extremely grateful to Ms. Lee and the Lee family for their interest and dedication to our organization.

Immediate Past President Terry Davenport hands the Society's gavel to incoming President David Rutherford.

After a delicious meal, our guest speaker, Dr. Aaron Astor, gave an informative presentation on why the celebration of George Washington's Birthday is important from a historical perspective. Dr. Astor's presentation was received very well. The Banquet was considered a great success, as everyone enjoyed not only the meal and our guest lecture, but also the fellowship shared among members.

Triennial Delegation's Work

In January a delegation of ten Society members traveled to the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Hotel in Franklin, Tennessee to inspect the venue and discuss the upcoming GSSR Triennial itinerary. For those unaware, the 43rd Triennial Meeting of the General Society Sons of the Revolution will take place there, Oct. 4-7 (see Triennial section, pages 4-7). Having finalized the itinerary for State Board approval and being satisfied with the excellent accommodations at the hotel, the TNSSOR welcomes all SR members and hopes that the upcoming Meeting in Tennessee will be a positive and memorable experience for everyone in attendance.

Updated Society Website

Recently the TNSSOR updated its website (*tnsor.org*) to keep the public informed about our organization. The website describes our involvement in parades and civic activities, education, historical field trips, veterans' affairs, historic cemetery clean-ups along with a calendar of upcoming events. Additionally, the Society's website and Facebook page are now interfaced. The purpose of our presence on the Web is twofold: a) to maintain an effective platform of current information about the Society, and b) to perpetuate the memory of those who fought and sacrificed for the independence of our country.

Mr. Harry Patton

SOURCE: HOLLEYGAMBLE.COM

The late Harry Patton

We report with sadness that the Society has lost a dynamic leader. Mr. Harry Patton, one of the founding organizers of the Anderson County Chapter, passed away April 6. The Anderson County Chapter was the first chapter of the TNSSOR, and Harry served as Chapter President for ten years and continued to serve for many, many years on the Tennessee State Board of Managers.

In addition to his service to the Sons of the Revolution, Harry was a former Mayor of Clinton, Tennessee, and also a long time City Councilman. Additionally, he served on the Melton Hill Regional Industrial Development Board and, as a member of the Clinton Jaycees, he helped build the Jaycee Park and Pool.

He was described in press reports as "a gentleman's gentleman," and that he always greeted people with a smile. Mr. Patton leaves behind his wife of nearly 63 years, Ann Hicks Patton, as well as two grown children and five grandchildren. The TNSSOR Color Guard paid a final tribute to Harry at his funeral. Additional tributes to Harry were planned by city and county officials, and the TNSSOR was present for each one.—*text and photos submitted by Society Secretary Dennis Eggert*

Passing the Torch

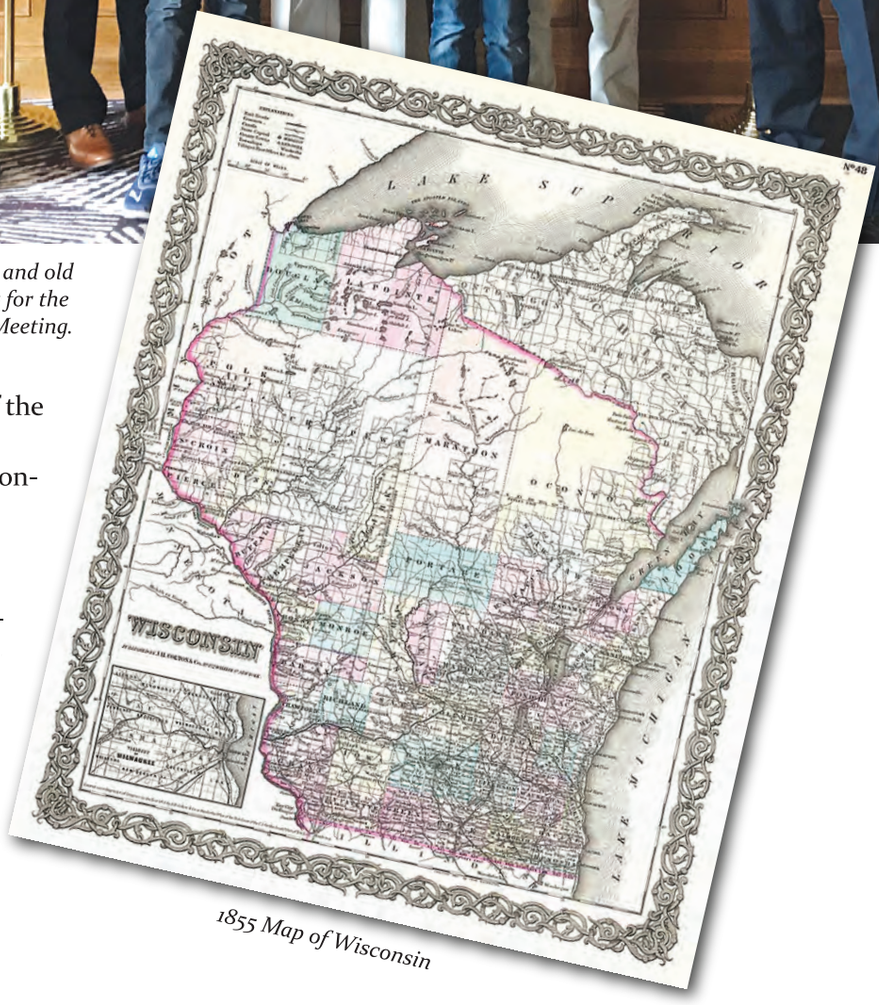
The Sons of the Revolution in the State of Wisconsin has had an eventful 2018. We held our Spring Meeting in May, where it was voiced that the Society needed to pass the torch of freedom from one generation to the next, for "freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."

To that end, we are in the process of adding six new members with half of those being junior life-members. For our Society of only twelve active members, this is a rather large addition. The WI-SR has had success in identifying other eligible individuals, and we are currently in the process of recruiting them.

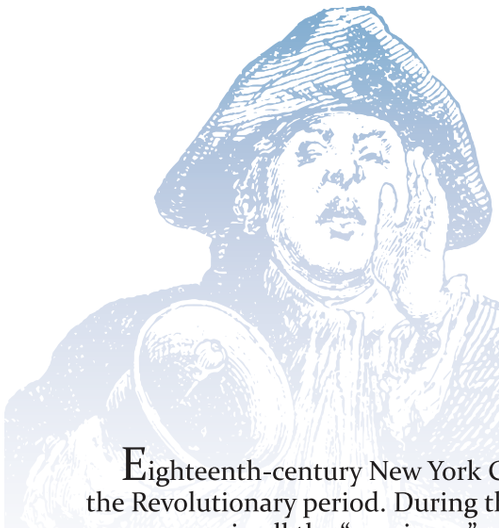
With that in mind, the Society will be holding a recruiting event in August at a local historical venue, Old World Wisconsin, one of twelve museums and historic sites operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society. The August event will include a 'genealogy workshop,' where the Wisconsin Sons will help interested individuals identify qualifying ancestors and begin the application process for membership in the Sons of the Revolution.

Members young and old gathered in May for the WI-SR Annual Meeting.

Richard M. Krueger, President, SR-Wisconsin, looks forward to this year's Triennial Meeting in Franklin, Tennessee, where he hopes delegates from all State Societies represented can share strategies for recruiting membership.—*text and photo* ***submitted by Society President Krueger***



1855 Map of Wisconsin



Patriot Chronicles

Printer James Rivington: *Loyalist, Spy & Traitor*

By David W. Swafford, Editor

Eighteenth-century New York City printer James Rivington continues to be one of the most intriguing characters of the Revolutionary period. During the war, he published the *Royal Gazette* from New York, the most flagrant of Loyalist newspapers in all the "provinces."

Rivington routinely advocated an acceptance of Parliament's restrictive and taxing measures against the Colonies and a love for King and Country—all the while printing acidic barbs against prominent Patriots, especially Washington.

Yet despite his loathsome reputation among the patriotic-minded by war's end, he was given guards during the Continental Army's parade into New York in November 1783. He was also allowed to remain in America as some 60,000 Loyalists departed.

[NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1783.] [No. 465.]

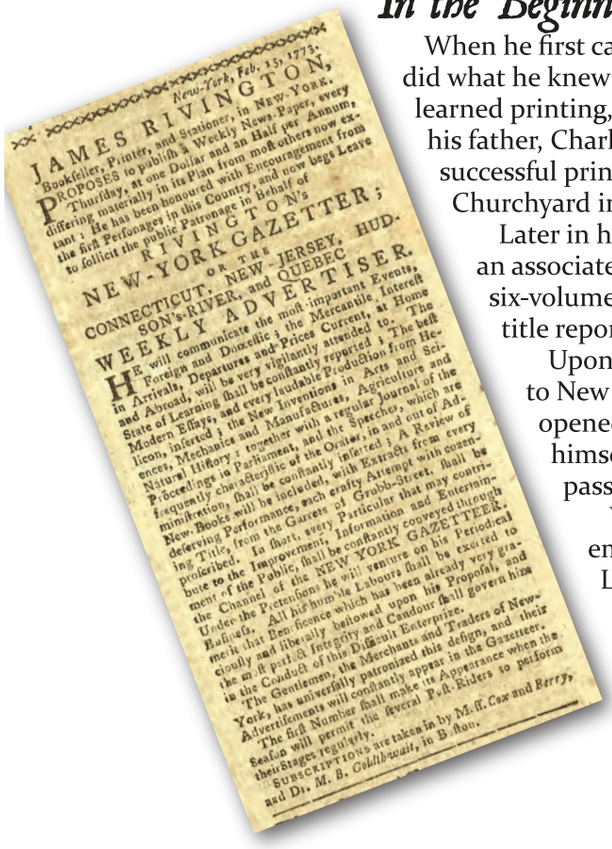
THE ROYAL GAZETTE

PUBLISHED BY JAMES RIVINGTON, PRINTER. TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

Those developments were huge, considering the public battering that Washington and others freely and regularly received in Rivington's publication. It was such an obvious gesture, in fact, that it made people think twice about the zealous Loyalist publisher they thought they knew.

James Rivington (1724-1802)

In the Beginning


New-York, Feb. 15, 1773.

JAMES RIVINGTON,

Bookseller, Printer, and Stationer, in NEW-YORK,

PROPOSES to publish a Weekly News-Paper, every Thursday, at one Dollar and an Half per Annum, differing materially in its Plan from most others now extant; He has been honoured with Encouragement from the first Personages in this Country, and now begs Leave to solicit the public Patronage in Behalf of

RIVINGTON'S

NEW-YORK GAZETTER;

OR THE

CONNECTICUT, NEW-JERSEY, HUDSON'S-RIVER, and QUEBEC

WEEKLY ADVERTISER.

HE will communicate the most important Events, Foreign and Domestic; the Mercantile Interest in Arrivals, Departures and Prices Current, at Home and Abroad, will be very vigilantly attended to. The State of Learning shall be constantly reported; The best Modern Essays, and every laudable Production from Heaven, inserted; the New Inventions in Arts and Sciences, Mechanics and Manufactures, Agriculture and Natural History, together with a regular Journal of the Proceedings in Parliament, and the Speeches, which are frequently characteristic of the Orator, in and out of Administration, shall be constantly inserted; A Review of New-Books will be included, with Extracts from every deserving Performance, such crafty Attempt with concerning Title, from the Garrets of Grubb-Street, shall be proscribed. In short, every Particular that may contribute to the Improvement, Information and Entertainment of the Public, shall be constantly conveyed through the Channel of the NEW-YORK GAZETTEER. Under the Pretenfions he will venture on his Periodical Business. All his humble Labours shall be exerted to merit that Beneficence which has been already very graciously and liberally bestowed upon his Proposal, and in the most public Difficult Enterprize.

The Gentlemen, the Merchants and Traders of New-York, has universally patronized this design, and their Advertisements will constantly appear in the Gazetteer, Season will permit the several Post-Riders to perform their Stages regularly.

The first Number shall make its Appearance when the

SUBSCRIPTIONS are taken in by M. ff. Cox and Berry, and Dr. M. B. Goldthwait, in Boston.

In the Beginning

When he first came to America in 1760, Rivington did what he knew best: bookselling. As a boy, he had learned printing, bookselling, and publishing from his father, Charles Rivington, who had established a successful printing business on London's St. Paul's Churchyard in 1711.

Later in his own publishing career, James and an associate put out the widely successful, six-volume *History of England* by David Hume and Tobias Smollett. That serialized title reportedly earned Rivington a small fortune.

Upon his arrival in the Colonies, he initially went to Philadelphia but relocated to New York. Once in New York, his first business was a bookstore which he opened in Hanover Square, very near the Fraunces Tavern. From there, he billed himself, "The First London Bookseller in America!" Thirteen or fourteen years passed before he turned to printing and publishing.

When he launched his newspaper in May of 1774, Rivington initially embraced objectivity. In the very beginning, his sheet was not necessarily Loyalist. He drew early praise for its objectivity and balance. Called *Rivington's New York Gazetteer*, its tone and content were a far cry from what it later became. He filled his paper with advertising and interesting news and tidbits. From the first day of its publication, the *Gazetteer* featured a legend under the nameplate which read: "Open and Un-influenced."

His business took off as he gained subscribers from throughout the

Colonies, even as far away as the Carolinas and Georgia. Meanwhile, he also produced pamphlets for both sides of the political divide: Tories and Whigs. However, the impartiality that marked those first couple of years could not be sustained. The political storm brewing in the day would not allow it. As Kara Pierce of the State University of New York points out, by late 1774 the political climate forced Rivington to abandon claims of objectivity. Printer-publishers were seen as public figures and were pressured to reveal themselves as either Whig or Tory.

Since he was an Englishman in New York, Rivington was inclined to support Britain and to think of the Colonies as an extension of the kingdom. Often, rivals in the newspaper business would oppose (and insult) one another in print, which Rivington learned to do well. Although he seems to have done this with certain jest, his adversaries did not think it was funny.

One of his prime targets was printer-publisher John Holt, owner of the most influential of Whig newspapers, *The New-York Journal*. In August 1774, Rivington as good as libeled Holt by writing:

"...when it is obvious [that] a News-paper is wholly employed in prosecuting party designs, tending to inflame the minds of the people against government, and by means thereof to introduce anarchy and confusion; the printer of such a paper, justly renders himself abhorrent to all good men, and may well be considered a pest to society."

These barbs began appearing with greater frequency by late 1774—a time which corresponded with the founding of the Continental Association. The Association was the first step taken by the First Continental Congress for implementing a boycott on goods exported from Great Britain. Any businessman who did not support the Association was targeted.

Rivington joined, although somewhat reluctantly. Meanwhile, one of the first noticeable changes in the objective nature of his publication came at this time. Previously, he had featured a decorative ship in the newspaper's nameplate, but he changed that out for the Royal Coat of Arms. The ship had alluded to trade. Although the design change was a concession to the Association, he turned it into an opportunity to herald the Crown. A few months later, he dropped the legend about openness and objectivity.

The Sons of Liberty

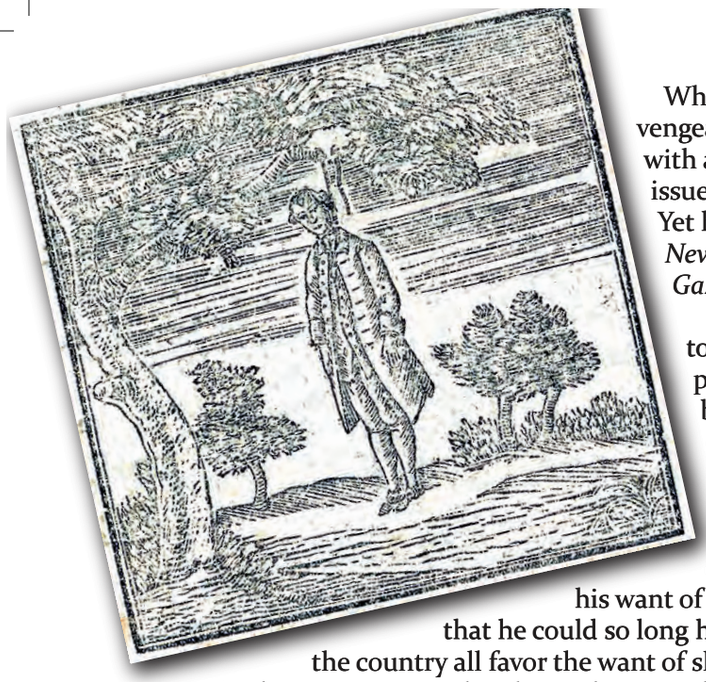
The combination of Rivington's constant jabs at the independence movement and his drift away from objectivity did not sit well with many of his subscribers and the public at large. Instead of winning people over to his cause, Rivington's method lost subscribers and made several enemies. Among the latter was Isaac Sears, a leader of the Sons of Liberty.

The disparaging and condescending manner in which he referred to Washington and other Patriots, and their movements, riled Sears to no end. By early April 1775, he had had enough! The Sons of Liberty gathered in New Jersey and hanged Rivington's effigy from a tree.

On April 13, the publisher learned about this and in reply printed an essay on freedom of thought and press, illustrated by a wood cut-out of his effigy with a note about the incident. It only further infuriated Sears.

The next month, Sears and his fellows attacked Rivington's print shop. He reportedly hid in his chimney then fled to the safety of a British ship. From there he petitioned Congress for a pardon and promised to amend his "wrong and mistaken" opinions. He was released, but made no amends.

Several months later, the Sons of Liberty returned and visited greater destruction on his press operations and burned his home to the ground. They were criticized sharply for their actions, but in the meantime Rivington feared for his life. He left with his family on a ship for London, where they remained for more than a year before returning.



When the Rivingtons came back to America, James returned with vengeance in his typecast. Upon establishing a home and office again, with a new printer brought from Europe, he picked up the volume and issue numbering of his newspaper from where it had been interrupted. Yet he changed the name of his paper by October 1777 to *Rivington's New York Loyal Gazette*. By December, he changed it again to *The Royal Gazette*.

Under the latter nameplate, he featured the new legend, "Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty." As the King's Printer, he was paid a salary of £100 annually. His premise was also given protection by the Royal Guard. Under such circumstances, and from within occupied New York, he felt at liberty to ramp up his campaign against Washington and the Sons of Liberty.

A prime example of that was featured in the Aug. 11, 1779 edition: "[Washington's] abilities are that of mediocrity which creates no jealousy, his natural temper makes him reserved, [and] his want of education renders him diffident... It has been a matter of surprise that he could so long have made head against the King's forces; but, the circumstances of the country all favor the want of skill in the General and discipline in the troops."

As the war progressed and British victory had still not manifested, he began alluding to the generous but hidden offers of peace King George III had supposedly made. A sampling of the propaganda he was capable of came in mid-1779 when he directly addressed the 'deluded countrymen' of the Thirteen Colonies:

"The truth is that your leaders are conscious they have sinned so enormously that they think it not in the power of an offended King and nation to forgive them, and even if it was, they still would fear the resentment of a deceived, misled, and ruined people..."

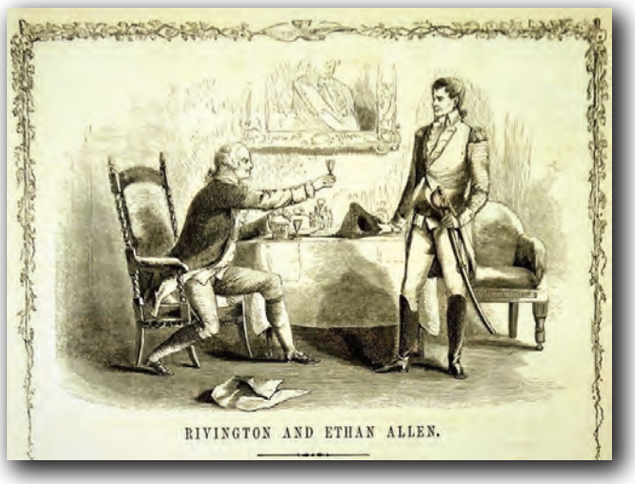
Many years after the Revolution, Isaiah Thomas, the staunch Patriot and publisher of *The Massachusetts Spy*, published a history of printing. In it, he comes to a defense of some of Rivington's earlier manifests. He wrote:

"The visit made to [Rivington] by a party of men from Connecticut, who destroyed his press and home, doubtless tended to prejudice his mind against the American cause, and prompted him, after he was appointed printer to the King, and placed under the protection of the royal army, boldly, and without disguise, to carry his resentment beyond the bounds of truth and justice."

A Double-Agent?

Fast-forward to the end of the war and British evacuation from New York. When the Continental Army paraded into that city, the public sensed for the first time the true nature of James Rivington. *The Massachusetts Gazette* covered the events and concluded the news with this paragraph:

"... Mr. JAMES RIVINGTON, Printer at New-York, was, as soon as our troops entered the city, protected in person and property, by a guard, and that he will be allowed to reside in the country, for reasons best known to the great men at helm."



That information was quickly picked up by other newspapers throughout the Colonies. Assigning an army guard to protect Rivington during Washington's parade into New York could have only come from the Commander-in-Chief himself.

The next public revelation came when supporters of the British government were ordered to leave the country. It was assumed Rivington would be among the first to go. About 60,000 persons made an exodus, but Rivington (surprisingly) was not among them. He was allowed to make a home in America, if he so chose.

As years passed and previously unrevealed facts began to surface, new thoughts emerged about Rivington. Writers began indicating he had supported Washington's Culper Ring and had passed on intelligence of British naval signals to Admiral de Grasse just prior to the Battle of the Chesapeake.

In fact, a written account left by Col. Allen McLane indicates that he himself was chosen in late August 1781 to pass the Signals Book to the Admiral. Washington first learned of Rivington's apparent about-face via a letter from Judge Richard Peters, Secretary of the Board of War. Immediately following the Battle of Yorktown, Peters informed the General that he had obtained through "an Intelligence channel" in Rivington's Printing Office a copy of the enemy's Signal Book, which he immediately entrusted to McLane to present to de Grasse at the first opportunity.

Judge Richard Peters

Responding to Peters on October 27, 1781, Washington thanked him for the intelligence and made it clear that his "channel" might well serve future needs. The gesture of letting Rivington remain in America seems to have been a bow to the significance of the intelligence that he passed on. Without the French naval victory at the Battle of the Chesapeake, it is probable the naval blockade at Yorktown—and the consequential British surrender—would not have occurred.

Rivington's entrance into Washington's secret service may have come as early as mid- to late-1779. An article by Todd Andrlik in the *Journal of the American Revolution* indicates that spymaster Benjamin Tallmadge listed Rivington's name in his secret code book created in late July of that year. His number was 726.

By then, Rivington was no longer drawing salary as the King's Printer and was struggling financially. Hungry in the figurative sense, at that point he entered into a coffee-house partnership with none other than Robert Townsend, Washington's spy known as "Culper, Jr." Townsend helped finance the coffee shop next to Rivington's press.

Loyalists of all types patronized it and would never have guessed the Loyalist printer was a turn-coat. It was the perfect setting from which to glean intelligence for the Patriots.

What Motivation?

In 1860, the memoirs of George Washington Parke Custis were published posthumously. The grandson of Martha Washington claimed that Rivington had been bought, the last payment of which came from the Commander-in-Chief himself in two small sacks of gold. The public rejected the notion and the grandiose story he presented in the book.

Custis called the salaries received by agents in the secret service as "a dog cheap bargain" compared to the value of the information received. Nevertheless, perhaps the little stream of money was of interest to Rivington. After all, the harshest criticisms leveled at this man by his contemporaries concerned his lust for money. Ashbel Green, the future president of Princeton University, called Rivington "the greatest sychophant imaginable; very little under the influence of any principle but self-interest."

One of the lingering questions about his life remains, why did he finally abandon support of his homeland's government? The answer is probably not for payments in gold. The answer may be what historian and writer Catherine Snell Crary (1909-1974) once alluded to: Rivington's no-return came after the French entered the war and dissension grew among government ministers in London.

Rivington himself admitted as much. He was deeply angered at the way Britain handled the war, specifically the presence in America of Sir William Howe and the people he called the Howe faction. He made those feelings known in a letter to Richard Cumberland, Secretary of the Board of Trade:

"... my press shall never exist under the influence of any individual of [the SWH] faction, which has, ever since the arrival of the Army from Halifax, in many instances betrayed the King and his Minsters and aggrandized the military abilities of Mr. Washington, who had none to boast of before SWH landed on Long Island."

Sir William Howe

After the war was over and the Redcoats had gone home, Rivington reverted the name of his newspaper back to what it was originally called: *Rivington's New York Gazetteer.* Also, it no longer carried the Royal Coat of Arms in its masthead. In the first issue following the evacuation of New York, Rivington reproduced the thirteen toasts that Washington and his generals drank to as they celebrated their victory at the Fraunces Tavern.

New York Society President Ambrose Richardson, III says, "Thanks to Mr. Rivington, the SRNY re-enacts those thirteen toasts every year." The publication would not last much longer. The Sons of Liberty once again visited his newspaper not long afterward and pressed the owner to cease operations. This time, they allowed Rivington to shut it down properly. He kept open his print shop and store, but a few years later he closed those down, too.

Toward the end of his life, he was still in the trade of books, but he spent the remainder of any money he had in helping his sons out of a bad investment. He had married twice, the first time in England to Elizabeth Mynshull. A decade after Elizabeth's death, he remarried in New York to Elizabeth Van Hooren. He had children in both marriages.

James Rivington died a poor man in 1802, reportedly living in an apartment with six other people. The date of his death, ironically, was July 4th.—*NOTE: Special thanks to Ambrose Richardson, III, and the New-York Historical Society.*

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Disembarkation of British troops at New York City, 1776. Engraved by Francois Xavier Habermann

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—George Washington, to the Pennsylvania Legislature 12 September 1789

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Pivotal Battles... COWPENS

A Miracle in the Wilderness

By Jim Stempel

Jim Stempel is the author of eight published books, which include themes such as the American Civil War, the psychology of war, and world history. He has also published numerous articles in Blue & Gray, History News Network, History.net & Real Clear History, among other journals. He is a graduate of the Citadel, Charleston, S.C., and is considered an authority on the Eastern campaigns of the Civil War. His novels, Albemarle *and* Windmill Point*, were nominated for prestigious awards. Mr. Stempel lives with his wife, Sandie, in western Delaware, overlooking the Blue Ridge, and has three grown children. He wrote the following account for the* Drumbeat*, based on his newest book,* American Hannibal*, a look at Revolutionary War general Daniel Morgan, the mastermind behind the Battle of Cowpens.*

Battle of Cowpens, by Don Troiani

It was first light, January 17, 1781, a damp, bitterly cold dawn. As streams of sunlight rose gradually across the Eastern horizon, slowly illuminating the frigid woods and fields, one of the most remarkable, decisive, and important victories in American military history took place in the backcountry of South Carolina.

There, British Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton, hand-picked by General Charles Cornwallis for command due to his dash and record of accomplishment, was opposed by Gen. Daniel Morgan, a rough-and-tumble son of the American frontier, who had risen to high command through valor and merit alone.

That morning Morgan employed a psychological ploy and tactical scheme so brilliantly conceived and masterfully executed that within an hour the British found themselves overwhelmed, enveloped, and routed from the field. It was a stunning victory that had dramatic consequences.

Morgan's triumph rekindled hope throughout the Colonies and initiated a chain of events that would eventually lead the British to defeat at Yorktown, thus catapulting the infant United States to independence. Not only had Morgan defeated some of the best troops in Cornwallis' army, but he did so with a force that consisted substantially of untested militia. For many at the time, Morgan's triumph seemed nothing less than a miracle. How had it happened?

On May 12, 1780, Charleston, S.C., the most important port in the American South, fell to the British, a devastating blow for the American cause, as some 5,500 Continentals along with all of their artillery and supplies were surrendered. Worse still, that defeat opened the entire South to further British inroads.

Congress immediately dispatched General Horatio Gates, the "Hero of Saratoga," to assume command of those meager American forces still in the region, hopeful he would remedy the situation. Unfortunately, in August Gates

foolishly marched his depleted command literally headfirst into Cornwallis's army on the road to Camden, S.C. At the mere sight of British bayonets, the militia—two-thirds of his force—bolted from the field and the remainder of his force was routed.

General Daniel Morgan

Morgan vs. Tarleton

Soon thereafter Gates was replaced by General Nathanael Greene, a capable strategic thinker who had the confidence of George Washington. Greene, sensing the current American position untenable, decided upon a bold gambit. He would divide his small army even in the face of Cornwallis's larger force, himself moving with the main body to Cheraw, S.C., on the Pee Dee River. Meanwhile, he would have General Daniel Morgan move with a small force of Delaware and Maryland Continentals, along with a contingent of dragoons under Lt. Colonel William Washington, into the wilds of South Carolina.

Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton

Morgan was a skilled fighter of proven ability who Gates had called back out of retirement. Throughout his career, the general had demonstrated time and again his skill as a fighter and leader. He commanded men at the Siege of Boston, took part in the assault on Quebec, and guided the Corps of Rangers to greatly help crush the British at Saratoga. After the American failure at Camden, he rejoined the cause in the South.

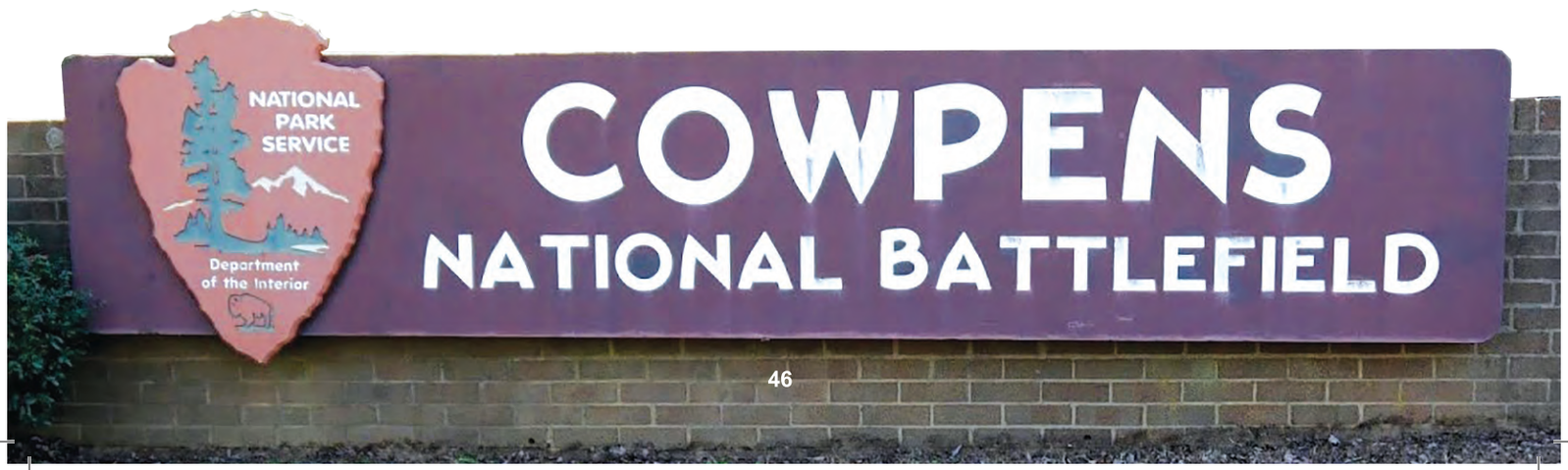
The task he faced now was monumental. Greene's design of splitting his forces was meant to harry Cornwallis; if he moved against either of the divided American commands, he would leave the other free to do mischief behind his back. Soon thereafter, unfortunately, Cornwallis received word of British reinforcements marching to his assistance, which allowed him the luxury of attacking one of the divided commands while holding the other at bay.

Cornwallis immediately decided to move against Morgan, and the instrument he chose to make that strike was Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton. A tough and relentless cavalry officer, Tarleton had experienced an almost meteoric rise under the watchful eye of Cornwallis, becoming the general's favorite instrument for projecting British strength. Indeed, so impressed was Cornwallis with Tarleton that in early December he had written his favorite subordinate, saying: "I wish you would get three legions, and divide yourself into three parts: We can do no good without you."

But Tarleton's ascendance had come at the price of barbarity: At Monck's Corner, his men engaged in murder and alleged rape; at Waxhaws, they engaged in butchering and execution of Continentals after they'd already surrendered, and, while north of Charleston, Tarleton's Legion had savaged civilians while plundering and burning their homes.

As historian John Buchanan points out, "Monck's Corner revealed Tarleton's darker side, which was never distant. It is not unfair to state that in time and with reason, he became the most hated man in the South."

In early January, 1781, Tarleton's column forded the Enoree River, initiating its pursuit of Morgan. The British force numbered approximately 1,100 troops, this consisting of infantry, cavalry, and light artillery. Morgan became aware of Tarleton's approach, however, and when the British later slipped across the Pacolet River near the American encampment, he hurried his troops north—all the while searching for suitable ground to offer battle.



CREDIT: GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Cowpens Scruggs House

CREDIT: NPS

Cowpens battlefield landscape

Showdown at Cowpens

Suitable ground he found at a local landmark known as the Cowpens, an area where locals had for years gathered their herds for branding. The Cowpens was a narrow wooded plateau, crossed with a number of ridges and swales, while the underbrush had been destroyed by grazing cattle. The Green River Road, running essentially north and south, ran up the middle of the plateau. Morgan's force matched Tarleton's in terms of numbers, but about half of his command now consisted of recently arrived militia, untrained and untried on the field of battle.

The British had learned early in the war to disperse American militia by simply lowering the bayonet and charging. At Camden, Gates' militia had fled at the mere sight of cold steel; how might Morgan prevent a repeat performance?

General Morgan's response was a tactical deployment so novel, yet simple, that it took advantage of his militia's best qualities while simultaneously shielding them from British bayonets. Moreover, the deployment played directly into Tarleton's over-aggressive tactic of choice: the hell-bent-for-leather cavalry charge in the face of any and all opposition.

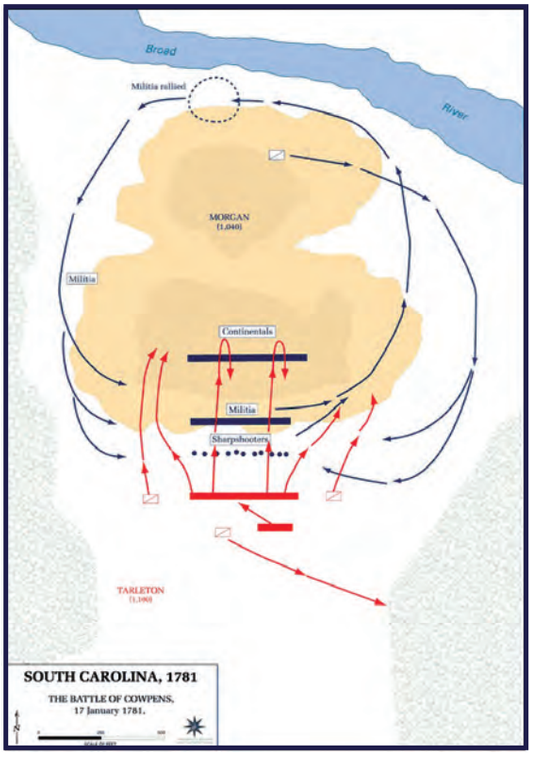
Knowing Tartleton's style, Morgan decided to deploy his forces in three lines, each separated by approximately 150 yards. The first line would consist of a few hundred crack shots, the best riflemen in his force. These skirmishers, taking cover, would pepper the deploying British with two or three shots, then withdraw to a second line behind them, partially hidden in one of the swales running across the ground Morgan had judiciously selected. This second line consisted of militia, and they too would give the British two or three shots before falling back behind the third.

The final and main line, also concealed from British view by ridges and trees, consisted of Continentals and veteran Virginians. They would make a stand and become a shield for the entire force, since the Continentals were armed with bayonets. The withdrawing militia was then to pass through the line of Continentals and redeploy on high ground along the flanks, where they could add the fire of their long rifles to the final stand.

At dawn, January 17, hungry, mud-splattered, and exhausted from days on the march, the Redcoats appeared on the Green River Road leading into the Cowpens. They deployed for assault with their characteristic élan. James Collins, a teenager at the time, was standing in the militia line as the British formed for battle, and he would remember the scene forever. "About sunrise on the 17th January, 1781 the enemy came in full view. The sight, to me at least, seemed somewhat imposing."

Tarleton, undoubtedly presuming the thin skirmish line arrayed before him was nothing more than a weak rearguard, decided against reconnoitering the American position. Instead, he ordered his infantry immediately into line of battle, then led them forward, even before the proper deployments had been completed. There seems little doubt that Tarleton assumed Morgan was fleeing, and that he had only to brush aside the American rearguard before falling upon the remainder in mid-flight.

Entirely unknown to Tarleton was the fact that Morgan intended to fight, and that two lines of heavy infantry–unseen and undetect



CREDIT: USMA.EDU/HISTORY

ed–eagerly awaited his advance. It seems Morgan had read his opponent with uncanny precision. The American deployment worked almost precisely as Morgan had planned, luring Tarleton into the teeth of his trap. Both the skirmish and militia lines mauled the British advance before falling back upon the waiting Continentals.

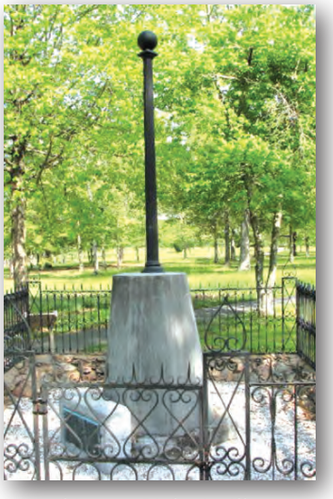
Overcoming Error

At the final line, both sides fought furiously for some time before Tarleton attempted a flanking movement on the American right. Spotting the move, Lt. Col. John Eager Howard, then in command of the American infantry, ordered his end unit to turn and face this new threat. But his shouted command was misunderstood and the unit about-faced and began to withdraw. Spotting this, the entire American line followed suit, withdrawing in error.

The Redcoats, now presuming the Americans beaten and in retreat, rallied and began a wild, undisciplined pursuit, hoping to drive home a victory. As the American line marched off, Morgan and Howard quickly conferred, coolly formulating a response. Morgan galloped uphill and selected a second line, this one beyond the British flanking movement. Then, as the American infantry approached Morgan, Howard brought his troops to a halt, then turned and about-faced.

The Continentals, trained to reload while withdrawing, were entirely prepared. Howard immediately shouted the order and a volley of musket-fire exploded into the faces of the pursuing British, now only yards away from the muzzles of the American guns. The volley utterly staggered the charging British, and those who were not cut down immediately either fell to their knees or stumbled backward—so stunning was the effect.

Howard, grasping the moment, then issued one of the great, instinctive orders of the entire American Revolution, turning what had been a stout defensive stand into total rout of the British. Raising his sword, he screamed, "Charge bayonets!" The Continentals surged out and overwhelmed the stunned British, causing the Redcoats to run in panic.



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Washington Light Artillery Monument

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US Cowpens Monument

The militia joined the Continentals on their flanks, Washington's cavalry circled the retreating British fugitives as they ran, and within moments only the Redcoats found themselves enveloped, surrounded, and utterly defeated.

Casualty Count

Hardly a British infantryman led forward by Tarleton that morning avoided death, wounding, or capture. Tarleton fled with some of his dragoons after a dramatic, hand-to-hand exchange with Washington, commander of the 3rd Regiment of Continental Light Dragoons. Despite their tussle, the damage to the British army was staggering; 110 killed 200 wounded and 700 captured by the Americans – a casualty rate of 87 percent. In the blink of an eye nearly a quarter of Cornwallis's strength had simply evaporated.

Morgan reported to Greene: "The enemy were entirely routed, and the pursuit continued upwards of twenty miles. Our loss was inconsiderable, not having more than twelve killed and sixty wounded." The American victory, virtually epic, was hailed throughout the eastern seaboard—from Georgia to Massachusetts.

Cornwallis fumed over the loss and vowed to regain his captured soldiers. Over the coming days he attempted to cut off the American general and bring him to battle north of Cowpens, at Ramseur's Mill. However, Morgan had already out-thought and out-marched Cornwallis, putting both time and distance between the American column and its pursuers. He was able to reunite his command with Greene's, but afterward was forced to bow out of further action due to a recurring illness.

Incensed by Morgan's victory, Cornwallis vowed to overtake Greene and regain his captured troops. Indeed it was at Ramseur's Mill, somewhere near January 25, 1781, that Cornwallis' thinking seems to have slipped over that thin line that separates campaign from compulsion, military operation from martial obsession.

He would chase the Americans to the gates of hell, if that's what it took, and there would be no looking back. It was a decision that would send his army on an obsessive, reckless, and exhausting pursuit through North Carolina to the River Dan, then back to battle at Guilford Court House, and then, ultimately, to defeat at Yorktown.

How central was Cowpens to American independence? We will leave the final word on that to British General Sir Henry Clinton, then in overall command of British forces in America. After the war, Clinton lamented that Morgan's victory was "the first link of a chain of events that followed each other in regular succession until they at last ended in the total loss of America."

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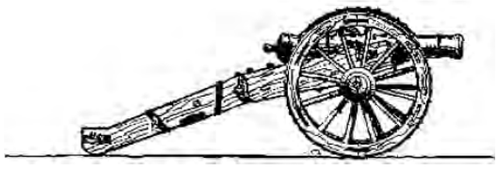


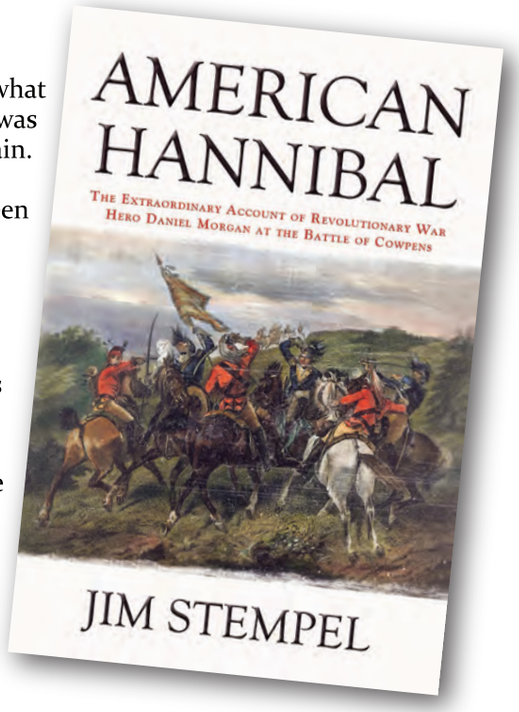
An Interview with Author James Stempel

Q: Is your interest in the Revolutionary War relatively new versus your established interest in the Civil War?

A: Not at all. When I was a young boy my family often vacationed at Hands Cove on Lake Champlain, in Vermont, almost directly across from Fort Ticonderoga. We visited the fort and many of the historic sites thereabouts, and I developed a passionate interest in the Revolutionary War at a very young age that has never really subsided. My hometown – Westfield, N.J. – also had a lot of Revolutionary lore that I loved to read and hear about.

Q: When did you first consider doing a book about Daniel Morgan and the Battle of Cowpens?

A: Since college I have been fascinated by warfare and the curious question of what compels humans to march off to war. I had heard about Cowpens before, but it was while doing research in college [on that related subject] that I came across it again. That's when I really took a close look at the battle, and I became immediately impressed with Morgan's skill... It is undeniable that over the eons there have been many very crafty military leaders, and I believe Morgan's strategy, tactics, and intuitive psychology at Cowpens rates him among the best.



Q: What things inspired you to write about it?

A: Three things, really. First and foremost, I believe that the American public is losing its understanding of our history, in particular the Revolutionary era, thus I felt a book that was at once exciting and informative might help in some small measure to improve that situation. Secondly, Cowpens was a critical event in the founding of the American Republic, hence the victory deserves proper credit. Lastly, as stated above – except for some historians and admirers of Revolutionary lore – I don't think Morgan's skill at Cowpens has ever been properly recognized.

Q. Is the lack of knowledge of the Revolutionary War by many Americans of concern to you?

A: Well, it hardly takes a doctorate in sociology these days to grasp the demoralizing fact that our history is rapidly disappearing from the consciousness of the American public. Take a glance at any historical survey or questionnaire. It seems that many citizens honestly don't know the difference between the Revolutionary War and Star Wars... Worse still, American history is, in many cases and many places, being openly perverted. This might be comical if it wasn't so pervasive... These are disturbing facts, and facts that might have far reaching consequences, because the health of the Republic surely depends on the appreciation of the American people for their own form of government. Still – and importantly – over 90% of the respondents in the Center's questionnaire said that they thought an understanding of American origins was vital for the health of the country. It was that sense of historical appreciation that inspired me to write *American Hannibal.*

Q: Did you have in mind a particular audience as you were writing it?

A: Everything I write is meant for a general audience, again, because I think our history seems to be rapidly disappearing from the public domain. So I try to write good, informative history that is also easy and enjoyable to read.

Q: How many hours of research did *American Hannibal* require?

A: I have never counted the hours I've put into researching a book. The fact is, my understanding of the Revolution began back at Hands Cove as a young boy in Vermont, and has progressed through decades of reading and research, most of it done for personal pleasure. The same can be said of my grasp of the Civil War. As far as *American Hannibal* is concerned, it took about a year to research the particular details I needed and write the book.

Understanding BRANDYWINE

A Call for Further Study

By Michael C. Harris

Michael C. Harris is a graduate of the University of Mary Washington and the American Military University and has intimate knowledge of many East Coast battlefields, including Brandywine. In 2014, he published a book entitled, Brandywine: A Military History of the Battle that Lost Philadelphia but Saved America, September 11, 1777. *It was chosen for the 2015 American Revolution Round Table of Richmond Book Award.*

Mr. Harris is certified in secondary education and teaches in the Philadelphia region, where he lives with his wife, Michelle, and son, Nathanael. He wrote the following article for the Drumbeat, *adapted from his book.*

Until recently, Americans have been more interested in battlefield victories than in past military mistakes. Much more time and effort has traditionally been spent, for example, in studying the American Revolution's victories at Trenton, Princeton, Saratoga, and Yorktown than in looking at the period's defeats.

The lack of study or deep interest in the September 11, 1777 battle along Brandywine Creek is perhaps a reflection of our preferred interest in victories and "turnings points." The combat along the Brandywine was neither. In fact, the Brandywine defeat has been relegated to a minor role in American historiography.

(But) this lack of attention is both wholly undeserved and rather shocking, given that more troops fought along the Brandywine (nearly 30,000) than during any other battle of the entire Revolution. Its duration of eleven hours makes it the longest single-day battle of the war, and the territory it encompassed covered more square miles (ten) than any other engagement.

"NationMakers," the Continentals at Brandywine. Painting by Howard Pyle, c. 1905.

Invariably people are surprised when they hear those three facts about Brandywine. And yet, it remains one of the least known or understood large-scale engagements of the Revolution. Most early studies of the Brandywine battle were written by area residents who over-emphasized the local role in the battle, and in so doing, developed a host of unsubstantiated "facts" that have assumed in some cases near mythological proportions.

Given that more than two centuries have passed since the battle took place, it is surprising that so little has been written about the engagement and that so much of what has been written is either wrong or myth-mongering. Well-researched histories with the fighting as the primary focus are few and far between.

Shattering the Myths

George Washington, c. 1777

Many factors come into play that make relating this part of the war difficult. The lead up to the battle, as well as the fighting that took place on both fronts, was complex. Many of the records for both sides are either missing or were never compiled in the first place. This is especially true for the Continental Army. Also, the lack of attention by historians and writers from outside the region allowed locals through the centuries to develop and embellish stories that we now know are either but partially true or are complete myths spun from whole cloth.

Sir William Howe, c. 1777

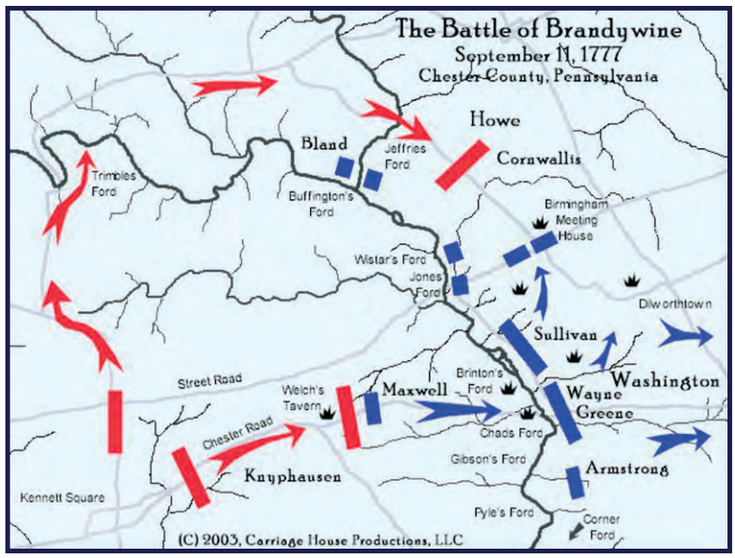
Despite years of neglect, Brandywine deserves thoughtful study. George Washington's retreat from the battlefield did not end the fighting for the city of Philadelphia, though that battle proved to be the major engagement of the Philadelphia Campaign. Apart from the control of Philadelphia, what did the fighting and bloodshed waged in the rolling hills of the Brandywine River valley mean to the Patriot cause?

"Notwithstanding we gave the Enemy the ground," wrote Gen. Nathanael Greene, "the purchase has been at much blood, this being by far the greatest loss they have met with since the commencement of the War. From the circumstances and from several accounts of people that has seen the field of action," Greene continued, "there must have been a terrible carnage among his [Howe's] troops. I expect the next action to ruin Mr. How totally." While a number of officers remained hopeful that overall strategic conditions would improve, several realized that tactical mistakes had been made that day. Washington knew almost immediately what had gone wrong.

"Unfortunately the intelligence received of the enemy's advancing up the Brandywine, and crossing at a ford about six miles above us, was uncertain and contradictory," he wrote John Hancock, "notwithstanding all my pains to get the best."

One of the harshest critics of the army's performance was Timothy Pickering, Washington's own adjutant general. "I observed no original orders from the General [Washington]," Pickering claimed, "but that whatever orders were given, they appeared to be in answer to leading questions."

Pickering later detailed three lessons from the battle. First, the ground should have been thoroughly scouted. The army was in place in plenty of time to have learned of all the fords and roads to the north. Next, quality maps of the potential battlefield should have been prepared. Lastly, men well acquainted with the region should have been procured ahead of time and "not be sought for just at the critical moment when you want them." Each of his conclusions can be read as a criticism of the army's commander.



A Counter to Pickering

Despite Pickering's criticism, many British and Hessian officers expressed praise for the Continental effort and Washington's management of the battle. American disposition and use of terrain impressed

PHOTO BY ROBERT JAMES.

Brandywine Battlefield at Sandy Hallow

grenadier John Peebles. The Continentals, he observed, were "drawn out & posted to the greatest advantage, on all the high grounds from the North side Shades's ford to the westwd.of Dilworth Village (a space of 4 miles)." British soldier Gilbert Purdy felt "the Rebels stood considerable a Smart Battle more than usual."

Even William Howe's aide, Capt. von Muenchhausen, praised the American effort: "As far as I can tell, Washington executed a masterpiece of strategy today by sending columns from his right to his left wing in the beginning. . . . Soon after this, Washington withdrew from his left wing. . . . All this was done with great speed and especially good order."

Regardless of their impressions of the Continental Army and Washington, many British officers were equally impressed with Howe's strategy that day. Von Muenchhausen had nothing but praise for his commanding officer: "We all admire the strong and unexpected march of General Howe, and the special bravery, which the English showed in the battle, and I am convinced that everyone in Europe would admire General Howe if they were as familiar with all of the obstacles he faces, as we are."

However, some British officers believed Howe let an opportunity slip through his grasp. "Had General Howe set out two hours earlier, or marched faster," asserted Hessian officer Capt. Johann Ewald, "Washington's army would have been caught between two fires." Ewald continued: "[S]everal good friends from headquarters assured me that this mistake was caused by the guides, who had declared the route shorter than we found it to be."

Ewald, though, thought otherwise about this: "I conclude that the slow march of the left column took place with all deliberation, so that the American army would not be destroyed to pay a fresh compliment to the Opposition Party, and to bring forth a new proposal." Ewald was referring to the Howe brothers' peace proposal to the Americans earlier in the war.

Distilling the Truth

Everyone agrees Washington suffered a tactical defeat along the Brandywine. Despite having been defeated and outmaneuvered by Howe at least five times prior to September 1777 (Long Island, White Plains, Short Hills, Cooch's Bridge, and along Red Clay Creek), Washington was somehow unprepared to face him at the Brandywine. Howe's tactical success was more the result of Washington's failure to learn from his mistakes than of the English commander's brilliance.

PHOTO BY JAN MACNEILL.

Lafayette's Sycamore, Gilpin House, Chadds Ford.

Still, the young Continental Army that would mature that winter at Valley Forge fought remarkably well. Maxwell's newly formed light infantry brigade conducted the difficult delaying action during the morning as Washington requested. The three divisions that shifted to the right flank (Stephen, Lord Stirling, and Sullivan) quickly found good defensive ground on Birmingham Hill. They defended it well until Sullivan's command on the left under de Borre was caught by the British out of position (more by luck than design) and broken. Outmanned and then outflanked, the remaining defenders were driven away.

That evening, Nathanael Greene's division outside Dilworth, and Anthony Wayne's command on the American left, stood against heavy numbers and held the roads to Chester open for the army. Given the circumstances, the Continentals did their job about as well as anyone could have expected.

The fact is, both sides blundered. The most obvious failure experienced by the American army was its intelligence-gathering operation by the light dragoons and militiamen. The army also lacked local scouts, and there was no one to provide interpretation of intelligence once it was received.

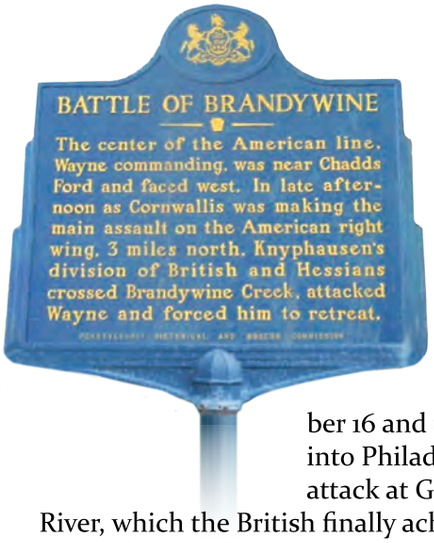
Washington's inability to gather reliable information about the region in which he was operating haunted him all day. Knowledge of the fords and other terrain features could have made the difference. In this regard, Washington failed the army; the army did not fail Washington.

By contrast, despite operating in hostile territory, Howe's army succeeded in getting all the information it needed to achieve its main goal of flanking the American army and driving into its rear:

- The veteran British and Hessian soldiers under Howe's command performed brilliantly—they did all that was asked of them;
- General Knyphausen's column created the diversion that confused Washington into thinking he was facing the entire British army opposite Chads's Ford; and
- The men comprising Cornwallis's division not only completed a grueling flank march, but went on to fight and crush an American line holding a formidable position.

Any mistakes by Howe's men resulted from a lack of mounted troops. Effective mounted scouting at the end of the day, for example, would have prevented the 2nd Grenadier Battalion and Agnew's 4th British Brigade from marching into the metal cul-de-sac Greene had waiting for them outside Dilworth.

Furthermore, the lack of light dragoons prevented Knyphausen from effectively pursuing the routed Continentals when darkness fell. Finally, the overall lack of pursuit that allowed Washington's army to escape virtually intact was the direct result of a lack of fast-moving cavalry.



Howe's Fateful Decision

Although Howe could claim winning the battle, his actions forfeited what might have been a British victory in the war. By departing New York for Philadelphia in the summer of 1777, he abandoned the government's campaign that called for him to move up the Hudson Valley to converge with armies under General John Burgoyne and Col. St. Leger.

London had hoped the combined forces would be enough to take control of the Hudson and divide the Colonies, effectively isolating Washington's army. Instead, his move wasted resources and prolonged the war.

After September 11, 1777, the next months would witness several actions large and small. After the aborted affair known as the Battle of the Clouds on September 16 and the small but bloody massacre at Paoli four days later, Howe marched his army into Philadelphia unopposed on September 26. In October, Washington launched a daring attack at Germantown, but was beaten back. Then came the struggle to control the Delaware River, which the British finally achieved in November.

Washington lost the capital city, but his entire strategy that year was to make sure the Continental Army lived to fight another day. In that, he was successful. And in doing so, he further battle-tested his army and preserved it.

Meanwhile, the war took what many considered a decisive turn that October when General Burgoyne's army marching south into New York from Canada was trapped and surrendered at Saratoga. The news convinced the French the American cause was indeed viable, and they entered an alliance with the colonists.

As far as Howe was concerned, the justification for not supporting Burgoyne was the importance and psychological impact of capturing Philadelphia. Besides not caring for Burgoyne, Howe was clearly wrong in his strategic assessment of controlling Philadelphia. The inordinate amount of time it took to seize the city, and the circuitous route chosen to accomplish that feat, guaranteed there would be no support for Burgoyne. Furthermore, the important American supply centers at Reading, Lancaster, and York were never captured. Worst of all for the British, the promised uprising by Pennsylvania Loyalists never came to fruition.

After all that effort and bloodshed, Howe concluded the war could not be won as it was currently being waged and tendered his resignation that October with the explanation that his policies had not been sufficiently supported to warrant remaining in command. London accepted it the following April.

Howe was replaced by Lt. Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, and returned to England. The focus of British policy shifted to the Southern colonies, which in turn required the abandonment of Philadelphia in the spring of 1778. Clinton marched his army across New Jersey back to New York City, fighting along the way the bitterly contested, but ultimately inconclusive, combat at Monmouth on June 28.

With the victory at Saratoga, the promise of economic and military support from France, and the failure of the British to win the war when they could (and should) have, American independence was well on the way to becoming reality.

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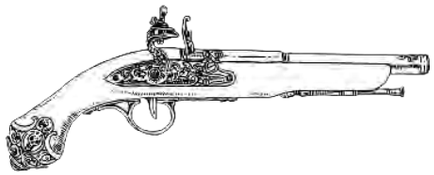


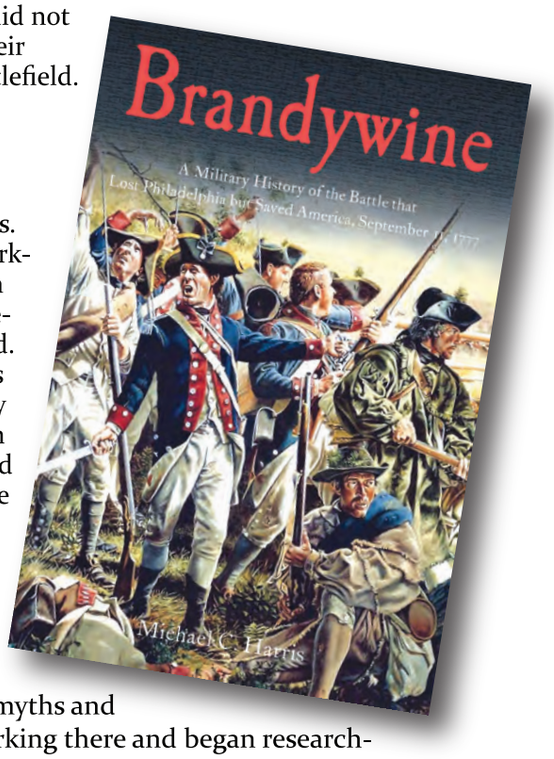
An Interview with Author Mike Harris

Q: What made you first take an interest in the Brandywine battle?

A: It depends on how you look at this. I grew up not far from the battlefield and remember driving by the park when I was younger. However, my deep interest in the battle probably did not start until around 2002, when I began working for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, three years before I transferred to the Brandywine Battlefield itself.

Q: Which came first for you—exploring the area of the battle or reading and/or hearing about it first?

A: For me, it would be reading and hearing about the battle first. I really did not start exploring the area in depth or talking to landowners about access to their properties until after 2005 when I became the museum educator for the battlefield.



Q: Describe how you have become so familiarized with the actual battleground area.

A: It has been a long process. The park used to sell these driving tour maps. I probably went around the park initially with one of these after I started working there. I quickly realized that brochure was inadequate and inaccurate in many instances. About the same time, a British engineer's map of the battlefield was discovered in England and copy of it was acquired by the battlefield. I spent many a day driving the area with that map and talking to landowners around the state park. Ultimately, however, I started combining the primary source accounts with the engineer map and walking the ground with both in hand. I have also been very lucky since the book was released. It has allowed me to meet more property owners and walk even more restricted areas of the battlefield.

Q: What gave you the inspiration to write a book about it, and how much research went into it?

A: The process began when I was working at the park. There was very little written about the battle and most of what was out there was full of myths and inaccuracies. I began working on my master's degree while I was still working there and began researching and writing about specific aspects of the battle during that process. After I was furloughed from the park, I wrote my master's thesis on the tactics of the battle. Once I finished my master's, I realized I had a piles of research that I never used for my master's and decided to pursue any publisher interest in a book length treatment of the battle. Overall, I would say there is about eight years of research that went into the book.

Q: What points do you hope readers will take away from reading the book?

A: I hope that people realize that you do not need to use unsubstantiated stories and myths to tell history. The documented history of the Battle of Brandywine is just as fascinating and a great story in itself.

Q: As you wrote the manuscript, who were your targeted readers?

A: I would say everyone. The text of the book flows and is easily readable for anyone. However, for those scholarly readers out there, the book is for them as well. The book is full of footnotes with additional detail and several appendices for the more than average reader.

Q: Does it concern you how little Americans today know of, or even care about, the Revolution?

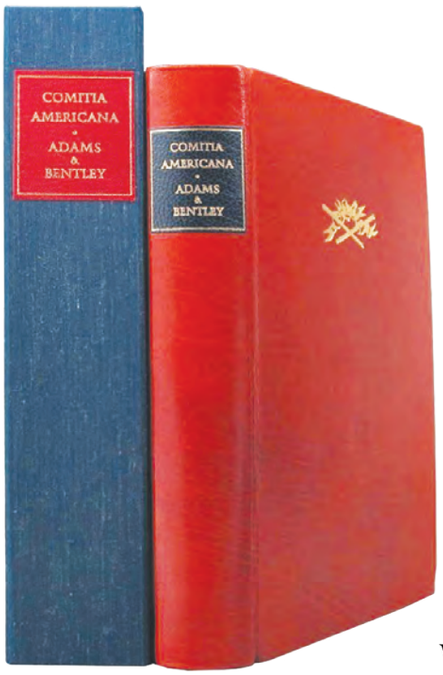
A: The simple answer is yes. I think history has been pushed to the back burner in our schools, and many young people today graduate from high school without any true understanding of our nation's history. That is sad. Many issues our government struggles with today have roots in our past, including the American Revolution.

The Comitia Americana Medals:

Maj. John Stewart

"Commander of the Company/Stoney-Point Assaulted"

By James Rhodes, SRNY Member



The following continues our series of articles on the Comitia Americana medals and others closely related. The late-eighteenth century Congressional medals were approved, designed, and struck to honor primarily ten Revolutionary War heroes, including Maj. John Stewart, subject of the present article. However, the project languished over a period of several years and fizzled before it was properly completed. As a result, today's extant copies are valuable tokens for their historical significance and rarity.

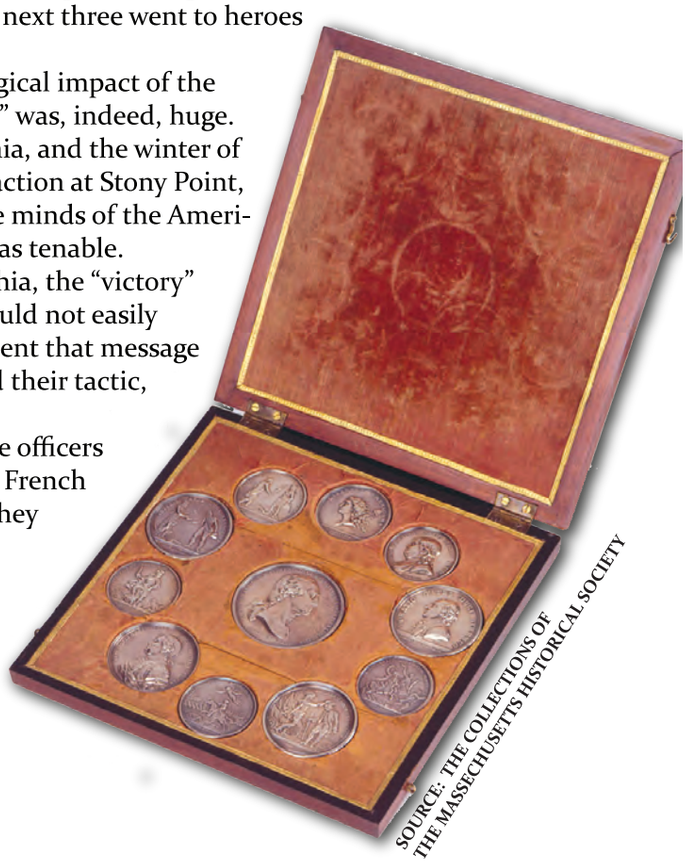
The text of these articles is largely excerpted from the 2007 book, Comitia Americana and Related Medals: Underappreciated Monuments to Our Heritage, by John W. Adams and Anne E. Bentley, with permission from their publisher, George Frederick Kolbe of Crestline, California.

Today, we can look back on these Revolutionary-era Congressional medals and appreciate the prevailing national sentiment at the time of their issue. The first medal, obviously, went to George Washington. The second to Horatio Gates (Saratoga). The next three went to heroes of the assault on Stony Point.

Why Stony Point? The psychological impact of the successful Patriot assault on "Little Gibraltar" was, indeed, huge. After the tactical mistake at Brandywine and the loss of Philadelphia, and the winter of despair at Valley Forge, Washington needed another big win. The action at Stony Point, perhaps even more than the Battle of Monmouth, reinforced in the minds of the American soldiers and the public at large that beating the British army was tenable.

From the point of view of Congressmen convening in Philadelphia, the "victory" sent a tremendous tactical message to the enemy: the Redcoats would not easily sweep down the Hudson Valley and divide the Colonies. Saratoga sent that message initially, but Stony Point reinforced it—such that the Brits changed their tactic, abandoned the northern colonies, and headed south.

It is no wonder, then, that Congress awarded three medals to the officers who advanced the Stony Point assault: Brig. Gen. Anthony Wayne, French Capt. Francois-Louis Teissedre de Fleury, and Maj. John Stewart. They possibly saved America!



SOURCE: THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MASSECHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Stewart's Role

Following Sir Henry Clinton's amassing of 6,000 British troops at Kingsbridge, New York, for an apparent offensive on West Point, "key to the Continent," Washington and Wayne planned a three-prong assault to take control of the British-held fortress at Stony Point, about fourteen miles downriver from West Point.

The light infantry, some 1,150 men who had trained at Valley Forge under the Baron Friedrich Von Stuben, would divide into two columns to storm opposite sides of the fortress using only their bayonets. A center detachment under Major Hardy Murfree would feign a frontal assault firing their muskets.

Maj. Stewart was placed in charge of 150 advance guards on the left column, immediately behind twenty "Forlorn Hope" volunteers led by Lieutenant James Gibbons, of the 6th Pennsylvania. The volunteers were charged with cutting through the extensive abatis so that the army could pass through and attack.

Stewart, by the nature of his command, was one of the first to surmount the steep bank and outer walls of the fortress on the left side. His counterpart on the right side was de Fleury. Stewart's attacking column charged into the north side of the fortifications within seconds of de Fleury's detachment on the south side. The ferocity of the bayonet-wielding Light Infantry on both sides proved too much for the British defenders, who surrendered.

In the *Comitia Americana* book, John W. Adams and Anne E. Bentley write, "Today one can scarcely imagine the tenacity of the troops and the leadership skills of the officers in overcoming great physical obstacles while under fire from both musket and cannon, themselves armed only with bayonets. In the words of General Wayne: 'Too much praise cannot be given to Lt. Col. Fleury (who struck the enemy's standard with his own hand) and to Major Stewart, who commanded the advance parties, for their brave and prudent conduct.'

"For its part, Congress met on July 26 and 'Resolved, unanimously, that Lt. Col. Fleury and Major Stewart, who by their situation in leading the two attacks had a more immediate opportunity of distinguishing themselves, have by their personal achievements exhibited a bright example to their brother soldiers, and merit in a particular manner the approbation and acknowledgement of the United States.'"

Biographical Highlights

John Stewart was born on February 8, 1753, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. His mother, Ann Harris Stewart, was from nearby Calvert County, and his father, Stephen, was a shipyard owner and officer in the Colonial Navy in Annapolis. He had an older sister, Sarah, and a younger brother, Stephen, both of whom later married and had children.

John served throughout the Revolution, in campaigns near and far. "First commissioned a lieutenant in the 5th Independent Company of the Maryland militia on January 2, 1776, Stewart was made a captain of the 2nd Regiment on December 10, 1776, advancing to major on April 17, 1777."

Later that year, he formed part of a raid on Staten Island under General Sullivan. It is said he and his men became trapped there, and rather than risk sacrificing his men he affixed a white handkerchief on the end of his sword and surrendered himself to the Brits so that his men could escape unharmed. A report in the *Maryland Journal* related how Maj. Stewart walked over to the enemy "as cool as if he had been going to shake hands with a friend."

On February 19, 1781, Stewart was promoted to Lt. Col. in the 1st Maryland Regiment. This happened a month before that unit played a pivotal role at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. He was further promoted to Commander of that regiment on May 9, 1781. The 1st Maryland served at Yorktown, where he concluded his combat career.

At the time of the British surrender, he was just twenty-seven years old. It seemed the promise of many years lay ahead of him. However, Maj. Stewart died young and unexpectedly, the victim of a horse-riding accident in late March 1783. He had just turned thirty years old two months beforehand.

The accident occurred in Charleston, S.C., while he was on his way to see Col. William Washington. His horse lost its footing, which caused him to be pitched off the animal. He landed on his head and broke his neck. As he had not had the chance to marry and have offspring, his hereditary membership in the Society of the Cincinnati passed down through children of his siblings.

"Doomed to relative obscurity by his premature death in 1783," Adams and Bentley conclude, "John Stewart and his heroic exploit are made timeless by the medium of the medal."

The Medal

It's been said in this series that Benjamin Franklin was an abject failure as an administrator of the *Comitia Americana* medals. He proved so again and again. "Charged with procuring all of the medals ordered by Congress, Benjamin Franklin began with the medal voted to Lt. Col. Fleury. In a total misunderstanding of the medal-making process, Franklin assumed that the completion of one set of Stony Point dies [for de Fleury] equated to the completion of all three [for Stewart and Wayne, too]."

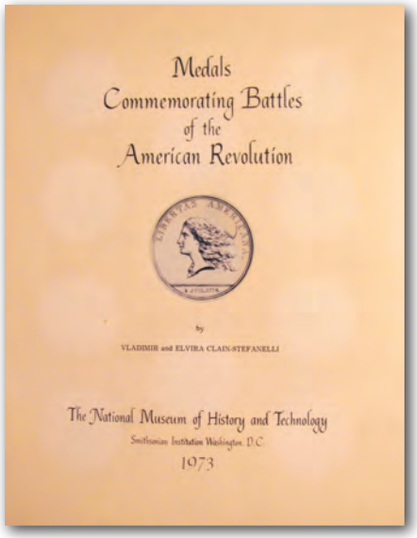
He thought that when de Fleury's medal was cast, the other medals would be cast at the first opportunity. But... "that opportunity would not come for another four years, when Henry Laurens transported them to Philadelphia."

A comparatively economical solution to modify the de Fleury die cast was attempted and rejected as unacceptable, hence Thomas Jefferson ordered new dies to be created for Maj. Stewart, Gen. Wayne, and Daniel Morgan in the spring of 1789. Those dies were not delivered to the United States until 1793.

Stewart, of course, had succumbed a decade earlier. His medal was given to his father, and by none other than George Washington himself. In a letter to Stephen Stewart, Washington wrote: "Sir: You will receive with this [letter] a medal struck by order of the late Congress in communication of the much-approved conduct of your Son in the assault of Stoney Point, and was to have been presented to him as a mark of the high sense which his Country entertained of his services on that occasion.

"This Medal was put into my hands by Mr. Jefferson and it is with singular pleasure that I now transmit it to you, as it must afford some pleasing consolation, when reflecting on the loss of a worthy Son. I am, etc., (Signed) George Washington, March 25, 1790, New York."

Stewart's medal was designed by Nicolas Marie Gatteaux, a Frenchman who designed several in the series. The obverse side shows Stewart standing with America, personified by an Indian queen, who is presenting him a palm branch. A quiver is at her back; her left hand is resting on the American shield, and at her feet is an alligator couchant, symbolic of a great warrior capable of ferocious attack. The legend in Latin reads, JOANNI STEWART COHORTIS PRAEFECTO (John Stewart Company Commander).



The device on the reverse side is infinitely more detailed. The fortress is on an eminence. In the foreground, Stewart is cheering on his men, who are following him over abatis with charged bayonets, the enemy flying. Two columns of tiny soldiers ascend both sides of the cliffs on which the fort is perched.

To the right of Stewart, British troops with arms raised in surrender; behind Stewart, a row of American soldiers and, to the rear of the Americans, several standards. The legend reads, STONEY-POINT OPPUGNATUM (Stoney-Point Assaulted).

Its Provenance

The John Stewart medal in any form is a great rarity, Adams and Bentley assert. The award medal came down in the family through the McSherry branch, where it was last reported in 1897. It may have been given to the Society of the Cincinnati or may not have been. Apparently it has been misplaced.

The Massachusetts Historical Society owns a silver and a white metal copy of the Stewart medal. The Kunsthistoriches Museum in Vienna also owns a silver copy. Apparently, one collector in the Mid-Atlantic region has a bronze copy. Those are the only known copies that were reported.

For the most part, the demand for Stewart medals among collectors has been satisfied by casts. "These are regularly encountered," the authors contend, "although few are of high quality."

GSSR Headquarters
412 Francis Street West
Williamsburg, VA 23185

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