



# The SONS DRUMBEAT

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*Publication of the General Society Sons of the Revolution*



# National Chronicles

## In Remembrance

### *A Gentleman, Scientist, and Educator Extraordinaire*

**Dr. James Boyer Ebert, Sr.**

1924 - 2021



*Dr. James Boyer Ebert, Sr.*

The General Society Sons of the Revolution gives its condolences to the family and friends of Dr. James Boyer Ebert, Sr., of Lumberton, N.C., who died on Sunday, May 23, 2021. Jim was a Life Member of the Sons of the Revolution and had held offices continuously from 1988 to 2009. In 2000 he was elected President of the SRNC, then was appointed Region 3 General Vice President (2003-2006). He also served as Scholarship Chairman for the NCSR for eleven years.

Born on July 1, 1924, in Ashland, New Jersey, he graduated from Haddonfield Memorial High School and served in the U.S. Army Air Forces (predecessor to the U.S.A.F.) during World War II. After the war, he received a Bachelor's degree in Forestry from Louisiana State University and practiced forestry in Virginia and North Carolina for seven years. He then received a Master's degree in Botany from Duke.

He joined the faculty of Pembroke State College in 1956 as a professor of biology. He taught there for nearly fifty years and saw its transition from a college into a university (University of North Carolina-Pembroke). Although Jim retired as a full professor in 1989, he continued teaching as an instructor through 2003. Dr. Ebert, as he was later known, was recognized by the Presidents and Deans of American Colleges and Universities in 1964-1965, named Outstanding Educator of America in 1974, nominated for Distinguished Professor Award in 1985, 1988, and 1989, elected Professor Emeritus in 1990.

An article appearing in the local newspaper, *The Robesonian*, shortly after his death included remembrances of him by faculty and former students. "He loved working at the university and loved teaching," said Lisa Kelly, professor of ecology. "He said we (professors) had the best jobs in the world. Dr. Ebert was a pillar of the department."

The GSSR honored him with the Patrick Henry Award, the Society's highest honor for service. Aside from his membership in the Sons, Jim held memberships in the St. Andrews Society of North Carolina, the Society of Colonial Wars, and the SAR. He was also active in the Trinity Episcopal Church, Friends of the Robeson County Public Library, and the Lumberton Rotary Club. He is survived by his wife of seventy years, Eleanor, a daughter, Nancy Gray; a son, James Ebert Jr., and their families. A private memorial service was planned.



*Administration building, UNC-Pembroke.*





*Dr. Laurence S. Simpson*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## A Message of Hope

Today I am going to give you a Biology lesson after seeing a graph of the coronavirus recently on the Internet. One of the many science courses I took in college as a pre-med major was microbiology, which is the study of microorganisms and their diseases.

It turns out that if you study the progress of bacterial and viral diseases in populations of organisms, they follow a distinct pattern called a normal distribution, or “Bell Curve.” In the beginning stages when a bacteria or virus infects a population, it starts slow but rapidly rises (logarithmic growth phase) to eventually reach a peak. Since we are dealing with finite numbers, after the peak is reached, we enter into a steep decrease (logarithmic death phase) of infected individuals—since there are fewer hosts who have not yet had the disease or built immunity to it. After something called herd immunity is reached, the disease all but disappears.

In terms of the current pandemic, this knowledge brings hope because it appears that we reached peak in January and are well into the downside of the curve. We will need to watch the Delta variant carefully, but hopefully by fall, all of this will become a distant memory and we can move on with our lives.

During this pandemic, your GSSR has not been idle. Presently we have most of the planning completed for the upcoming Triennial in Boston. We have not seen each other personally for a long time. Now is the time to start thinking about planning your trip to Boston. If you log onto the SRMA website, you will find information about the hotel as well as the schedule for the Meeting. You can even register for the Meeting online if you wish. I am hopeful to personally meet and greet all of you there.

Dr. Laurence Simpson  
General President

*Old North Church,  
Boston Massachusetts*





Join us at the  
**2021  
Triennial**

Boston, Massachusetts  
September 30-October 3, 2021

The Massachusetts Society welcomes you to Boston in the Fall of 2021. The 44th Triennial Meeting of the General Society Sons of the Revolution will be hosted in the historic Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. Built in 1912, the Copley Plaza is a true landmark in the heart of Boston's Back Bay. With elegant ballrooms, fine dining, and spectacular decor, the hotel is located on Copley Plaza adjacent to the Boston Public Library and Trinity Church.

The hotel is also just steps away from some of the city's top private clubs, restaurants, and shops. We are within walking distance of the Boston Public Garden, and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. The NEHGS will welcome attendees who are interested in exploring family history.

For Reservations at the  
Fairmont Copley Plaza  
Hotel:

Call (866) 540-4417 and  
mention "GSSR Triennial"  
to receive discounted rate  
\$299/night

For Triennial Meeting  
attendance reservations:

Please visit  
<https://srmass.org/triennial2021/>

Scroll to bottom of page to  
complete the electronic  
registration form.

\$450 per person







Triennial Speaker  
Brenton Simons





# 44th Triennial Meeting

## Agenda

### Thursday, September 30, 2021

- 3:00 - 5:30 pm—Meeting Registration, Hotel Lobby
- 6:00 pm—Bus transport to Boston Athenaeum
- 6:30 - 8:30 pm— PSSR Color Guard Reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres at Boston Athenaeum
- 8:30 pm—Bus transportation from Boston Athenaeum to Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel

### Friday, October 1, 2021

- 7:30 - 9:00 am—Continental Breakfast, Fairmont Copley Plaza (for delegates and guests)
- 8:00 - 10:30 am—Meeting Registration, Venetian Room
- 9:00 - 12 noon—Business Session, Oval Room
- \* 11:00 am - 1:30 pm—Spouses/Guests Luncheon, the Chilton Club. Within walking distance from hotel. Dress Code applies. After lunch, a stroll along Newbury Street, noted for exquisite shops and spas,
- 12 noon - 1 pm—Delegates Lunch, St Botolph Club
- 2 pm—Buses leave for The Wayside Inn, in Sudbury
- 5:30 pm—Cider reception at The Wayside Inn, Longfellow Memorial Garden
- 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm—Dinner at The Wayside Inn
- 9:15 pm—Bus transport from Sudbury back to Hotel
- 10:00 - 12 midnight—Hospitality Suite, Hotel

### Saturday, October 2, 2021

- 7:30 - 9:00 am—Continental Breakfast, Fairmont Copley Plaza (for delegates and guests)
- 8:00 - 10:30 am—Meeting Registration, Venetian Room
- 9:00 - 12 noon—Business Session, Oval Room
- 10 am - 12 noon—Spouses/Guests Historical Tour, at a historical site (TBD) within walking distance from hotel.
- 12:15 - 12:45 pm—GSSR Necrology Service
- 12:45 - 6:00 pm—Free time, lunch on your own.
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm—Cocktail Reception, Ballroom Foyer
- 7:00 - 11:00 pm—Gala Dinner & Awards Presentation (White Tie/Black Tie), Grand Ballroom
- 7:05 pm—Presentation of the Colors, PSSR Color Guard, Grand Ballroom

The evening's Guest Speaker is D. Brenton Simons, President/CEO of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Consultant, Author, Member of the GSSR and The Society of the Cincinnati, among others, and a Cabinet Member of the Hereditary Society Community of the United States.

### Sunday, October 3, 2021

- 9:45 am—Optional church service at Trinity Church Boston, across from the hotel.
- 11:00 am—Farewell Sherry served in the GSSR Hospitality Suite

### Triennial Meeting Registration

Please register for attendance by visiting  
<https://srmass.org/triennial2021/>.

Scroll to bottom of the page to complete the registration form.

Cost of attendance is \$450 per person, members and guests.

Payment info included in the electronic form.

### Post Triennial Fall Foliage Experience

As a paid delegate of the Triennial, you will be in the heart of New England during Peak Fall Foliage season. After the conclusion of the Meeting, we are offering members and guests an excursion to enjoy the region's beautiful autumn colors. Cost for this excursion is available upon request. For more information, contact CL Sigmon, Assistant to the General President, 757-358-3884.



# Society of '83 Donation Dollars at Work

A show of gratitude is in order to all members who have contributed to the Society of '83. Thanks to these contributors, the General Society has been able to fund or partially fund crucial projects that face the public and are supportive of our mission. These projects range from museum exhibits, monuments, and historical signage to a new website for the GSSR, among other things.

One prime example is the revitalized exhibit, "The Unfinished Revolution," opening on August 18th at the Maryland Center for History and Culture in Baltimore. The exhibition will explore the connections between the American Revolution and the War of 1812, telling the full story of America's rise as an independent nation. After independence, the young United States fought for trading rights in wars with Britain and France. By viewing historical documents, paintings, and cultural objects, visitors will gain insights into the economic growth of Maryland and the nation at large during this period.

Up the coast in New York City, at the Fraunces Tavern Museum, Society of '83 monies have been used to support the permanent exhibit, "To the Beat

of Their Own Drums: American Regimental Flags of the Revolutionary War." In this exhibition, visitors learn about the history and iconography behind a selection of regimental flags flown in the Continental Army. Various images from hornets to hand grenades were sewn into the flags and speak to the bravery and courage of the men in these regiments.

In another museum project, the GSSR has supported the Great Bridge Historical Park Museum & Visitor Center, located just south of Norfolk, Virginia. The Center has been open to the public for just over a year. The donation puts the Sons into the Museum's "1775 Society" membership class. Any member of the SR will now receive free admission into the museum.

On a historical note, the Battle of Great Bridge was the first Revolutionary War battle fought in Virginia, occurring south of Norfolk along the Great Road on December 9, 1775. It consisted of a stand-off and intermittent skirmishing lasting eleven days before ending in a heated showdown of thirty minutes for control of the bridge. During the short battle, Patriot militia routed a unit of the 14th Regiment of Foot. The Americans gained control of a crucial supply route for materials and foodstuffs into and out of Norfolk. As a result, the Redcoats were cut-off and were forced to abandon Norfolk harbor, one of the best deep-water ports of the Atlantic seaboard.



COURTESY SRNY



Revolutionary War regimental flags and early American flags on exhibit at the Fraunces Tavern. Photo courtesy SRNY.

COURTESY SRNY





COURTESY GSSR

Above, the Great Bridge Visitors Center & Museum opened in Norfolk in 2020. Below, CL Sigmon presents the GSSR donation to Executive Director Elizabeth Goodwin.

## Other Uses

Aside from the above, Society of '83 funds were used in providing earlier seed money to the Ohio Society. The funds have supported a future memorial to scores of Revolutionary War veterans buried at the Pickens Chapel Cemetery near Central, S.C. To have so many veterans of the Revolution buried together in mid-state South Carolina is a rare occurrence, indeed. The funds are also being used to support the installation of a Purple Heart Teardrop Memorial in Falmouth, KY, in homage to all veterans of that area in Appalachia.

Brothers Alvin and John Mountjoy were two Revolutionary-era soldiers from the Falmouth vicinity. Alvin was a lieutenant in the 3rd Virginia under Capt. William Washington. He participated in the battles of Princeton, Brandywine, and Germantown. After the war, he was on a committee of three that determined the original site of the Bourbon County (KY) Court-house. The Alvin Mountjoy log cabin, built c. 1790, is Falmouth's oldest standing residence.

Donations to the Society of '83 have also enabled intra-regional events among State Societies. Region 3 General Vice President Ivan Bennett has been instrumental in coordinating regional events between the Carolinas and Georgia, for example, utilizing funds earmarked for such purposes. The presence of the greater number of members at these events makes an even more positive impression on the public.

For one such regional event, during the Memorial Day weekend, Ivan and his wife, Susan, traveled to Savannah, Georgia, for a reception held by the GA-SR to welcome Drumbeat editor David Swafford and his wife, Lucy, to Savannah. Apart from mingling with

Governor General William Allerton III  
The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America

General President Laurence Simpson  
General Society Sons of the Revolution

Invite you to celebrate George Washington's Birthday  
with a virtual presentation entitled:

**AMERICA'S MATCHLESS MAN:  
THE LEADERSHIP OF GEORGE WASHINGTON**

Presented by renowned George Washington scholar  
Peter Henriques Ph.D.,  
Professor Emeritus at George Mason University.

February 22, 2021, at 8 PM EST

Join Presentation via Zoom at:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89493131939>  
Meeting ID: 894 9313 1939



Georgia Society members and guests mingle at the Savannah Yacht Club during Memorial Day weekend.

COURTESY GA-SR





## Purple Heart

MY STONE IS RED FOR  
THE BLOOD THEY SHED.  
THE MEDAL I BEAR  
IS MY COUNTRY'S WAY  
TO SHOW THEY CARE.  
IF I COULD BE SEEN  
BY ALL MANKIND  
MAYBE PEACE WILL  
COME IN MY LIFETIME.

Georgia Society members, Swafford visited Savannah to hold meetings with Drumbeat graphic designer Rick Ross and Drumbeat printer representative Chip Grayson.

In addition to in-person meetings, Society of '83 contributions have also supported remote events. On Washington's Birthday, the Sons of the Revolution and the Order of the Founders & Patriots jointly sponsored a Zoom presentation on Washington's leadership qualities. The lecture was given by Dr. Peter Henriques, author and professor emeritus at George Mason University. His talk afterward received many positive comments.

In further developments, given the dire need for civics education in schools across the country, the GSSR has shown support for an educational program developed by the Hon. Douglas H. Ginsburg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The curriculum is for grades 7-12 and is based on Judge Ginsburg's highly-rated PBS miniseries, "More or Less a Perfect Union." Additional information about this curriculum will be featured in the next Drumbeat.



Hon. Douglas H. Ginsburg

KPBS.ORG

## Website and Scanning

Funds from the Society of '83 have also been utilized for developing a new GSSR website. The website (<https://sr1776.org/>) is up and running, although it is still in development stages. Members can now access a "members-only" section.

**To access the Members-Only section of the GSSR website:**  
**Username—Your GSSR Number**  
**Password—Your surname, first letter capitalized**

SR merchandise may be ordered and paid for online from within the members-only section, and registration and payment for SR events may now be completed online as well.

In addition to the new website, the digitizing of historical membership applications continues to proceed, thanks to funding from the Society of '83. This was one of the first initiatives undertaken utilizing those monies. Sharon Toms was contracted to perform the scanning. In the beginning, there were eighty-nine boxes of applications to scan. As of late June, Sharon had completed forty-nine of them (exceeding 25,000 applications). She quickly discovered they contain varying numbers of applications, with some having 300 but others having up to 700, depending.

Her work includes comparing name spellings and membership numbers on each application to the corresponding information in the General Registrar's database. If she finds a discrepancy in the database, she notifies Jefferson Moak. For every application, she creates a new cover sheet with membership numbers clearly visible. The e-files (scans) are then placed into digital folders organized by State Society, and the applications are stored again in a climate-controlled vault.

As a result of all of the above progress being made on multiple fronts, General President Laurence S. Simpson will give special recognition to Society of '83 contributors at the Boston Triennial later this year. It is hoped all members will be inspired by these activities and will consider donating funds to the Society of '83.--Editor





# THE “SOCIETY OF ‘83”

## Names by Alphabetical Order



<i>Ivan Bennett</i>	SC	\$3,000
<i>Mitchell Bush</i>	GA	\$1,000
<i>Buzz Carmichael</i>	KY	\$1,000
<i>Charles D. Carroll</i>	EU	\$29,000
<i>T. Jeffrey Clarke</i>	NJ	\$1,020
<i>Roger Coursey</i>	GA	\$1,000
<i>John M. Daniel</i>	VA	\$2,000
<i>David Dickey, Esq</i>	GA	\$1,000
<i>James F. Foster</i>	MN	\$1,000
<i>Brian Gill</i>	NY	\$1,300
<i>Peter J. Gulden, III, Esq</i>	FL	\$1,150
<i>Frank J. Hardeman, III</i>	GA	\$1,000
<i>S. Duffield Hopkins, III</i>	PA	\$2,000
<i>Mark Jacobowski</i>	VA	\$1,000
<i>Allen James</i>	NC	\$2,000
<i>Larry Leslie, Sr, MD</i>	KY	\$1,000
<i>J. Robert Lunney</i>	NY	\$1,000
<i>Bev Mauck</i>	VA	\$1,000
<i>William D. Parmelee</i>	FL	\$1,000
<i>Lanny R. Patten</i>	PA	\$2,000
<i>Russell Rich</i>	MD	\$1,100
<i>Charles J. Scammell</i>	NJ	\$1,100
<i>Laurence S. Simpson, DDS</i>	NY	\$1,000
<i>Jimmy Smith</i>	GA	\$1,000

**Total Gifts Since 2018 Inception  
(As of 6/30/21)**

**\$58,670.00**



# GIVING CAMPAIGN

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

—George Washington, to the Pennsylvania Legislature 12 September 1789

## THE "SOCIETY OF '83"

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

By giving \$1,000, \$10,000 or \$20,000 Gifts may be made in one payment or in installments



### **\$1,000 - \$9,999\* (Lieutenant Level)**

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



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

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



### **\$20,000 or more\* (General Level)**

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

## *What will your gift accomplish?*

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

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

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

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

*\*The amount you agree to give may be paid through installments over a period of up to ten years. For example, if you pledge to give \$1,000 to the Society each year for the next ten years (a total gift of \$10,000), you would qualify for the Captain level and would receive the blue rosette jacket. All donations made to our General Society Annual Campaigns after July 1, 2015, will be counted towards your agreed-upon donation amount to the Society of '83.*

Please do not forget to inquire whether your employer matches charitable gifts. The General Society qualifies for support from most companies.

The General Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts to the General Society are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



# The General Society Sons of the Revolution

Merchandise Order Form  
Or, purchase online at [www.SR1776.org](http://www.SR1776.org)



Pocket Patch Insignia



Neck Tie



Bow Tie (To-tie)



Bow Tie (Tied)



Cummerbund



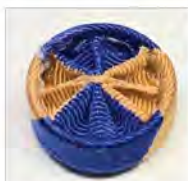
Rocks Glasses



Highball Glasses



Antique Rosette



Silk Rosette Pin



Lapel Pin Insignia



Veteran Lapel Pin

	Price	Quantity	Cost
Pocket Patch Insignia (Clutch Back) .....	\$27.50	_____	_____
Necktie (Regular Length – Silk Face) .....	\$22.00	_____	_____
Four in Hand – 80% Silk/20% Poly			
Necktie (Extra Long – Silk Face) .....	\$25.00	_____	_____
Four in Hand – 80% Silk/20% Poly			
Necktie (Regular Length – Ben Silver) .....	\$85.00	_____	_____
Four in Hand – 100% Premium Silk			
Necktie (Extra Long – Ben Silver) .....	\$95.00	_____	_____
Four in Hand – 100% Premium Silk			
Bowtie (To-tie – Silk Face) .....	\$19.00	_____	_____
80% Silk/20% Poly			
Bowtie (Ready Tied – Silk Face) .....	\$19.00	_____	_____
80% Silk/20% Poly			
Bowtie (To-tie – Ben Silver) .....	\$75.00	_____	_____
Bowtie (Ready Tied – Ben Silver) .....	\$75.00	_____	_____
Cummerbund (Silk Face) .....	\$30.00	_____	_____
80% Silk/20% Poly			
Silk Rosette Pin .....	\$15.00	_____	_____
Antique Rosette .....	\$25.00	_____	_____
Lapel Pin Insignia .....	\$10.00	_____	_____
Military Veterans Label Pin .....	\$10.00	_____	_____
Highball Glasses (Box set of 4) .....	\$60.00	_____	_____
Rocks Glasses (Box set of 4) .....	\$60.00	_____	_____
<i>Items below available only to State Secretaries and Registrars:</i>			
Narrow Ribbon – 11/16" (without certificate order) .....	\$5.50/yard	_____	_____
State Membership Certificates (includes ribbons and seals) .....	4 @ \$12.00	_____	_____
8.5" x 11" ivory paper with blue and gold ink. State and member name areas blank			
Embossed Seals – gold foil (without certificate order) .....	4 @ \$2.00	_____	_____
Prospective Member Brochures (sets of 10) .....	N/C	_____	_____

**COST**

Shipping/Handling (per address): **← SHIPPING**  
\$7 for 1 item. \$1.00 each additional item.

**TOTAL COST**

## Ordered by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Society: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City//State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ship to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Society: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City//State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

For faster service, order items online at: [www.SR1776.org](http://www.SR1776.org)

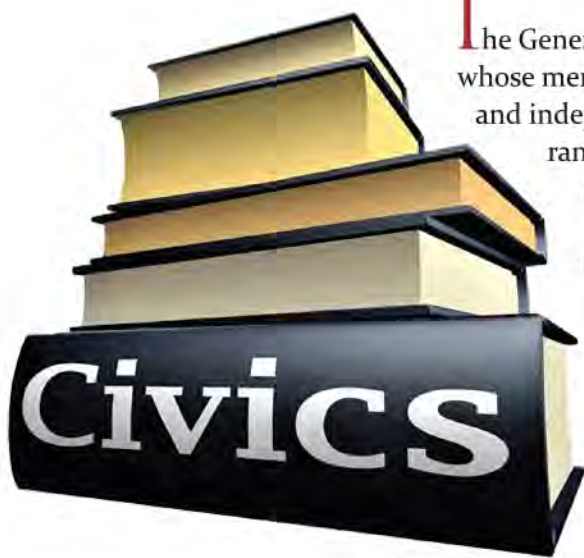
Questions? Email us at: [gssr1776@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gssr1776@sbcglobal.net)



# THE GSSR TAKES A STAND

## We Oppose the DOE's Proposal for American History & Civics Education

*The General Society submitted the following missive to the Department of Education for its consideration after the Department introduced proposed programs for American History and Civics. Along with the GSSR response, we reproduce here the proposed curriculum by the DOE.*



**T**he General Society of the Sons of the Revolution is an association of state societies whose members are direct descendants of persons who risked their lives for liberty and independence during the American Revolution. The ancestors include all ranks and types, from privates to generals, from militia to Continental Army to patriot state officials.

We preceded similar organizations, such as the Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution, and our mission, like theirs, focuses on preserving American history and education, for both young and old. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we provide education in various forms (see, e.g., [www.frauncestavernmuseum.org](http://www.frauncestavernmuseum.org)), support and maintain landmarks, and stage and participate in public events.

Consequently, we know and care greatly about the American Revolution. We are sympathetic to the objectives of inclusivity and literacy proposed by the DOE, but we are concerned that the history of the American Revolution will be caricatured or misleadingly presented.

For example, *The 1619 Project*, favorably referenced in the DOE proposal, was introduced with the following provocative statement: "The United States is a nation founded on both an ideal and a lie." This is a grave insult to persons whose ancestors or who themselves, or whose own descendants, put their lives on the line for that ideal—the self-evident truth that all men are created equal. But worse, it echoes the words of Jefferson Davis and Roger Taney, leading to America's second civil war. Evidently this disdain for our founding ideals persists today, even among persons who profess to believe in them.

Our first premise is, one cannot in good faith embrace the proposition that all men are created equal and then turn around and condemn those who publicly declared it and pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor, to defend it. By way of contrast, here is what Frederick Douglass, who described the Declaration of Independence as "the ring-bolt to the chain of your nation's destiny," said in 1852:

The signers of the Declaration of Independence were brave men. They were great men too — great enough to give fame to a great age. It does not often happen to a nation to raise, at one time, such a number of truly great men. The point from which I am compelled to view them is not, certainly, the most favorable; and yet I cannot contemplate their great deeds with less than admiration. They were statesmen, patriots and heroes, and for the good they did, and the principles they contended for, I will unite with you to honor their memory.

"Fellow Citizens, I am not wanting in respect for the fathers of this republic. They loved their country better than their own private interests; and, though this is not the highest form of human excellence, all will concede that it is a rare virtue, and that when it is exhibited, it ought to command respect. He who will, intelligently, lay down his life for his country, is a man whom it is not in human nature to despise. Your fathers staked their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor, on the cause of their country. In their admiration of liberty, they lost sight of all other interests."





The wording of the Declaration of Independence was a synthesis of enlightenment and religious (mainly Puritan and Presbyterian) concepts, incorporating Locke, Hume, Voltaire, and Witherspoon, as well as the classics. The principal authors of the Declaration were among the most learned and brilliant men in American history. Although the psychological break with Britain arguably occurred earlier, the Declaration of Independence marks an identifiable point of origin of our nation, both on account of its formality and its content.

The signers of the Declaration understood the implications of the words about self-evident truths, and that those truths did not apply exclusively to America's relatively egalitarian society versus Europe's class-based society. Of the three men most responsible for the wording of Declaration of Independence, John Adams was never a slave holder, and Benjamin Franklin ceased owning slaves in 1781. Jefferson drafted and had introduced legislation for the abolition of slavery in Virginia. Roger Sherman, who signed all four of America's founding documents and was another member of the Declaration's drafting committee, was staunchly anti-slavery. Each of our early slave holder presidents are on record as saying slavery was wrong but struggled, having just survived multiple life-threatening wars, to come up with a remedy. Washington freed his slaves in his will. Madison, who described slavery as an "original sin," became president of the American Colonization Society, which resettled emancipated slaves in what became Liberia. Monroe was a member of that Society.

At the time of the Constitutional Convention, the movement toward abolition was already strong. The Northwest Ordinance banning slavery in the Northwest Territory had already been adopted, and slavery was either abolished or on its way out in several states, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The Constitution did not mention slavery specifically and did not restrict or condition citizenship based on skin pigmentation or ancestral country of origin. Gouverneur Morris, the delegate mostly responsible for the wording, was militantly against slavery. Slave Trading Acts were passed in 1794 and 1800, banning the export of slaves or the use of American vessels for the slave trade. Many, after surviving long years of war, including what can be fairly described as America's first civil war, expected that slavery would gradually and peacefully disappear.

The second major premise is, the American Revolution was not fought by just rich, elite white guys pursuing their economic interests, as is sometimes claimed from the safe distance of more than two hundred years. It was fought by a large range of



*Gouverneur Morris*



men and women, and a significant number of non-whites, who bought into and became part of The Cause, not only at the outset, but over the long haul. The roughly 16,000 Patriot prisoners who died in New York Harbor aboard the British prison ships were not all aristocrats. The ancestors of our members include all classes of Colonial society. The Sons of Liberty, the leading agitators of that period, were not among the elites. Indeed, many of the elites sided with Great Britain and ultimately emigrated.

Support for the War for Independence itself was broad-based and included all economic and ethnic categories. David Hackett Fischer wrote of North America being settled by four distinct ethnic groups from Great Britain. To this he could have added Dutch and Germans, as well as the indigenous population and Americans of African descent. A majority of Washington's Continental Army consisted of immigrants and African Americans. Storied groups such as Francis Marion's companies of guerrilla fighters, or the Marblehead mariners, were a mixture of ethnicities. The motto that the Congress adopted for the national seal in 1782, *E Pluribus Unum*, was as true then as it is today. The nation was already diverse by the time of the Constitution, which provided a framework to accommodate the additional diversity that has since ensued. The war itself lasted eight years and involved not just soldiers but also those who supported them. Few areas of the former colonies were untouched, and often the war pitted neighbor against neighbor. Entire new governments and systems of order had to be created in the various states to effect and control the Revolution.



Third, as Bernard Bailyn wrote, the Revolution profoundly changed the way humans governed themselves. And as Hamilton stated in his introductory Federalist essay, the various state ratification conventions presented the question of whether societies can establish good government by reflection and choice or are forever destined to depend for their constitutions on accident and force. The Revolution created the first large scale republic in millennia, based not on the divine right of kings, but on the consent of the governed, and embodied in an express, written social contract. Many revolutions followed, but few proved to be as sustainable as the American Revolution.

After the defeat of fascism in World War II, and the demise of international communism in the late twentieth century, it became easy to take the democracy-based republican form of government for granted, and to forget how hard it was to establish and to maintain, and that it requires effort and renewal in every generation. It is not our purpose to diminish the oft overlooked achievements and tribulations of various ethnic groups comprising our American mosaic. Quite the contrary. Rather it is to emphasize that the foundations established by the American Revolution were and are the common ground that should unite us and be respected.

We recognize that public education is largely a local matter, to which the Department can only provide guidance. We would suggest, however, that the stories and lessons of the American Revolution, rightly considered, provide a fertile source for furthering the priorities of the Department's Proposal, and possibly raising the proficiency of American students in U.S. history to a level above the fifteen percent reported by the Department's 2018 Assessment of Educational Progress.







By Ambrose M. Richardson, III  
General Assistant Secretary and Past President SRNY

*As a patriotic lineage society rooted in promoting the memory of the American Revolution and the sacrifices made by our patriot-ancestors, the Sons have a natural and urgent interest in preserving and promulgating the truths of the colonial and Revolutionary eras. So it is that when The New York Times Magazine in August 2019 published an essay entitled The 1619 Project, by Nikole Hannah-Jones, many of us objected. We objected to its tone, we objected to the way it broadly categorized whites of the era, and we objected to the manner in which it repositioned historical facts.*

*Ms. Jones' essay immediately stirred controversy and eventually led President Trump to urge patriotic education in the schools and the creation of a report on such by the Advisory Committee on 1776. The publication of The 1776 Report came in the final month of his administration. In retrospect, neither text (as initially published) was without flaw.—Ed.*

**T**he *1619 Project* is a creatively framed collection of essays about topics such as capitalism, health care, urban renewal, voter suppression, popular music, the sugar industry, mass incarceration, and the wealth gap, basically from the perspective of Americans of African descent. The overall message is that for more than four hundred years, Americans descending from Africa have contributed to the growth and development of this nation's culture and economy and have fought in its wars, but they have not received the benefits that other peoples have enjoyed, including more recent arrivals.

The collection audaciously reframes American history from a perspective that places slavery and its aftermath as the focal point. Of course, it is one thing to recognize a specific people's long contributions to American history, but quite another to "reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Americans of African Descent at the very center of the United States' national narrative."

### Questioning the Assertions

*The 1619 Project* unfortunately begins by ignoring the overall abiding national loyalty and patriotism of millions of Americans of African descent. Instead, it favors a controversial and mistaken view of our history, one that is counter-productive, divisive, and misleading. The organizer of the Project is, of course, free to make her arguments, just as the rest of us are free to reject them as contrary to history, tradition, and common sense.

The opening essay of *The 1619 Project* was deliberately provocative, and controversial even among Ms. Jones' supporters. Her statement — "(o)ur democracy's founding ideals were false when they were written" — was guaranteed to produce a spirited reaction. Ms. Jones' made two assertions about the American Revolution that, based on our knowledge about the period, are incomplete and misleading, if not downright wrong. The first assertion was that one of the "primary reasons" for the Revolution was the protection of slavery (echoing the questionable thesis of Gerald Horne). Second, that the Founders were hypocrites who, after declaring all men are created equal and entitled to liberty, denied liberty to a substantial segment of the population.

As to the first assertion, the protection of slavery does not meet the "but for" test. That is, would the Revolution have occurred but for the desire to protect the institution of slavery? In point of fact, none of the pre-Revolutionary War events and arguments, from the Stamp Act Congress, to other disputes over taxation, to Golden Hill or the Boston Massacre, or the Boston Tea Party, the Coercive Acts, or Lexington and Concord, or the various congresses, were concerned with slavery. Thomas Paine's widely read pamphlet, *Common Sense*, did not ascribe protection of slavery as



A portrait of Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, a French naturalist and biologist. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing a dark coat and a white cravat. He has long, wavy, light brown hair and a slight smile. He is holding a book in his left hand, which is visible in the lower left corner of the image. The book has some text on its cover, including "A.", "S.", "Compt. de", "Lamarck", "Annuaire", "1801", "1802", "1803", "1804", "1805", "1806", "1807", "1808", "1809", "1810", "1811", "1812", "1813", "1814", "1815", "1816", "1817", "1818", "1819", "1820", "1821", "1822", "1823", "1824", "1825", "1826", "1827", "1828", "1829", "1830", "1831", "1832", "1833", "1834", "1835", "1836", "1837", "1838", "1839", "1840", "1841", "1842", "1843", "1844", "1845", "1846", "1847", "1848", "1849", "1850", "1851", "1852", "1853", "1854", "1855", "1856", "1857", "1858", "1859", "1860", "1861", "1862", "1863", "1864", "1865", "1866", "1867", "1868", "1869", "1870", "1871", "1872", "1873", "1874", "1875", "1876", "1877", "1878", "1879", "1880", "1881", "1882", "1883", "1884", "1885", "1886", "1887", "1888", "1889", "1890", "1891", "1892", "1893", "1894", "1895", "1896", "1897", "1898", "1899", "1900", "1901", "1902", "1903", "1904", "1905", "1906", "1907", "1908", "1909", "1910", "1911", "1912", "1913", 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COMMON SENSE;  
 APPLICABLE TO THE  
 INHABITANTS  
 OF  
 AMERICA,  
 On the following Subjects,  
 I. Of the Origin and Design of Government, in general, with Limits Respecting the Rights of the Colonies.  
 II. Of Moderation and Moderation.  
 III. Thoughts on the present State of American Affairs.  
 IV. Of the present Ability of America, with some Miscellaneous Reflections.

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Made perfect by Mr. Paine's own Hand, in the  
 State of Independence and Liberty, and  
 Liberty.

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PHILADELPHIA: Printed  
 BY BENJAMIN  
 Franklin, and Sold by Thomas P. Sowerby, and by  
 J. Green, in New-London.  
 MDCCLXXVI.

The Founders, far from being hypocrites, were acutely conscious of the contradiction between fighting for liberty for themselves while denying it to others, and they took positive steps toward emancipation. There were surely hypocrites among the founding generation, or those who simply did not believe in equality. But most among those whom we regard as Founders were aware, after the wars for survival and the creation of a then-modern republic, that a reckoning on the issue of slavery was being postponed to later generations.

Following the publication of *The 1619 Project* and amid the pandemic in late 2020, President Trump began promoting the idea of introducing patriotic education into the classrooms. By Executive Order in November, he founded the Presidential Advisory 1776 Committee and charged it with advising him on how to better enable a rising generation to understand the history and principles of the founding of the United States. He also charged the Commission to issue a report regarding the core principles of the American founding, and to promote our striving to “form a more perfect Union.”

[illegible]

That may be unduly harsh, but *The 1776 Report* veered into the “party politics of the day,” whereas *The 1619 Project*—Ms. Jones’ essay excepted—generally stopped short of political polemics. The Report quickly moved from history into Heritage Foundation agenda items, with bits from the Federalist Society mixed in. (Full disclosure:



one of my late uncles with whom I was close claimed, believably, to be among the founders of the Heritage Foundation. Also, I am a member of the Federalist Society, especially since it uses a silhouette of my great uncle as its logo).

Both initiatives drew similar criticism as being more ideological than historical. Yet despite their different approaches and similar criticisms, both *The 1619 Project* and *The 1776 Report* arrived at the same conclusion, that the ideals and principles of the American Revolution remain valid, even if their practical application throughout our history is subject to ongoing controversy.

## Toward Progress

Not every American has subscribed to what both *The 1619 Project* and *The 1776 Report* acknowledge as American ideals. The meaning of “all men are created equal” has been continuously debated, with Chief Justice Taney, in his Dred Scott opinion, saying the Founders could not possibly have meant it literally, to Lincoln saying they did, to Alexander Stephens, Vice President of the Confederacy, stating the “great truth” that the white man is “the superior race.”

Belief in the proposition that all men are not created equal persisted after Lee’s surrender, and to make sure there was no evidence to the contrary, it was fortified by Jim Crow laws, black codes, vagrancy laws, lynching, mob attacks and massacres, voter suppression, and denials of access to housing, residency, health care, education, employment, professions, and financing.

The historian George Bancroft viewed American history as a narrative of progress toward fulfillment of American ideals. He believed that Americans were blessed with individual liberty and political democracy, ordained by Providence to spread those ideals to the rest of the world. Except, the institution and legacy of slavery compromised America’s role to serve as a model that the rest of the world should strive to emulate. Washington and Lincoln subscribed to the narrative of progress, as do particularly Americans of African Descent, the authors of the dueling sets of essays, and the Sons of the Revolution, too.





*A Report Issued by the  
State Society of New Jersey*

Earlier in the year, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New Jersey (SRNJ) issued a report on how SR members could respond to criticisms of (and attacks on) our nation's founders. The topic is of central importance to all members of the Sons, as we are a patriotic organization that aspires to increase public awareness with respect of the American Revolution.

A sub-committee was established to form a consensus on the top questions and challenges posed by popular culture and mainstream media today regarding the Founding Fathers. Sub-committee members then developed responses to those concerns. It is hoped the following could serve as a preliminary step toward State Societies and the General Society adopting succinct responses to these questions and others for public consumption.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.  
A DECLARATION  
BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

[illegible]

*Signed by ORDER and in BEHALF of the CONGRESS,*  
JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

ATTEST.  
CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

PHILADELPHIA: PRINTED BY JOHN DONLAP.



## 1. Why does the American Revolution matter?

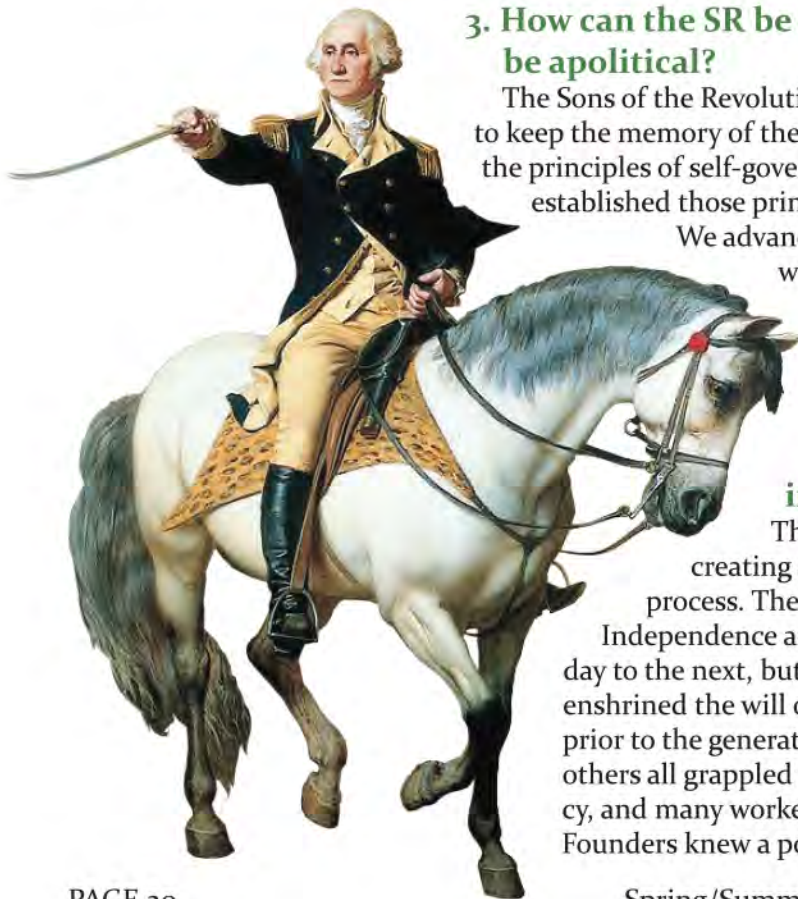
The concept of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people began with the American Revolution. That is why the American Revolution matters and needs to be taught in our schools. The Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution have been phenomenally inspirational documents across the globe. As promulgated by the Society of the Cincinnati, “the constructive achievements of the American Revolution [were] our independence, our republican form of government, our national identity, and our dedication to ideals of liberty, equality, natural and civil rights, and responsible citizenship under the rule of law.”



*Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson drafting the Declaration of Independence. Painting by J. L. Gerome Ferris.*

## 2. Why does George Washington matter?

George Washington fulfilled three large roles in his adult life that essentially gave lifeblood to the United States. He led the Continental Army as Commander-in-Chief in the victorious Revolution against Britain (1775-1783); he presided over the Convention that created the U.S. Constitution (1787); and he was unanimously elected this country's first President (1789-1797), setting many traditions in office that are still respected today. His leadership, perseverance, and determination during the long and trying Revolutionary War are legendary. Although he owned a great number of slaves at Mount Vernon, his will emancipated them all upon Martha Washington's death (1802). In a 1786 letter to Robert Morris of Philadelphia, Washington wrote, “there is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do, to see a plan adopted for the abolition of [slavery]; but there is only one proper and effectual mode by which it can be accomplished, and that is by Legislative authority.”



## 3. How can the SR be committed to its mission yet still be apolitical?

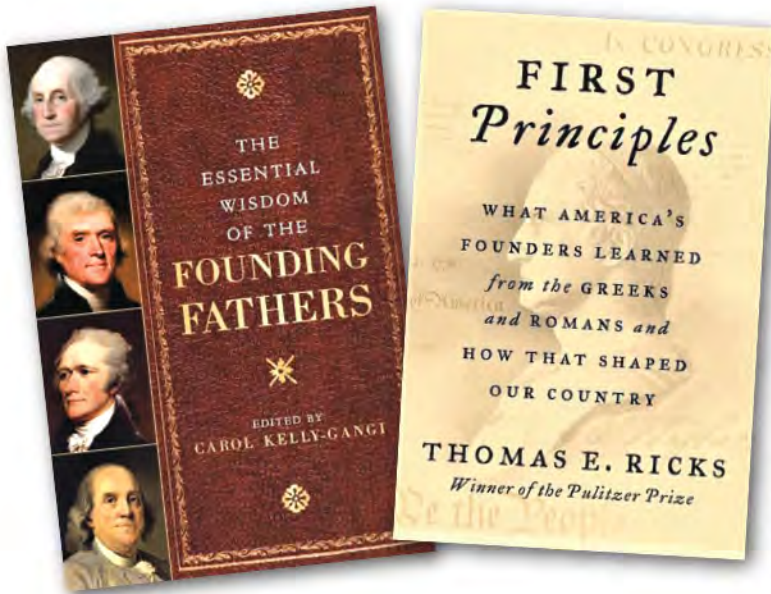
The Sons of the Revolution is a non-profit, charitable organization. Our mission is to keep the memory of the American Revolution alive in the public mind. Recalling the principles of self-governance in the United States and honoring the persons who established those principles does not make us a political-interest organization.

We advance our Society's values without taking political stands, and we do not lobby legislative bodies nor seek to influence political debate. We strive to educate the public without indoctrinating the public, and we respect everyone's right to their own political beliefs and opinions.

## 4. Should members be ashamed for defending the honor of former slaveholders?

The Revolutionary generation did not complete the work of creating a truly free society in America, but they initiated the process. They set the cornerstone. Establishing the Declaration of Independence and Constitution did not change societal realities from one day to the next, but those documents enabled change to occur over time and enshrined the will of the people. Slavery had existed in America for 200 years prior to the generation of the Founding Fathers. The Founders and many others all grappled with the question of slavery in the dawn of a new democracy, and many worked toward a personal reconciliation of that issue. The Founders knew a political solution to the slavery question was not tenable in





that era. Their commitment to private property rights, limited government, and inter-regional harmony prevented them from taking a stronger stand against slavery. Instead of forcing the question and risking sectional feuds, the Founders sought to maintain the unity of the new country.

### 5. Should we judge our ancestors based on contemporary values?

We believe judging people of the past by present-day standards is unjustified and hinders a genuine education of that time. Historians consistently argue that “presentism,” or judging historical figures within our current value system, is unwise because it interferes with an objective understanding of a previous age. We learn most from the study of history when we can empathize with its figures, however right or wrong they might be seen in today’s view.

### 6. How might we respond to those who think great American patriots should be erased from our heritage?

The idea of “erasing” certain individuals from our heritage is cultural censorship. It is un-democratic and un-American, and it counters the ideal of inclusiveness. Civilization builds on the achievements of previous generations. We would not have been able to reach Mars without first having gone to the moon. Likewise, social progress builds on previous accomplishments. While we know what the Founders could not achieve, let’s be grateful for what they did accomplish. The founding documents of the United States were a universal achievement for all people.

### 7. What made *The 1619 Project* objectionable to a number of our members?

The principal criticisms of *The 1619 Project* as it was originally published were that: 1) the protection of slavery was a substantial cause of the American Revolution, and 2) the slaveholding Founders were hypocrites. The protection of slavery was not a “primary cause” of the Revolution. Furthermore, the Founders were not hypocrites but were visionaries struggling with contradictions between the ideal society they envisioned and the reality of their day.



Signers' Hall, National Constitution Center, Philadelphia



Toward the end of his life, Thomas Jefferson believed slavery to be a political and moral evil, but felt powerless to change the situation. In a letter to Virginian John Holmes, of Augusta County, the former President wrote, "I can say with conscious truth that there is not a man on earth who would sacrifice more than I would, to relieve us from this heavy reproach, in any practicable way, the cession of that kind of property [enslaved Africans]... but, as it is, we have the wolf by the ear, and we can neither hold him, nor safely let him go. Justice is in one scale, and self-preservation in the other." The common ground between *The 1619 Project* and *The 1776 Report* (see related article, pp19-21) is the proposition that the ideals and principles of the Revolution were valid then and equally, if not more valid, today.

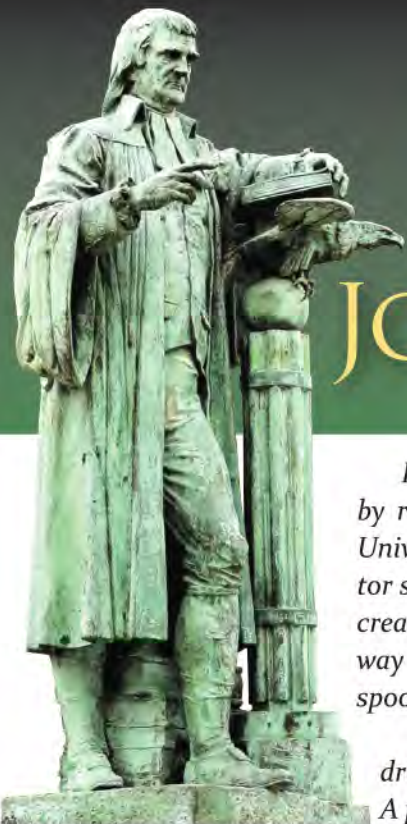
## 8. All members should support our mission and defend the ideals of the Revolutionary generation.

Fear of being criticized or ostracized for supporting our mission should not stop us. Some members may not want to stand out. Organizations like ours indeed may come under attack for having values that are inconsistent with today's thinking. We want to remind our members that this is what we signed up for. Our mission may seem controversial today to some, but it is incumbent on all of us to be informed and support the mission and principles for which our ancestors fought.

*The Committee of Five,  
left to right,  
J. Adams, R. Sherman,  
R. Livingston,  
T. Jefferson, and  
B. Franklin.*







# DEFENDING THE HONOR OF JOHN WITHERSPOON

*In November of 2001, a ten-foot-tall statue of Founding Father John Witherspoon by renowned Scottish sculptor Alexander Stoddart was unveiled on the Princeton University campus facing the University Chapel. At the time, a Princeton administrator said, "Witherspoon is one of the most towering figures in Princeton's history. The creation of such a compelling sculpture by a gifted artist presented us with a tangible way to remind all who live, work and visit on this campus of the pivotal role Witherspoon played in shaping this University and this nation."*

*Nearly twenty years later, partly in light of the Black Lives Matter movement, a drive got underway to remove the statue due to Witherspoon's having owned slaves. A petition favoring removal was signed by over 1,500 persons. In light of the controversy—and considering previous steps taken to alter the University's traditional image—the Board of Trustees in April of last year adopted an ad-hoc committee's recommendations on Principles to Govern Renaming and Changes to Campus Iconography. The statue, for now, is still in place.—Ed.*

*By T. Jeffrey Clark, SRNJ*

**"There is a tide in the affairs of men, a nick of time. We perceive it now before us. To hesitate is to consent to our own slavery. That noble instrument upon your table, which ensures immortality to its author, should be subscribed this very morning by every pen in this house. He that will not respond to its accents and strain every nerve to carry into effect its provisions are unworthy the name of free man."**

With these words, John Witherspoon sought to convince his fellow congressional delegates to sign the Declaration of Independence. Today, there again is a tide in our affairs, where some people seek to paint a false picture of the Founding Fathers and the issue of slavery. This attempt is both intellectually and historically dishonest. The historical fact is that slavery was not the product of, nor was it an evil introduced by the Founders; slavery was introduced in America nearly two centuries before the Revolution. In fact, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Jay noted that there had been few serious efforts to dismantle the institution of slavery prior to the Founding Fathers.

The American Revolution itself was actually a turning point in the national attitude toward slavery. Thomas Jefferson complained that King George: "... has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. ... Determined to keep open a market where men should be bought and sold ..."

Benjamin Franklin, in a 1773 letter to Dean Woodward, *Princeton University*



PRINCETON.EDU



confirmed that whenever the Americans had attempted to end slavery (prior to Independence), the British government had indeed thwarted those attempts. He wrote: "... a disposition to abolish slavery prevails in North America, that many of Pennsylvanians have set their slaves at liberty, and that even the Virginia Assembly have petitioned the King for permission to make a law for preventing the importation of more into that colony. This request, however, will probably not be granted as their former laws of that kind have always been repealed." The following year, Franklin and Benjamin Rush founded America's first anti-slavery society. Rush described slavery as "repugnant to the principles of Christianity."

John Jay was president of a similar society. Other prominent Founding Fathers who were members of societies for ending slavery included Richard Bassett, James Madison, James Monroe, Bushrod Washington, Charles Carroll, William Few, John Marshall and Richard Stockton of Princeton. As a result of their efforts, Richard Allen, who was a friend of Benjamin Rush, a former slave, and the founder of the A.M.E. Church in America, said in his famous address "To the People of Color": "Many of the white people have been instruments in the hands of God for our good, even such as have held us in captivity, [and] are now pleading our cause with earnestness and zeal."

John Adams, who to his credit owned no slaves, said of John Witherspoon, "he is as high a Son of Liberty as any man in America." Witherspoon preached against slavery in his discourses. He also chaired the New Jersey legislative committee concerned with the abolition of slavery in the state. Because of these efforts New Jersey began the process of ending slavery in 1804 just ten years after Witherspoon's death.

Have you ever heard of John Chavis? He was the first African-American to receive a college education in the United States. He began his studies for the Presbyterian ministry at the College of New Jersey, where he was personally tutored by the President of the College, John Witherspoon. Of course, Witherspoon had previously tutored James Madison, the father of our Constitution.

In his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. said: "When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the "unalienable rights" of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." King also pointed out that it was to him obvious that America has defaulted on this promissory note, so far as people of color were concerned.

Now some would say that some of the Founding Fathers were hypocrites. History itself teaches us over and over again not to judge the past through the lens of the present. Is it incumbent upon all of us to ensure that the promissory note of Liberty is fulfilled for all people? Yes, it is. But you ensure that by honoring the terms of the note itself, not by burning down the bank upon which it was written.







# DEFENDING MAJ. GEN. PHILIP SCHUYLER

*On June 11, 2020, Mayor Kathy M. Sheehan of Albany, New York, issued an executive order to remove a statue of Maj. Gen. Philip Schuyler that had stood in front of Albany City Hall since 1925. Gen. Schuyler was a hero of the American Revolution and a major influence in upstate New York. He played an important role in delaying British Gen. John Burgoyne's reinforcements from the Mohawk Valley prior to the Battle of Saratoga.*

*In issuing the order, Mayor Sheehan cited the general's grim legacy of being the largest slaveholder in the area during his lifetime. She also cited the City's long-overdue responsibility to address its history of racism and racial inequality. In response to the Mayor's order, W. Pless Lunger, President General of the Society of the Cincinnati, sent her the following letter appealing her decision. Mayor Sheehan ordered the statue be given to a New York State accredited*

*museum or state park for future display with appropriate historical context provided.—Ed.*

*By W. Pless Lunger, President General  
The Society of the Cincinnati*

June 26, 2020

The Honorable Kathy M. Sheehan  
Office of the Mayor  
City Hall  
24 Eagle Street  
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Mayor Sheehan:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Society of the Cincinnati, the nation's oldest private patriotic organization, to appeal to you not to remove the statue of Major General Philip Schuyler from the front of Albany City Hall, where it has stood proudly since 1925.

The Society of the Cincinnati was founded by General Washington and officers of his army at the conclusion of our Revolutionary War, when the army was encamped near Newburgh, New York. We work to ensure that Americans understand and appreciate the constructive achievements of the American Revolution—our independence, or republican form of government, our





national identity and our dedication to ideals of liberty, equality, natural and civil rights, and responsible citizenship under the rule of law.

General Schuyler, an original member of our organization, is a hero of the American Revolution. He risked his life and sacrificed no small part of his fortune for the achievements of our Revolution. He deserves honor and respect.

Like all Americans of his time, he was born into a society where freedom as we understand it barely existed. At forty-two, having secured wealth and influence, he risked everything to serve in a war to secure the liberty and independence of the United States. He commanded an army of ordinary men—farmers and tradesmen, young and old, rich and poor. He played an important role in establishing the first great republic of modern times—a nation dedicated, not to the interests of kings and aristocrats, but to the interests of ordinary people. Nothing like it had ever existed.

It was an imperfect nation. Grotesque injustices remained. Yet with each year those injustices became harder to rationalize. No sooner had the revolutionary generation declared that all men are created equal than the injustice of slavery became a subject of national debate that did not end until slavery was extinguished. No sooner had the revolutionaries declared that all men are created equal than women began to assert that same equality, and to demand the same inalienable rights so proudly asserted as the rights of men.

General Schuyler was not perfect, but he and the women and men who struggled with him laid the foundation of our freedom in a time of darkness and oppression. They did not finish demolishing the vast framework of injustice they inherited. That has been the task of subsequent generations, including our own. It has been the work of many hands and many minds—of all races, of both sexes—of men and women from many lands, who have come to this great republic to find freedom, and of men and women of our own land, denied freedom, who have followed the example of General Schuyler and fought for liberty.

Those who think removing the statue of General Schuyler somehow advances the cause of freedom are wrong. It will only make us more forgetful, and less appreciative, of the brave people who struggled to establish our freedoms, and of how far we have come and of how much more progress we need to make to fulfill the bright promise of our Revolution in the lives of all Americans.

On behalf of over 4,500 members of the Society of the Cincinnati and Associates of the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati—including several residents of Albany, as well as descendants of General Schuyler and the brave men who served under his command to defend Albany during our Revolutionary War—I appeal to you to withdraw your executive order to remove the statue of General Schuyler.

Celebrate this Independence Day by remembering the services of General Schuyler and those who served with him to win that independence. Encourage the citizens of Albany to do the same. Build on the foundations laid by those heroes of our Revolution. Cherish their memory and work to realize their vision of a just and free society.

Sincerely,  
W. Pless Lunger  
President General  
The Society of the Cincinnati



*Maj. Gen. Philip Schuyler*



# SPECIAL REPORT

# Forgotten Revolutionary War Heroes of the Oak Ridge Reservation



By Dennis Eggert  
Tennessee Society Board Member  
and *Tennessee Rifleman* Editor

**A**t the beginning of WWII, about 58,000 acres of land in East Tennessee, spanning a considerable area in Anderson and Roane counties, were purposefully condemned and purchased by the U.S. Army for use in the top-secret Manhattan Project (the government's code name for the development of the atomic bomb). Within weeks of the purchase, families that had been long-established in the vicinity were forced off their ancestral lands.

After their eviction, the effected residents left behind more than just their homes and farms. They left behind their familial roots—and some of those roots extended back to the Revolutionary War. The government then razed churches, homes, barns, and businesses, thereby altering the cultural landscape. By early 1943, the small communities of Elza, Lupton Crossroads, Scarboro, Robertsville, and Wheat no longer existed. Some of those communities had dated to the early 1800s. Meanwhile, the massive Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) that would ultimately house up to 75,000 people was then established and placed off-limits to the public. Located some twenty miles northwest of Knoxville, the ORR became a closed-off complex for producing and testing fuels that would ignite the atom bomb.

Thanks to a resurgence of interest in the Revolutionary War era, at least ten Revolutionary patriots have been identified as mutely resting in peace within the grounds of the ORR, which includes the City of Oak Ridge and surroundings. These are veritable settlers, who, after the war, left Virginia and North Carolina and ventured into the hills and valleys of East Tennessee. Of those ten individuals, six served in the Revolution, two supported the cause but did not carry arms, one was a drummer boy, and another fought in the Virginia Militia during Lord Dunmore's War (1774).

The homesteads of all but one of them have been documented as well. Three of them established farms along the nutrient-rich flood plains of the East Fork Poplar Creek, which today flows through the center of Oak Ridge. One owned a massive plantation where downtown Oak Ridge now stands. Three others established farms along the fertile bottom lands of the nearby Clinch River. One lived within the grounds of what later became government land, while another lived just outside those grounds.

Here, then, is our list of known Revolutionary War heroes at rest within the ORR:



Aerial shot of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. In the 1940s, this was the site of the world's first permanent nuclear reactor.

ORNL.GOV





Peck Family Historical Cemetery, behind St. Stephens Episcopal Church.

Family Historical Cemetery located in Gamble Valley. This cemetery is one of the most pristine historic cemeteries still in existence in Oak Ridge. Only two tombstones are visible there; other graves can only be recognized by primitive fieldstones or depressions in the earth.

## Lieutenant Thomas Jones (1740-1815)

Although little is known of Thomas Jones' service to his country, it is known that he was from Virginia. When the Revolutionary War erupted, he served as a supply officer in the Henry County Virginia Militia, furnishing supplies to his unit. As an original pioneer settler of Tennessee, Thomas Jones arrived there around 1795 and owned well over 100 acres along the East Fork Poplar Creek, which today runs through downtown Oak Ridge.

Prior to his arriving in East Tennessee, Thomas' youngest daughter, Mary, married one Jacob Peak in Virginia. The Joneses and Peaks probably traveled to East Tennessee together as a family group. Jacob went on to become an influential and wealthy individual in the community. He owned over 400 acres in Gamble Valley that adjoined his father-in-law's land.

In 1815, Thomas Jones died. Due to the close family relations between the Joneses and the Peaks, it is very probable that Thomas is buried in the Peak

## Private William C. Griffith, Jr. (1758-1834)

William Griffith, Jr. was another Virginian who settled in East Tennessee. Originally from Blackwater Creek in Franklin County, Virginia, he volunteered and served three tours of duty for a total of nine months as a soldier in the Virginia Militia. While serving, he participated in three separate engagements pursuing Tory and British troops.

Although William qualified for a Revolutionary War pension, he unselfishly refused to apply. In 1852, his son, William C. Griffith III, documented in an affidavit that his father had said that he "could live well without a pension" and that he would rather his government receive his services without obligation so that in any future war "she might be better able to feed and clothe her army."

Even though Griffith refused a pension, his wife, Susannah, did apply for a widow's pension. And thankfully she did, because without her sworn testimony we would not have had a record of her husband's military service. William settled in the vicinity about 1796, ultimately purchasing 1,100 acres. Most of his land was located just outside of what became the ORR, between Oak Ridge and Oliver Springs. Although he lived on lands outside government jurisdiction, his son identified his burial place as the Peak Family Historical Cemetery, which today falls within government lands. William's wife was Susannah Jones, the daughter of Lt. Thomas Jones (above). It is not surprising, then, that that William's father-in-law could be buried in the Peak cemetery.



Virginia Militia by Don Troiani

## Private Douglas Oliver (1753-1843)

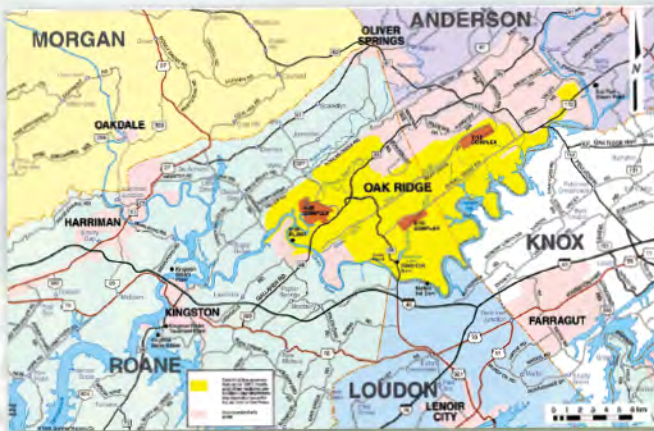
Douglas Oliver's extensive military service as a private in the Virginia Militia spanned six tours, serving from the Virginia Tidewater to the Kentucky frontier. His service included marching against the British at the Potomac, James, and York rivers. He was also in Williamsburg, Petersburg, and Norfolk. On Douglas' final tour, he marched to the western Virginia frontier, where he participated in campaigns against Native Americans at Chillicothe and the Pickwick towns. Here, according to Douglas, "there was a hard fight."

Pvt. Oliver was an original settler on what was to become the ORR. The sudden absence of his name from Henry County, Virginia, tax records reveals that he left Virginia in 1795; by 1797, he was in East Tennessee and had purchased 350 acres in what is now Oak Ridge. He and his wife, Mary, raised ten children. He became one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of the area.

Just prior to his death in 1843, he owned 1,268 acres. His property encompassed what today is the city's municipal swimming pool, the Oak Ridge High School, a portion of the Oak Ridge municipal complex, and the downtown shopping district. In addition to farming, Douglas owned one of the largest, if not the largest, moonshine stills in the county. Upon his death, one creditor owed his estate for fifty gallons of moonshine. Douglas Oliver died in 1843 and, in all likelihood, was buried adjacent to his house on a small knoll located within property he had once owned. Only one daughter, Amelia, who was a widow of Noah Peck, continued to live on the 1,200-plus acres. Eventually, a tract of land

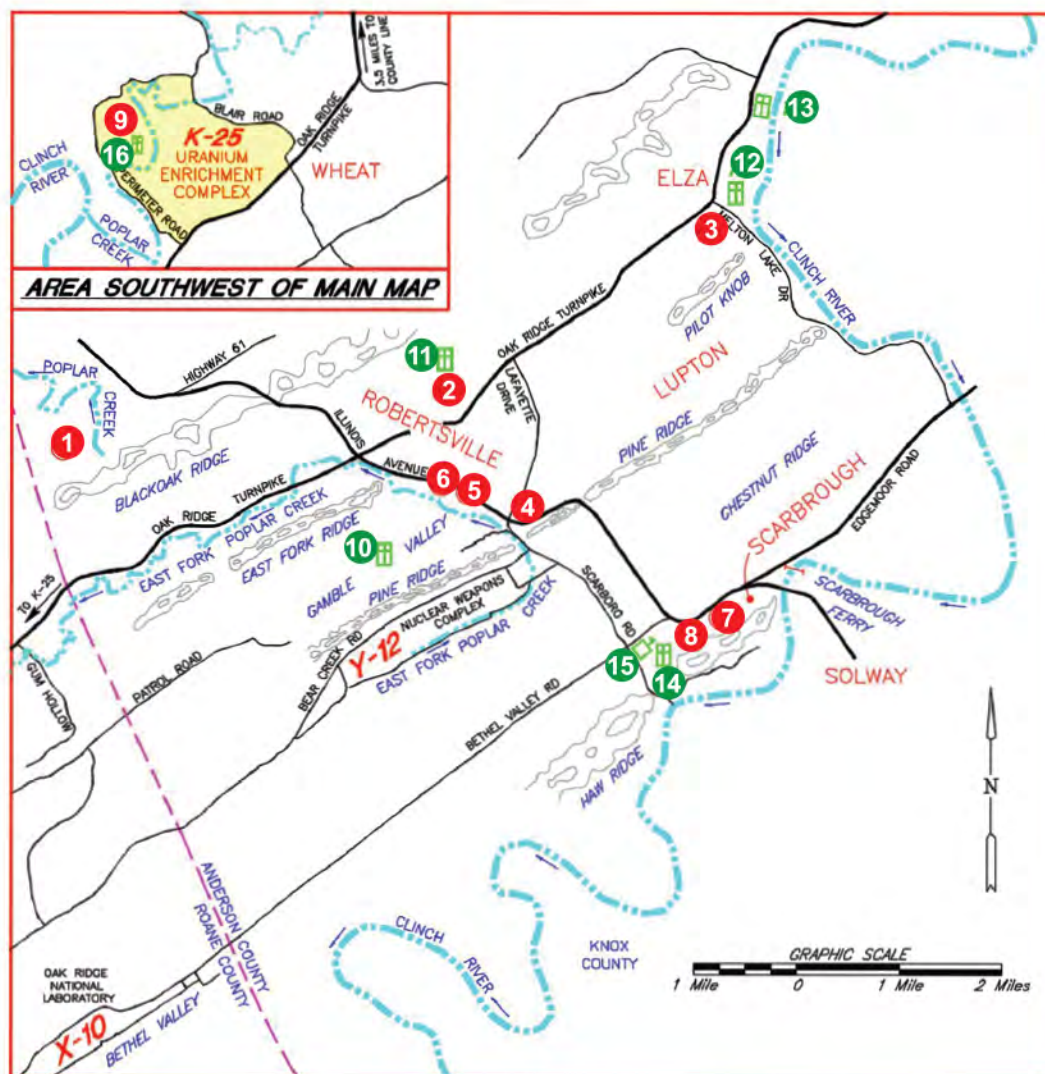


# OAK RIDGE REVOLUTIONARY VETERANS & PATRIOTS



- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 William Griffith Plantation<br>(Outside Oakridge) | 10 Peck Cemetery          |
| 2 Douglas Oliver Plantation                         | 11 Peak Cemetery          |
| 3 Samuel Worthington Farm                           | 12 Worthington Cemetery   |
| 4 William Cross Farm                                | 13 Cross Cemetery         |
| 5 Thomas Jones Farm                                 | 14 Scarbrough Cemetery    |
| 6 Henry Nunnley Farm                                | 15 Scarbrough School      |
| 7 James Scarbrough Farm                             | 16 Elias Roberts Cemetery |
| 8 William Scarbrough Farm                           |                           |
| 9 Elias Roberts Farm                                |                           |
- Note: It is not known where Joseph England resided on the reservation.*

MAP BY RONALD RAYMOND





containing the knoll where Douglas is believed to be buried was sold to the Peck family. Over the years, the Pecks continued to use that knoll as a family burial site, hence the Peck Family Historical Cemetery. We know for certain that Amelia Oliver Peck was interred there. Though it is not confirmed, we strongly suspect Douglas Oliver is buried there, too, due to the historical closeness of relations between the Oliver and Peck families.

### Private Henry Nunnley (abt 1761-1838)

Henry Nunnley was drafted into the services of the Virginia troops where, in addition to being a participant at the Battle of Guilford's Courthouse, he fought at Petersburg. He also served at the Siege of Yorktown, where British General Lord Cornwallis surrendered. Henry is an enigma. We know very little about him, only that in 1803 he owned 100 acres along the East Fork Poplar Creek. In 1809, he sold this land, and no other land titles are found in his name after that sale. To further this conundrum, he was not enumerated on the 1810, 1820, or 1830 U.S. Federal Censuses for Anderson County.

We do know that in 1807, Henry's wife died, leaving him with one son and two daughters. His son eventually relocated to Arkansas but his daughters remained in the area and married local men. Elizabeth Nunnley married John Scarbrough (son of William Scarbrough) and Sophia married Charles Oliver (son of Douglas Oliver). The 1830 enumeration of the Charles Oliver household identifies an individual aged 70 to 80 as living there. This could very well have been Henry Nunnley. Two years later, in 1832, Nunnley applied for a Revolutionary War pension.

This war veteran died in 1838 with no information surviving on his final resting place. If he was living with his daughter Sophia, as is speculated, then it is possible he is buried in the Peck Cemetery. The Oliver family, Henry's in-laws, buried their loved ones in the Peck Cemetery.

### Samuel Worthington (1746-1821)

Samuel Worthington was one of the first pioneers of this area to arrive. In 1792, he settled on land that was to become part of the ORR. During the Revolutionary War, Samuel provided beef to the Continental Army in Botetourt County, Virginia, in exchange for a future land grant (assuming the Colonies would achieve independence).

After the war, Samuel purchased 600 acres of land on the northern most area of future Oak Ridge. His land followed the northern banks of the Clinch River from Pilot Knob toward Clinton. In addition to being a successful farmer, he was given a license in 1797 to trade for six months with the Cherokee, who were located just across the river from him.



PHOTO BY DENNIS EGGERT

*Worthington Family Historical Cemetery.*

Samuel died in 1821 and is probably buried in the Worthington Family Historic Cemetery, in the old Elza community of Oak Ridge. His exact burial plot is unknown because, as with all other Revolutionary War veterans buried there, no headstone exists to mark his exact gravesite. Nevertheless, the Worthington Cemetery exists as a historic cemetery on TVA property within the City of Oak Ridge.

### Private Joseph England (1762-1834)

During the Revolutionary War, Private Joseph England served four tours in the North Carolina Militia, ranging from three months to four months each. On his first tour, he pursued Tories along the Yadkin Valley in North Carolina. On his third tour, he engaged the enemy at the Battle of Hanging Rock in South Carolina.

Like Henry Nunnley, Joseph England is an enigma. Very little is known about where he lived. After his wife died, he moved to Anderson County in 1827 with his sons. After moving there, he lived with his son, Alfred, somewhere within District 8, which stretched all the way from the west end to the east end of the ORR.

The 1830 Federal Census reveals that Alfred had ten individuals living with him, and it is believed that his father, Joseph, was one of them. A final pension payment voucher places Joseph England's death on 13 November 1834. Research by the Daughters of the American Revolution reveals that his final resting place is in the Worthington Cemetery.



*North Carolina Militia by  
Don Troiani*



## William Cross (1761/62-1844)

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, William went to Sullivan County, North Carolina (now Tennessee), in 1776 with his two older brothers Elijah and Zachariah. All three volunteered to serve in the North Carolina Militia. William entered military service in 1776, at the tender age of fourteen or fifteen. He was made a drummer boy. Then in 1781, he enlisted for a second tour “guarding the frontier against British, Tories, and Indians.”

In 1818, William moved from Knox County to Anderson County, where he bought 174 acres along the East Fork Poplar Creek at the gap in Pine Ridge that now separates the City of Oak Ridge from the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Complex. There, William settled and became the patriarch of a large multi-generational family. When he died in 1844, his estate was divided among eleven heirs.

Some Cross family genealogical records identify the birth of Britain Cross in 1776 as an additional child of William’s, apart from the eleven above. However, Britain’s birth predates the other Cross children by at least twenty-five years and would have made William a father at a very young age. Still, lingering questions remain. Were William and Britain somehow related? If not, were there two separate Cross families living in the same general area by 1818?

Today, despite the remaining questions about a possible connection between William and Britain, the former is reverently honored with a marker in the prominent historic family cemetery named after the latter. Yet this brings to mind additional questions. Is William indeed buried in the Britain Cross family cemetery, or might his remains be somewhere else closer to his former farm at the Pine Ridge gap?

The search for answers to these questions remains elusive.



PHOTO BY DENNIS EGGERT

*Memorial honoring drummer boy William Cross, located in the Britain Cross family cemetery.*

## Private James Scarbrough (1755- 1809)

### William Scarbrough (1753-1830)

Originally from Virginia, the Scarbrough brothers served the cause of independence. Patriot William leased his horse and wagon team to the Continental Army while James served in the Virginia Militia during Lord Dunmore’s War. In 1774, hostilities erupted between white settlers and the Shawnee and Mingo nations over Native American hunting rights in western Virginia.

Against the will of the British Crown, Virginia Colonial Governor Lord Dunmore raised an armed militia to protect these settlers. Ultimately, the Native Americans were defeated at the Battle of Point Pleasant, Virginia, and forced to sign a treaty. The Battle of Point Pleasant is accepted by some patriotic organizations as the first battle of the Revolutionary War.

In 1803, the Scarbroughs settled in the Oak Ridge area when James bought 600 acres of land in the Bethel Valley region along the Clinch River. Later, he purchased an additional 400 acres of land. William bought parcels of land from him. A small rural community was then established known by their last name, which now is referenced as Scarboro. James and William built three mills along Reeds Branch, a reliable stream that flowed through the community. After damming this creek, a sluice was built that channeled water to a grist mill, a saw mill, a cording machine, and a flour mill. In addition to the mills, James owned and operated an “ordinary” (an inn) as well as the first ferry in Anderson County that crossed the Clinch River.

The brothers enjoyed a privileged status. By providing these indispensable services to the community, they were exempted by the Tennessee State Legislature from certain civic duties such as not being required to attend certain militia drills, jury duty, delivering the mail, and building and maintaining roads. Today, the original locations of the mills are now underwater, due to the presence of the Melton Hill reservoir. Many Scarbrough descendants still refer to this historic place as “Scarbrough,” even though on modern maps the area is named Scarboro.



SCARBORO COMMUNITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*The Scarboro area was named after settlers James and William Scarbrough.*





PHOTO BY DENNIS EGGERT

*The Roberts Family Memorial at the George Jones Presbyterian Church Historical Cemetery.*

In 1809, James Scarbrough died and, like Douglas Oliver, was most likely buried on a knoll near his home. This knoll came under the ownership of his brother, William Scarbrough. Ultimately, William dedicated this knoll for a community cemetery. Today, the Scarbrough Cemetery monument reveals that the cemetery was founded in 1832 (based on the earliest tombstone inscription found). Yet the cemetery may be much older than that, perhaps going back to the time of James Scarbrough's death. Since no land titles exist for this cemetery prior to 1942, we will never know how old it really is. It is quite possible both William and James are resting there in peace.

## Private Elias Roberts (abt. 1760-1806)

Little is known of Elias Roberts' early life; however, family history reveals that he was born in Brownsville, Pennsylvania. When the Revolutionary War began, he and his brother, Zaccheus, volunteered to serve the cause of freedom. The brothers enlisted in different units, Zaccheus joined the South Carolina Rangers in 1776, and in 1777, Elias enlisted in Nathaniel Gist's Regiment of the Virginia Continental Line. This Regiment fought at Monmouth and Brandywine. In 1780, the Virginia regiment was ordered to the ill-fated defense of Charleston, South Carolina, where the

entire defending army surrendered.

Both brothers ended up serving in South Carolina, which explains why both were there after the war. While living in the Pendleton District of South Carolina, Elias and Zaccheus met and married sisters Nancy and Rebecca Brashears. In 1794, the Roberts brothers with the Brashears clan moved to the upper area of Roane County. Upon arriving to East Tennessee, Elias leased and then later purchased 500 acres of land along Poplar Creek that would later become part of the Oak Ridge Uranium Enrichment Complex. There, Elias and Rebecca established their farm and raised ten children. In 1806, Elias died of an unknown cause and was buried in the Roberts Family Historical Cemetery, located near the banks of Poplar Creek.

After Elias' death, Rebecca continued to operate the farm for an additional fifty years with the help of one son. Ultimately, the Roberts' farm, including the family cemetery, was sold outside the family. Afterwards, a subsequent landowner disposed of the fieldstones and converted the cemetery to pastureland. Upon government acquisition of this land, construction on the nearby uranium processing facility began. During the groundwork phase of this construction, the overburden was redeposited away from the facility along the banks of the Poplar Creek, thereby covering the old cemetery with over three feet of fill dirt. This completely altered the landscape of the area where the cemetery once existed.

The K-25 complex was deactivated long ago and the vicinity has undergone a thorough environmental revitalization. Today the rehabilitated area is known as the East Tennessee Technology Park. Pvt. Elias Roberts rests in peace, somewhere in a vacant field near Poplar Creek. He is reverently honored by a Roberts Family Memorial that was erected at the nearby George Jones Presbyterian Church Historic Cemetery, where the old Wheat community once existed.



## Conclusion

Except for Pvt. Elias Roberts and drummer boy William Cross, no markers exist for our Revolutionary War soldiers and patriots who are buried within the ORR. Unfortunately, we can only take our best guess as to their final resting places. Historic documents, military records, U.S. Federal Census data, family genealogies, and property deeds were used to identify where in the Oak Ridge area these individuals lived. In the early 1800s, most graves were only marked with primitive field stones if marked at all. Little thought was given to permanently marking gravesites. Immediate family members orally passed down where their dearly departed were buried. After several generations, the stories were no longer recalled.

Certainly, there could have been more information about the burial locations of these veterans that existed prior to 1942. When the latter-day descendants of those original pioneer settlers were forced off their lands by the U.S. Army, even more information through oral family tradition was lost. In trying to piece together where these Revolutionary heroes may be buried, oftentimes the marriages of their children created social bonds that give us strong clues as to where these patriots could be interred.

These ten Revolutionary War heroes unselfishly served their country for the cause of independence, then moved to the hills and valleys of East Tennessee to settle and raise their families. No one back then could have ever imagined the importance that this area would ultimately play in a future crisis. By 1942, the descendants of these Revolutionary War veterans were now required to do just as their forefathers did, sacrifice for victory. In leaving their homesteads behind, they left us a unique legacy—a legacy that stretches from our nation's birth to the development of the atomic bomb.

*The writer wishes to thank fellow Sons members Fred Eiler and Charles Manning for their collaboration on this article. Additionally, he thanks Ronald Raymond for creating the detailed map showing farms and probable burial locations. He also thanks Ms. Anne Hewett Worthington for her research on Samuel Worthington.*





# The Unique History of Oak Ridge, Tennessee



By David W. Swafford, Editor

For such a relatively young city, Oak Ridge, Tennessee is a place that captures multiple layers of American history. Around its edges, whether on a ridge or in a valley, one can find traces of the Appalachian culture that dates back to the early nineteenth century, if not before, when settlers came in from the east and established their farms. Within the city limits, modern conveniences and cutting-edge research facilities exist side-by-side with structures out of the 1940s. As a key location in the Manhattan Project, Oak Ridge was founded in 1943 by the federal government to develop enriched uranium and plutonium—the fissile fuels needed to ignite the atomic bomb. In fact, the most popular attraction in Oak Ridge today is the bus tour of Manhattan Project sites.

Eighty years ago, Oak Ridge resembled a one-of-a-kind Army base; it was fenced off and characterized by military-like structures. Until the end of the World War II, entrances to this unique “gated” community were controlled and guarded by armed MPs. Housing and industrial complexes needed to be built quickly from the ground up. Adequate infrastructure often lagged behind the intense construction schedules, therefore, mud and dust were everywhere and constant.

Today, the military look is gone—and so is the mud. No longer guarded by MPs at entrance gates, modern Oak Ridge features beautiful walking trails that meander over the ridges and along valleys. Green belts throughout the community offer residents and visitors alike an opportunity to enjoy the area’s many natural wonders.



*The Elza Gate at Oak Ridge, 1945.*

## A Phoenix Rising

In August 1939, Albert Einstein had warned President Franklin Roosevelt of Nazi Germany’s intent to develop a new type of very powerful bomb and suggested accelerated research into nuclear chain reactions, but the President initially hesitated. Later he accepted that the U.S. must win the race to develop the atomic bomb. In October 1941, the Army Corps of Engineers became involved with managing its development.

By September 1942, Lt. Gen. Leslie Groves was appointed to head the Manhattan Project with the rank of Temporary Brigadier General. As project leader, he was in charge of all of the project’s



*One of the most popular green spaces in Oak Ridge today.*





A billboard on the outskirts of the ORR during WWII.

what they were doing. Because of its top-secret nature, Oak Ridge didn't even appear on road maps until the late 1940s, well after the war concluded. It was nicknamed "the Secret City."

In contemporary times, much of the infrastructure used in developing the fuel and storing the radioactive waste has been or is being dismantled. Even this spring, a six-story building at Y-12 which had been used during WWII and had stood empty for years came down. It was preceded by last year's demolition of the last-standing remains of the K-25 complex.

Meanwhile in Bissell Park, one can visit the beautifully manicured Commemorative Walk, which features a series of bronze markers and plaques that tell the story of Oak Ridge and its role in the war. Adjacent to that, the International Friendship Bell (a Japanese-style bonshō bell) stands as a symbol of the peace and unity that has

grown between the United States and Japan. In the post-war era, Oak Ridge and Naka, Japan have become sister cities.

So, indeed, layers of history are present. But, a closer look at these various layers in and around town reveals something else about Oak Ridge. It has lived through a series of transformations. The successive changes this place has experienced before, during, and after 1943 have not been without significant pain and sacrifice. That's maybe what makes Oak Ridge most unique—the hardship that its people have successfully endured, over and over again.

## Original Transformation

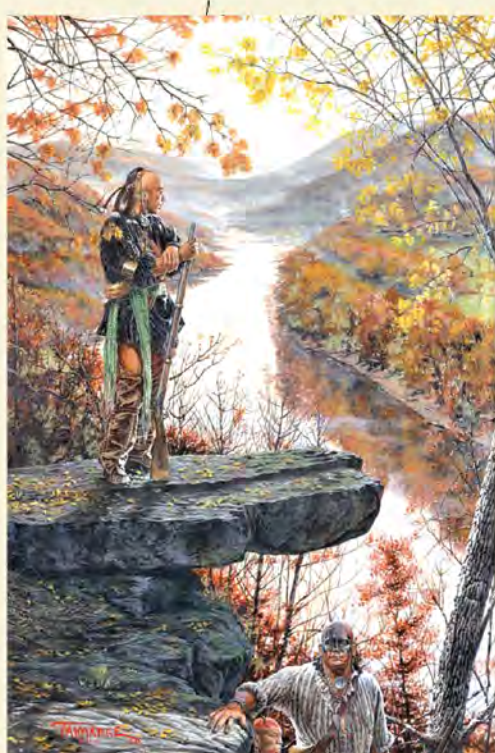
The hardship was there from the very beginning, when this area saw a number of conflicts between resident Cherokee and white settlers (many of them Revolutionary War veterans). In time, the presence of the settlers began to chisel out a rural community dominated by farming instead of the long knife. Then the War of 1812, the Civil War, and World War I all came to pass and left their marks on the area.

By 1942, a government letter went out to hundreds upon hundreds of families. Dated November 11, 1942, it stated, "The War Department intends to take possession of your farm on Dec. 1, 1942. It will be necessary for you to move, no later than that date." In rapid succession, the U.S. Army moved out thousands of individuals on short notice, underpaid them for their homesteads, and then brought in thousands more for the "Great Project."



The 2021 demolition of an aged facility at Y12.

WATE ABC 6



*Dragging Canoe and the Chickamauga Cherokee inhabited East Tennessee prior to and during the arrival of European settlers.*



"One day a bunch of men rode in  
With papers in their hands  
And great big shining badges.  
They came and took our land.  
  
They read a lot of great big words  
I couldn't understand,  
But when it was all over  
I didn't own the land."

(see inset to the left). Another local writer, Grace Raby Crawford, wrote a booklet about the area entitled *Back of Oak Ridge*, meaning 'Prior To Oak Ridge.'

"...Many people do not realize that a growing and thriving community existed here. There were many acres of cultivated fertile fields, beautiful farm homes, churches, schools, post offices, lumber mills, grain mills and at one time an ammunition (powder) mill. Various other small businesses were also in the community. There were large peach and apple orchards from which fruit was hauled to market in other places. There were cattle, sheep and hogs on most every farm. None of these are found in a 'wilderness.' The people who lived in this community before 1942 were very proud and independent. Hard work and consistency was the key to their success..."

This wasn't the first time a government project had displaced East Tennesseans. They had experienced a similar shock in the late 1920s, when hundreds of mountainfolk and private enterprises were forced off their lands to create the Smoky Mountain National Park, about fifty miles southeast. Then in the 1930s came the larger-scale development of the TVA's Norris Dam and reservoir, about thirty miles to the north-northeast.

But something was different about the displacement of the 1940s. When the Army confiscated the properties in Anderson and Roane counties, it was done very quickly and under extremely tight lips. The development of the atomic bomb was, after all, a top-secret weapon. The one thing that characterized everything about the project was its utmost confidentiality.

Once the local population had been moved out, the land and facilities to be built there were placed off-limits to the general public, and it became a very busy place. Streams of well-qualified employees from all parts moved in to work on the project, only they were never told the purpose of their work. In less than three years, Oak Ridge had grown to 75,000. It was suddenly the third largest city in the state.

## Predicting Great Things

John Hendrix (1865-1915) was the father of Curtis Allen Hendrix, author of the above poem. The elder Hendrix lived where Y-12 would later be built, and he had psychic visions of what would happen. He shared with the people what he envisioned. "Bear Creek Valley will some day be filled with great buildings and factories, and they will help toward winning the greatest war that will ever be... Big engines will dig big ditches and thousands of people will be running to and fro... and there will be great noise and confusion, and the earth will shake. I've seen it. It's coming."

It certainly did come to pass. The role of science and big machines in Oak Ridge, however, did not end with the surrender of Imperial Japan. After the war, the X-10 facility was renamed Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and operates today under the auspices of the Department of Energy. It is one of the world's leading research organizations

In the book, *These Are Our Voices: The Story of Oak Ridge, 1942 - 1970*, John Rice Irwin noted that rural people of East Tennessee traditionally formed deep cultural and ancestral attachments to their lands. Generation after generation stayed on the land or just nearby. Neighboring families in many cases had inter-married several times. One's location became a key piece of personal identification.

That's why many folks experienced such profound shock and sadness when the Army uprooted them for the Manhattan Project. One of the disenfranchised landowners, Curtis Allen Hendrix, wrote a poem about the experience"



K-25, where uranium was enriched by gaseous diffusion, was the largest industrial complex in the U.S. for some time.





*The nation's largest supercomputer, Summit, housed at ORNL.*

and carries on a multi-program agenda, including energy, transportation, technology, manufacturing, neutron science, nuclear science, and more. Some of the top scientists in the world work there.

It is home to the country's largest supercomputer. Named Summit, it has a peak performance of 200,000 trillion calculations per second—or 200 petaflops. Summit is eight times more powerful than ORNL's previous top-ranked system, Titan. In years to come, it will provide unprecedented computing power for research in energy, advanced materials, and artificial intelligence, among other domains, enabling scientific discoveries that were previously impractical or impossible.

The Y-12 National Security Complex, miles away from ORNL, also operates under the Department of Energy but today is unrelated to ORNL and vice-versa. Y-12 today is one of six production facilities in the federal government's Nuclear Security Enterprise. Y-12's unique emphasis is the

processing and storage of uranium and development of technologies associated with those activities

Since the end of World War II, Y-12 has manufactured components for every nuclear weapon system ever deployed and has completely dismantled multiple weapon systems over the past fifty-plus years. During the Cold War, the facility played a key part in the production of thermonuclear weapons, with thousands of people working around the clock to produce nuclear weapon secondaries that provided the United States with an effective deterrent.

Through the years, Y-12 has developed state-of-the-art capabilities in three core areas: nuclear technology and materials, security and consequence management, and manufacturing and technical services. Maintaining the U.S. nuclear stockpile, reducing global threats, and fueling the U.S. Nuclear Navy are key activities at this historic site.

## The Hard Facts

Of the \$1.9 billion allocated for the entire WWII Manhattan Project effort, \$1.2 billion was earmarked specifically for Oak Ridge operations. As the U.S. put all its effort behind the development of the atom bomb, no one predicted the substantial health and environmental consequences that became associated with radioactive waste, the fallout of the fissile fuel business. By the 1950s, 60s and 70s, local environmental degradation and growing trends in reported illnesses among the area's nuclear workers began to be linked to radioactive waste. The world slowly came to learn of the toxicity involved in managing the leftovers of building a nuclear bomb.

To be sure, the historical facilities in Oak Ridge associated with the production and storage of enriched uranium and plutonium caused leakage of cancer-causing contaminants, including radioactive iodine, mercury, PCBs, uranium, and fluorides. Those elements were associated not just with activities during WWII, but with post-war activities at Y-12 relating to the Cold War. There were increased incidents of various cancers among people who worked directly with the radioactive waste, but the general population was unaffected.

In 1989, the EPA designated the entire Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) as a Superfund site. But to imply that all of its tens of thousands of square acreage is contaminated, is a gross exaggeration. Third-party reports objectively indicate that contamination is contained to specific areas, and that the levels of residual runoff into the surrounding areas do not pose a threat to human health.

Meanwhile, multi-millions of dollars have been spent on cleaning



*Weighing 8,000 pounds and measuring five feet across and nearly seven feet tall, the International Friendship Bell symbolizes the peace and goodwill that today characterize the relations between Oak Ridge and Japan.*



up and safeguarding the affected areas and in re-establishing healthy and sound environmental habitats, such as wetlands. Biologists have identified an increase in the variety of many plant and animal species throughout the ORR. Fishing in the Clinch River is abundant and safe. Bald eagles are again nesting in the area.

According to the Office of Environmental Management, a decades-long effort to dismantle and clean up the former K-25 site was completed last year. It offers Oak Ridge a new opportunity for economic development in a restored environment.

## Further Change

Into the twenty-first century, Oak Ridge continues evolving. With the removal of aging and questionable facilities, and the disposal of historic wastes, the community looks into the future with hopeful eyes. Authorities have given preliminary approval for the development of a modern airport (such facilities were banned during the early days). Likewise, real estate developers are promoting the creation of a typical American downtown area, which the city has also traditionally lacked. These activities will help propel Oak Ridge into the next phase of its life. It has struggled to overcome its obstacles, but overcome it shall do.

In the early- to mid-1940s, in the midst of the country's war effort, the present moment was most critical in Oak Ridge. The focus was forward-looking; the thrust was in securing victory for the United States. People were not likely to remember or consider the veterans and other patriots of the American Revolution laying in repose on grounds right under their feet. Most people were new to the area, anyway, and were not aware of its past.

Fortunately, today, that has changed. Through enduring interests in patriotism, history, and genealogy, descendants of the area's original pioneers have re-asserted an interest in these old ridges and valleys outside of Knoxville and have worked hard to identify the patriot-ancestors buried on lands which now partially comprise the ORR. TSSOR board member and *Tennessee Rifleman* editor Dennis Eggert actively participates in this effort (see story above).

He and others are hopeful an appropriate memorial to those pioneering veterans can be raised on the grounds of the ORR. As such, we can see that the future and the distant past for this region are coming together and will lend to a more wholesome integration of its various eras.





# State Reports



*The Washington Birthday Dinner at the Lexington Club.*

## Of Organic Growth

Sometimes membership growth occurs from circumstances that are unrelated to planned recruitment efforts. In the Kentucky Society, one such occurrence happened when Secretary Burl McCoy got the spontaneous idea to invite the fellas to some cigars and brandy upstairs in the Lexington Club before the start of the February 26th Washington Birthday black-tie dinner. From that moment of relaxed camaraderie, new memberships were hatched.

"This is what the SR is all about!" boasted SRKY President and General Treasurer Buzz Carmichael. "When we shared the cigars and brandy, it provided the opportunity through casual conversation for at least seven members and guests to discover some major personal connections they had between themselves."

SRKY Treasurer Dan Miller had invited his brother, Kentucky Colonel Philip Miller, to the event as a guest. Phil joined the Society the following month. Other new members include Steve Brown and John Brooker.

During the dinner, the forty-five attendees heard a presentation given by John McCloud on families that were divided by the Revolutionary War. Among the attendees were members of the SAR and Colonial Wars.—*Editor*



*Guest speaker John McCloud.*



*Brothers Philip Miller and SRKY Treasurer Dan Miller.*



*New SRKY members Steve Brown and John Brooker, with their wives, flank Region 3 General Vice President Ivan Bennett and his wife, Susan.*





*The Maryland Center for History and Culture*

## Sponsorships of the Maryland Society

The Society of Sons of the Revolution in the State of Maryland and the General Society Sons of the Revolution are proud sponsors of an upcoming historical exhibition at the Maryland Center for History and Culture in Baltimore. Entitled “The Unfinished Revolution: Maryland in the Wars for Independence,” it will focus primarily upon Maryland’s role in the early history of the United States. (See related article, pp. 7-9.)

Opening on August 18, 2021, the exhibit is expected to run through the 250th anniversary of the ratification of the Peace of Paris. Said ratification took place on January 14, 1784, at the Old State House in Annapolis, Maryland. The ratification, an act of the Confederation Congress, recognized the end of the Revolutionary War and establishment of the United States as a free and independent nation.

The exhibition will commemorate the period 1784 – 1815, during which the United States gained its independence, fought

for free and open trade, then solidified its emergence as a rising sovereignty after victory in the War of 1812. At least 125 items from the museum’s world-class collection will be on display, including original portraits of Maryland’s four signers of the Declaration of Independence and the silver Congressional medal awarded to Maryland’s own Lieut. Col. John Eager Howard (1752 – 1827).

Howard distinguished himself at the Battle of Cowpens (January 17, 1781) and other South Carolina battles during the Revolution. After the war, he returned to his native Maryland and served in the Continental Congress, became Governor of Maryland, and was later elected a Senator. He was the Federalist Party’s candidate for Vice President in 1816, aside Rufus King for President.

## The Liberty Trail

In a related donation, the Maryland Society is making a donation for the first time to the Revolutionary War Trust, a division of the American Battlefield Trust. The monies will be used to support The Liberty Trail, a planned series of driving tours throughout South Carolina’s extensive Revolutionary War battlegrounds. South Carolina was the site of some 200 battles and skirmishes during the Revolution.

South Carolinian David Reuver, as quoted in the *Columbia Metropolitan* magazine, says, “While the Revolution may have been conceived on the Massachusetts battlefields of Lexington and Concord, and its birth certificate drawn up in Philadelphia in 1776, the labor and delivery rooms for the nation were the battlefields in South Carolina.”

Chief among those battlefields is Cowpens, where Brig. Gen. Daniel Morgan directed a stunning victory over Lieut. Col. Banastre Tarleton. This is where John Eager Howard showed his mettle and cool on the battlefield in the midst, at times, of chaotic conflict.



*Dennis Peters hands over the gift money at Mount Vernon*

## The George Washington Teacher Institute

Lastly, but no less worthy, the Maryland Sons have made a donation to The George Washington Teacher Institute at Mount Vernon. The Institute is a professional development program for K-12 teachers, providing them with opportunities to understand the rich and inclusive history of George Washington and Mount Vernon. The joint goal between the Maryland Society and professionals at Mount Vernon is to help educators achieve student engagement in the classroom and support objective, informed learning outcomes about American history for the next generation of Americans.

The Institute offers professional development in several ways, including digital programs, teacher fellowships, residential programs, and regional programs where the Education Staff at Mount Vernon travel throughout the country to host day-long regional programs for teachers.— *text by Peter Pearre, MDSR; photos submitted by President Dennis Peters.*





## A Round-Up of Events

The Massachusetts Society did not stop meeting for live events during the second half of last year. In August, despite the lock-down, we held our Annual Meeting at the historic

Wayside Inn in Sudbury, Massachusetts, where later this year the General Society will host its 44th Triennial Meeting. The Annual Meeting was followed in September with a dinner for members at a private club in Boston, under strict guidelines.

This year, in late June, the Society held its yearly Bunker Hill dinner at the Somerset Club in Boston to honor Massachusetts native Joseph Warren. The occasion also marked our Society's Annual Meeting. This was the final meeting presided over by Shervin B. Hawley as President. During President Hawley's last year in office, ten new members joined the Society.

A new slate of officers and board members were named, elected, and installed. First Vice President Brent Anderson was elected President, with D. Brenton Simons and Bradford Rowell assuming the roles of First Vice President and Second Vice President, respectively. Shervin B. Hawley is now serving as President Emeritus.



*Members of the Massachusetts Society gathered on June 23, 2021, for the Society's Annual Spring Dinner at the Somerset Club in Boston.*





*The Omni Mount Washington Resort in different seasons.*

## Post-Triennial Foliage Tour

For those wishing to see New England's spectacular fall foliage after the Triennial, a tour has been arranged in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Omni Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods. This luxurious resort (a National Historic Landmark) sits at the foot of the Presidential Range and was built in 1902. In 1944, it hosted the Bretton Woods Conference, a U.N.-sponsored meeting on the global financial order following WWII.

Depending on demand for the tour, transportation can be arranged between the Omni Mount Washington and the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston. At the Omni Mount Washington, there are many onsite activities, including golf, tennis, horseback riding, and a fitness center. For more information visit the link at [SRMASS.org/postevent](http://SRMASS.org/postevent).—text and Society photos submitted by Shervin B. Hawley



## January Meeting by Zoom

Members of the Minnesota Society along with spouses, guests, and members of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in the State of Minnesota met by Zoom on

January 16, 2021. The total in attendance was thirty-nine. The Minnesota SAR Color Guard presented the colors. SAR President Dennis Garvin Croonquist led the Pledge of Allegiance, and SR Chaplain Michael Swisher gave the invocation. With a quorum established, Minnesota Society President Geoffrey Bodeau called to order the Sons of the Revolution portion of the meeting and presided.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15 February 2020 to mark Washington's Birthday had been posted on the MNSAR website, and they were approved as presented. The 2020 Treasurer's report was accepted as presented. The Registrar had received an application for membership from Michael John Stainbrook, Sr., of Duluth and found it in order and recommended he be elected to membership. The motion carried unanimously.

Members elected a new slate of State Society officers. The Nominating Committee, composed of Compatriots Minish, Finnell, and Galles, and chaired by the first, recommended the following slate of candidates for election to a one-year term, which was approved unanimously:

President, Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D. • Vice President, James Fredrick Foster  
 Secretary/Treasurer, Duane L. C. M. Galles, Esq. • Assistant Treasurer/Chaplain, Michael S. Swisher  
 Registrar, Arthur Louis Finnell • Assistant Registrar, Tracy Ashley Croker  
 Solicitor, William R. Johnson, Esq., • Representative to the General Board, Duane L. C. M. Galles, Esq.

### For the Board of Managers:

Larry Wray Sisk (ex officio) • Robert Arthur Minish, Esq. • Col. Ronald McRoberts • John Hallberg Jones  
 Edward Reino Lief, Esq. • Christopher Willard Moberg • Thomas Truxtun Morrison  
 Michael Perry Schenk • Michael LaLond West



In the time that has lapsed since the January meeting, the Minnesota Society has taken in two new members, Michael Stainbrook, Jr., whose father joined in December 2020, and Richard Edmund Smith, who congruently serves as MNSAR Treasurer. Richard's application reports: "Applicant's father, Albert Eugene Smith (1907-1973), was a WWII veteran and computing pioneer, working for the US Navy from the 1940's through the 1960's. Albert Smith was a colleague of RADM Grace Hopper, USN, and helped her develop the COBOL programming language."

Richard himself became a computing engineer. He helped deploy pioneering speech recognition systems, ancestors of today's Dragon product line. He also developed network router software for the ARPANET, the precursor to the internet. Starting in the 1990's, the applicant worked in cybersecurity, primarily for the defense and intelligence communities, and as an educator.

He has authored three books, *Internet Cryptography, Authentication from Passwords to Public Keys*, and the textbook, *Elementary Information Security*. He still occasionally lectures for the graduate program in software engineering at the University of Minnesota."—submitted by Duane L. C. M. Galles, Ph.D.



UMSLEU/MERCANTILE

Charles Brown to receive MOSR Historic Preservation Award.

Convening in 2021, the Board of Managers then accepted nominations for the Society's Modern Patriot Award. The name of the selected individual is being withheld, pending acceptance. This award is presented to someone who promotes and diffuses knowledge of American history from within the State of Missouri and defends the values and principles of freedom, liberty, and justice for all. —submitted by MOSR President Sumner Hunnewell.

## Missouri State Bicentennial

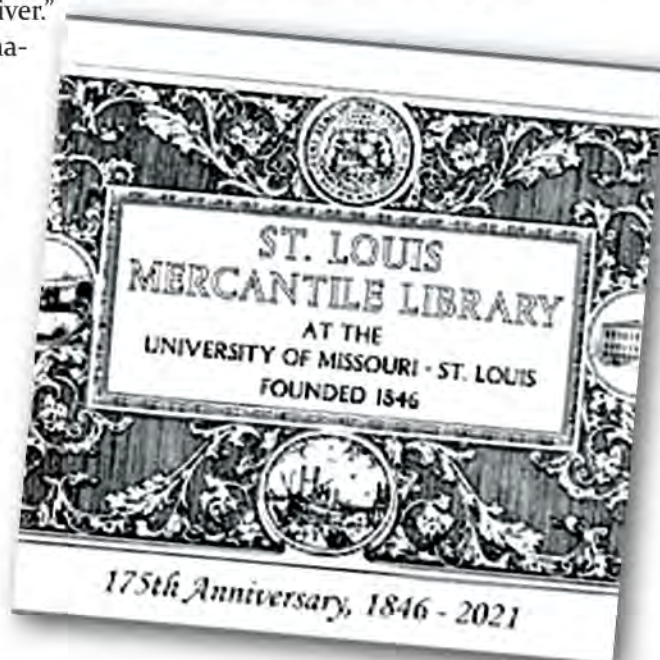
August 10, 2021, will mark the two hundredth anniversary of Missouri's entry into the U.S. as the 24th state. Statehood Day at the Capitol building in Jefferson City will include the formal recognition of the Missouri Bicentennial, the revealing (unveiling) of the Missouri Bicentennial stamp and mural, exhibits in the Capitol, a US Naturalization Ceremony, and the celebration

## MOSR Resumes Awards Program

The Missouri Society presents a Historic Preservation Award and a Modern Patriot Award yearly. The pandemic gave pause to the awards program in 2020, but the MOSR has relaunched the program for 2021. During an in-person Board of Managers meeting held last fall, Charles Brown of the St. Louis Mercantile Library was chosen as recipient of the Society's 2021 Historic Preservation Award. This award recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to the development of greater public awareness of an historical event(s) in the State of Missouri and shares the patriotic values of the MOSR.

Charles is head of Reference Services at the Library and is a renowned St. Louis subject specialist. He has worked in libraries for forty-five years and has been an associate of the Mercantile Library since 1982. He's the cultural memory of the St. Louis area and is consulted worldwide on the topic.

An award ceremony will take place at the Mercantile Library at a future date, once local authorities deem it safe to do so. The Mercantile Library was chartered in 1846 and boasts being "the oldest general library in continuous existence West of the Mississippi River."







of coordinated statewide ice cream socials. Ice cream, after all, is the state's official dessert.

Missouri is a state with many different cultures, histories, geographies, and industries. Each community, county, and region of the Show-Me State has a unique story to tell. It is hoped that by participating in the bicentennial, Missourians will gain a new level of appreciation and understanding of the state's diversity and underlying unity.

A successful commemoration of Missouri's two hundredth year will engage all 114 counties and the City of St. Louis in a meaningful look at the state's past, present, and future.—*Editor*



## Looking Ahead to November

The SRNC is looking ahead to a November "Welcome Back" luncheon in Raleigh. It will be our first in-person meeting in over a year. The intent is to renew the fellowship and friendships within our Society, as well as to welcome prospective and new members. Donald C. McLeod, Past President of the St. Andrew's Society of N.C., will be our featured speaker. He will give a presentation on the British surrender at Yorktown.

Meanwhile, the Society has maintained momentum via Zoom. Last November, a new slate of Society officers was voted in to serve this year. Continuing as President and Vice President are Augustus E. Succop III and Randall E. Sprinkle, respectively. The other officers are: Gary L. Hall, Secretary; Charles R. Odom, Treasurer; Carlton M. Mansfield, Chancellor; John. R.

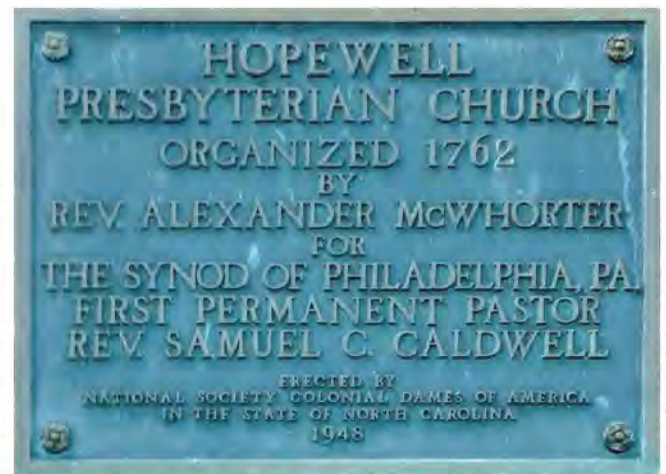


*Hopewell Presbyterian Church building.*

Harman, Jr., Registrar; W. Daniel Pate, Historian; J. Robert Boykin, Chaplain; and, John F. Ledbetter, Jr., Captain of the Color Guard. Directors elected to the Class of 2023 are: David L. Gellatly, W. Timothy Lattimore, and Ronald W. Steele.

Our first virtual event of 2021 was a joint commemoration with the SAR of the Battle of Cowan's Ford, which occurred on the Catawba River, February 1, 1781. Patriot militia successfully delayed Cornwallis' troops from reaching the main contingencies of Patriot forces under Gens. Nathanael Greene and Daniel Morgan. The militia's leader, Patriot General William Lee Davidson, was fatally wounded at the battle.

During the event, SRNC President Gus Succop presented a wreath at the SAR/SR memorial at the Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville. Several Revolutionary War patriots are buried at that cemetery, including Gen. Davidson.



*Hopewell Presbyterian Historical Plaque.*



## SRNC Chapters

The Raleigh Chapter, named the Cols. Hinton and Polk Chapter, was unable to meet in 2020. Chapter President E. Allen James reports that forty-four persons have paid dues for 2021, which includes eleven New Members. As of this writing, the Chapter was waiting for quarterly meetings to restart, in accordance with North Carolina opening again.

Later this year, the Chapter will conduct a grave marking for Col. John Hinton, Jr., leader of the Wake County Militia (Raleigh, N.C.), who stepped up following the resignation of his father, also a Colonel in the same militia. In addition to President James, other Chapter officers include Hollis P. Posey, VP; John E. Huss, Secretary; Harley A. Walker, Jr., Treasurer; and Frank B. Powell III, Chaplain. The Raleigh Chapter leadership reminds all SR members of the many tragic hardships our ancestors faced during the Revolution. Just as they were victorious, so, too, the Sons of the Revolution will be victorious over this pandemic. Our Society will grow stronger as a result. Here's to a successful 2021-2022! Huzzah!

The Society's Charlotte Chapter, named the Gen. William Lee Davidson Chapter, likewise did not hold an in-person meeting in 2020. Should the way be clear, the Chapter will hold its annual Chartering Dinner in September. Current Chapter Officers include Gus Succop, President; David Boggs, VP; and, Jay Joyce, Treasurer. As of 2021, the Chapter boasted fourteen members. Chapter member Bill Parmelee holds dual membership with the Florida Society, where General President Dr. Laurence S. Simpson also holds dual membership.

The SRNC plans to send three delegates to the 44th Triennial Meeting, Sept. 30 – Oct. 3, 2021, in Boston. Those will be State President Augustus E. Succop III, VP Randall E. Sprinkle, and Raleigh Chapter President E. Allen James.—*submitted by the SRNC.*



SAR/SR Memorial, Hopewell Presbyterian Church Cemetery.





Attendees at our Annual Meeting on 15 February (It looks more like an extended "The Hollywood Squares"!)

## 2021 Annual Meeting

The Society's 2021 Annual Meeting in mid-February was unlike any other before it, but we did our best to honor the General. There were no flags, no parades, and no banquet, but we continued our financial support of the groups that make them part of our usual program. Richard Patterson talked to us about life in a museum in the COVID world, in this case the Old Barracks Museum in Trenton. We are all only too aware of the down sides, but there is a silver lining: some adjustments in the way things are done ended up being better than the original procedure!—Zoom photos and text submitted by Society President Jack Idenden.

Our speaker for the day, Richard Patterson, Executive Director of the Old Barracks Museum



Scott Scammell, right, Jesse Landon, left, and Charlie Scammell, not pictured, were on hand for the April seasonal opening of the Red Mill Museum in Clinton, N.J. The first Saturday of the season is known as Military Heritage Day. The three of them displayed the Society's thirty Revolutionary War flags and answered questions from visitors. The museum comprises several buildings and boasts a collection of over 40,000 artifacts. Some of the objects date back to Colonial times. Photo by Charlie Scammell.





The returned Color Guard Punch Bowl

## First Live Event: 2021 Summer Tavern Night

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York on July 22, 2021 held its first “live” public event since the pandemic gripped New York City. The devastating losses which the City incurred early on last year were yet another challenge which the SRNY stoically faced and withstood. The heavy toll which COVID-19 exacted on the community followed the heavy toll which Superstorm Sandy left behind in 2012.

Therefore, this year's Summer Tavern Night was a moment for the New York Sons to celebrate their endurance and fortitude. It was also an occasion to cheer the return of the Color Guard Punch Bowl that was presented to the Society in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the Fraunces Tavern® building.

## Earlier Virtual Gatherings...

In the spirit of overcoming difficulties, the Society earlier this year (as well as last year) carried on its traditions via remote technology. This year's virtual Tallmadge Day, on Monday, January 25th, explored the history of Manhattan prior to and during the Revolutionary War, showing how the loyalist De Lancey family influenced the causes and courses of the conflict in Manhattan and beyond.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Christopher F. Minty, Managing Editor of The John Dickinson Writings Project at the Center for Digital Editing at the University of Virginia, and the author of *“American Demagogues”: The Origins of Loyalism in Manhattan* (Cornell University Press, forthcoming 2022).



Tallmadge Day's speaker, Dr. Christopher F. Minty

A few weeks later, SRNY's 144th George Washington Birthday Ball was also held virtually. The February 19th fundraiser received excellent reviews. We were able to convert much of our ceremony to a virtual format through familiar presentations such as the Ceremony of the Cocked Hat, well-curated videos featuring the SRNY Color Guard and Fraunces Tavern Museum, and even virtual “tables” for much-needed socializing. A slideshow procession kicked off the event, showing images of guests in black tie and gowns at previous George Washington Birthday Balls.

This year's Distinguished Patriot was Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian Rick

Atkinson, who engaged attendees with a 40-minute lecture and Q&A session about the first book in his Revolution Trilogy, *THE BRITISH ARE COMING: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777*, which won the 2020 Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award.

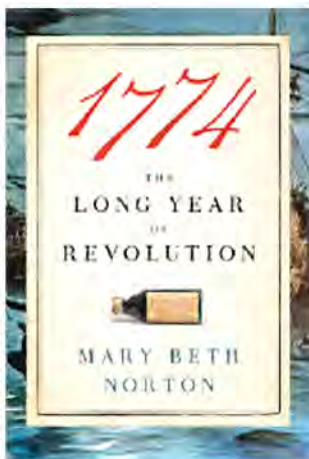
The Book Award is presented each year on or around April 19th, coinciding with the Society's annual commemoration of the Battles of Lexington and Concord. This year's FTM Book Award went to author Mary Beth Norton for *1774: The Long Year of Revolution*. Honorable mentions were presented to Nina Sankovitch for *American Rebels: How the Hancock, Adams, and Quincy Families Fanned the Flames of Revolution* and to Andrew Waters for *To the End of the World: Nathanael Greene, Charles Cornwallis, and the Race to the Dan*.

All three authors joined us for the virtual event, as did the Massachusetts Society of the Sons of the Revolution, whose members joined us from the Colonial Inn in Concord. Since 1972, the Fraunces Tavern Museum Book



General President Dr. Laurence S. Simpson and his wife, Lillian, at the 2019 George Washington Birthday Ball.





2021 FTM Book Award winner Mary Beth Norton.

Award has been presented annually to the author of a newly published work on the American Revolutionary War that is distinguished for its original scholarship, insight, and good writing.

### Flag Day 2021

The SRNY was again unable to host its traditional Flag Day parade through Lower Manhattan due to New York City permit restrictions imposed by the pandemic. However, the Society resumed its Open House at Fraunces Tavern Museum (\$1 Museum admission the weekend of June 12-13 from 12:00pm-5:00pm), which was launched last year. The Society also continued its Essay and Art Contest for children of New York City schools. For both types of creative work, the recurring

annual theme is, "What the American Flag Means to Me."

Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. While not a federal holiday, this special day is observed across the nation, from small towns to big cities, often with parades. Since 1916, the SRNY has annually hosted the Flag Day Parade, Celebration, and Open House in New York City. The pandemic called for modifying the format of the event, but it is hoped by next June 14th, the Sons will again be able to parade through Lower Manhattan.

This year's winning essays and artwork are posted on the Museum's website and will be on display in the Museum for the next year.

### Museum Flag Exhibits

On Friday, April 2, 2021, Fraunces Tavern Museum debuted two new exhibitions: *To the Beat of Their Own Drums: Regimental Flags of the American Revolution* and *An American Emblem of Magnanimity*.

TO THE  
BEAT OF  
THEIR OWN  
DRUMS  
*American Regimental Flags  
of the Revolutionary War*



The first mentioned, *To the Beat of Their Own Drums: American Regimental Flags of the Revolutionary War*, is located in the Museum's Kathryn & Shelby Cullom Davis Educational Center for American History. This exhibit showcases a selection of flags flown by various regiments of the Continental Army and explores the meanings behind the symbols they used to adorn them. Flags depicting images from hornets to hand grenades were used to symbolize these soldiers' bravery and courage. Visitors will learn about the history and iconography behind the regimental flags of the diverse groups who fought for American independence.

Apart from the regimental banners, this exhibit also showcases several early iterations of the Stars and Stripes. When they are viewed together in a group, these flags tell the story of a growing national identity. Our national flag went through twenty-seven iterations between 1777 and 1960, as flag proportions and colors were standardized and new stars were added to the canton. The last change of design occurred in 1960 with the addition of the fiftieth star, following the admission of Hawaii into the Union.

The exploration of Revolutionary-era flags continues into the Adeline Moses Loeb Gallery with *An American Emblem of Magnanimity*, which examines the history, significance and meaning of the Gadsden Flag. The timber rattlesnake, prominently featured on the Gadsden Flag, was adopted by many colonists as a symbol of American resistance to British rule. This special exhibition offers a look at the history, changing significance, and original meaning of this striking and somewhat controversial flag.

The SRNY would like to express appreciation to the General Society and GSSR President Larry Simpson for their support of these projects. (See related article, pp 7-9.) More information on these exhibitions can be found online at <https://www.frauncestavernmuseum.org/current-exhibitions>.—Text and photos by SRNY/FTM staff, with thanks to Allie Delyanis, Scott Dwyer, Diego Foronda, and Colyn Hunt.





*Let Freedom Ring License Plate*

## Let Freedom Ring Plate Available Thru 2026

The Pennsylvania USA Semiquincentennial registration plate is available now through December 31, 2026. The plate can be purchased only for vehicles registered in the Keystone State. It is available for motorcycles, passenger cars, motorhomes, and trucks weighing no more than 14,000 pounds or seven tons.

The cost of the Let Freedom Ring plate is only \$50. If you want to personalize yours, the cost is an extra \$108. Submit three five-digit combinations for your personalized plate, and the state will select one. Those interested in obtaining the Let Freedom Ring registration plate must first complete DMV Form MV-919,

“Application for USA Semiquincentennial Registration Plate.”

The legislation for the commemorative plate was sponsored by State Representative Timothy Hennessey, the Pennsylvania House Transportation Chairman and father of Pennsylvania Society Registrar Tim Hennessey.



*Attendees at the 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting held at Historic Fort Mifflin.*

## 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting

On Thursday, April 8, 2021 the PSSR held its second consecutive Annual Meeting in the outdoors venue of Historic Fort Mifflin. The eighteenth-century star fort is located on the banks of the Delaware River, about ten miles south of Center City. Following PSSR tradition, the event was held at no cost to attendees. Over 100 members and guests assembled in a COVID-19-compliant outdoor setting with seasonable temperatures prevailing that day.

The meeting began with a presentation of the colors by the PSSR Color Guard under the direction of Captain Eric E.L. Guenther, Jr. Fort Mifflin volunteers fired cannon to signal the Color Guard's entrance. The meeting was then called to order by Society President Ben Ramsay Wolf, Sr., at 5:00 p.m. Reverend G. Clayton Ames, III, gave the invocation prior to the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved, and various officers then gave reports. Among them, Treasurer and Incoming President Richard F. Pagano cited the State Society's excellent financial health. Color Guard Captain Eric E.L. Guenther then provided his report on Color Guard activities and financial contributions for the past year. President Wolf then gave his report and recounted the three goals of his term: Money, Membership, and Mission.



*Luke D'Amicatonio, and his grandfather, Richard Kratzinger, Sr., receive his PSSR membership rosette at the Annual Meeting.*



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*PSSR Color Guard inside the Washington Memorial Chapel.*

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After the virtual service, the members at the Chapel gathered for a carillon recital followed by a cocktail reception in the Society's hospitality tent adjacent to the church. All Society members received invitations to the cocktail reception.—*text and photos submitted by Vice President Michael Whelan.*

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There was a parading of the colors and standards by the Color Guard before the attendees were welcomed by the Rector of Washington Memorial Chapel, the Reverend Tommy Thompson, and the Rector's Warden, Mrs. Pat Nogar. PSSR Chaplain and General Chaplain Rev. G. Clayton Ames, III, then



*Rector Tommy Thompson welcomes the PSSR to Washington Memorial Chapel.*





*RISR President Roy D. Lauth, foreground, and Dr. Benedict Leca, executive director of the Redwood Library, standing behind him.*

## RISR Active during Pandemic

On February 22, 2021, the Rhode Island Sons held its Annual George Washington Birthday celebration at the Redwood Library in Newport. The event was not publicized in order to reduce the possibility of crowds and the difficulty of maintaining social distancing. It was an abbreviated ceremony with greetings brought by Dr. Benedict Leca, executive director of the Redwood Library.

The event also included a reading of Washington's Prayer for the Nation by RISR President Roy Lauth and a musket salute by the Artillery Company of Newport. The traditional luncheon afterward was not held, due to restaurant group restrictions; nonetheless, our unbroken tradition of celebrating Washington's Birthday continues.

Later in the year, since COVID guidelines had not yet been relaxed, in lieu of our usual meeting and luncheon commemorating Rhode Island Independence Day (May 4th), we featured a speaker via Zoom. Our speaker was LTC Seanegan P. Sculley, a

history professor at West Point. Dr. Sculley gave a presentation based on his new book, *Contest for Liberty, Military Leadership in the Continental Army 1775-1783*. His talk gave a unique perspective into the challenges faced by officers in the new Continental Army.

Toward the end of May, the RISR presented its second annual Frank S. Hale Memorial Scholarship to a graduating senior of Rogers High School in Newport. The \$1000 scholarship is awarded to a student who displays academic excellence, service to the community, and an interest in history. The candidates must also write an essay highlighting local events that occurred during the Revolutionary War. The scholarship was named for the late Frank S. Hale, a long-time member of the Sons who served many years as President of the Rhode Island Society.

Of final note, the RISR was active for Flag Day 2021. The Rhode Island Gulls Collegiate Baseball Team held their annual Little League Appreciation Night with the sponsorship focusing on Flag Day. The Rhode Island Society Sons of the Revolution were in attendance passing out flags to youths that came to see the game. With the culmination of the National Anthem, the stands were awash in red, white, and blue.

## RISR Conserves a 'National Treasure'

Last spring, a discovery was made at the Varnum Memorial Armory Museum in East Greenwich of a previously unknown letter written by a black soldier who served during the war in the First Rhode Island Regiment. The man, Thomas Nichols, was a former slave who had obtained his freedom by joining the Regiment. The 1781 letter is significant because it was addressed to his former owners, Benjamin and Phoebe Nichols, of Warwick, seeking a discharge from the Army and a return to their homestead. Thomas told them his health had been jeopardized by the war.

Patrick Donovan, curator of the Varnum Memorial Armory Museum, termed the letter 'a national treasure,' as he believes it to be one of only two letters sent by African-American Continental soldiers during the Revolutionary War.

*The Library's 1932 cast of Jean-Antoine Houdon's 1796 likeness of George Washington. This approved cast was made by the Gorham Company of Providence.*

The Rhode Island Society of Sons of the Revolution donated the monies necessary to frame the letter. The framed document is now on display at the museum (see next page).—text submitted by Society President Roy D. Lauth; photos courtesy David Hanson Photography.



*The traditional musket salute by the Artillery Company of Newport.*



Thomas Nichols had enlisted in the Regiment on May 10, 1778, and was assigned to Capt. Thomas Cole's company, serving under Col. Christopher Greene. Nichols very likely fought at the Battle of Rhode Island on Aquidneck Island, August 29, 1778. Just a week before the battle, he was reported in a muster roll as "on guard." The battle, in some way, could have affected Thomas' health. A month later, he was listed as sick and in the hospital.

Over the next two to three years, his service record was compromised by intermittent periods of absence due to sickness. (Whereas white soldiers oftentimes were furloughed after a period of weeks or months and would return to service later, former slaves were expected to serve the duration of the war without rest.)

An article written by author Christian McBurney and published online by The Online Review of Rhode Island History reports Nichols perhaps had contracted an illness or suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. Thomas' short letter makes reference to his "fits."

He indicated the Regiment's Surgeon and Surgeon's Mate recommended he transfer to the Corps of Invalids at Boston, where he would receive half-pay and serve in non-combatative roles. But the former slave preferred, with his master's and mistress's kind permission, to return to their homestead than serve another day in the Army. The McBurney article concludes Thomas could have been welcomed back into the Nichols' home and allowed to remain free. While a 1774 census indicated there were two free men of color and one slave living at the Benjamin Nichols residence, the 1790 census listed three men of color and no slaves living there.

The following is an edited transcription of the original Thomas Nichols' letter, with spelling and grammar corrections made and certain clarifications inserted.



The framed Thomas Nichols' letter.

PHOTO COURTESY RISR.

Windham [, Connecticut,] January 18th, 1781

Honored Master & Mistress:

I take this opportunity to inform you of my situation at this time and desire your aide. After I drove 3 wagons as far as Windham, a wagoner took away my badge of driving and ordered me to guard the wagons, which I refused. I turned back to Colonel Christopher Greene at Coventry and the wagoner sent back two men after me. The Colonel did not blame me but told the men and me to go on again and that I should take my wagon again. But being over worried with this tramp I got but 3 miles further than where I left the wagons in South Windham at the house of one Dan Murdock where I have been confined with my old fits. But good care is taken of me. But I have a desire to return to you. Not having any money, nor clothes fit to wear and all strangers to me makes it something difficult for me. I have had a Doctor and a Surgeon's Mate [examine] me who advise me to go to the Corps of Invalids at Boston, where I may be under half pay during the life remaining in this poor state of body. But I am not able to go there. Neither do I incline to do so without advice from you. But I have a desire that Master or Mistress would go to Colonel Greene and see if you can't get me discharged from the war, it being very disagreeable to my mind as well as destructive to my health. I suppose I could ride on a horse or at least in a slay if you could obtain a discharge for me so that I may return to my master and his family again, bearing the will of God and your pleasure. So no more at this time. But I Remain your humble and dutiful

Thomas.

"N" His mark

December 31, 1780. These lines I received from the Surgeon's Mate: Whereas Thomas Nichols a soldier belonging to the First Regiment in Rhode Island State has been for some time attended with fits in this place and still likely to remain unfit for military life.



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*Rector Tommy Thompson welcomes the PSSR to Washington Memorial Chapel.*





A large group of participants for the 240th Anniversary of Fort Granby.

## Large Gathering at Ft. Granby

On May 15th at the Cayce Historical Museum in Cayce, S.C., thirty-five members of various patriotic societies gathered for the 240th Anniversary of Ft. Granby. The event commemorates the victorious 1781 Patriot siege by Lt. Col. Henry Lee III (Light-Horse Harry) and his men that resulted in the British surrender of the trading post. By tradition, the SCSR invites a local DAR, SAR and CAR Chapter to participate. Each attending Society presents its flag along with a ceremonial wreath to honor the 400-500 Patriot infantrymen under Lee that forced the British to surrender the strategic site.

The event was held in the shade of a large Magnolia tree across from the front of the

museum, just beside the DAR marker of Ft. Granby. The program on the history of the site was presented by local historian and retired teacher, Dean Hunt, from Lexington, South Carolina.



SCSR President  
Jeffery Murrie

Eight SCSR members were present for the day. SCSR Color Guard William Suggs and his two sons, Junior Members, provided the flag display during the commemoration. SCSR President Jeff Murrie presided and along with Regional VP Mid-State Col. George Summers, introduced each society officer and presented them with the SR streamer for Ft. Granby. After a lunch social, Society members returned for the Annual Meeting of the Board of Managers in the Historical Museum.

The event was part of a series of like gatherings organized by the SCSR. In February, the Society held a similar joint commemoration at the site of the Battle of Port Royal, and in March, another was held at the site of the Battle of Haynes Massacre. One is planned in August at the Isaac Hayne Plantation & Cemetery. Such is the advantage that South Carolina offers, hundreds of sites where there were either skirmishes or battles during the Revolutionary War.



Ft. Granby  
event speaker  
and retired  
teacher, Dean  
Hunt.

## Tom Weidner Speaks at Southern Wesleyan U

SCSR Past President Tom Weidner on March 1, 2021, gave a presentation to two American History classes at Southern Wesleyan University in Central, S.C. He spoke about his Patriot ancestor, Samuel Franks, and the Battle of the Great Canebrake in South Carolina, in which his ancestor fought. Tom also shared with the students the history of the Sons of the Revolution and how to conduct genealogical research to find a Patriot ancestor.

The classes are taught by Dr. Kenneth Myers, chairman of the Southern Wesleyan Humanities and History Department. Tom Hanson, South Carolina Society chaplain, participated in class discus



Tom Weidner and Dr. Kenneth Myers.

PHOTO BY TOM HANSON.

## SR WINDOW DECAL

*In the previous issue, we misspelled the email address for ordering SR window decals. To order a decal, please contact SCSR President Jeffery Murrie at [jefferymurrie@gmail.com](mailto:jefferymurrie@gmail.com). Our apologies for the inconvenience.*





sion and shot video of Weidner's speech.

The collaboration between the SCSR and Southern Wesleyan began when the two institutions came together with other organizations last December on Wreathes across America Day to pay homage to Revolutionary War veterans buried near the university at the historic Pickens Chapel. From that event was launched an initiative among patriotic societies and Southern Wesleyan to sponsor the installation of a commemorative plaque on cemetery grounds recognizing the Revolutionary War heroes in repose there.



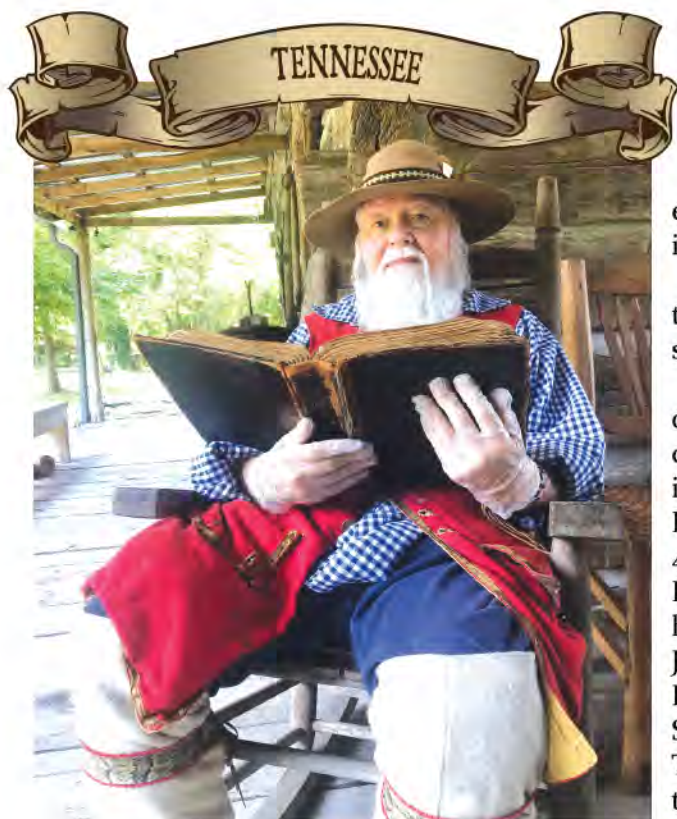
Thomas Heyward, Jr. Gravesite and Historical Marker, Grahamville, S.C.

## Thomas Heyward, Jr. Gravesite Pilgrimage

On July 5, 2021, the SCSR organized an annual pilgrimage among patriotic societies and descendants of Thomas Heyward, Jr., to recognize the South Carolinian signer of the Declaration of Independence. The traditional pilgrimage alternated between SAR chapters in Beaufort and Hilton Head Island through 2018, but it was abandoned in 2019. The pandemic in 2020 made another pilgrimage impossible. This year, neither SAR Chapter indicated an interest in resuming it. The opportunity opened the door for the GSSR Region 3 and South Carolina Society to forge a new plan.

The new plan includes involving youngsters. Ivan Bennett, Region 3 General Vice President, and William Suggs, SCSR Coastal Region VP, hosted an event for twenty youths to participate in. William Jr and Benjamin Suggs (Moncks Corner) with Jack Gatlin (Hilton Head Island) led the group in the pledges (American Flag, SC Flag and SR Pledge). Ivan Bennett selected an invocation from the GSSR prayer book and gave a blessing to future generations to come.

Tommy Heyward Bluffton presented a program on Thomas Heyward Jr., and it was well received by the Junior Members. All Heyward descendants were very pleased that the Pilgrimage had been renewed, and they asked to be invited to other SCSR events coming up and wanted to learn more about the Sons of the Revolution.—Text and photos submitted by SCSR.



Member Jerry Mustin at David Hall Cabin, July 4th.

The pandemic is still causing concern in some areas of the country. The Tennessee Society Sons of the Revolution voted to cancel its 2021 George Washington (Birthday) Banquet celebration and postpone its annual Summer Luncheon to a date in the fall. As a result, TSSOR President David Daily is encouraging all Society members to embrace technology to keep in touch.

"Now, more than ever, in this time of division, we must stand together in our belief in fellowship, country, and our ancestors," says Society President David Daily.

On the Chapter level, members of the Anderson County Chapter convened at the David Hall Cabin in Clinton, Tennessee, for the Fourth of July. "We had a great July 4th celebration," says Dennis Eggert. "We did something that we haven't done for years—exhibit our John Sevier Family Bible." The Bible had belonged to the John Sevier family (first governor of Tennessee) and was later passed to the Walter King family. Still later, it was donated to the Sons.—Editor



TSSOR President David Daily





# Bombardment of Falmouth, Maine

October 18, 1775

## PART II

By Sumner Hunnewell,  
MOSR President

*The following installment concludes the article by Mr. Hunnewell, begun in the previous issue, on the bombing of Falmouth (Portland), Maine. The author, born and raised in Maine, resides in St. Louis and is a member of dozens of hereditary societies and family associations.—Ed.*



Admiral Samuel Graves  
communities at Falmouth.


To resume, it was in the autumn of 1775 when Admiral Samuel Graves, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Navy (July 1774-Jan 1776), took it upon himself to destroy seaport towns eastward of Boston. He aimed to put down colonists' "seditious" activities along the seacoast, in support of George III's Proclamation for Suppressing Rebellion and Sedition, issued on August 23 of that year.

The king had ordered his officers to "use their utmost endeavours to withstand and suppress such rebellion." The monarch was mainly referring to the pirating of British merchant ships along the New England coast and the enforcement of the Continental Association's ban on British trade.

Graves commissioned Lt. Henry Mowat to chastise a number of coastal villages, but especially Machias, in the District of Maine. In Machias a few months earlier, the armed British schooner *HMS Margaretta* was seized in a skirmish and its commander, Midshipman James Moore, was fatally wounded. Therefore, Graves was intent on teaching Machias a lesson. Lt. Mowat, however, chose to begin laying waste to coastal


Arriving off Falmouth on October 17, 1775, Mowat parlayed with town representatives and forewarned them of his orders to bombard their town. He granted the townspeople til the following morning to give up their cannons and arms. During the night, many townsfolk began taking their belongings out to the countryside to spare them from destruction. The next day, Oct. 18th, the townsmen refused to surrender their arms, and Mowat, true to his word, launched a firestorm. But before the attack began, the inhabitants continued to scramble to save what they could.

Some militiamen returned to town from the islands, where they had moved livestock and hay. Other militia had arrived from surrounding



By the KING,  
**A PROCLAMATION,**  
For suppressing Rebellion and Sedition.

GEORGE R.



WHEREAS many of Our Subjects in divers Parts of Our Colonies and Plantations in *North America*, misled by dangerous and ill-designing Men, and forgetting the Allegiance which they owe to the Power that has protected and sustained them, after various disorderly Acts committed in Disturbance of the Publick Peace, to the Obstruction of lawful Commerce, and to the Oppression of Our loyal Subjects carrying on the same, have at length proceeded to an open and avowed Rebellion, by arraying themselves in hostile Manner to withstand the Execution of the Law, and traitorously preparing, ordering, and levying War against Us; And whereas there is Reason to apprehend that such Rebellion hath



towns. Nevertheless, there was no coordinated patriot counterattack to the bombardment. Most men were simply too busy trying to save families, goods, and property from the coming attack. The town was, for all practical purposes, defenseless. Five of its cannon on carriages had already been moved out of the town when Mowat's ships arrived. That left two six-pounders still on-hand, but they could not be used for the lack of cartridges. As for powder, there was less than an hour's worth in the town's store.

### The Attack

Mowat commanded two ships (one twenty-gun, one sixteen-gun), a schooner of fourteen guns, a bomb sloop, and two other armed vessels. As soon as he raised the flag, the bombardment was initiated. Various accounts give the start at about 9 a.m. or 9:30 a.m., although Mowat himself claimed he started it at 9:40 a.m. His men rained cannon balls (three to nine pounders), bombs, carcasses, live shells, grape shot and even musket balls into the town. The unconscionable firing upon Falmouth innocents continued for nine hours without abatement. It was estimated that Falmouth sustained a pounding of over 3,000 rounds, plus carcasses and bombs.

Three British sailors who deserted the Royal Navy reported that two hours following the bombardment's commencement, waves of twenty men at a time came ashore to set Whig houses on fire. Tory homes were spared the torch. Patriotic-minded townspeople skirmished with Mowat's men, but it was of limited effect. The citizens who had stayed behind did their best to drown out any fires, but they were soon overwhelmed. Toward the close of the day, Mowat gathered 100 sailors and marines from the ships and sent them ashore in a barge to torch buildings, wharfs, and vessels.

It may have been Mowat's pride that was most to blame—and his wont of revenge. In April of that year, he had visited Falmouth and was captured and held prisoner for a short time, although the persons who captured him were from neighboring Brunswick. The Patriot militia of Brunswick had derailed Mowat's plans, not only by jailing him but by preventing him from protecting a prominent Tory merchant.

The total loss came to about £55,000, claimed by over 200 families. About three-quarters of the town was destroyed, with one account showing 136 homes as well as 278 stores and warehouses ruined. Other than individuals' real estate, the town lost a courthouse, fire engine, its old town house, public library, and the aforementioned Anglican church. Providentially, only one citizen was wounded.

Being blasted out of house and home, dozens, if not hundreds, of families now had to face the elements. As nice a day as October 18th was, the next three days it rained continually—ruining many of the belongings people had left out in the countryside beyond the reach of the bombardment. Those items were (for the most part) damned by the weather.

### Letters to Gage and Washington

Anchored in the bay the day after the attack, Mowat wrote a letter to Lt. Gen. Thomas Gage, the military governor of Massachusetts, explaining with pride the results of the operation that had been undertaken. His men were effective and well led, he wrote. It may have been his way of deflecting criticism for not bombing Machias first, as were his orders. North Yarmouth, Maine, thought they were next because Mowat's flotilla had anchored there. As news hit other Atlantic communities through couriers and newspapers, the inhabitants prepared batteries with which to defend themselves. Falmouth was no different. If there was going to be a next time, they were going to be ready. There was a real concern that Mowat would be back and attempt to garrison the town with British soldiers.

The town representatives sent a dispatch to army headquarters in Massachusetts, providing a short narrative of the events. The Falmouth



*Lithograph of Portland, 1876.*

SOURCE: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.





Gen. George Washington

committee asked George Washington for men and ammunition. Washington wrote back from Cambridge on October 24:

"The Desolation and Ministerial Vengeance had Planned, in contempt of every Principle of Humanity, have been so lately brought on the Town of Falmouth, I know not how sufficiently to detest. Nor can my compassion for the General Suffering be conceived beyond the true Measure of my Feelings."

However heart-wrenching the attack might have been to the general, Washington had neither men nor ammunition to spare. He did free some officers of Col. Phinney's Maine regiment to return home to assist. The next month Brigadier General Frye was dispatched to aid fortifying coastal towns. Despite the ongoing fears of another attack to come in Falmouth, the Redcoats never attacked there again. In fact, Falmouth was the first and last of the New England coastal towns to be razed.



Gov. Thomas Gage

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# Thompson's War —the Root Cause



A timber surveyor marks large white pines for King George III. Image from *New England Masts and the King's Broad Arrow* by Samuel F. Manning.

On May 9, 1775, a patriotic-minded civic leader in Brunswick, Massachusetts named Samuel Thompson effectively organized a standoff between dozens of Patriot vessels and two much larger British vessels in the waters off Falmouth Neck, in Casco Bay. Not a shot was fired, and the two larger ships eventually retreated without realizing their immediate goal. That bloodless showdown, lasting until May 16th, came to be called Thompson's War.

Some observers point to Thompson's War to explain the subsequent burning of Falmouth later that year (see "Bombardment of Falmouth, Maine," pp. 55-57). On that ninth day in May, townspeople in Falmouth learned the news of Lexington-Concord. Thompson, who was head of the

local Committee of Safety, called on his militia and forced a showdown with the newly-built British merchant vessel *Minerva* and her naval escort, *HMS Canceaux*, both in Casco Bay.

Dozens of his militiamen from neighboring Brunswick arrived wearing a sprig of white pine in their hats as a uniform. It is reported the men carried small pine trees in their vessels to represent the ensign of the "battle." The pine tree was later depicted on the regional flags of New England.

## Rebuffed Plans

The *Minerva* was a mammoth mast ship, weighing 1,000 tons, built especially to haul Royal Masts made from New England white pines. She had the capacity to carry an enormous load of "sticks" measuring 120 feet long and forty-two inches wide at their base. With the *Minerva*, captained by Tory merchant Thomas Coulson, the Crown intended to defy the Continental Association's ban on British trade and make a run on the enforced embargo. The *Canceaux*, commanded by Lt. Henry Mowat, was a lightly armed sloop that was sent from Boston to enable *Minerva's* rigging and safe voyage. Nevertheless, the British/Tory plans were dashed after Thompson captured Mowat onshore in Falmouth Neck.

Loyalist militia from Falmouth negotiated for Mowat's release, which occurred the following day. Mowat was allowed to return to his ship, but he demanded to have Thompson arrested in retaliation. His desire was refused, enforced by several dozen militia vessels then surrounding the *Minerva* and *Canceaux*. The British pair finally weighed anchor and left without incident—and without the load of Royal Masts. Mowat departed in anger. Coulson, for his part, went to Portsmouth, New Hampshire in hopes of obtaining a cargo there. Unsuccessful, he returned to Falmouth but by that time Thompson's men had moved the intended masts several miles away. George III went without a shipment of Royal Masts that year, the last year in which the Colonies traded with Britain.

## The Mast Trade

From 1661 to 1775, the District of Maine experienced a tremendous boon in the mast trade with Britain. Maine's and New Hampshire's forests had become very attractive to King George III because of the considerable size of the native white pines. England itself had no native softwoods to speak of, and Scotland's pines were not large enough for the size of tall ships being constructed in Europe.

England imported fir and other woods from Scandinavia and the Baltics, but masts for the Royal Navy had to be pieced together from those imports, and several European countries competed for that wood. To solve their problem,



Continental Flag (1775), which was the New England flag.



the Brits began declaring the largest white pines along northern New England's coast and rivers to be the king's property, reserved for Royal Masts. White pines measuring over 120 feet from the ground to their first branches would get marked with the monarch's short arrow: a vertical line capped with an inverted V.

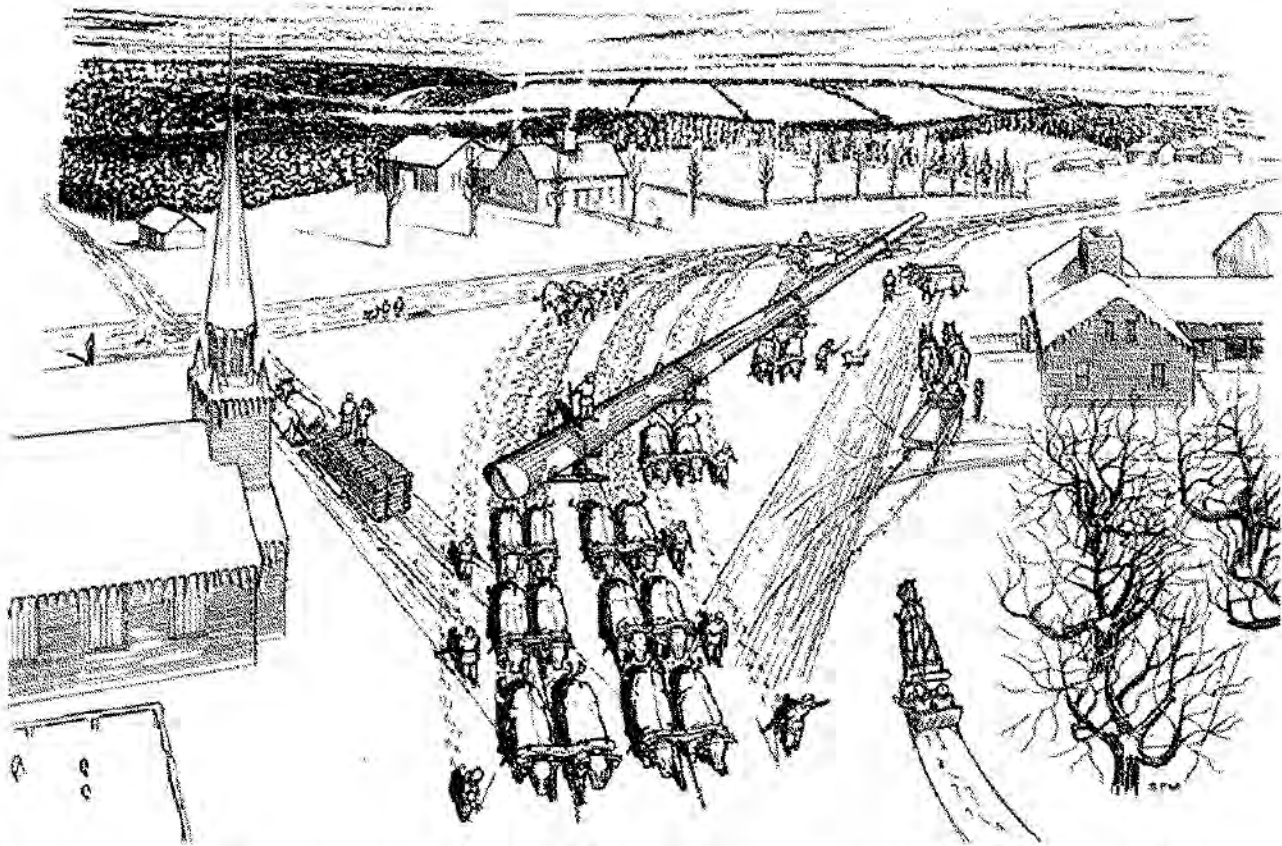
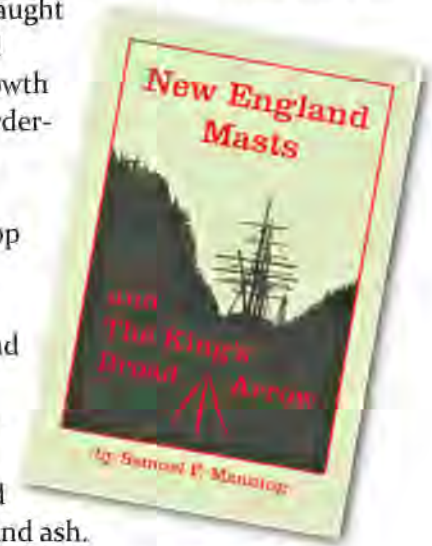
The Crown appointed surveyors (agents) who were responsible for selecting, marking and recording specific trees, as well as for policing and enforcing the unlicensed cutting of protected trees. Colonists caught violating this policy would be assessed a fine of £100. According to the Maine Historical Society, the overseas trade of masts peaked just before the American Revolution. Its growth and heyday coincided with the battleship arms race in Europe, when sovereigns were ordering ships of the line featuring seventy-four to a hundred guns and double or triple gun decks.

As time went on, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress appointed Thompson to stop the mast trade along the Maine coast. In 1774, he led armed patrols up and down the Kennebec River, capturing an agent and dispersing his Tory mastwrights. In early 1775, Thompson and his men confronted Tory mastwrights in Georgetown and Brunswick and demanded they stop their activities. The craftsmen fled their ports.

In May of that year, before Mowat was released, Thompson demanded from him his word that he would leave Casco Bay peacefully. Nearly a week later, the *Minerva* and *Canceaux* exited without a shot being fired. However, five months later Mowat returned to scorch Falmouth. He destroyed two-thirds of the town and left it smoldering in fire and ash.

Next, the Redcoats moved onto Machias, a port in northern Maine. Patriots in Machias, however, were quick to capture the British ship *Margaretta* and kill the commander, Midshipman James Moore. They then captured two other British vessels that had been sent to investigate the *Margaretta*. Clearly, the Patriots of Machias did not want the history of Falmouth to be repeated in their town. In retrospect, the people of Falmouth later admitted that to negotiate with Mowat had been a grave mistake. The hostilities in Machias have been called the first naval battle of the Revolution. Throughout the length of the Revolutionary War, the British never again tried to raze a port town in Maine.

—Editor, with thanks to William Livingston.



In Maine and New Hampshire, teamsters hauled selected felled trees to port for the mast trade. Image from *New England Masts and the King's Broad Arrow* by Samuel F. Manning.





# HIS STORY: Bodo Otto, Sr.

AN ARMY  
DOCTOR'S LIFE

*By James Mason Fritz, SR Member*

*All accompanying images are credited to the Dr. Bodo Otto Sr. Family Association, unless otherwise stated.*



*Dr. Bodo Otto, Sr., circa 1780*

The Revolutionary War was fought with muskets, rifles, cannons, swords, and bayonets. The man-made weaponry of war, reports the Philadelphia Unit of The Herb Society of America, killed, maimed and wounded a thousand Continental soldiers each year. Disease, however, killed nine times that number.

“As the men from the colonies gathered to fight, their germs mingled, spreading typhus, tuberculosis, smallpox, and influenza. Unsanitary conditions bred typhoid and dysentery. Food shortages caused scurvy and malnutrition.”\* It was from within such an unhealthy environment that Dr. Bodo Otto, Sr. labored and made his mark on early American medicine.

A German immigrant, Dr. Otto received a medical education in Germany and later was accepted into the “College of Surgeons” there. In 1755, he and his wife and children moved to the Colonies and eventually settled in Reading, Pennsylvania. He was an early supporter of the independence movement, opposing the Stamp Act of 1765. When war broke out, he volunteered his services.

By 1776, he served upon the Berks County Committee of Safety and was elected to the Pennsylvania Provincial Congress. He was present at the Battle of Brooklyn, where he worked as a doctor but

lost many of his instruments when the Americans retreated across the East River. After the Army’s retreat into New Jersey, Dr. Otto cared for soldiers who had been wounded at Long Island at the Old Barracks in Trenton.

The following year, after the Battle of Brandywine, Washington petitioned Congress to build the first military hospital in North America at Yellow Springs (Chester Springs), Pennsylvania. It was approved. Otto as senior surgeon was placed in charge of that hospital, where many of the sick from Valley Forge were treated. He was very insistent on inoculating the troops against smallpox, an idea not always actively supported by Dr. Benjamin Rush.

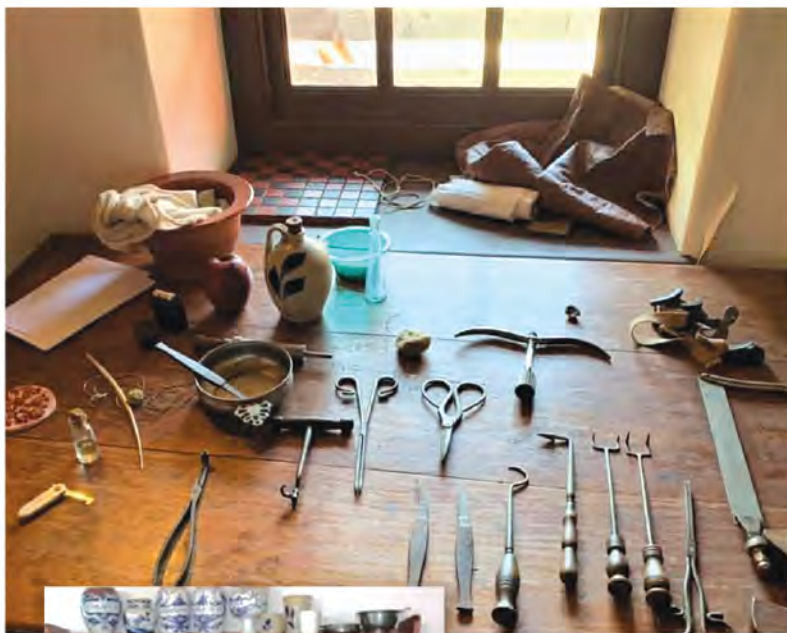
The new hospital was called Washington Hall, and it was the only Army hospital commissioned during the entire war. Today, the ruins of that hospital are still visible. That locale earlier in the eighteenth century had been the site of a medicinal spa, given the presence of springs rich in iron, magnesium, and sulfur. Prior to the settlement of Europeans in the area, Native Americans had used the site for the same purpose.

From that hospital, Otto sent regular messages to Congress. He described the wounded soldiers being fed salt provisions and stale, dry bread—for lack of appropriated funds. According to federal records retrieved by the Dr. Bodo Otto



*Dr. Bodo Otto gravesite, Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading, PA.*





Dr. Otto's surgical and medical instruments, Old Barracks, Trenton, NJ.



and Reading. He is buried at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Reading.

*James Mason Fritz is a fifth-great-grandson of Dr. Bodo Otto, Sr, and has served as President of the Dr. Bodo Otto Family Association.*

Family Association, the hospital had no firewood for heating nor any straw for bedding, as was reported in the *Reading Eagle* newspaper. Historical documents prove Otto was one of the first surgeons to use sanitary medical practices. He served at this hospital until he resigned from the Army on February 1, 1782, at the age of seventy-one.

Dr. Otto had three grown sons who were surgeons in their own rights—Bodo Jr., Christopher Frederick, and John Augustus. They were all trained physicians, and, at various times during the war, served alongside their father in caring for the American forces.

When the Army's medical and hospital departments were reorganized by order of Congress in 1780, Otto Sr. was one of fifteen physicians selected for the hospital department and was among the last doctors to leave the service. After the war, he returned to practice first in Philadelphia and later in Reading, where he lived and worked until his death in 1787. He operated apothecary shops in Baltimore

Dr. Bodo Otto Street, Bad Lauterberg, Germany.



Washington Hall (hospital) ruins, Yellow Springs, PA.



Dr. Bodo Otto Pennsylvania Historical Marker, Reading, PA.



# COMITIA AMERICANA MEDALS

## Nathaniel Greene

Egregio Duci (Excellent Leader)



Obverse



Reverse

By James E. Rhodes, SRNY Member

The following article nearly concludes our series on the Comitia Americana medals, as featured in the 2007 book *Comitia Americana and Related Medals: Underappreciated Monuments to Our Heritage* by John W. Adams and Anne E. Bentley. Launched in the summer of 2017, this series has presented eleven Revolutionary War heroes (including this issue) who were honored with a Congressional medal. We have also featured three closely-related medals awarded to Benjamin Franklin and will finish the series with two others closely related.

The article below focuses on the Nathanael Greene medal, the last in our series awarded to a war veteran. Congress approved his medal following the Battle of Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781. The following text excerpts heavily from the book cited above, with permission from the publisher, George Frederick Kolbe of Crestline, California.—Ed.

Three weeks after Gen. Horatio Gates had assumed command of the Southern Army in the late summer of 1780, he had maneuvered his army into an awkward position at Camden, South Carolina. An inferior force soundly defeated his. “Questionable tactics, added to his rapid personal flight from the battlefield, led to his dismissal by Congress.

“On October 14, 1780, Washington appointed Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene to succeed Gates. Arriving at Charlotte on December 2 to assume command, he [encountered] a tiny, ill-supplied army (including less than 1,000 Continentals) facing, in Cornwallis, Tarleton, and Rawdon, the best field commanders that the British army in North America had to offer...

“In the eleven months from assuming command until Eutaw Springs, Greene had rebuilt the crushed morale of the Southern Army, forging it into an aggressive fighting unit. From a military standpoint, he out-strategized the cream of the British officer corps.







“However, more impressive than his extraordinary military accomplishments was the leadership he exerted with the militias, the irregulars, and the [regional] governments. From these stubbornly independent entities, he extracted far more cooperation than other generals had achieved, in the end making an improbably victory [in the war] entirely possible.”

The engagement at Eutaw Springs was a technical British victory, since Greene was the first to withdraw from the battlefield. Nevertheless, the Redcoats suffered greater casualties and withdrew farther and faster than Greene’s army did. Additionally, the battle marked the end of British attempts to control the Carolinas.

The authors point out that in awarding Greene the medal, Congress recognized his cumulative contributions to the Patriot cause and his many personal sacrifices made over the previous six years without a single day of leave. Of course, Congress in that hour could not have had the foresight to realize Greene was nearly singularly responsible for bringing the British army to the brink of defeat in the South.

“Ownership of a Greene medal,” the authors assert, “binds the possessor to one of the stoutest heroes of the American Revolution.”

## Description

The Nathanael Greene medal is one of the most handsome of the eleven Comitia Americana medals we’ve featured, although it also contains a quickly noticeable error. On the obverse side of the medal, the general’s surname is misspelled. The lettering in Latin gives his last name as Green, NATHANIELI GREEN EGREGIO DUCI COMITIA AMERICANA.

“The blame for misspelling Greene’s name falls heavily on both [David] Humphreys, who initiated the project, and [Thomas] Jefferson, who consummated it. Of the many blunders in the Comitia Americana series, the misspelling of a hero’s name is easily the most egregious.”

However, Greene’s half-length portrait on the obverse and the depiction of Winged Liberty on the reverse are done so well that it nearly overcomes the misspelled name. “The half-length portrait of Greene is successful in depicting a man who is calm, confident, and wise, thus compensating in part for the spelling mistake.”

On the reverse side, Winged Liberty stands balanced on “an assemblage of the implements of war, a laurel wreath in her right hand and a palm branch in her left.” The lettering along the top translates to, ‘The Safety of the Southern Region.’ At bottom, it states, ‘The Enemy is conquered at Eutaw, September 8, 1781.’

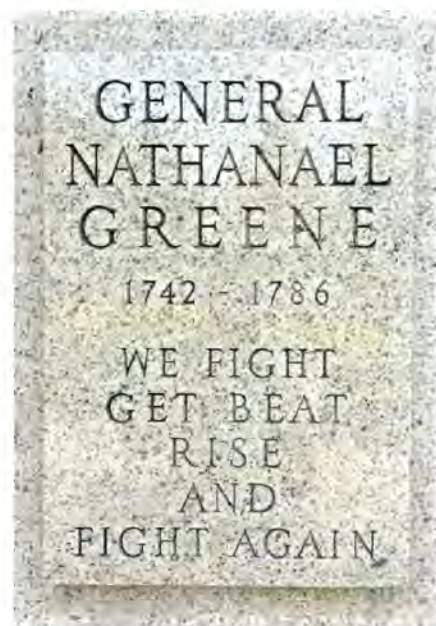
## Provenance

Unfortunately, the general never saw his medal. Adams and Bentley report that the lone gold medal and twenty-three bronze copies were initially produced in Paris, but not before a lapse of more than two years following the government’s order. “Upon his posting to France, David Humphreys was charged with procuring the honors voted by Congress... [More] than a year after he arrived in Paris, Humphreys made a contract with Augustin Dupré for the Greene medal. Another fifteen months passed before the medal was completed.

“On February 14, 1787, Jefferson wrote to John Jay, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, that he had received Greene’s gold medal, as well as [the] twenty-three copies in bronze... William Short, Jefferson’s secretary, packed the medals (and probably the dies) off to Jay on March 21 and Jay relayed them to Congress. Greene had died the year before, on June 19, 1786.” Just over six years transpired between Congressional approval of his medal and its delivery.

“Thus it was that Arthur St. Clair, the President of Congress, sent the gold medal to Jeremiah Wadsworth, executor of Greene’s estate.” From that time until 1927, the medal had not surfaced in numismatic circles. In that latter year, it was briefly described in the catalog of an exhibit held at the Rhode Island State House. “The medal, which was given to [Rhode Island] in 1928 by a descendant of the hero, is now on deposit at the Rhode Island Historical Society.”

In the absence of the original dies, Philadelphia Mint officer Benjamin Franklin Pierce in 1840 made a series of copper electrotypes of the Greene medal that were of excellent quality. An extensive survey revealed that aside from the gold medal, two silvers and twelve bronze are known to exist.





GSSR Headquarters  
412 Francis Street West  
Williamsburg, VA 23185



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***Please send submissions to:***

Publications Editor

General Society, Sons of the Revolution

Email: [swafford.david.william@gmail.com](mailto:swafford.david.william@gmail.com)

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**To Contact GSSR HQ,**

**Call 1-800-593-1776**

**or email [gssr1776@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gssr1776@sbcglobal.net)**

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