

The
SONS
DRUM BEAT

Volume 39

Fall/Winter '21

Nos. 3-4



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A Reminder, Gentlemen! Get Your GSSR Medallion.

Order your copy of the GSSR historical medallion for a variety of purposes. They come in either bronze or aluminum. The bronze version can be used as a headstone marker, a sign indicating the SR, or even as a paperweight. The aluminum version can be used on plaques and interior decor. The possibilities are endless. To order yours, visit the website of the North Carolina Society and download the form. Fill it out and drop it in a mailbox or email a scan of the completed form.

Visit www.nc-sor.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“For the Good of the Sons”



Dr. Laurence S. Simpson

Now that the Boston Triennial has been “put to bed,” the GSSR moves on with a new General President and team of supporting officers. I know that I’m not the General President any longer because my phone no longer rings every day with some new problem to solve. That takes some getting used to, because you’re still waiting for that call. Time will cure that feeling.

As I reflect back, there are some things I am quite proud of, e.g., the application scanning project, the reorganization of the HQ in Williamsburg for efficiency and increased response to the membership, as well as the heartfelt response from our membership to donate to the Society of ‘83. Without the Society of ‘83 funds, we simply could not have achieved several of the things we did. I also enjoyed recalling the rich history of this organization, which was started in New York City in 1875 by a man named John Austin Stevens. As a New Yorker myself, I am extremely proud of that founding history and tradition. Mainly due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were things that couldn’t be done in the way we would have preferred and there were other things that couldn’t be done at all. But that’s life, and we move on. In spite of it all, I hope my term as your General President served the Sons in a positive way.

Now that the pandemic appears to be winding down, I urge the various State Societies and their Presidents to begin ramping up, providing their membership with interesting, motivating, useful, and patriotic activities to help fulfill our mission as stated in our Constitution and By-Laws. State Societies will flourish if they attract membership by the things they do, the membership they have, and the ideals they represent. In my travels, I saw that some State Societies are exemplary in this regard, but, unfortunately, others are not. The State Societies that are not flourishing need to reevaluate what they do and the reason for their existence. They need to learn from the successful State Societies in order to help support and grow a vibrant Sons of the Revolution.

I wish Russell Rich, our new General President, and his Executive Committee, much success so that they may all exude our motto, “Exegi Monumentum Aere Perennius” (“I have raised a monument more lasting than bronze.”) This brings to mind how the late General President Emeritus Jim Shannon liked to finish whatever he was doing or saying about the Sons with the phrase, “For the good of the Sons.” Wise advice to follow.

*Dr. Laurence Simpson, DDS
General President Emeritus*



*Sons Founder
John A. Stevens, Jr.*



Earliest known image of Fraunces Tavern, published 1854.



44th Triennial Proceedings Hosted in the 'Cradle of History'

The 44th Triennial Meeting hosted by the Society of Massachusetts on Sept. 30 – Oct. 3, 2021 in Boston was a great success. The Society's choice of venue pointed to the long history which the Sons have enjoyed in the City on the Hill, also known as the Cradle of History. On corridor walls throughout the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel hang framed announcements of past organizational meetings and high-profile visits there. One of those features the 1916 meeting of the Massachusetts Society of Sons of the Revolution.

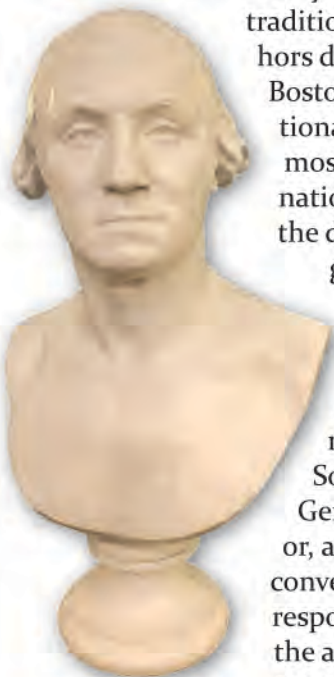
And that's just the tip of the iceberg regarding the Sons' history in Massachusetts. In the welcome brochure provided, the Massachusetts Society presented a review of the many historical monuments in and around Boston which the Society had erected even prior to the twentieth century. In a Society replete with longevity, however, what is new is the level of energy, zeal, and white-tie style which its officers and active members have demonstrated in the last three years under Past President Shervin B. Hawley. Current Society President Brent J. Andersen (Past VP) affirms, "No one has toiled with greater dedication to energize our Society and to work toward the success of this event than [Shervin]."

On Thursday evening, Sept. 30th, the PSSR Color Guard hosted its traditional Triennial Meeting Reception featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres and complimentary bar. It was held at the Boston Athenaeum, one of the city's cultural and institutional pillars. The Athenaeum is one of the oldest and most distinguished of independent libraries in the nation, preserving and curating fine literary, cultural, and art pieces for the discerning public's enjoyment. Among the refined surroundings, members co-mingled and long-distance friendships were renewed again via personal encounters.



Matters of Business

Business sessions were held on Friday and Saturday mornings. In the Friday session, the minutes from the previous Triennial Meeting were unanimously approved, and officers gave reports. A proposed amendment to the By-Laws and Constitution, creating four new General Society Officer positions and renaming others, was unanimously passed. The new positions are: General Vice President (a single officer), Assistant General Treasurer, Assistant General Counselor, and Assistant General Chaplain. The former regional General Vice President positions were converted into Regional Director(s). Going forward, the lone General Vice President shall assume responsibilities of the General President should the latter be incapacitated during his term. With the amendment's passage, a slate of officers (including to fill the four new positions) was unanimously approved.



Delegates heard various Officer Reports as well. Outgoing General President Laurence S. Simpson, DDS, praised all who had contributed to the Society of '83 fundraising efforts in support of the General Society. "Without their generosity, we simply could not have done everything we did," he said. (See his final President's Message, page 3.) Particularly, he called out the ongoing efforts of contractor Sharon Toms in digitizing all the paper-based membership applications in storage. Those applications extend back to founder John Austin Stevens from 1875 and include many notable persons, including former Presidents and Hollywood celebrities. He also praised the efforts of C.L. Sigmon, assistant to the General President, and General Registrar Jefferson Moak for their work on the membership database.

A portion of those monies covered the General Society's contribution to Hon. Douglas H. Ginsburg's non-profit venture, www.civicsfundamentals.org. Ginsburg, a U.S. Court of Appeals judge for the D.C. Circuit, was given the Society's Modern Patriot Award at the Saturday evening banquet. His educational civics program includes videos and other classroom materials based on the PBS Series, "A More or Less Perfect Union, A Personal Exploration by Judge Douglas Ginsburg" and is being introduced in schools around the country.

Incoming General Historian Joe McChristian in Saturday's business session spoke in favor of the Society's support for Ginsburg's program, saying, "It directly addresses one of the main goals of the Sons of the Revolution, to educate our fellow citizens about the history and fundamental principles that are the basis of our great nation." Also during the Saturday session, delegates heard various Committee reports and participated in a necrology service for those members who had passed on since the previous Triennial. Assistant General Chaplain Gus Succop led the service and gave the benediction.



Lunches, Tours & Excursions

Afternoons were dedicated to Boston history and culture. On Friday, following the business session, delegates ate lunch at the plush St. Botolph Club while spouses enjoyed lunch at the historic Chilton House. In the afternoon, delegates and guests headed out to Sudbury to see Longfellow's Wayside Inn and the Wayside Inn Historic District. This was where Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote his *Tales of a Wayside Inn*, which contains the oft-quoted poem, "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere."

Members and guests were given a tour of the picturesque Grist Mill, built in 1929 by Henry Ford and still operating today as a mill to produce the Inn's flour and cornmeal. A fife and drum



corps performed live music, and an eighteenth-century blacksmith demonstrated his craft for the enjoyment of all present. A catered dinner was served under a large outdoors tent, and each place setting was given a complimentary copy of the *Tales of a Wayside Inn*. Running parallel to the expansive property of the Wayside Inn is the very old Boston Post Road, which was the region's first thoroughfare. Started in 1673, it connected Boston to New York in the south and Springfield in the west and was primarily used for delivering mail. Sudbury is on the old Connecticut path west of Boston.

On Saturday afternoon, an open house was held at the New England Historic Genealogical Society for delegates and guests. Massachusetts Society 1st Vice President D. Brenton Simons, who is the long-standing President and CEO of the NEHGS, greeted visitors and spoke about the oldest genealogical organization in America. Society Registrar David A. Lambert, who is the NEHGS's Chief Genealogist, led tours of the facility and provided further insights into the research services of the renowned genealogical society. Mr. Simons, an award-winning author and board member of the New England Quarterly, was the keynote speaker at Saturday's banquet. He was presented with the first-ever John Adams Medal from the Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Paul Revere's name, having been topical at the Wayside Inn on Friday afternoon, came up again on Saturday evening during the banquet. Shervin Hawley presented the Massachusetts Society's Paul Revere Award to special guest Robert Imlach, the current and 313th Captain Commanding of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts. Part of Capt. Imlach's regalia included a gorget crafted by none other than Paul Revere himself. That awe-inspiring accessory is over 300 years old.—Editor



BUSINESS SESSIONS





AWARDS



BANQUET





GSSR 44th Triennial Awards

For the Period 2018 - 2021

Trent Trophy

Given to a Society for Exceptional Contributions toward the
Purposes and Good of the Sons of the Revolution in the time since the previous Triennial.
Large Society—Pennsylvania • Medium Society—Georgia • Small Society—South Carolina

Richard Farmer Hess Award

Given to a Society that demonstrated
Leadership Excellence in its Operations and Maintenance in the closing Triennium.
Large Society—Tennessee • Small Society—North Carolina

Membership Achievement Awards

Given to the Society that has achieved the
Greatest Increase of Membership (numerical and percentage) in the closing Triennium.
Numerical Increase—Virginia • Percentage Increase—Kentucky

Jay Harris Award

Ivan Bennett

Incoming General Vice President,
Past Region 3 GVP, Past President, South Carolina Society
Awarded to an individual, either Member or Non-Member, who made significant contributions to the Welfare
and Objectives of the General Society Sons of the Revolution in the closing Triennium.

Patrick Henry Award

Louis A. “Buzz” Carmichael

Outgoing/Incoming General Treasurer,
Past President, Kentucky Society
Awarded to a Member of the General Society who, in the closing Triennium,
achieved the most toward the Society's Objectives.

Modern Patriot Award

The Hon. Douglas H. Ginsburg

U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. District

Awarded to a non-member individual who, during the closing Triennium,
best represented the ideals of the General Society Sons of the Revolution.

Presidential Commendation

Jefferson M. Moak

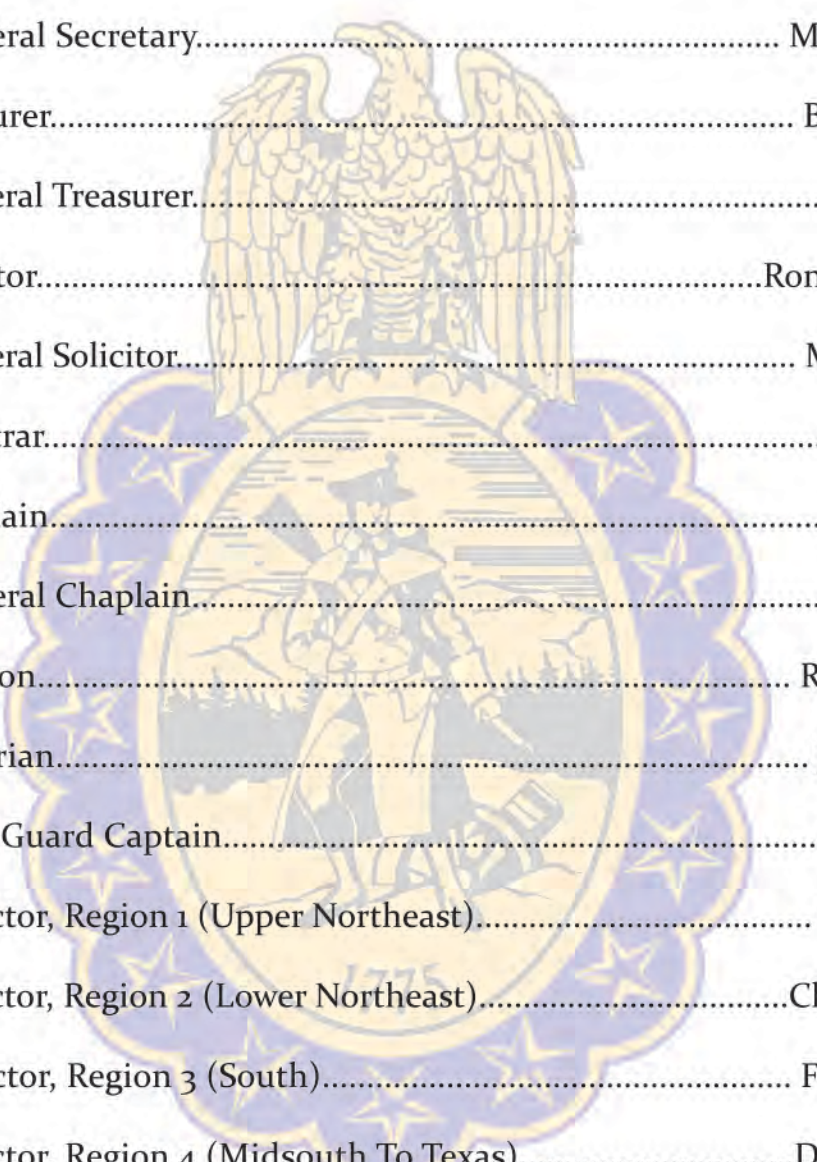
General Registrar

Gift of Appreciation

D. Brenton Simons

to whom was given a silver tray from the
General Society and a copy of the Sons of the Revolution history.

GSSR Officers 2021-2024



General President.....	Russell Rich
General Vice President.....	Ivan Bennett
General Secretary.....	Ambrose Richardson
Assistant General Secretary.....	Matt Schumacher
General Treasurer.....	Buzz Carmichael
Assistant General Treasurer.....	Allen James
General Solicitor.....	Ron Fenstermacher
Assistant General Solicitor.....	Matthew Haynes
General Registrar.....	Jefferson Moak
General Chaplain.....	Clayton Ames
Assistant General Chaplain.....	Gus Succop
General Surgeon.....	Roland Summers
General Historian.....	Joe McChristian
General Color Guard Captain.....	Rob Van Gulick
Regional Director, Region 1 (Upper Northeast).....	Shervin Hawley
Regional Director, Region 2 (Lower Northeast).....	Charles Scammell
Regional Director, Region 3 (South).....	Frank Hardeman
Regional Director, Region 4 (Midsouth To Texas).....	David Rutherford
Regional Director, Region 5 (Midwest).....	Max Riekse
Regional Director, Region 6 (West).....	Marty Prather

Nominating Committee

Larry Simpson • Mitchell Bush • Eric Guenther
David Daily • Michael Bates • Bev Mauck

ANNUAL 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 GENERAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE REVOLUTION INTRODUCES:

THE "SOCIETY OF '83"

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

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



\$1,000 - \$9,999*

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



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

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



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

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

What will your gift accomplish?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE “SOCIETY OF ‘83”

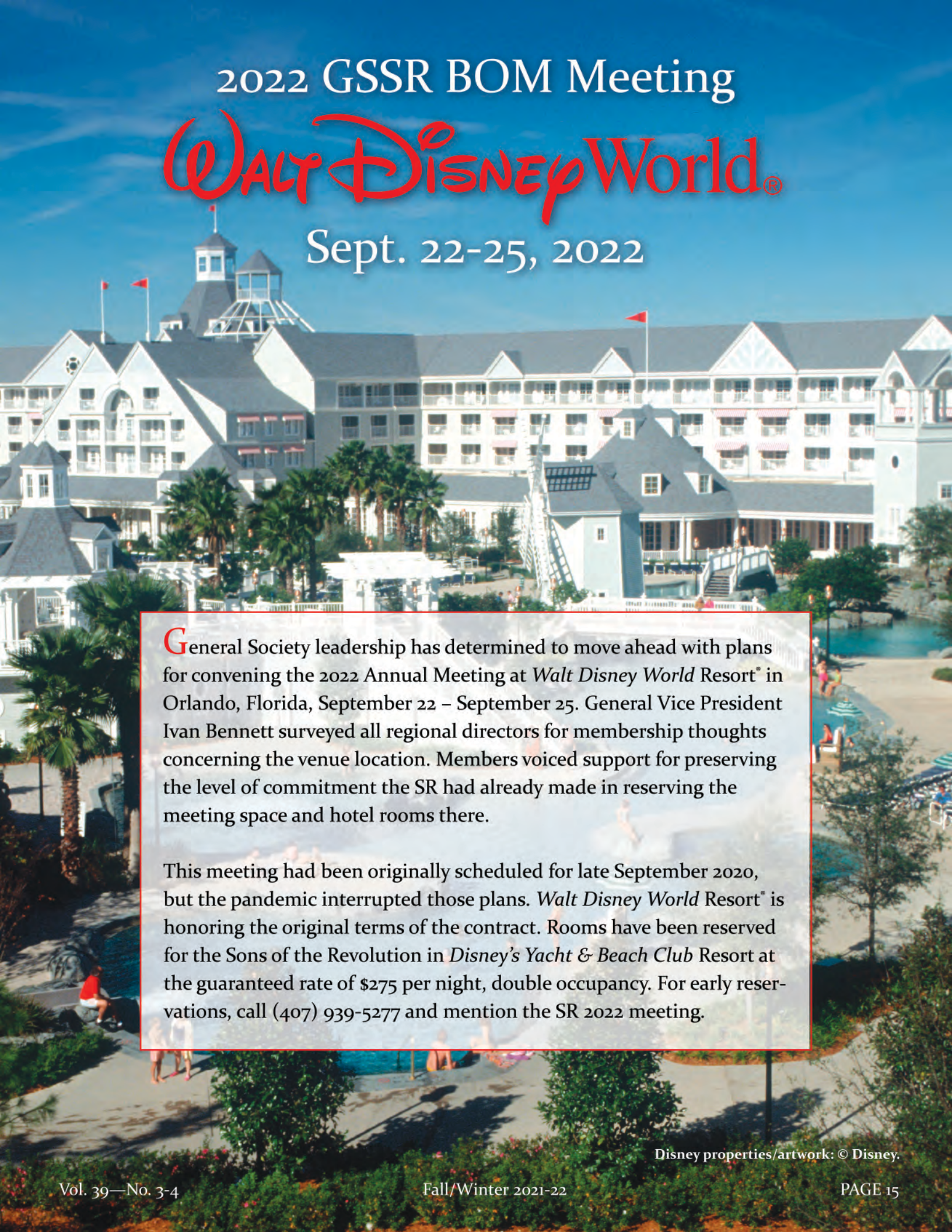


<i>Ivan Bennett</i>	SC	\$3,000
<i>Mitchell Bush</i>	GA	\$1,000
<i>Charles D. Carroll</i>	EU	\$29,000
<i>T. Jeffery Clarke</i>	NJ	\$1,020
<i>Roger Coursey</i>	GA	\$1,000
<i>John M. Daniel</i>	VA	\$2,000
<i>David Dickey, Esq</i>	GA	\$1,000
<i>James F. Foster</i>	MN	\$1,000
<i>Brian Gill</i>	NY	\$1,300
<i>Peter J. Gulden, III, Esq</i>	FL	\$1,250
<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>E. Allen James</i>	NC	\$3,000
<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>Charles J. Scammell</i>	NJ	\$1,100
<i>Laurence S. Simpson, DDS</i>	NY	\$1,000
<i>Jimmy Smith</i>	GA	\$2,000

Total Gifts Since 2018 Inception

\$ 58,670.00

(As of 12/10/21)

The background of the entire page is a vibrant, high-angle photograph of the Walt Disney World Resort. The top half shows the iconic white, multi-story resort hotel with its distinctive architecture, including a central clock tower and numerous balconies. Below the hotel, a large, clear blue swimming pool is visible, surrounded by lush greenery, palm trees, and people enjoying the sun. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

2022 GSSR BOM Meeting

WALT DISNEY WORLD®

Sept. 22-25, 2022

General Society leadership has determined to move ahead with plans for convening the 2022 Annual Meeting at *Walt Disney World Resort®* in Orlando, Florida, September 22 – September 25. General Vice President Ivan Bennett surveyed all regional directors for membership thoughts concerning the venue location. Members voiced support for preserving the level of commitment the SR had already made in reserving the meeting space and hotel rooms there.

This meeting had been originally scheduled for late September 2020, but the pandemic interrupted those plans. *Walt Disney World Resort®* is honoring the original terms of the contract. Rooms have been reserved for the Sons of the Revolution in *Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resort* at the guaranteed rate of \$275 per night, double occupancy. For early reservations, call (407) 939-5277 and mention the SR 2022 meeting.

Disney properties/artwork: © Disney.

2021-2024

General Officers



Russell P. Rich
General President

State Society: Maryland

Year Joined: 2004

Previous SR Offices: Assistant General Secretary (2015-2019); Past President of SRMD (2017-2019); Vice-President of SRMD (2015-2017); Co-Chair, Annual French Monument Ceremony in Annapolis, Md.; Co-Chair, L'Hermione/Lafayette Parade & Celebration, Annapolis, Md.; Secretary of SRMD (2009-2015); SRMD Board of Managers (2007-2009).

Occupation: Chairman and President of Spectra Sciences, LLC, The Burns & Russell Co., and BBR International, Inc.; Construction Products, Chemical Manufacture, Fire Retardants, and Silica Additives, Licensing of Technology; Past Board Member St. Joseph's Hospital, Baltimore County, Past Board Member, PCMA.

Education: Juris Doctor, University of Baltimore School of Law; Master in Business Administration; Carey School of Business, Johns Hopkins University; BA, Hobart College.

Greatest Professional Achievement: Inventing and patenting novel chemical compounds. Several years later, DuPont Research entered into a license to use this patented technology for their telecommunications cable.

Greatest Personal Achievement: Marrying my wife and raising three outstanding children.

Guiding Philosophy: Give any challenge and opportunity your best effort and be guided by civility and an open mind, and sensitivity to the needs and wants of others.

Favorite Pastime Activities: Gardening, sailing, materials science, and travel.



Ivan Bennett
General Vice President

State Society: South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky

Year Joined: 2015 (SC); 2016 (GA); 2018 (KY)

Previous SR Offices: SC Society Secretary; SC Society President; SC Society Treasurer; Region 3 General Vice President (2018-2021).

Occupation: Retired Public District School Administrator and State Department of Education Director (Kentucky)

Education: BA Psychology, Thomas More College 1972 (KY); M.Ed. Special Education, Xavier University 1974 (OH); Rank I School Administrator, Xavier University (OH)

Greatest Personal Achievement: Married 47 years; three sons graduated college and gainfully employed; six grand children; no debt to leave behind; GSSR Jay Harris Award (2018-2021). My greatest personal loss has been the death of my wife and life partner, Susan Bennett, who passed away just prior to the 2021 Triennial.

Greatest Professional Achievement: SCSR as Host Society for 2017 GSSR BOM Meeting, Charleston, SC; Member, GSSR Society of '83; GSSR Richard Farmer Hess Award 2015-2018; GSSR Endeavors in Education Award 2015-2018; 2020 Marquis Who's Who Lifetime Achievement Award (Education); and 2020-2024 SC Branch Governor, National Society Sons and Daughters of Pilgrims.

Life Membership: Order of the Crown of Charlemagne, Order of Merovingian Dynasty, Kentucky Colonel

Guiding Philosophy: Daily preparation, and "less is more"

Favorite Pastime Activity: Tennis, Beach, Photography and Travel

**Shervin Hawley***Regional Director, Region 1***State Society:** Massachusetts**Year Joined:** 1997**Previous SR Offices:** President Massachusetts Society**Education:** BS in Behavioral Science**Occupation:** Designer, Travel Advisor**Greatest Personal Achievement:** Family**Greatest Professional Achievement:** Global Chief Creative Officer, IBM Interactive; Entrepreneur in youth and adulthood**Guiding Philosophy:** Trustworthiness and Respect for all**Favorite Pastime Activity:** Travel, art**Charles Jones Scammell***Regional Director, Region 2 (Lower NE)***State Society:** New Jersey**Year Joined:** 1982**Previous SR Offices:** SRNJ President; Local SR chapter president (12 years); member/chair of many committees**Occupation(s):** Senior Strategist Omnicom Health Group (advertising); Management Consultant Pharmaceuticals; Hospital Executive**Education:** U of Vienna Austria 1973; BS, St Lawrence U. (1975); MBA, Columbia U. Business School (1980); MPH, Columbia U. School of Public Health (1981)**Greatest Personal Achievement:** Local Community Leadership (i.e., church, hospital board chair, county, social services, school boards, SRNJ). My son won Barrymore Award for Best Actor in Philadelphia, 2017**Greatest Professional Achievement:** Still very relevant in the rapidly changing, challenging and "young man's" pharmaceutical business. A career of successfully building service and consulting life-science businesses.**Guiding Philosophy:** Enjoy life as if you will die tomorrow. Learn as if you will live forever.**Favorite Pastime activity:** Travel and Golf**Frank Hardeman***Regional Director, Region 3 (South)***State Society:** GA-SR**Year Joined:** 1981**Offices Held:** Secretary, Registrar, 2nd VP, 1st VP and President**Occupation:** Insurance Broker**Education:** BA UGA**Greatest Personal Achievement:** Raising two wonderful daughters and 32 years of marriage**Greatest Professional Achievement:** Building an agency that had clients in 11 states, insuring over 6,000 lives, and staying in solo practice for 32 years**Guiding Philosophy:** Treat everyone like a friend not a customer. You always go the extra mile for a friend and they feel you will always do your best for them.**Favorite Pastime Activity:** Shooting Shotguns: Scratch, Trap and sporting clays



David L. Rutherford

Regional Director, Region 4 (MidSouth to Texas)

State Society: Tennessee

Year Joined: 1996

Previous SR Offices: Past General Historian; Region 3 General Vice President

Occupation: Retired State Farm agent (29 years).

Education: BA, University of Tennessee (1975)

Greatest Personal Achievement: 1) Married 50 years; 2) Past National Commander, Scottish American Military Society; 3) Past Chair, Knoxville Metro Planning

Commission and Historic Planning

Greatest Professional Achievement: 1) My career with State Farm Insurance Companies; 2) Air Force veteran, Staff Sgt during Vietnam war; 3) Current DOD area Rep for the "Employer Support Of the Guard and Reserve"; 4) Knight Commander of SMOTJ, and 5) Knight Grand Commander of Order of St. Andrew of Jerusalem.

Guiding Philosophy: Give and you will receive. But don't tread on me.

Favorite Pastime Activity: Horology, history study, politics, ornithology and photography



Max Riekse

Regional Director, Region 5 (Midwest)

State Society: Michigan (Life Member)

Year Joined: 1985

Previous SR Offices: Past President, SRMI; Current Vice President, SRMI

Occupation: Retired Lt. Col., US Army (32 years of service); Retired history teacher, Michigan Public Schools (23 years). Served in Vietnam and Iraq. USA Airborne School.

Education: BA, University of South Florida, Political Science & International Relations;

MA, Political Science & International Relations, Western Michigan University; MA, Education & History, Western Michigan University.

Greatest Personal Achievement: Fatherhood. My son is an Eagle Scout and Life Member of the SR. He attends Michigan State, is enrolled in the ROTC, and is a member of the Michigan Army National Guard (Military Intelligence).

Greatest Professional Achievement: Combat Infantryman's Badge, Vietnam; Bronze Star, Iraq; twice awarded Bronze Medal for Individual Achievement from Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, PA (1983, 2020).

Guiding Philosophy: I stand for all Individual Freedoms as expressed in the Bill of Rights.

Favorite Pastime Activity: Political activism, in the furnace of preserving our great American heritage and Constitutional Republic.



H Martin (Marty) Prather, Jr.

Regional Director, Region 6 (West)

State Society: Washington

Year Joined: 2018

Previous SR Offices: WASR President and pro tem Secretary

Occupation: Retired Aerospace Structural Engineer

Education: BSAA (Aeronautics and Astronautics) 1973, and MSAA 1976, University of Washington, Seattle

Greatest Professional Achievement: At Boeing Company, assigned Lead Engineer, Internal loads, 757 aircraft tail, 1979. Attained Associate Technical Fellow and nominated for Technical Fellow. Led a group to generate analysis for the 767 Freighter drawing release.

Greatest Personal Achievement: Attaining my Master's degree by adjusting my work hours.

Guiding Philosophy: Lead, follow, or get out of the way

Favorite Pastime Activity: Making stained glass items and writing and playing music



Ambrose M. Richardson III, Esq.
General Secretary

State Society: New York

Year Joined: 2008

Previous SR Offices: SRNY Board of Managers; Society Treasurer; Society 1st VP; Society President.

Occupation: Attorney

Education: Harvard College; Harvard GSAS; UVA; Harvard Law School

Greatest Personal Achievement: Educating three wonderful kids.

Greatest Professional Achievement: A) Keeping alive the company that built the microprocessor for the Apple II and Commodore 64 (first viable personal computers); B) Making mortgage-backed securities legal.

Guiding Philosophy: A) Love your neighbor; B) trust movement only. "Life happens at the level of events, not of words. Trust movement."—Alfred Adler.

Favorite Pastime Activity: Diminishing my overall ignorance.



Matt Schumacher
Assistant General Secretary

State Society: Virginia

Year Joined: 2015

Previous SR Offices: VSSR Board of Managers; 1st LT, VSSR Color Guard

Occupation: Principal, Booz Allen Hamilton; Major, Virginia Army National Guard

Education: Georgetown University (M.B.A.); Washington and Jefferson College (B.A.)

Greatest Personal Achievement(s): Marrying my wife, Ashley, and raising our two children, Madison (14) and Carter (12)

Greatest Professional Achievement(s): Serving our country as an Army officer and leading soldiers on the battlefield

Guiding Philosophy: "Mission First, People Always"

Favorite Pastime Activity: Travel and vacations with family and friends



Louis A. (Buzz) Carmichael
General Treasurer

State Society: Kentucky

Year Joined: 2001

Previous SR Offices: President, KY Society; Chairman, GSSR Investment Committee

Occupation: Equity Sales, VP Capital Markets of an R&D Company

Education: BA, Hobart College; MBA, Mt St Mary's; MSM, Frostburg State

Greatest Personal Achievement: Marrying a great woman and having four kids

Greatest Professional Achievement: Saving lives and making people a lot of money

Guiding Philosophy: You have to know it or be exposed to it first. Then you can preach it or reject it later on.

Favorite Pastime: Drinking wine, smoking cigars with scotch, sharing good conversation



E. Allen James
Assistant General Treasurer

State Society: North Carolina
Year Joined: Feb 2012
State Society: District of Columbia
Year Joined: 2000
Previous SR Offices: Treasurer in North Carolina and DC
Occupation: Retired
Education: BS from NC State University. MBA from East Carolina University

Greatest Personal Achievement: I have been married to my wife, Ann, for 41 years and they said it would not last!

Greatest Professional Achievement: I have served as Chief Executive Officer of three national associations. Two of the associations have attached my name to their highest award.

Guiding Philosophy: When I join an association I intend to work hard to strengthen the organization, whether in a professional capacity or as a volunteer.

Favorite Pastime Activity: Reading historical novels.



Ronald W. Fenstermacher, Jr., PC
General Solicitor

State Society: Pennsylvania
Year Joined: 1996
Previous SR Offices: PSSR President, Vice President, Counselor, Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, Manager, and Delegate to GSSR; GSSR Solicitor (2015-Present)
Occupation: Lawyer - sole practitioner in trusts & estates, taxation and nonprofits
Education: Washington & Lee University, BA; The Dickinson School of Law, JD; Villanova School of Law, LLM (taxation)

Greatest Personal Achievement: Enduring Army basic training at age 30

Greatest Professional Achievement: Achieving a result for a nonprofit client that multiple experts advised was impossible.

Guiding Philosophy: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you; always try to do what you feel is right; do that which is honorable

Favorite Pastime Activity: spending time with my family; tennis, riding, reading history



Matthew Haynes
Assistant General Solicitor

State Society: Virginia
Year Joined: 2016
Previous SR Offices: VSSR Board of Managers; Chairman, Scholarship Committee
Occupation: Attorney, McCandlish Holton, PC
Education: Hampden-Sydney College (B.A.); Samford University, Cumberland School of Law (J.D.)
Greatest Personal Achievement: Achieving a work/life balance that allows me more time with family.

Greatest Professional Achievement: Representing a broad range of individual and corporate clients in litigated matters in state and federal courts in Virginia, Maryland, and D.C.

Guiding Philosophy: "The harder the conflict, the greater the triumph." (Thomas Paine)

Favorite Pastime Activity: Spending time with my family on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, where I grew up.



Jefferson Moak
General Registrar

State Society: Pennsylvania

Year Joined: 1990

Previous SR Offices: General Registrar, partial term 2000; General Registrar, full terms in 2000, 2003, 2012, 2015, and 2018; Pennsylvania Registrar, 2002-2018

Occupation: Professional genealogist and retired.

Education: B.A., History, Randolph-Macon College (1974); M.A. History, Temple University (1998)

Greatest Professional Achievement: During my first term as General Registrar, compiling the first comprehensive accounting of all GSSR members since 1883. Since returning the office of Registrar in 2012, I have continually updated and upgraded this database so that it meets the various needs of the General Society. In 2017, this database replaced the previous database used by the General Society for membership.

Greatest Personal Achievement: My family, and accepting the trust of others to fill important positions in various genealogical, historical and lineage organizations.

Guiding Philosophy: Always look at the bright side of life, as well as both sides of an argument.

Favorite Pastime Activity: Singing, genealogy and bicycling



Joe McChristian
General Historian

State Society: Palm Beach Chapter

Year Joined: 2015

Previous SR Offices: Chapter President, Board Member

Occupation: Retired Major, US Army (1965-1977); decorated combat and military intelligence veteran; Retired Chief Executive, The McChristian Companies (1989-2018). Extensive international experience, business consulting, entrepreneurial advising, senior management public corporations.

Education: Distinguished Graduate, United States Military Academy at West Point (1961-1965); MA, Economics and Finance, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (1968-1970); Honor Graduate, Advanced

Course, US Army Military Intelligence School (1970-71); Doctoral Studies, Economics, Princeton University, (1972-1975) George Olmsted Scholar (1972-1975).

Greatest Personal Achievement: Raising a son and daughter.

Greatest Professional Achievement: Vietnam combat veteran with three Bronze Star Medals, the Air Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Army Commendation Medal; Assistant Army Attaché at the US Embassy in Cambodia; commanded an armored cavalry troop providing security along the borders between West Germany, East Germany and Czechoslovakia; provided corporate finance advisory services in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe; turned around two distressed US manufacturing companies (each \$10-20 mm in annual sales) and sold them at a profit.

Guiding Philosophy: Teamwork and implementing the "Will to Win."



George Clayton Ames III
General Chaplain

State Society: Pennsylvania

Year Joined: 2006

Previous SR Offices: General Chaplain

Occupation: Presbyterian Clergyman

Education: Lafayette College, Easton, PA; New College, University of Edinburgh, Scotland; Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ; Harrington University, London

Greatest Personal Achievement: Preaching for the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, Philadelphia, January 2007

Greatest Professional Achievement: Working with National Guardsmen and their families through three deployments since 9-11-01

Guiding Philosophy: I am an unabashed and unreconstructed Christian

Favorite Pastime Activity: Singing, baseball (the Phillies), rugby football



The Rev. Dr. Augustus E. Succop, III

General Assistant Chaplain.

State Society: Dual Membership: North Carolina & Maryland

Year Joined: Maryland Society 1986; transferred to NC 1995

Previous SR Offices: Maryland Society: Chaplain; NC Society: Secretary, President

Occupation: Honorably Retired Pastor, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Education: Shady Side Academy (Diploma); Davidson College (A.B.); Yale Divinity School (M.Div.); Columbia Theological Seminary (D.Min.)

Greatest Personal Achievement(s): Husband to Beth and father to Charles & Anna

Greatest Professional Achievement(s): Discerning the call to pastoral ministry

Guiding Philosophy: "Give thanks in all things!"

Favorite Pastime Activity: Vacations with family on the coast of Maine



Dr. Roland S. Summers, M.D.

General Surgeon

State Society: Georgia

Year Joined: 1978

SR Offices Held: GA Society President, 2016; GA Society 1st VP, 2014-2016; GA Society 2nd VP, 2012-2016; General Surgeon, 2006-2012, and ongoing since 2015.

Occupation: Physician

Education: AB - John Hopkins Univ.; MD - Northwestern University

Greatest Personal Achievement: Father of five children

Greatest Professional Achievement: President, Medical Association of Georgia; President, Georgia Board of Licensure

Guiding Philosophy: A pound of prevention prevents a ton of trouble.

Favorite Pastime Activity: Opera, Photography, Grandchildren



Robert R. Van Gulick, Jr.,

Captain of the Color Guard

State Society: Pennsylvania

Year Joined: 1981

Previous SR Offices: Pennsylvania Society, Captain of the Color Guard; Past Treasurer and Past Vice President, Pennsylvania Society; Past Assistant General Treasurer, GSSR

Occupation: Retired Certified Public Accountant - Senior Director at RSM US LLP.

Education: Bachelor of Sciences in Finance and Accounting, University of Delaware

Greatest Personal Achievement: Marrying my wonderful wife, Amy, and having two beautiful daughters, Elizabeth and Emily.

Greatest Professional Achievement: Being promoted to Partner at KPMG, LLP, one of the Big Four accounting firms, and retiring after 28 years of service. Also receiving the firm's Chairman's Award for Community Service.

Guiding Philosophy: "Happiness is not getting what you want, but wanting what you've got." (Sheryl Crow)

Favorite Pastime Activity: Enjoying the beach at our home in Lewes, Delaware.



George and Carole Summers, with their dog, Cal.

The Patriot Couple Behind the “Clarendon (County) Murals”

By David W. Swafford, Editor

Col. George Summers (Ret. USAF) and his wife, Carole, are exemplary of individuals who work toward a cause and make a significant difference. It started back in 2001, when Col. Summers was elected president of the Clarendon County (S.C.) Chamber of Commerce. He and Mrs. Summers immediately began considering a project that would be a boon for local tourism.

It was pretty obvious this project needed to take advantage of the traffic along I-95, since Clarendon County has more I-95 corridor miles than any other county in South Carolina. At the time, more than 40,000 vehicles passed through Clarendon in a single day. Today, the number is far greater.

George and Carole knew that Manning and all of Clarendon County needed something other than a new service station or restaurant to entice people off the interstate. Part of the project mandate was to come up with something that would “unify” the people countywide. This dynamic, retired couple decided on creating a trail of large, outdoor murals that could be viewed by exiting I-95 and taking a more leisurely drive along U.S. Hwy 301 and S.C. Hwy 261.

But, the artwork needed to have a theme. What could it be? After some discussion and contemplation, they decided on Revolutionary War history. After all, South Carolina has plenty of that. And within the state’s Revolutionary War history, they decided to narrow the theme to a hero of the local area:

Militia Brig-Gen Francis Marion, a.k.a, ‘the Swamp Fox.’ (See related biographical article, pp. 55-59)

Today, twenty years later, the “Clarendon murals” have reached over thirty in number. They are placed largely between Turbeville, Manning, and Summerton and have garnered much attention in print, on air, and across social media. An additional mural exists in Paxville, a town west of US 301 via US 15 or S.C. 261. Taken together, the murals depict various scenes of Marion and his militia as they oftentimes outwitted and held off the British at a crucial time.

“It seemed to us like the American Revolution and Francis Marion would get folks’ attention,” George said in response to *Drumbeat* questions. “Nevertheless, we soon realized... that people in the area did not know how important Marion and his brigade were to the Southern Campaign, and that the Southern Campaign [ultimately] is what defeated the British.”



George with his SCSR membership certificate.



Gen. Francis Marion

Tying it all Together

In order for the murals to be really successful, there had to be an organization created and a fundraising element involved, as well as an educational element. The public needed to learn more about the war in the South and, particularly, about the spell-binding, historical success of Francis Marion. "With our research into Francis Marion's activities, we found too many little-known events in Clarendon County's history, and we admired his mode of operation," George said.

That modus was the stealth-like guerrilla warfare he led against the Redcoats, 1780-82, among the swamps, marshes, and bogs of Clarendon County and surroundings. In 1775, he was commissioned a captain. In August 1781, he organized a daring rescue of Americans surrounded by the British at Parkers Ferry, South Carolina. For this action he received Congressional thanks and was then appointed a brigadier general.

Having selected Francis Marion, George and Carole formed the Swamp Fox Murals Trail Society, or "the Clarendon Murals," for short. To increase the general public's awareness of Francis Marion, they launched the annual Francis Marion Symposium to reach adults and an annual living-history encampment to reach the school children.

The General Francis Marion Days' Living History Encampment was produced for a total of twelve years, but as of 2017 was discontinued. George explained the original goal had been to keep it going for seven years, but due to its success the program was continued for five more. In 2017, given rising costs of the host site and the advanced ages of the volunteers, the program came to a natural conclusion.

As for the adult Symposium, this year marks its nineteenth consecutive year. "The Symposium became our fundraising vehicle to put murals on the walls and to increase public awareness of the Southern Campaign and 'the Swamp Fox,'" he added. The Symposium now attracts people from across the country. This year's event will be held Oct. 22-23 at the Central Carolina Technical College in Manning.

The ongoing success of the Symposium also funds mural refurbishments and/or replacements. For example, in 2017, the Swamp Fox Murals Trail Society contracted artist Terry Smith to replace the original Battle of Tearcoat mural in Turbeville. The replacement features three vibrant panels that depict different aspects of the battle, all in an imposing size.



Banner and flags at the 2019 Symposium.

A Lifetime Achievement

Six years ago, the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution Fellowship honored George and Carole Summers with a Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented by Charles Baxley, co-founder of the fellowship program. In hindsight of all that has been accomplished, George said he and Carole just acted on faith, putting one foot ahead of the other, to see where the project would go. "We were helped by many volunteers," he acknowledged. The same philosophy has guided them in fifty-eight years of marriage.

The retired colonel and fighter pilot served thirty years in the USAF, hanging it up in 1993 at Shaw AFB in Sumter, S.C. During his Air Force career, George and Carole moved all around the country and internationally, too. While he was flying supersonic jets, she was teaching school. "I was fortunate to fly the F-4 C/D/E & F and the F-16A & C models, which were new at the time," he said.

George participated in the Vietnam War and Desert Storm/Desert Shield and eventually logged a total of 4,600 flying hours. For his role in combat operations, he was awarded more than one Air Medal (for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement in aerial flight) as well as the American Distinguished Flying Cross (for extraordinary achievement in aerial flight). For their service, patriotism, and volunteerism, this special couple deserves our recognition and thanks.



Clarendon County

Touring the 'Clarendon Murals'



Manning—In this creative work called “Francis Marion Reflections,” a modern-day mason in the right foreground looks behind his wall into the past, where he sees Brig. Gen. Francis Marion, ‘the Swamp Fox,’ stooping down by the water’s edge. Upon a closer look at this mural, Marion’s reflection is of a fox. Location: west side of Citi Trends, 16 W. Rigby St., Manning. Exact coordinates: 33° 41’ 47” N, 80° 12’ 42” W.

Manning—The largest mural in Manning, the “Battle of Wyboo Swamp” depicts representative scenes of the start of Marion’s Bridges Campaign (March 6, 1781). The scene to the right is one of three imposing panels. The campaign was a three-week period of insurgency against a detachment of British troops led by Lt. Col. John Watson Tadwell-Watson. At Wyboo Swamp, Marion’s men challenged the Redcoats several times. Location: the IGA Store, 600 S. Mill St., Manning. Exact coordinates: 33° 41’ 10” N, 80° 12’ 39” W.



Paxville—This wide-angle mural, “Chase from Richbourg’s Mill to Ox Swamp,” portrays Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton’s Green Dragoons as they pursued Marion’s brigade in a long chase on Nov. 8, 1780.



Marion and his men traversed over thirty-five miles that day, enticing Tarleton’s men to follow for much of the way. Tarleton gave up the pursuit at Ox Swamp. There, he famously said of Marion: “...as for this damned old fox, the devil himself could not catch him!” Location: north side of Short Trip, US 15 & SC 261, Paxville. Exact coordinates: 33° 44’ 19” N, 80° 21’ 28” W.



Summerton—This wide-angle mural, “Elusive Francis Marion, 1780-1781,” represents Brig. Gen. Marion and his men along the historical Santee River, some ten to twelve miles south-southwest of Summerton. From the river’s lateral marshes and swamps, Marion’s party sometimes enticed the enemy, and at times attacked the enemy. Location: Maintenance & Technology Office building, Clarendon School District 1, 12 South Church Street, Summerton. Exact Coordinates: 33° 41’ 10” N, 80° 12’ 39” W.



Summerton—These images are collectively known as the “Siege of Fort Watson.” British-held Fort Watson overlooked the Santee River and road to Charleston, along what today is the north bank of Lake Marion. The siege took place April 16-23, 1781. Lt. Col. Henry Lee and his legion, in concert with Gen. Marion and his brigade, targeted the post to raid its supplies and discourage British control of the interior. Militiamen gathered logs for several days to construct a tower that would enable sharpshooters to fire inside the elevated fort. The use of the tower led to the capture of Fort Watson on April 23rd, 1781. Location: Summerton Hardware building, 140 Main St., Summerton. Exact coordinates: 33° 36' 28" N, 80° 20' 59" W.



Turbeville—These four panels represent the burning of the home of Patriot William Henry Mouzon II, on Aug. 7, 1780, by Tarleton's men. Mouzon was an officer in Gen. Marion's brigade. Knowing this, Tarleton ordered his men to burn down Mouzon's home. Although the home was burnt to the ground the family escaped into nearby Puddin' Swamp along the Black River, thanks to Mouzon's daughter's earlier vigilance. Location: old Post Office building (Dr. Kate's), Main Street, Turbeville. Exact coordinates: 33° 53' 25" N, 80° 01' 14" W.



Manning—In this final mural, named “Citizen Soldier,” Gen. Marion and his faithful servant named Oscar, a militiaman, are shown here recruiting a local farmer to serve in the militia. Marion's Brigade was dependent on local men who owned a horse, had a rifle, and believed in the independence movement. Location: east wall of Piggly Wiggly, 36 Sunset Dr., Manning. Exact coordinates: 33° 41' 27" N, 80° 12' 45" W.



Turbeville—The three panels depict Gen. Marion's midnight attack on the British/Loyalist camp at Tearcoat Swamp on the night of October 25, 1780. The Patriots captured food, baggage, ammunition, eighty new muskets, and horses with saddles. They killed six of the British/Loyalists, wounded fourteen, and captured twenty-three. The third panel, right, Marion's loyal servant named Oscar, who is escorting captured British soldiers. Location: west wall of the Dollar General store building, Park Street, Turbeville. Exact coordinates: 33° 53' 26" N, 80° 01' 15" W



Manning—In this left panel of *The Battle of Wyboo Swamp* mural, the Patriots had inflicted casualties upon the British/Loyalists at Wyboo Swamp, where the latter had crowded onto a narrow causeway to traverse through the water. Marion had set up an ambush at the site, and there was repeated skirmishing and significant bloodshed. Neither side established a clear advantage. After the British hauled a cannon across the causeway, Marion and his men withdrew to John Cantey's plantation, some three miles downriver.

The featured murals in this issue were produced by Terry Smith of Land O' Lakes, Florida (pictured above); Liz & Adam Williams of Sumter, S.C.; and Dayton & Sandy Wodrich of Brenham, Texas. All murals appear here courtesy of the Swamp Fox Murals Trail Society.

For more information on the Symposium and the Swamp Fox Murals Trail, visit www.francismarionsymposium.com and www.clarendonmurals.com.

State Reports

GEORGIA



Historian Dan McMichael

the presentation by Dan McMichael, who specializes in portraying prominent Americans from the 1700s. His topic for the banquet was "The Life & Times of Major General Nathanael Greene."

Maintaining an Active Schedule

The Georgia Society has not been totally idle during these last several months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board of Directors was able to gather in person for our last two quarterly meetings, with some members attending via Zoom. President Steven Westgate and Secretary Frank Hardeman traveled to Charleston, SC on June 28th to attend various parts of the annual Carolina Day observance. Carolina Day celebrates the Patriot victory in the 1776 Battle of Sullivan's Island. Three years elapsed before the British resumed the fight in South Carolina. This year's observance included a church service, parade, and a speech given at the "Battery."

Meanwhile, the Nathanael Greene Chapter, based in Atlanta, held its annual banquet on August 28th at the Piedmont Driving Club in Atlanta. Due to COVID concerns, a smaller group than usual convened. About twenty members and guests heard



Original site of the Sons' marker recalling the USS Liberty.

Pet Project in Savannah

In Savannah, our Georgia Society's Solicitor Judge Lamar Davis was bored a year ago with all the restrictions related to the pandemic. To cure his boredom, he began exploring the numerous historical markers found throughout what Georgia calls "the Hostess City of the South." While venturing down River Street, he saw a granite marker poorly positioned along the far side of the street, opposite the riverside promenade where thousands of tourists and Savannahians stroll. What's more, to read it one has to stand in the street and risk injury or death by passing drivers!

He discovered the marker was dedicated by the Georgia Society of Sons of the Revolution in 1976 for the nation's bicentennial. It recalls the capture of the British arms ship, *Philippa*, by the American ship, *Liberty*, at Tybee Point in the Savannah River on July 8, 1775. Since the marker was installed by our Society, we decided to look into the possibility of cleaning it up and moving it to a more visible location, on the other side of the street, along the promenade.



New site for Liberty historic marker under construction

To date, the project has been about a year in the making. Several Zoom meetings with the City's Historic Preservation Committee had to take place. Then approval by City Council was next. After that, coordination with the City's Greenscapes Division took place. In the coming weeks or months "the Liberty Marker" will be moved. A granite bench is being placed in the new location, as well as a flagpole to fly the ship's flag, American Liberty. We hope to have a dedication in 2022, no later than our annual George Washington's Birthday banquet.—submitted by Society President Steve Westgate.



With Society of '83 funds, the KYSR jointly sponsored this Purple Teardrop memorial in Falmouth, KY.

SR & SAR Honor Mountjoy Brothers

On Sept. 18, 2021, the SR and SAR in the Commonwealth of Kentucky joined to pay tribute to Revolutionary War veterans Alvin and John Mountjoy. The occasion was the unveiling and dedication of a Purple Heart teardrop memorial in Falmouth. The project was conceived by Jackie Miller, an active member of both the SR and SAR. In the SR, Jackie serves as State Society Historian and Chapter President.

All who attended the ceremony braved very hot weather. General Treasurer and KYSR President Buzz Carmichael gave the Pledge of Allegiance. KYSR Color Guard members Burl McCoy, Dan Miller, and Ken Hixson assisted in posting colors. Dan, who also serves as KYSR Treasurer, is a descendant of the Mountjoys and gave a speech on behalf of the family. He also accepted a ceremonial folded flag from the SAR.

Alvin and John Mountjoy were sons of William Mountjoy, an early settler in Stafford County, Virginia, who became a considerable landowner there. He established a grist mill in Brooke and worked as a tobacco inspector on Potomac Creek for many years. During the Revolution, Alvin was a lieutenant in the 3rd Virginia and served under Capt. William Washington. He participated in the battles of Princeton, Brandywine, and Germantown.

John, meanwhile, commanded the Caroline District Minute Battalion, later renamed the 10th Virginia of Foot, 9th Company. His company saw action in the Second New Jersey Campaign (January to June 1777), at Brandywine and at Monmouth. He and his men crossed the Delaware River with Washington to surprise Hessians at the Battle of Trenton.

In the 1790s, Alvin and John removed to Kentucky. Alvin Mountjoy served on a committee of three that determined the original site of the Bourbon County (KY) Courthouse. The Alvin Mountjoy log cabin, built c. 1790, is Falmouth's oldest standing residence.— *text and photos submitted by KYSR President Buzz Carmichael.*



KYSR Treasurer Dan Miller receives a ceremonial folded flag on behalf of the SAR. Dan is a descendant of the Mountjoy family.



President Sewell with ladies of the NSDCH and NSDFPA.

Louisiana Society Looks Ahead

You can't keep a good Society down! Over the past couple of years, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Louisiana has endured the pandemic and a significant number of tropical storms and hurricanes. Despite the inconveniences these factors caused, especially along the coast, the Society is active again and growing.

In the spring, Society President Bill Sewell brought greetings from the State SR to a joint meeting of the National Society Dames of the Court of Honor, and the National Society Daughters of the Founders and Patriots of America. Also in the spring, the Society donated \$350 to the Monumental Task Committee (MTC) to help it repair, restore, and maintain the city's various public monuments.

Later on, Board Member Bill Allerton and Max Maxwell sponsored a book presentation by author Mike Bunn at the Garden District Book Store on his recently published title, *Fourteenth Colony – The Forgotten Story of the Gulf South during America's Revolutionary Era*. The British colony of

West Florida—which once stretched from the Mississippi to the shallow bays of the Apalachicola—is the forgotten fourteenth colony of America's Revolutionary era, according to Bunn. The book has received favorable reviews for the writing and extensive research.

Following the book presentation, on August 21st the Society met at the Southern Yacht Club for its Sizzling Summer Saturday Social. The event's keynote speaker was our Society's own Pierre McGraw, who gave a presentation on the efforts of the MTC to preserve the city's historical and cultural monuments. Toward the end of the summer, Society Registrar Randy Kleinman and his wife, Marla Hamilton, had done genealogical checking on four prospects and recommended them for membership. The new members are: Layne Bryan French, Jr., Kearny Quinn Robert, III, M.D., Franklin Moreland Denson, and James Timothy Schneider.

In one of his newsletters during the year, President Sewell boasted that two Louisiana Society members are currently serving as the national presidents of esteemed lineage and patriotic societies. Bill Allerton is serving as Governor General of the National Society Sons & Daughters of the Pilgrims, as well as Governor General of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America. Meanwhile, Tom Jacks is serving as President General of the Sons & Daughters of Colonial and Antebellum Bench and Bar 1565-1861.—text and photos submitted by Society President Bill Sewell.



L-R: Bill Allerton, Max Maxwell, guest Patricia Gallagher and author Mike Bunn



L-R Marla Hamilton, Bill Sewell, and Randy Kleinman meet for coffee and for the signing of membership applications.





After many months of limited personal interactions, we have once again been able to come together in fellowship to honor the memories and actions of our forefathers. Despite the ongoing pandemic, our Society's most significant achievement in recent years has been the hosting of the 44th GSSR

Triennial Meeting in Boston a few weeks ago (Sept. 30th – Oct. 3rd, see pp. 4-13). Nearly 150 members and guests were present for three days of events and meetings, culminating with a Banquet Gala on Saturday, October 2nd.

It was during the gala at the Fairmont Copley Plaza where our own Vice President, D. Brenton Simons, was presented with the Massachusetts Society's First Annual John Adams Award for Outstanding Merit in the Study of History and Lifetime Achievement in Institutional Leadership. Going forward, the Massachusetts Society will give this award to a worthy recipient each year at our John Adams Dinner in early September. Brenton is the longstanding President & CEO of the preeminent New England Historic Genealogical Society and was the keynote speaker on that Saturday evening. In addition to receiving the SRMA award, he was gifted by the General Society for his presentation.

Besides hosting the GSSR Triennial, our Society marked another milestone in early October. It was on October 9, 1891, that the Sons of the Revolution was chartered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. To commemorate our 130th anniversary, we held the First Annual Forefathers Dinner on November 20th at the Somerset Club on Boston's Beacon Hill. The black-tie event was recognized with Proclamations and Resolutions from the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of the Commonwealth, as well as from the Massachusetts House and Senate. Prayers and toasts were offered, the most stirring by Ryan Taliaferro, who, with eloquence and grace, toasted George Washington in a way genuinely befitting our nation's original Commander-in-Chief and First President.

As we turn our attention to the coming year, we plan to consolidate and extend the progress of recent years by seeking out excellent candidates for membership and by shoring up our financial health. Both are long-term efforts, but we believe that ongoing incremental improvements in meeting our mission, serving our members well, and providing good governance will pay dividends into the coming decades.—*text and photos submitted by President Brent J. Andersen*



First Annual Forefathers Dinner



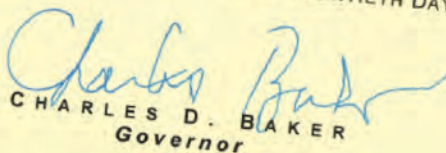
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

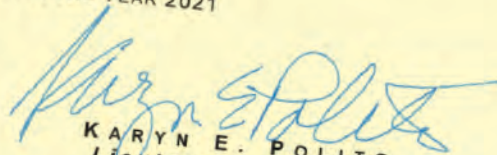


Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
I AM PLEASED TO CONFER UPON YOUR ORGANIZATION THIS GOVERNOR'S CITATION IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR 130TH
ANNIVERSARY AND YOUR EFFORTS TO PERPETUATE THE LEGACY OF THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE INDEPENDENCE
OF OUR COUNTRY. THE COMMONWEALTH COMMENDS YOUR LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO PRESERVE THE LEGACY
OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR BY YOUR COMMEMORATION OF MOMENTOUS EVENTS AND THE PRESERVATION OF
HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS - EFFORTS THAT HELPED TO FOSTER A SPIRIT OF PATRIOTISM AND FRIENDSHIP FOR ALL
SOCIETY MEMBERS.

THIS TWENTIETH DAY OF NOVEMBER IN THE YEAR 2021


CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor


KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor





L-R: Charles Scammell (Regional Director, Region 2), Dennis Peters (SRMD President), Russell Rich (SR General President), and Mark Letzer (President & CEO, Maryland Center for History & Culture).

President's Reception & Brunch

On November 12th, the Maryland SR held its President's Reception at the Maryland Center for History and Culture in Baltimore. This site was chosen for members and prospective members to view the exhibit "The Unfinished Revolution: Maryland in the Wars for Independence." This exhibit was partly sponsored by the Maryland Society and the General Society Sons of the Revolution.

The exhibit's opening reception was attended by then-General Secretary Russell Rich, who is now our General President. Accompanying him was then-Region 2 General Vice President Charles Scammell, who is now Regional Director for Region 2.

On December 5th, the Society held its annual George Washington Brunch at the Engineers Club in Baltimore. The featured speaker

was Dr. Lynn Price from the University of Virginia. Her topic was the influence of Martha Washington on George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Dr. Price is the author of the soon-to-be published book on the Papers of Martha Washington.—text and photos submitted by SRMD President Dennis Peters



Dennis Peters and Dr. Lynn Price.



Elsie's Restaurant and Bar, Minneapolis, a new meeting venue.

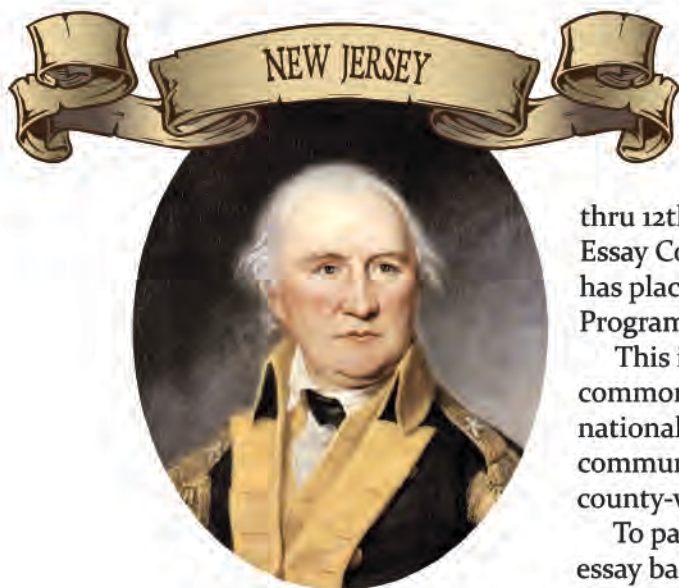
Constitution Day Luncheon

On October 23, 2021, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Minnesota held its Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Society, Sons of the American Revolution. The joint-meeting took place at Elsie's Restaurant and Bar in Minneapolis. MNSAR President Moberg welcomed the thirty-seven members (between the two organizations) and their ladies in attendance. He then called for Color Guard Commander Steve Hyde to advance the Colors. The Pledge of Allegiance, invocation, and table grace then followed.

SR President Geoffrey Bodeau led the business meeting for the Minnesota SR. It was moved and agreed that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as presented and their reading be dispensed with. Two new members were presented and unanimously approved, Richard Eugene Smith and Michael John Stainbrook, Jr. There being no

further business, the SR meeting was adjourned following their induction.

Lunch was served, followed by a presentation from MNSAR Color Guard member and veteran Craig Whiting. Mr. Whiting explained items of interest in the SAR Patriot Chest and how those items were helpful in teaching the history of the American Revolution. The chest included items such as a Revolutionary War uniform, weapons, and flags.—text submitted by Society Secretary/Treasurer Duane L. C. M. Galles, Ph.D.



Brigadier General Daniel Morgan

SRNJ Chapter and NJ SAR Collaborate

In an innovative development, our chapter in Hunterdon County, in collaboration with the national SAR, has initiated an essay contest for local high school students. The Daniel Morgan Chapter of SRNJ is inviting local high schoolers (9th thru 12th grades) to participate in the SAR George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest. The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP List of Approved Contests, Programs, and Activities for Students.

This is a unique collaboration between two societies that have common missions. SAR already has the infrastructure for the state and national contest. The local chapter of the SRNJ will handle the local communication, promotion, essay evaluation, and funding of the county-wide aspect of the essay contest.

To participate, a student must submit an original 800- to 1,200-word essay based on any event, person, philosophy or ideal associated with the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution. Each student's essay will be judged

based upon its historical accuracy, clarity, organization, grammar and spelling, and documentation. Extra credit will be accorded by the judges for any detailed reference to Hunterdon County's role, or to the role of Hunterdon residents, in the Revolution and the founding of the nation. Social Studies teachers will be encouraged to suggest a topic or essay consistent with their current teaching curriculum.

The contest will be conducted on three levels: the Hunterdon County level, state level, and national level. Awards will be given to winners on all levels. Winning essays from the local or county level will be forwarded to the SAR state and then national levels for additional prize money, if they qualify. A complete set of rules, along with the application for both the applicant and the sponsoring SAR or SRNJ members, can be found at www.sar.org/george-s-stella-m-knight-essay-contest.

SRNJ Supports Van Veghten House

Historic flooding from Tropical Depression Ida did quite a bit of damage to the Van Veghten House's two museum rooms and basement. The Van Veghten House served as headquarters for Quartermaster Nathanael Greene during the Middlebrook Encampment in 1778-1779. SRNJ granted money to the Somerset County Historical Society to help with the cleanup.—*submitted by SRNJ President Jack Idenden.*



The Van Veghten House in Finderne, New Jersey, was along the Washington–Rochambeau Revolutionary Route of 1781.



Samuel Fraunces® Ale

September 14th was sponsored by Flagship Brewing Company, brewers of Samuel Fraunces® Ale. SRNY members and guests were welcomed at the Fraunces Tavern complex to enjoy a can of the signature ale and learn what makes it so unique. Attendees also explored the history of ale and its evolution throughout the 18th century.

The Tavern Week series began in June with an outdoor whiskey and beer tasting event, sponsored by Slane Whiskey. Members and guests enjoyed Porterhouse Brewing Company Oyster Stout, Pilsner, and Yippy IPA. July featured a Tavern Trivia Night, and for August, Anne and Ridley Enslow performed Colonial-era drinking songs. The songs, performed on authentic

18th-century instruments, would have been heard in taverns throughout the Colonies before and during the Revolutionary era.



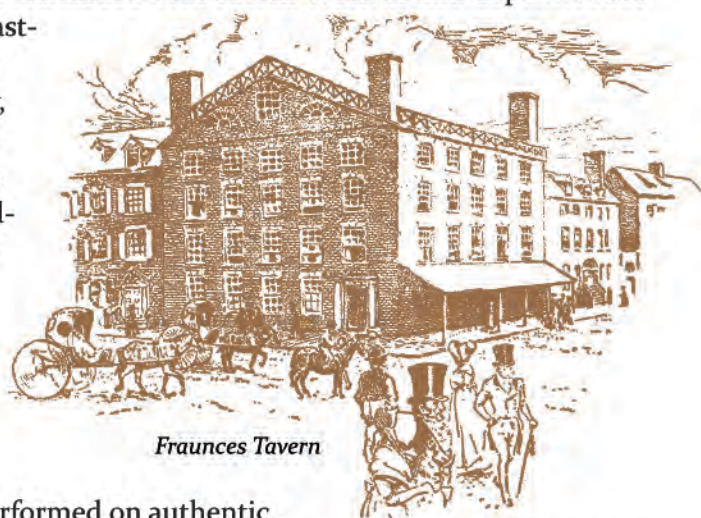
Recognizing Nathan Hale is a long SRNY tradition.

Busy Times at Fraunces Tavern Museum

On September 13th, Special Programs and Engagement Manager Mary Tsaltas-Ottomanelli gave a lecture celebrating Samuel Fraunces, namesake of Fraunces Tavern. Mary's presentation marked a year since the Fraunces Tavern Museum reopened to the public following the outbreak of the pandemic. Samuel Fraunces owned and operated the Tavern during the Revolutionary War era. The lecture explored the mysteries surrounding his early life and highlighted the years he spent in New York City and Philadelphia. Mary also delved into his relationship with Gen. George Washington.

Tavern Week 2021

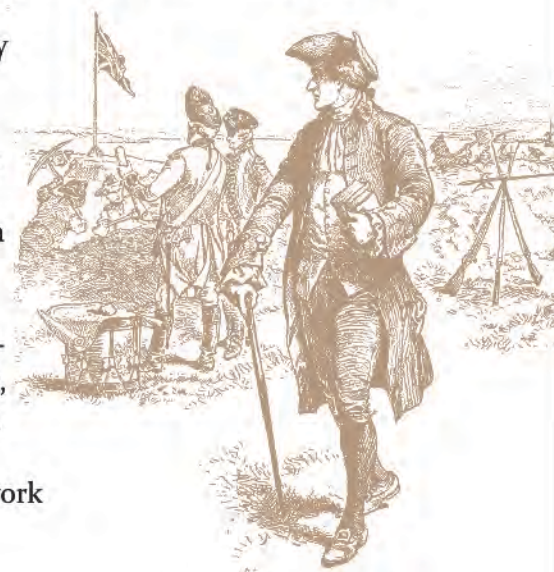
Throughout the summer, Fraunces Tavern Museum and Fraunces Tavern Restaurant hosted a series of free outdoor monthly events which concluded with Tavern Week in mid-September. A special ale-tasting event on



Fraunces Tavern

Nathan Hale Day

On Sept. 22, SRNY commemorated martyred spy Nathan Hale with its traditional ceremony at the foot of the Nathan Hale statue in New York City's City Hall Park. The ceremony traditionally features the SRNY Color Guard, wreath laying, and a public address. This year, the Sons were joined by the Veteran Corps of Artillery and the Yale Club. Nathan Hale, a school teacher from Connecticut, was commissioned by George Washington to infiltrate the British ranks to gather intelligence. He was discovered on September 21, 1776 and hanged for treason, without trial, the next morning. The SRNY erected a bronze statue in his likeness in 1893, the work of Frederick William MacMonnies.



Nathan Hale spying on British

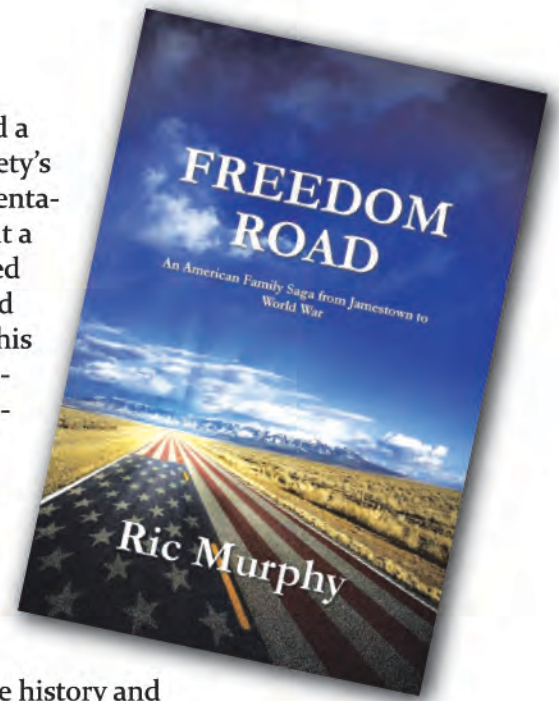


Author Ric Murphy shows off his new membership rosette.

One American Family's Long Patriotic Service

On September 27th, the SRNY hosted a special public lecture by one of the Society's newest members, Ric Murphy. The presentation was also broadcast online, making it a hybrid event. Mr. Murphy is an acclaimed educator, historian, scholar, lecturer, and award-winning author. He spoke about his family genealogy, pointing out his ancestors who fought in the American Revolution, serving in New York, Massachusetts, and North Carolina regiments.

Those stories and others are covered in his book, *Freedom Road*, which also details his family's service in the War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War. Ric's books weave together personal stories of amazing men and women, set in the backdrop of both domestic and international events. His work recounts the history and significant contributions made by African-Americans for over 400 years.



Mr. Robert spoke on French aid during the American Revolution

Evacuation Day Dinner Returns

This year, the SRNY reinstated its annual and much-beloved Evacuation Day Dinner. That original dinner, given at the Fraunces Tavern by New York Governor George Clinton, honored George Washington and his officers in a celebration of the end of British occupation in New York City—the last enclave of the British army's presence in the United States following the conclusion of the Revolutionary War. This year's event was held on November 25th and featured a presentation by Jérémie Robert, Consul General of France, whose topic was on the sixth of the thirteen toasts given in 1783.

That toast was, "To the Fleet and Armies of France, which have served in America." According to a report in the Independent Journal newspaper (1783-1788), the series of toasts "were drank expressive of the esteem in which the United States of America, held the exalted Personages with whom they have formed such respectable alliance, and equally calculated to inspire a general veneration for public freedom." Evacuation Day remained a New York City holiday into the 1910s, with celebrations rivaling those of the Fourth of July.—submitted by Events & Membership Manager Colyn C. Hunt





SRNC Past President Dan Hopping presents the Overmountain Men story at Rutherfordton Elementary School.

OVTA March to Kings Mountain

Three representatives of NCSR participated in this year's March to Kings Mountain, a re-creation of the 1780 historic march that backcountry militiamen west of the Appalachians undertook to confront British Maj. Patrick Ferguson. Sponsored by the Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA), the event starts at Sycamore Shoals on the Watauga River (Elizabethton, TN) and finishes at Kings Mountain on the anniversary date of the historic battle (October 7th).

SRNC Past President Dan Hopping, member Tom Davis, and prospective member Bill DiBenedetto participated in this year's event, representing the SRNC. The Society is a Supporting Partner of the OVTA. Every year, participants in the march make presentations at schools along the way to teach the story of the Overmountain men, the Revolutionary War in the South, and Kings Mountain as the lead-up to the surrender of Gen. Lord Cornwallis' army at Yorktown, Virginia.

Although precautions were taken this year against the spread of COVID-19, still over 10,000 fourth-, fifth-, and eighth-grade students and their parents were reached. The men gave a dozen presentations and participated in several musket firing volleys, such as the one at the McDowell house in Marion, NC. It took the Overmountain men two

weeks to march to Kings Mountain, and it took them less than an hour to eliminate Ferguson and take control of his army. In the end, there were over 300 British/Tory casualties and about 700 taken as prisoners. The Patriots suffered just twenty-eight killed and sixty wounded.

Live Annual Meeting

After a hiatus of almost two years, the Society was convened for a spirited "Welcome Back" Annual Meeting. Donald C. McLeod, Past President of the St. Andrew's Society of North Carolina and SRNC member, gave an informative presentation on the Highland vs. Lowland Scots and their role in the American Revolution in North Carolina. The luncheon at the Carolina Country Club, Raleigh, was bountiful and delicious.

Various officer and committee reports were received. The Nominating Committee report was approved, and the following new Officers were installed: President: Augustus E. Succop, III; Vice President: Randall E. Sprinkle; Secretary: Gary L. Hall; Treasurer: Andrew C. Smith; Chancellor: Carlton M. Mansfield, Esq.; Registrar: John R. Harman, Jr.; Historian: W. Daniel Pate; Chaplain: J. Robert Boykin III; and Captain of the Color Guard pro tem: Daniel L. Hopping.

Directors include Glenn M. Davis, Gregory B. Hunter, Brian Michael Tribble, David L. Gellatly, W. Timothy Lattimore, Ronald W. Steele, E. Allen James, Charles R. Odom, and Frank B. Powell III.

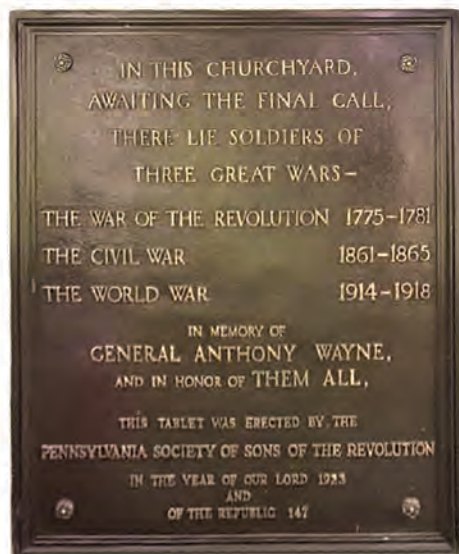
A Graveside Memorial Service

On September 8, 2021, a private grave-site salute in Raleigh, NC was offered by the SRNC Color Guard under the direction of Daniel L. Hopping, Color Guard Captain, pro tem. The salute was for Mrs. Clarice W. Kennedy, the mother of SRNC Color Guard Captain Scott W. Kennedy, who succumbed earlier in the year. The tribute was a collaborative effort with the Samuel Johnston Chapter, DAR, where Mrs. Kennedy was a charter member and had served as Vice-Regent. Mrs. Perry Van Dyke, the current Regent, gave a tribute to the deceased. —text and photos submitted by SRNC President Gus Succop.



Noted speaker Donald C. McLeod was the honored guest at the Society's 2021 Annual Meeting.





A PSSR plaque from many years ago at Saint David's Church commemorates fallen heroes of war.

Memorial Day Remembrance

On Sunday, May 30th, a small group of PSSR members gathered at the Saint David's Episcopal Church (Old Saint David's) in Radnor to place American flags on the gravesites of Revolutionary War soldiers buried there. Included in this historical graveyard are the remains of General Anthony Wayne, renowned hero of the Patriot cause and one of Washington's finest generals. PSSR President Richard F. Pagano, Younger Members Chair Andrew C. Colket, and PSSR Vice President C. Michael Whelan placed the flags and straightened previously installed medallion markers at the graves of various veterans.

Of note, a commemorative plaque on the inner wall of the graveyard was placed by the PSSR many years ago in recognition of Revolutionary War, Civil War, and World War I veterans buried there. We plan to make the Memorial Day Remembrance at Saint David's an annual event and hope other members will join us next year.



PSSR leadership at Saint David's Church

Paoli Battlefield Park Remembrance(s)

On Sunday, June 6th, a group of PSSR members gathered at the Paoli Battlefield Park in Malvern, Pennsylvania to participate in a wreath-laying ceremony sponsored by the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund, the Paoli Memorial

Association, and the Borough of Malvern.

PSSR President Richard F. Pagano, Past President W. Murray Gordon, Vice Presidents Kenneth W. MacNeal and C. Michael Whelan, Society Counselor Richard N. DiStefano and members of the Board of Managers gathered at the Malvern Borough Hall to march with other supporters to the battlefield site for this ceremony.

The ceremony included a twenty-one gun salute to honor the fifty-three veterans of the Continental Army who gave their lives in the massacre by British forces. In the 1920s, the PSSR installed a monument adjacent to the mass gravesite. Since then, the Society has also installed informational signage at the park. The PSSR was honored to have been a part of this event and looks forward to additional ways the Society may support these types of events. A few weeks later, on July 24th, a small contingent of PSSR members gathered

a second time at Paoli Battlefield Park to celebrate the placement of a DAR America 250! Patriots Marker, which the PSSR supported. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution has set a goal to erect at least one America 250! Marker in each state. Paoli Battlefield Park was chosen as the recipient of the marker in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mark C. Ward III, Francis M. Spano III (who assisted as Honor Guard) and Vice President C. Michael Whelan were on hand to support the event. Speaking at the event were Elizabeth Watkins of the Great Valley Chapter of DAR, Jim Christ, President Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund and Frank Ortner, Vice President Paoli Memorial Association. A twenty-one gun salute was provided by the American Legion Post 668.



Members and guests gathered to honor those lost in the 1777 Paoli Massacre.

Revolutionary War Patriots
This marker commemorates the men and women who achieved American independence. These Patriots, believing in the noble cause of liberty, fought valiantly to found a new nation.
1775 - 1783
Presented by the Pennsylvania Sons of the Revolution
Daughters of the American Revolution
in honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States

“Flags and Founding Documents” at MAR

On Thursday, June 10th, the Museum of the American Revolution (MAR) held a celebration to commemorate the opening of a new exhibit entitled “Flags and Founding Documents.” Although the exhibit has since closed, the PSSR Color Guard provided financial support for the exhibition. Captain Erik E. L. Guenther, members of the Color Guard, PSSR President Richard F. Pagano, and other members convened on site in support of the event. Refreshments and appetizers were served outside before guests were invited to tour the exhibit.



A view of the many flags from the summertime “Flags and Founding Documents” exhibit, Museum of the American Revolution.

The summer 2021 exhibit showcased dozens of rare American flags alongside historic early state constitutions and the first printing of the proposed U.S. Constitution of 1787. The intention was to shed light on the triumphs and tensions that the United States faced in its earliest struggles on the evolutionary road to a “more perfect Union.” The flags, many of which had never been exhibited, traced the evolution of the Stars and Stripes. The historic documents in the exhibit included early printings of more than sixteen different State Constitutions, as well as the Choctaw Nation’s Constitution. The exhibit closed in early September.

Washington Memorial Chapel Tour

The PSSR Younger Members Committee organized a tour and punch-tasting at the Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge on Wednesday, June 16th. The occasion included a performance of the carillon tower by the Resident Carillonneur Doug Gefvert. This bell tower is one of the world’s most beautiful carillons and features fifty-three tuned brass bells that ring out in honor of George Washington.

All PSSR members, as well as prospective members, were invited to attend. Following the tours, everyone was invited to attend the punch tasting and reception outside under a tent. The same punch creators who were at the Annual Meeting at Fort Mifflin were present at this event. They prepared three choices of punch for the membership to sample and from which an official PSSR punch would be selected. The next mission is to name this punch! Appetizers, an open bar, and great conversation enticed members to stay until the sun set on the horizon. Thanks go to PSSR Younger Members Committee Chairman Andrew C. Colket and his committee for organizing a great event.

Let Freedom Ring! Celebration

The PSSR once again celebrated the anniversary of our nation’s birth with the Let Freedom Ring celebration on July Fourth. Due to some changes in holiday logistics and permitting, we split the ceremony between the traditional venue of the Liberty Bell Center at the Independence National Historical Park and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier located at Washington Square. We also moved the reception venue to The Athenaeum which is across the street from Washington Square.

The reception began at 11:00 a.m., and featured a brunch buffet with a variety of food and beverage. After the reception, a ceremony and wreath-laying got underway with a quartet from the Orpheus Club of Philadelphia opening the festivities. The Watson Highlanders piped while members of the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry and the PSSR Color Guard split into two columns and marched into the Square from the northeast and southeast corners. The two columns rejoined at the park fountain before marching to the Tomb. Wreaths were laid at the Tomb in honor of the Society and its Color Guard.



The PSSR Color Guard stands at attention in Washington Square.



This year's young bell-tappers at the July 4th Let Freedom Ring! Celebration.

Following this, PSSR President Richard F. Pagano opened official proceedings with the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. Society Chaplain Rev. G. Clayton Ames III offered the invocation. President Pagano then introduced Independence National Historic Park Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod, who welcomed the attendees to Washington Square. Vice President and Let Freedom Ring Chairman Kenneth MacNeal then introduced Captain Ralph W. Galati, the ceremony's keynote speaker. Captain Galati gave a moving speech about the sacrifices American soldiers have faced throughout our nation's history and received a standing ovation from the crowd.

Meanwhile, President Pagano, Captain Eric E. L. Guenther Jr., Superintendent MacLeod and two members of the Color Guard marched to the Liberty Bell Pavilion. There,

Superintendent MacLeod publicly welcomed President Pagano, who acknowledged special guests and introduced Lucy Duke Tonacci, the President-General of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. President-General Tonacci read the names of the bell tappers and their ancestors. At exactly 2:00 p.m., the bell-tappers tapped the bell. They each received a commemorative Liberty Bell from President Pagano to take home.

Our thanks to Let Freedom Ring Committee Chairman Kenneth W. MacNeal, Celebration Manager Timothy B. Hennessey Jr., Luncheon Manager William H. Handy Jr. and PSSR Executive Director Schuyler C. Wickes for an outstanding event. —text and photos submitted by PSSR Vice President of Operations C. Michael Whelan





An overlay of the Revolutionary War earthworks site in modern Portsmouth, RI. Photo courtesy Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project.

Cleaning Up Butts Hill Fort

On Sunday, October 17th, a large group of re-enactors gathered at Butts Hill Fort in Portsmouth, RI, the site of the historic Battle of Rhode Island. This is the largest Revolutionary War earthworks in southeastern New England. The occasion marked the first public event held there in recent memory, due to many years of neglect. Substantial brush and other overgrowth had taken over.

The Portsmouth Historical Society formed the Butts Hill Fort Restoration Committee last August to restore and maintain the site so that the public may enjoy this piece of history and use it for education and recreation. The Rhode Island Sons donated \$1,000 toward the project. Two of our members, Col. Burton Quist, USMC (Ret.), and Dr. Daniel Harrop, serve on the Committee to restore the Fort.

Joe Studlick, Co-Chair of the Committee, said: "With sufficient public support, we will have the Butts Hill Fort ready for Aquidneck Islanders to enjoy for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of

Independence in 2026 and that of the Battle of Rhode Island in 2028.' The first cleanup was held on Sunday, September 12th. Others will follow.

2021 Annual Meeting

On August 14th, the Rhode Island Society Sons of the Revolution held its annual meeting at the Wanumetonomy Country Club in Middletown, RI. This is the first annual meeting held since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and is held each year to commemorate the Battle of Rhode Island in 1778. We had two-thirds of our membership present, and we enjoyed a fine luncheon and an afternoon of camaraderie.

Our guest speaker was Patrick Donovan, Vice President of the Varnum Memorial Armory Military Museum in East Greenwich, RI. Mr. Donovan opened with his essay on the importance of history. He also spoke about the Slave Letter that the RISR helped to restore and conserve (see Vol. 39, No. 1-2, p. 52). The Society held its annual election of officers and board of managers. Those serving on the board were re-elected, and the following officers were installed for the 2021-2022 term: Roy D. Lauth - President; Ron Barnes - First Vice President; Jeff Harrington - Second Vice President; and John Adams - Treasurer.

Independence Day Activities

On July 4th this year, the Rhode Island Society Sons of the Revolution held its annual Independence Day activities in Newport which featured a rousing performance of ancient music by the Bristol County Fife and Drum Corps, a co-ed group dedicated to the preservation of historic music through performance and parades.

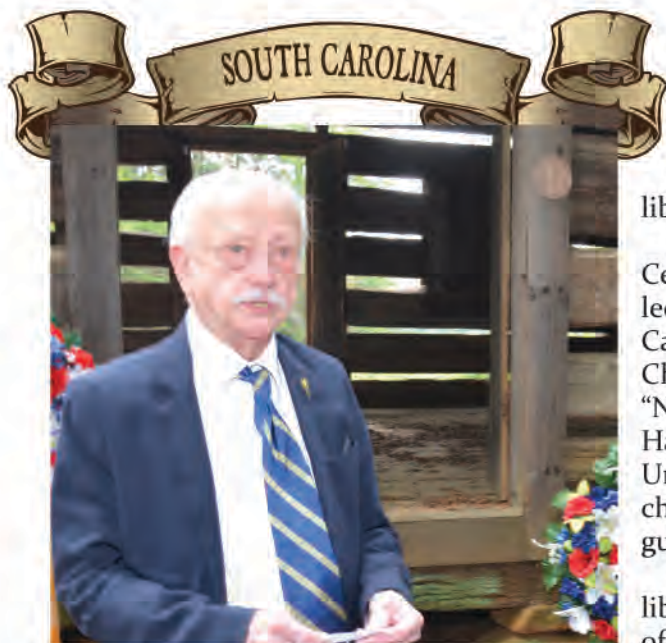
Events of the day started at 9:00 a.m. ceremony at the gravesite of Declaration of Independence signer William Ellery, with the RISR, DAR and Artillery Company of Newport all present. A prayer was given by the DAR, and RISR President Roy Lauth gave a short review of Ellery's life. A wreath was then presented, and the Artillery Company of Newport followed with an appropriate musket salute to Ellery.

At 10:30 a.m., the Bristol County Fifes and Drums marched around Washington Square and performed a rousing concert of ancient Fife and Drum Music to the delight of the very large assembled crowd. During the concert, SR and CAR members distributed over 500 American flags and pocket-sized booklets containing the Declaration and Constitution. These items generated a great deal of interest with the public.

Beginning at 11:00 am, from the steps of the 1736 Old Colony House, RISR member Col. Burton Quist, USMC (Ret.) spoke of the 245-year tradition of the reading of the Declaration at the Old Colony House on July Fourth. He then introduced RISR President Lauth, who gave a rousing presentation of the Declaration of Independence. The festivities came to a close as the Artillery Company of Newport fired a 21-gun cannon salute from Washington Square.—submitted by RISR President Roy Lauth



Members of the Bristol County Fife & Drums



Past President Tom Weidner at Fort Thicketty.

Fort Thicketty Liberation Day

The Greenville Chapter of SCSR and the Cherokee Historical and Preservation Society hosted the 241st Anniversary of the Liberation of Fort Thicketty on July 24, 2021, at the site of the historic fortress in Gaffney, SC. On July 26, 1780, Patriot troops liberated the fort without firing a shot.

Greenville Chapter President Albert Futrell was Master of Ceremonies for the event. SCSR President Emeritus Tom Weidner led the pledges to the Stars & Stripes, the State flag of South Carolina, and the Sons of the Revolution. Tom Hanson, SCSR Chaplain, delivered the invocation, quoting George Washington: "No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency."

Upstate historian Durant Ashmore (Laurens, SC) spoke on the liberation of Fort Thicketty and its importance in shifting the tide of the Revolution in South Carolina to favor the Patriots. It had been a strategic British-held fortress, but on that historic day the

building was surrounded by numerous men under Patriot Col. Isaac Shelby. Capt. Patrick Moore, leader of the garrison, chose not to battle Shelby's men and surrendered the location. The Patriots obtained hundreds of muskets and ammunition and took ninety-six prisoners.

After the presentation of wreaths and distribution of SR streamers by Greenville Chapter SR President Albert Futrell, Chaplain Hanson delivered the benediction. Chapter President Futrell and Billy Pennington of the Cherokee Historical and Preservation Society symbolically lowered the British flag and raised the Betsy Ross flag.—*Text and photo by Tom Hanson.*

Isaac Hayne Memorial Event

General Vice President and SCSR Past President Ivan Bennett organized the inaugural SCSR Isaac Hayne Memorial Wreath-Laying held on Aug. 4, 2021, with widespread participation. Bennett was Master of Ceremonies with assistance from SCSR Color Guard Capt. and Regional VP William Suggs, SCSR Chaplain Michael Hull, MD, and SCSR Junior Members William Suggs Jr. and Jack Gatlin.

The ceremony followed the published Grave Marking Service from the historic GSSR Prayer Book. Joining the Sons of the Revolution for this event were representatives from the SAR, DAR, the South Carolina 250 Revolutionary War Commission, the SC Battlefield Trust, and the Annual Francis Marion Symposium. Also on hand were author C. L. Bragg and Hayne descendant Charles Warring III.

The ceremony got underway with the presentation of colors and wreaths and pledges to the Stars & Stripes, the State flag of South Carolina, and the Sons of the Revolution. The gathering then heard a presentation from Dr. Bragg, anesthesiologist, Air Force veteran, and historian. In 2016, Chip published a book on Hayne entitled, *Martyr of the American Revolution: The Execution of Isaac Hayne, South Carolinian*. Following the speech, there was a symbolic canon salute given by David Reuwer, of the SC Battleground Preservation Trust. The benediction was given by Dr. Michael Hull.

Following the ceremony, interested parties met at the Ace Basin Fish Camp restaurant in Jacksonboro for lunch. David Reuwer provided an overview of the SCBP property at the site of the Battle of Parker's Ferry on the SC Liberty Trail. There, on August 30, 1781, Francis Marion and his brigade ambushed those British who arrested Isaac Hayne and held him in Charleston before his hanging.—*Text and photo by Ivan Bennett.*



Author C. L. Bragg, who published a book on Hayne in 2016, spoke at the ceremony.

SCSR Annual Meeting

SCSR President Jeffery Murrie presided over the Society's Annual Meeting held November 6th at the St. Luke Lutheran Church in Florence, S.C. Following the presentation of colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Invocation, President Murrie spoke on the GSSR Triennial Meeting held in Boston Sept. 30 – Oct. 3 and the S.C. Society's

having been awarded the Trent Trophy. Following that, SCSR officers gave their reports and President Murrie gave a review of Society's calendar of events and upcoming programs for 2022.

That meeting was attended by several new members who will form part of the new Florence Chapter, now organizing. The SCSR Board approved the By Laws of that Chapter, and in February next year will approve its Charter. The Florence Chapter will look to the Greenville Chapter as a model. The Greenville Chapter, although just a year old, has already accomplished a great deal.—*Editor*

Grave Markings for Three

On November 7th, one day following the Society's Annual Meeting, a cooperative grave-marking ceremony took place in Greer, S.C., between the SCSR Greenville Chapter and the Col. Robert Anderson Chapter of SAR. The gravesites were those of Thomas Edwards, Col. John Thomas, Sr, and Jane Thomas, all heroes of the American Revolution. The three of them were laid to rest on land that was once the Thomas family cemetery, but in recent times the land was sold to form part of the Orchard Crest subdivision. In 2015, when the raw land was being cleared of brush, developers accidentally bulldozed away their existing grave markers.



The moment of David Reuwer's cannon salute.

About 100 people attended the ceremony, including many descendants. Wreaths were laid and a cannon salute and musket salute were presented by SC Battleground Preservation Trust's David Reuwer and artillery. In addressing the group assembled, SCSR Greenville Chapter President Al Futrell thanked the Col. Robert Anderson Chapter of SAR for bringing the SR into the project. Then, he said: "To the people of this community, I wish to say what you have done here today is **"MORE ENDURING THAN BRONZE!"**—*Text and photos by Tom Hanson.*

The work stopped when it was discovered these gravesites had been disturbed. The developer fenced off the hallowed ground, but refused to pay for new headstones. The Sons stepped in, with collaboration from the SAR and DAR, to correct the situation. The fenced-in area was further landscaped, and new headstones and footstones were installed to honor Thomas Edwards, Col. John Thomas, Sr, and Jane Thomas. The new markers were jointly sponsored and feature both SAR and SR insignias.



A joint SR-SAR effort restored and enhanced three historical gravesites in Greer, S.C.



In Memory: Charles W. Swoope (1943-2021)

Earlier this year, the South Carolina Society and community at large lost one of its pillars in Charles W. Swoope (1943-2021) of Rock Hill, SC. Mr. Swoope was an insurance agent for New York Life and an active volunteer in the Sons of the Revolution, Knights of Columbus, Boy Scouts of America, and the Catholic Church. He was a Past President of the SCSR and was serving as its current Registrar. He was a leader in reviving the dormant S.C. Society of a few years ago into one of the GSSR's most vibrant and dynamic State Societies today. Chuck brought in new life, new blood, and new zeal.

In the Boy Scouts, Charles had served for thirty years as Scout Master of Troop 277. He was the York District Eagle Advisory Chair and a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service at the Council-level. As a member of Saint Anne Catholic Church, he served as past president of the Parish Council, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Perpetual Adoration and greeter. Mr. Swoope was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served during the Vietnam era. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Patricia Swoope, of the home; three sons, four sisters, and twelve grandchildren.—*Editor*



Celebrating Tennessee Statehood Day

At the end of May and first of June, members of the Tennessee Society along with other patriotic organizations such as the Governor John Sevier Historical Association and the Tennesseans for Living History celebrated Tennessee Statehood Day in downtown Knoxville. The festivities took place May 29th, May 30th, and June 1st.

On Saturday, May 29th – At Marble Springs, the historic home of John Sevier, Knox County Chapter President Bob Jones portrayed Sevier telling his own life story to visitors. In addition to Bob's portrayal, the festival included a militia drill with a live musket firing.

On Sunday, May 30th – At the historic James White Fort in downtown Knoxville, Jerry Mustin set up his long hunter camp display and provided an informative presentation on how long hunters survived on the frontier.

On Monday, June 1st – A march from James White Fort to Blount Mansion concluded the Statehood Day events. The Blount Mansion was home to Tennessee's first governor, William Blount. Tennessee's current governor, the Hon. Bill Lee, was present and addressed participants and onlookers with a speech honoring Tennessee history.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, right, pauses with Knox Co. Chapter President Bob Jones during Tennessee

Anderson County Sons Celebrate July Fourth

On July 4th, the Anderson County Chapter of the Tennessee Sons sponsored its annual Independence Day Celebration at the David Hall Cabin. In keeping with tradition, the event was open to the public. Many members donned their attire of the typical 18th century frontiersman. The celebration began with lunch served around noon. During the meal, members and visitors perused the grounds experiencing an early frontier setting.

After lunch, Anderson County Chapter President Jerry Cox emceed the festivities. After the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem, Dianne Lovejoy played traditional Celtic music on her violin. Afterwards, children rung the "Liberty Bell" after the name of each of the original Thirteen Colonies was called out. This year, there was a special display on hand—the John Sevier Family Bible, which is currently in the possession of the State Society. This was the first time in many years that this 1671 King James Bible was shown to the public. The Society keeps this revered and important artifact in a protective case to preserve it for future generations. Efforts are being pursued to have it appraised.



Members and guests pause during July Fourth at the David Hall Cabin in Clinton, TN.

Jerry Mustin Honored Twice

At the conclusion of the Anderson County July Fourth festivities at the David Hall Cabin, Anderson County Chapter President Jerry Cox presented member Jerry Mustin with two well-deserved awards for his many years of portraying an 18th century long hunter and frontiersman in living history events throughout the region. The Chapter awarded Jerry with a plaque honoring his “unselfish and continued efforts that spread the word of our forefathers.” Meanwhile, the East Tennessee Historical Society awarded him its Lifetime Achievement in Living History Award. The Society congratulates Jerry on his much-deserved recognition.

Remembering Larry Fox (1937-2021)

This past September 19, 2021, the Tennessee Society lost a fellow son, Larry Fox. He was an active member in the Society for twenty-two years, serving in the Sevier County Chapter, the State Board of Managers, and also as State Society Registrar. Larry was certainly a driving force within the Tennessee Society and his professional expertise was heavily relied upon.

His first career was in the U.S. Air Force, which he joined in 1957. He retired from the service in 1978, highly decorated from tours in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. Later he became an account representative for Met-Life Insurance Company. In 1957, Larry married Magdelene (Maggie) Elizabeth Hartsell in a union that would last a



Jerry Mustin holds his Lifetime Achievement Award from the East Tennessee Historical Society.

lifetime. They were blessed with two wonderful children, Douglas and Terri.

During the 2019 traditional George Washington Banquet, a family photo was taken of Larry, his son, grandson, great-grandson, and a great-great grandson. He was very proud that five living generations of the Fox family were represented in the Tennessee Society rolls.—reports and photos taken from the *Tennessee Rifleman*, edited by Dennis Eggert.



In 2019, Larry stood with four younger generations of his family, all members of the TNSSOR.





Growth Despite the Pandemic

The Virginia Society labored with national and statewide pandemic constraints between March 2020 and July 2021. Prior to that period, the George Washington's Birthday Ball

black-tie gala in February 2020—a sell-out with 220 attendees, was the last in-person event to be held before lockdowns began. Nevertheless, our Society's board met regularly (via Zoom) and Membership Chair Scott Bussells continued his recruiting efforts with remarkable success.

A total of fifty-three new members were approved for the year between September 2020 and September 2021. As of September 1, 2021, the Virginia Society had reached 648 total membership.

Despite the restrictions on large gatherings, our Society did manage to squeeze in a smaller cocktail reception for new members, board members, and guests on May 3, 2021. Attendees enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and



New members inducted at the 2020 GW Birthday Ball.

members recognized the VSSR's incoming officers: President Mark Bearden, 1st Vice President Stan Southworth, 2nd Vice President Mark Jakobowski, Treasurer Barry Almond, and Secretary Sean O'Hara. Outgoing President Dr. John Daniel was recognized with the now customary engraved Society Sabre.

Second-Half Events

The loosening of state-wide restrictions occurred on June 1. Our Executive Committee immediately began planning for a more active second half. Nearly 150 members convened on September 19th at a lovely cocktail reception in the garden of Historic Tuckahoe, Thomas Jefferson's boyhood home. Though this was a new event on the Society's calendar, the combination of fantastic venue, pleasant weather, outstanding catering, and a small batch bourbon/cigar bar sent everyone home in a wonderful state. We have already resolved to put this event on the calendar again next year. Recruitment event held at the Commonwealth Club, almost every month, the most recent of which was held on October 14th. Nearly sixty current and prospective members gathered for an outdoor curated bourbon tasting at the Commonwealth Club in downtown Richmond.

In other second-half events, the Virginia Society was well represented at the General Society Triennial in Boston (Sept 30 - Oct 3). Our delegates enjoyed sharing time with members from across the country. As of this writing, we are looking ahead once again to co-hosting (with the National Society of the Colonial Dames and Society of Colonial Wars) our annual Oyster Roast on November 13 at Wilton House on the banks of the James River.

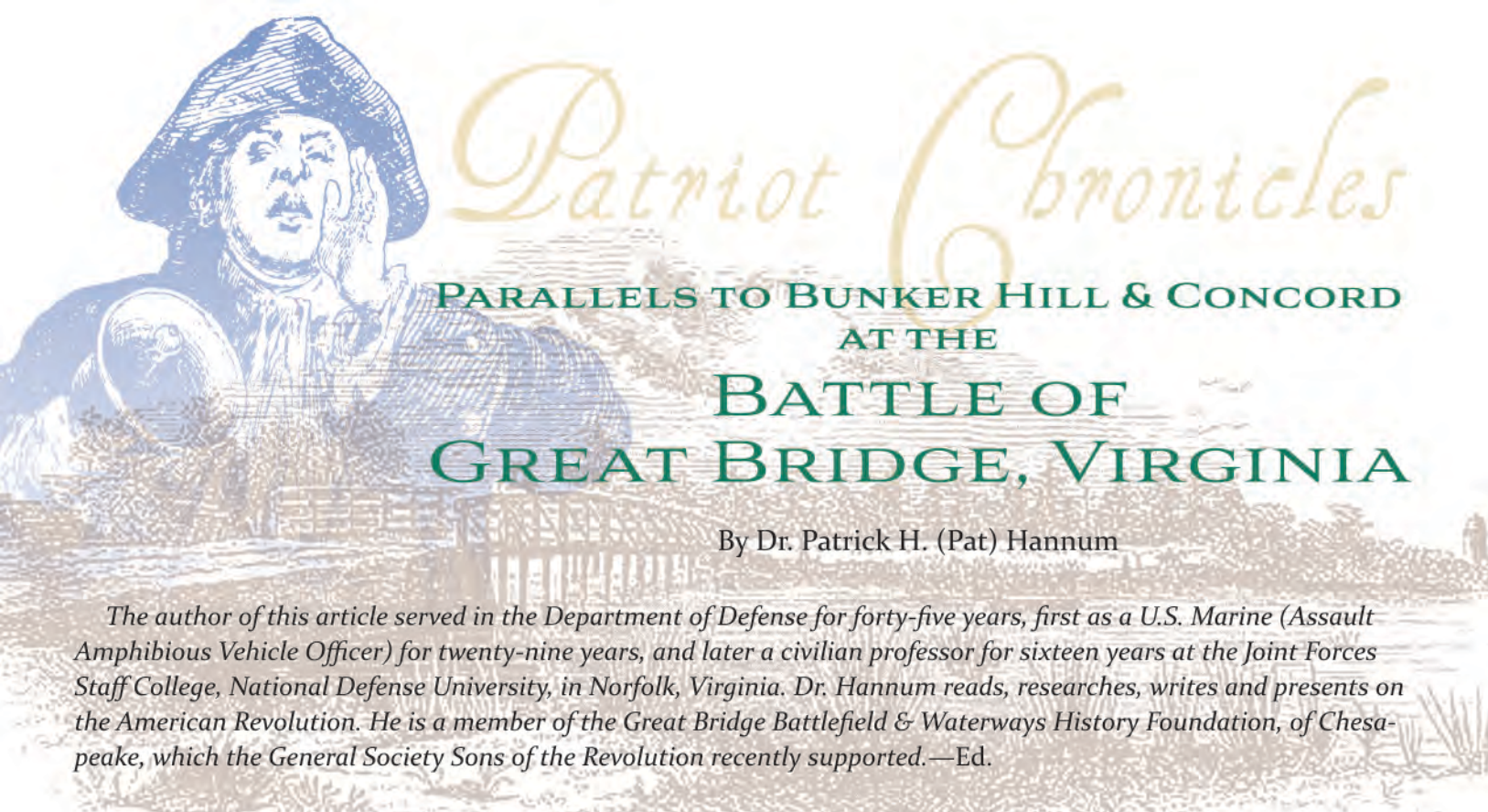
Philanthropic Endeavors

We have continued to support historic organizations across the state, including St. John's Episcopal Church, Mary Washington House Museum, and the Parsons' Cause Foundation. The Society has also been a major supporter of the latest statue for placement on the waterfront in Yorktown that of Gen. Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau. We had been eagerly anticipating a public dedication ceremony for the statue's unveiling on Yorktown Day (October 18th), but the parade and other public events were cancelled for the second consecutive year. Instead, the Society participated in a small scale wreath-laying at the site where the completed Rochambeau will soon join his three other bronze compatriots Washington, Lafayette, and French Admiral François Joseph Paul, Comte de Grasse.—submitted by VSSR President Mark Bearden.



A wreath to honor the newly placed statue of French Gen. Rochambeau, third from left, at the Yorktown Riverwalk Landing. The four are, from the left, Washington, Lafayette, Rochambeau, and De Grasse.

BRUCE MOWDAY/MEDIANEWS GROUP



Patriot Chronicles

PARALLELS TO BUNKER HILL & CONCORD AT THE BATTLE OF GREAT BRIDGE, VIRGINIA

By Dr. Patrick H. (Pat) Hannum

The author of this article served in the Department of Defense for forty-five years, first as a U.S. Marine (Assault Amphibious Vehicle Officer) for twenty-nine years, and later a civilian professor for sixteen years at the Joint Forces Staff College, National Defense University, in Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. Hannum reads, researches, writes and presents on the American Revolution. He is a member of the Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Foundation, of Chesapeake, which the General Society Sons of the Revolution recently supported.—Ed.

The study of the early years of the American Revolution often focuses on the northern theater, specifically the actions around Boston during 1775 and early 1776. By any analysis, the Whigs or Patriots held their ground at Lexington and Concord, inflicted significant casualties on the highly regarded British regulars at Bunker Hill, and ultimately drove the British army and Royal navy from Boston while they were building an army.

Surprisingly, a very parallel scenario unfolded in Tidewater Virginia along a similar timeline, yet few people learn

about it. It is often overshadowed by the larger number of forces and better documented history of General Washington's army in Massachusetts. The fact is, the strategic implication of the defensive actions taken by the Patriots near Norfolk was just as significant as the New England militias' actions around Boston.

The Battle of Great Bridge (Dec. 9, 1775) was the second consecutive instance in the dawning of the Revolutionary War in which a group of militiamen proved that American Patriots could best the world's premier military. Immediately after the battle, the Patriot commander, Col. William Woodford, wrote to Edmund Pendleton, president of the Virginia Convention, "I have the pleasure to inform you that the victory was complete... This was a second Bunker's Hill affair, in miniature, with this difference that we kept our post and had only one man wounded in the hand."

Since the action involved a stand-off and showdown centered around a bridge, it also paralleled the Battle of Concord.



Map from Britannica Encyclopaedia of 1900.

Strategic Norfolk

Wars are fought for political purposes. The action at Great Bridge reflects how competent military commanders with dedicated soldiers, a passion for the revolutionary cause, and appropriate political guidance and support could win on the battlefield. More importantly, Great Bridge demonstrates how military victories can translate into political success. By way of the tactical actions and military success of that battle, Virginia freed herself from British rule and could then support and sustain the ongoing Revolution in nearly uninterrupted fashion until 1781, when land warfare again returned to the state.

The community of Great Bridge was a small commercial village located at the terminus of the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River. The town was positioned along a natural causeway that provided the only land access into the Albemarle region of North Carolina from the east side of the Great Dismal Swamp. Because of that point of access, Norfolk quickly became a trade outlet between eastern North Carolina and Great Britain, as well as the British Caribbean. Kemp's Landing, at the terminus of the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River, ten miles to the north, performed a similar function for the region.

Norfolk was the eighth largest city in all of British North America, and it was the largest and most easily accessible port between New York and Charleston. Its 6,000 residents served as a Loyalist stronghold, given the extensive mercantile interests there. Strategically located near the entrance of the Chesapeake Bay, Norfolk allowed for a permanent naval presence which controlled forty percent of the Colonies' commerce that transited the Chesapeake Bay.

Together, the three communities of Great Bridge, Kemp's Landing, and Norfolk were key terrain for any military force that hoped to control activities in coastal Virginia, south of the James River. Lord Dunmore (John Murray, Royal Governor of Virginia) understood this, but so, too, did Virginia and North Carolina's Patriot conventions.



The illustration is by British Captain Samuel Leslie, commander of the 14th Foot detachment at the Battle of Great Bridge. The proportions and relative position of the elements are inexact, but the historical value of this 1775 map is considerable.



Lord Dunmore

Williamsburg Convention

Because the Patriots wanted to counter Dunmore's activities, the Patriot convention in Williamsburg on October 24, 1775 ordered an offensive military campaign south of the James River to drive the British out of Norfolk. Dunmore had received elements of the 14th British Regiment, formerly stationed at St. Augustine, Florida, as the nucleus of his Royal land force. He used both Norfolk and Portsmouth as bases of support to launch raids to interdict Patriot military supplies and disrupt militia operations.

Col. William Woodford and Lt. Col. Charles Scott led a Virginia Patriot force comprising elements of the newly formed 2nd Virginia Regiment and Culpepper Militia to counter British military actions. These units were still organizing and training near Williamsburg when they received their orders. With no naval force of their own, and with British vessels patrolling the local waterways, Woodford's forces did not have a secure route to Norfolk. He would need to follow a circuitous route and fight his way there.

The men commenced a 120-mile march when the most direct route was less than half that long. By December 2nd, Woodford assembled the bulk of his force on the south end of the Great Bridge causeway and postured for a move on Norfolk, his primary objective, still twenty miles away. He had about 900 men under his command. In the meantime, Dunmore's regulars had foiled an ambush attempt by the Princess Anne County Militia and routed their numbers at nearby Kemp's Landing on November 15th. Immediately following the engagement, Dunmore published his infamous Proclamation, declaring martial law throughout the state and

formally offering freedom to slaves and indentured servants who would fight for the king. These announcements stirred much agitation among Virginia's gentry and Patriot legislators, and it convinced many Virginians to support the independence movement.



Brig. Gen. William Woodford

Showdown at Great Bridge

Earlier in November, Lord Dunmore, with the knowledge of Woodford's movement, ordered construction of a log stockade at the northern end of the Great Bridge Causeway on extremely marshy ground. The British named it Fort Murray, but the Patriots called it "the hog pen." Dunmore initially manned the installation with fifty regulars and Loyalist militia, but those numbers grew significantly as Woodford's large force of Patriots formed on the south end of the causeway.

During the following week, the British forces skirmished but did not engage in decisive combat. That all changed on the night of December 8th, when Dunmore surprisingly ordered all his regulars of the 14th Regiment to conduct a night march from Norfolk to the stockade at Great Bridge. He had heard of Patriot reinforcements approaching from New Hanover County, N.C., under the command of Colonel Robert Howe, and, reportedly, they had cannons capable of battering down the walls of Fort Murray. Still, one has to wonder why he sent his outnumbered regulars into such a stronghold.

On December 9, 1775, through a morning fog, Captain Charles Fordyce led the grenadiers and infantrymen of the 14th Regiment, supported by several small cannon, across the causeway. The narrow width of the passage restricted the British to a six-man front, which allowed the Patriot fire from the front and flanks to devastate the advancing regulars. As the fog began to lift, the battle was opened by three Patriot scouts or lookouts, who were stationed on the south side of the bridge. One of them was a free man of color, militiaman William "Billy" Flora, who distinguished himself by covering the withdrawal of the other two scouts and slowing the Redcoats' initial advance.

After the scouts cleared, the Patriots manning the earthworks poured well-aimed musket and rifle fire into the ranks of the advancing infantry and the accompanying cannon crews. Loyalist militia stood at the ready behind the regulars under the command of Captain Samuel Leslie.

Captain Charles Fordyce, leading the British attack, fell only a few yards from the earthworks, his body riddled with multiple wounds. In a matter of minutes, the backbone of Dunmore's land force—sixty-one regulars of the 14th Regiment—lay dead, wounded or captured. Casualties for Dunmore's two loyalist militia units, the Queen's Own Loyal Virginia Regiment and the Ethiopian Regiment, remain unknown.

The Aftermath

The loss of fifty percent of the 120-man assault force was a devastating blow. Capt. Leslie, under cover of darkness that night, withdrew the entire British force to the safety of the British warships in Norfolk harbor. Woodford's Patriots would honor the bravery of the regulars of the 14th Regiment when they interred Capt. Fordyce with full military honors.

The numbers of Patriot troops at Norfolk grew to nearly 1,300 men with the arrival of Howe's North Carolinians several days after the fight at Great Bridge. By December 14th, the combined Virginia-North Carolina force occupied Norfolk, confining Dunmore's regulars and Loyalists to the ships anchored in the harbor.



A 1791-92 map of eastern Virginia, showing Cape Henry at bottom (north) and Great Bridge at top (south).



The drawing "Flight of Lord Dunmore" first appeared in an 1898 textbook on Virginia history, by R. B. Smithey.

As the British/Loyalists were short on food, water and other supplies, Woodford and Howe prevented them from foraging and prohibited locals from supplying Dunmore's forces. Frustration grew on the cramped transports. British warships, together numbering nearly 100 guns, opened on the Norfolk waterfront during the afternoon of January 1, 1776, in an effort to drive away the Patriot forces. The effort failed and only resulted in the destruction of portions of the Norfolk waterfront.

With insufficient Patriot forces to hold Norfolk, and with Dunmore staged to reoccupy the city upon their departure, the Americans were left with no other choice but to continue the destruction of the city to prevent the use of its port by the British. As

this happened, virtually all the population favoring the king abandoned Norfolk. With the city in ashes and no base of operations in the Chesapeake Bay, and with no more Loyalist stronghold based ashore, Dunmore attempted to govern from his vessels in the Elizabeth River. But it was a lost cause.

In the ensuing weeks, Dunmore removed his ships from the harbor and the river and anchored at Gwynn Island, some seventy miles north, in hopes of recuperating there. After a few more weeks, however, Continental Army Brig. Gen. Andrew Lewis led a force to pry Dunmore off the island. On July 9th, the Patriots opened fire with cannon on Dunmore's ship, which was hit several times and suffered damages. On the 13th, Dunmore hoisted sails and weighed anchor, ultimately destined for Britain. He never returned again.

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Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways Museum

The recently opened Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways Museum in Chesapeake, Virginia, is located along the banks of the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal and occupies a portion of the original site of the Battle of Great Bridge. The museum serves as a regional resource to help preserve and highlight the important contributions of Southside Virginia (Virginia south of the James River) to the Whig/Patriot cause in the American Revolution.

The museum's opening, which occurred in 2020, culminated a two-decade effort by the Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways

Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways Museum, Chesapeake, Virginia.

History Foundation to preserve the site of the 1775 battle and interpret the history of the area. In addition to the museum, visitors can explore an interpretative trail and a marsh overlook trail, which provide the opportunity to walk on the grounds of the battle, better understand the historical events, and get a first-hand look at the surrounding natural environment.

The museum consists of eight galleries which include a glimpse of village life, the Three Tun Tavern, and a nine-minute video about the battle. The post-Revolutionary story continues with formation of the Dismal Swamp Canal Company in 1784 and opening of the Great Dismal Swamp Canal in 1805, later the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal in 1859 and today's Intracoastal Waterway.

For more information, visit <https://gbbattlefield.org> and scroll halfway down the page to view the museum's address, hours of operation, and a map of the immediate area.



WIKIPEDIA.ORG

DAR Monument to the patriot veterans of the Battle of Great Bridge, very near the museum.

HIS STORY:

Capt. Aaron Coe, Sr.
A VETERAN'S LIFE

By Wayne J. Rogers
Vice President & Genealogist, California Society



The historical Second Church of Christ Congregational in Granville, Massachusetts.

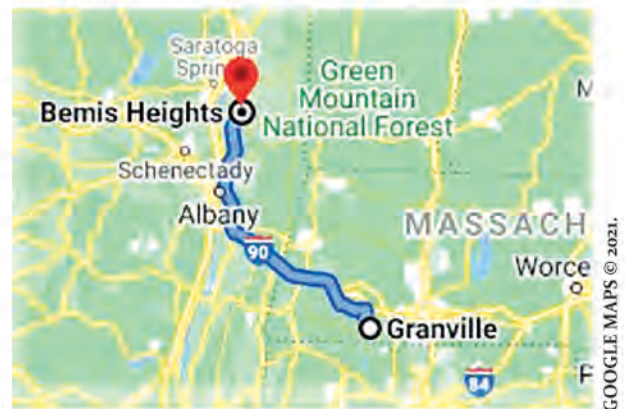
According to a family story passed down by my great-grandfather's grandfather, Captain Aaron Coe, Sr. (1731-1794), a Massachusetts militia veteran of the Revolutionary War, once dressed down General Horatio Gates at some point prior to the Battle of Saratoga. It was because Howe had denounced and beaten one of Coe's militia volunteers. But, according to Section 2, Article 2 of the 1776 Articles of War, a subordinate officer or soldier who behaves with contempt or disrespect towards a general, or dishonors him by spoken words, shall be punished by a court-martial.

So, what happened to the captain? Instead of facing a court-martial, he remained in service of the army,

unscathed, unruffled, never demoted. Furthermore, at his burial, he received full military honors. How was it all possible? The answer is, he was a deacon at the Congregational Church of Granville, Massachusetts.

In eighteenth-century New England, church deacons, particularly within the Puritan community, were "found blameless," according to the Colonial Society of Massachusetts. The office of deacon carried with it a certain authority, and Congregationalists were highly selective in whom they named to church offices. Although Coe wasn't a man of the cloth, his men held him in high enough esteem that they didn't allow the general to disgrace him.

A year and a half before Saratoga, Aaron Coe was elected captain of the fifth company in Col. John Moseley's 3rd Regiment (historical Hampshire County). His first stint as company commander occurred Oct. 21 – Nov. 17, 1776, and again Dec. 25, 1776 – March 25, 1777, at Fort Ticonderoga in support of the Northern Army then under the command



A route similar to the one Coe's company took from Granville to Bemis Heights.



Gen. Horatio Gates

of Gen. Philip Schuyler. In the late summer of 1777, Coe mustered his company again in response to a call to reinforce the Northern Army at Bemis Heights.

He and his men marched about 100 miles north-northwest from their homes in Granville to the Continental Army's camp, along the Hudson River. There they awaited the arrival of British General John Burgoyne and his dwindled army. At some time between September 21 and October 23, one of Coe's men came across Gen. Gates during the commander's morning constitutional. By some failure in military etiquette, the volunteer incurred the general's wrath and received a severe flogging with the cane.

When news of the beating reached Coe, the 47-year-old farmer and orchardist proceeded to Gates' tent and took him to task for the unmilitary-like and unlawful attack. Gates, enraged by this captain's effrontery, ordered Coe to deliver up his sword. He placed him under arrest. When word of Coe's arrest spread, it created a storm of indignant protests



Cannon on Bemis Heights, Saratoga

Capt. Benjamin Barnes's Company, the 59-year-old marched to Northampton, Massachusetts to help put down an insurrection against the colony's wartime government. The incident later became known as "Ely's Rebellion," a foreshadowing of Shay's Rebellion.

Aaron's oldest son, Ithamar Coe, in 1783 married a young woman named Sarah Ball, daughter of Maj. Lebbeus Ball, to whom George Washington's mother was related. According to Martha Washington's diary, the famed general was present at the wedding of Ithamar Coe and Sarah Ball.

As both a deacon and patriot, Aaron set an example of being a Christian soldier, which Washington hoped all his men would aspire to be. Washington wrote on May 2, 1778, "To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian."

This patriotic man of God died in Granville on Oct. 30, 1794, in his sixty-first year. He was married twice and had several children. According to family history, he was given a burial with full military honors. I am proud to be descended from this man, who never achieved a rank higher than captain but gave the Patriot cause his untiring support. Many Christians of the time, Coe included, took the winning of our independence to be a sign of the new millennium and the beginning of a second Great Awakening. As is engraved on his tombstone (in Old English):

"Thou death hath sealed in the grave
the religious Truth.
'Tis but an endure Vaulted Kind
When the last trumpet
shall rend
The tomb shall Burst;
the Sleeping, doth arise."

—The author, Wayne Rogers, descends from Aaron Coe, Sr., in three of his lines.



JEAN GIGUERE PHOTOGRAPHY

The old section of West Granville Cemetery, where Aaron Coe is buried

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Francis Marion: Better than the Myth

By Christine R. Swager

The author of the following article is a retired professor of education, speaker, media consultant, and published author. Born in New Brunswick, Canada, Dr. Swager descends from Loyalists and specializes in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. She earned a B.A. cum laude, at Kent State University, an M. A. at the University of Denver, and a Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina. Chris has published a number of books on the Southern Campaign, three of which are: Musgrove Mill Historic Site; The Valiant Died: The Battle of Eutaw Springs, Sept. 8, 1781, and The Heroes of Kettle Creek, 1779-1782. The Sons of the American Revolution awarded Chris the Martha Washington Medal some years ago, and this year she was again a featured speaker at the October Francis Marion Symposium, held in Manning, S.C.—Ed.



Sculpture by
Alex Palkovitch

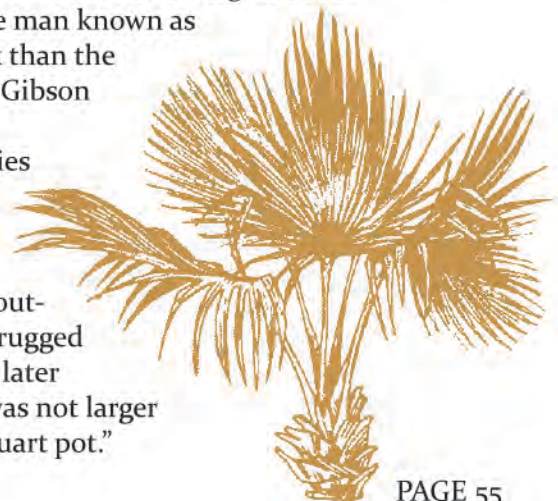
During the late stages of the Revolutionary War, a lone officer of the Continental Army and his small band of men achieved an unlikely but crucial string of successes against the British in the swamps of South Carolina. His victories came at a time when the rest of Washington's army in the South (thousands of men) had been either imprisoned after the Siege of Charleston (March 29, 1780 - May 12, 1780) or killed or captured at the Battle of Camden (Aug. 16, 1780).

His name, of course, was Francis Marion. His winning record following a period of scant good news for the Patriots catapulted his name into the history books, and over time he became an American legend. The fact is, without his having incessantly badgered the Redcoats in 1780-1781, many times overcoming enemy forces much greater than his own, the entire state

might have fallen into British control. And who knows but North Carolina after that. Then, Virginia, too?

Today, a significant amount of myth is associated with the memory of the man known as 'the Swamp Fox,' but the real person was so much more human and complex than the myth. In 2000, the Roland Emmerich movie *The Patriot* featuring actor Mel Gibson added to the myth by portraying Marion as a blood-and-gore, Rambo-like character. Nearly fifty years before that movie, a 1959-1961 television miniseries called *The Swamp Fox* starred Leslie Nielsen as Marion. The tall, blond, and strapping actor would unsheath his sword and order, "Charge!"

The real Francis Marion was neither a Rambo-like character nor was he a tall, blond, and strapping man who habitually unsheathed his sword and shouted, "Charge!" In fact, the historical Francis Marion did not fit the image of a rugged war hero. As a child, Marion was puny. His close friend, Lt. Col. Peter Horry, later recorded, "I have it from good authority that this great soldier, at his birth, was not larger than a New England lobster, and might easily enough have been put into a quart pot."



In a book published in 1821 by William Dobein James, son of John James, one of Marion's most faithful and long-serving of colonels, the following description is found: "He was below the middle stature of men. His body was well set, but his knees and ankles were poorly formed ... He had a countenance remarkably steady, his nose was aquiline, his chin projecting, his forehead large and high, and his eyes black and piercing." William James was an adolescent when he first met Marion and later on joined the brigade to serve the cause alongside his father. And what about Marion's sword? A 1958 *American Heritage* article on Marion stated, "...he drew his sword...so seldom that it rusted in its scabbard."



Full length likeness (above and left) by Bob Barinowski.

A Moody Genius

One of South Carolina's most pre-eminent historical authors, the late Robert D. Bass (1904-1983), wrote of Marion: "He was a moody, introverted, semi-literate genius who rose from private to Brigadier General through an intuitive grasp of strategy and tactics, personal bravery, devotion to duty, and worship of liberty."



Sculpture located in Manning, S.C.

Our hero was born in St. John's Parish, S.C., in 1732, and was brought up in a modest Huguenot family. When he was six years old, the family moved to the Winyah Parish, which later became part of Georgetown County. He received a country school education. Because of the years he spent fishing and hunting in nearby swamps and creeks, and later traveling the major waterways for business, he came to know all rivers that emptied into Winyah Bay: the Waccamaw, the PeeDee, the Black, the Sampit, and even the lower Santee.

Additionally, he was not a stranger to the geography of the Lowcountry. As a planter and businessman, he became familiar with the Cooper and Ashley rivers, and the inlets and islands along that part of the coast. By the time he took up arms against the British and the Loyalists, he was in his early forties, and by then he was thoroughly accustomed to the watery geography from which he gained his great military fame.

Marion's first military service came during the Cherokee War (1759-1761), a local campaign of the French & Indian War (1756-1761). At the time, he was living on the family farm and supporting his mother. He and his older brother Gabriel joined the militia company of upper St. John's, and in January 1756 were commissioned as lieutenants. During this campaign, he marched a detachment of thirty men into a deadly trap and lost twenty-three of his party. Nevertheless, his calmness in the midst of the surprise attack impressed many of his peers. He took away two principles from having survived the Cherokee—the value of ambushing with limited men, and the advantages of guerilla-style sharpshooting versus line infantry movements. In the years to come, those two characteristics would distinguish Francis Marion's fighting style.

In 1773, Marion purchased a plantation on the upper Santee called "Pond Bluff," and in 1775 he was elected a member of the South Carolina Provincial Congress. On June 4th of that year, he took office and swore to defend South Carolina. After learning of Lexington and Concord, which in that part of the country came after his election to office, he hurried to Charleston to enlist in the Patriot cause. He was commissioned a Captain in the 2nd South Carolina Regiment, under Col. William Moultrie. He was sent out to recruit men between the Pee Dee and the Santee, and when he had

recruited sixty men, including his brother Gabriel, he returned to Charleston to train them. According to his orderly books, he was a tough, demanding officer.

Becoming a Continental

On June 18, 1776, the Continental Congress brought the South Carolina regiments into Washington's army. From this point on, Marion was a Continental officer. Ten days later, the British attacked Sullivan's Island outside Charleston Harbor. Maj. Marion commanded the heavy guns inside Fort Sullivan. It was his first significant battle in the Revolution, and his artillery unit inflicted heavy damage on British ships and sank the *Bristol*, the command ship. The onslaught of well-placed shelling prevented the Redcoats from assailing Charleston. They were forced to return north.





Bronze bust
by Garland A. Weeks

After that battle, Marion was placed in command of Fort Sullivan and remained there for over two years. At the end of 1778, the Redcoats were back in the South. On December 29th, Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell and his combined forces captured Savannah, Georgia. They used it as a springboard to launch into South Carolina. However, Marion and his men stopped the British from approaching Charleston by land (1779). Some months later, French and Patriot forces in Savannah initiated the Siege of Savannah (Sept. 16 - Oct. 18, 1779) in an attempt to dislodge the British. Despite a gruesome, bloody loss for the Patriots, Francis Marion distinguished himself in combat yet again.

A few months later, by February 1780, British leadership decided to take the war to the South. Commander Sir Henry Clinton and his second in charge, Lord Cornwallis, anchored a large fleet of ships and 8,500 soldiers at Savannah. Clinton left 2,500 troops there and sailed the rest of the army to Charleston. On April 2nd, the Redcoats initiated their siege of that city. Meanwhile, Marion had been in Charleston anticipating the arrival of the British, but broke his ankle while visiting the home of his adjutant, Alexander McQueen. Friends took him out of the city and into hiding, as he was being hunted by British troops and local Loyalist neighbors.

'Swamp Fox' Feats

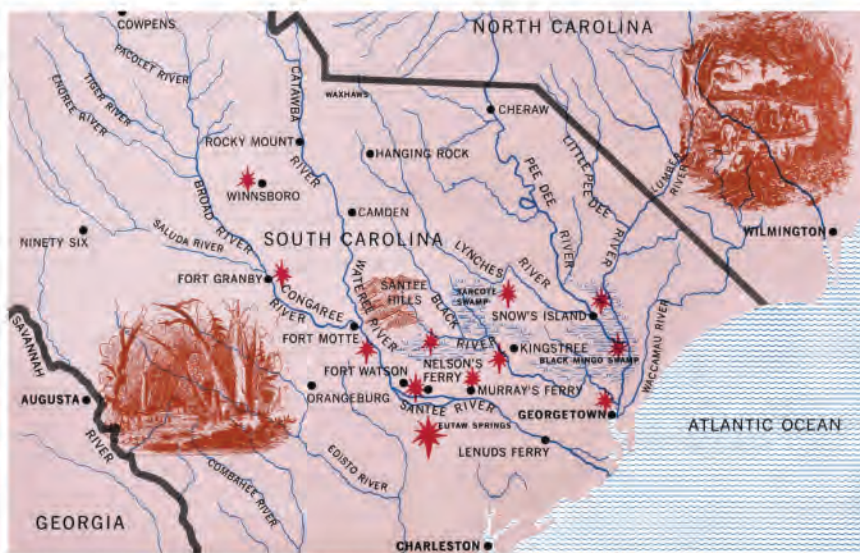
On May 12th, while Marion was recuperating, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln surrendered the entire garrison in Charleston—2,650 Continentals (including 245 officers) and 2,500 militiamen. Although the S.C. militia were allowed to go home on the condition they would not raise up arms again, the Continental officers and soldiers were sent to Saint Augustine, Florida, to be imprisoned. Apart from the prisoners taken, the Redcoats confiscated large amounts of artillery, muskets, ammunition, vessels, and foodstuffs.

The British now controlled Charleston. Things would get worse before they got better. The Battle of Waxhaws (Buford's Massacre), the Battle of Camden, and the occupation of Georgetown all followed. Gen.

Horatio Gates had replaced Lincoln, but led the disastrous Patriot showing at the Battle of Camden (Aug. 16, 1780), which resulted in 1,900 casualties for the Americans, out of a total force of 3,000. Worse, Gates abandoned his men on the battlefield and fled to North Carolina. The day before that battle, Marion assumed command of the Williamsburg Militia and launched his campaigns in the swamp.

During the nine months between Gates' exit and Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene's return to South Carolina, only Francis Marion stood in the way of the British in the PeeDee region. By mid-August, he took to the swamps—all the while hampered by his limp. It was truly an instance of David versus Goliath. The man was extraordinarily gifted as both a strategist and a tactician, and many of his moves were surprise attacks at night. Whenever he took action, his approaches and retreats were lightning-quick. Acting on his own authority for nearly a year, his primary aim in that time was to continually attack the British supply line advancing from Charleston, confiscate materials, rescue Continental Army prisoners, and either kill or scatter British regulars and/or Loyalist militia.

Those sympathetic to the Patriots were inspired by Marion's tenacity and success. Although he started out with a small number of followers, by 1781 he had several regiments under his wing. Granted, the "regiments" were small. According to historian J.D. Lewis, Marion's brigade was involved in seventeen known skirmishes in 1780 mainly between Camden and Georgetown Districts. Marion had a personal involve-



This map by Richard Hendler originally appeared in *American Heritage* magazine, Vol. 9, Issue 3 (1958).



ment in about half of those. His skirmishes at Nelson's Ferry, Blue Savannah, Black Mingo, Tearcoat Swamp, and Murray's Ferry, among others, recall his prowess, determination, and drive. Seeing his extraordinary leadership, S.C. Governor John Rutledge named him a brigadier general of the state militia.

His incessant pursuits distracted British leadership and engendered the hatred of some of the more passionate Redcoats and Loyalists. By November 1780, several commanders had tried to catch Marion and failed. Finally, Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton was told to go after him. Cornwallis was frustrated with the needle in their sides that Marion had become. Tarleton relished the idea, and Cornwallis told him, "I ... most sincerely hope you will get at Mr. Marion."

As the two adversaries came into each other's vicinity, Tarleton set up an ambush but Marion dodged it and retreated some distance. Tarleton sensed Marion's location and gave chase. On that day, Marion and his men rode twenty-five miles from Richbourg's Mill (near present-day Paxville, S.C.) to Benbow's Ferry (Williamsburg County, S.C.). They crossed through creeks, rivers,



This painting, General Marion Inviting a British Officer to Share His Meal, hangs in the U.S. Capitol. Created by John Blake White, the scene also features Marion's friend and faithful servant, Oscar.



Marion and party crossing the Great Pee Dee River at Nelson's Ferry. Painted by William Tylee Ranney (1850); engraved by C. Burt.

bogs, and swamps. They rode to the head of Jack's Creek at Sammy Swamp, then down the Pocotaligo River, through Ox Swamp, and finally down the Black River, where they established a plan for ambush at Benbow's Ferry. For about seven hours non-stop, Marion's rearguard stayed just ahead of Tarleton's vanguard, fighting a series of delaying tactics all the way. But it was at Ox Swamp, at present-day Manning, S.C., where Sir Banastre gave up the chase.

Facing an enormous swamp with no visible roads through it, Tarleton is said to have proclaimed: "Come my boys! Let us go back and we will find the Gamecock [Thomas Sumter]. But as for this damned old fox, the devil himself could not catch him!" Although Tarleton was responsible for 'the Swamp Fox' epithet, it was not widely applied until the mid-nineteenth century.

Greene Takes Over

In 1781, Marion continued his successful skirmishes. In early March, he evaded a pincer attack by the British and set up an ambush at Wyboo Swamp. His militia then destroyed a number of important bridges and killed over 100 enemy soldiers in the widespread "Bridges Campaign," March 6 - March 20, 1781. Later he joined forces with Henry Lee when Nathanael Greene re-entered South Carolina. Marion and Lee attacked Fort Watson and Fort Motte while Greene attacked Lord Francis Rawdon's army at Hobkirk's Hill. Although Rawdon pushed Greene back and held the field, he couldn't hold Camden due to a depletion of food and supplies.

Next, Marion's brigade participated with Greene's army at the Battle of Eutaw Springs (Sept. 8, 1781). Although the Patriots failed to hold the field, the Redcoats suffered many casualties and were unable to put together another offensive in South Carolina. Within the month, Cornwallis' army moved to Yorktown, Virginia, where after a siege the British surrendered.

Robert D. Bass wrote: "The most significant period of [his] life was that between August 15, 1780, and September

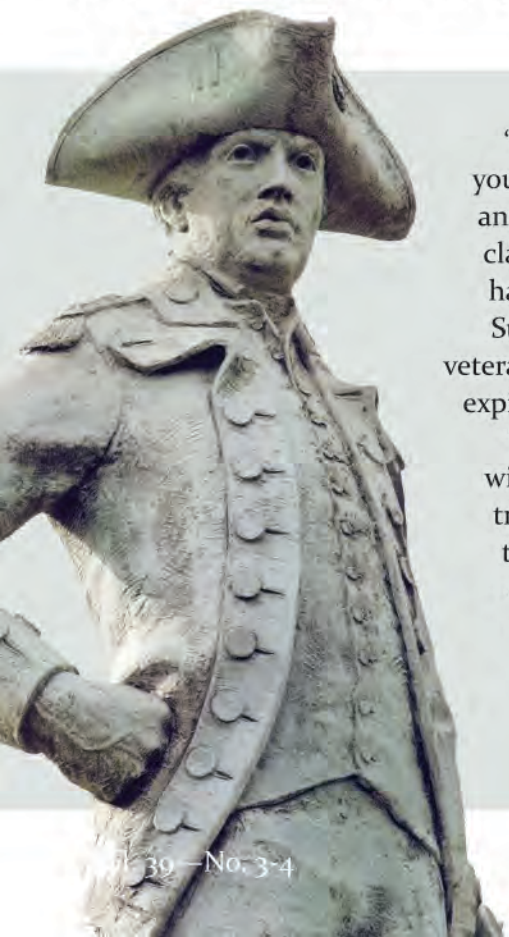
8, 1781. During this time, he alone held eastern South Carolina from the British, then helped Henry Lee capture the British posts along the Santee [River], and finally commanded a corps in the Army with which Nathanael Greene drove the British from South Carolina.” In one sweeping sentence, Bass captured the large footprint Marion left behind in his native state.

Throughout his military career, Francis was accompanied by his African-American servant and fellow militiaman named Oscar. Oscar Marion served in the same skirmishes and battles that Francis did, and he is depicted in several historical paintings alongside the general. President George W. Bush in December 2006 recognized Oscar publicly and expressed the nation’s appreciation for his “devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country in the Armed Forces of the United States.” After the war, a penniless Francis Marion returned to his plantation home. The Continental Congress awarded him a gold medal, a full Continental colonelcy, and command of Fort Johnson in Charleston harbor. His finances improved after he married his cousin Mary Esther Videau on April 20, 1786. He was elected to several terms in the State Senate before he died at Pond Bluff on February 27, 1795. At the time of his death, he owned over 1,500 acres and held up to 200 slaves from Mary Esther’s dowry.

If ever there was a validation of Francis Marion’s worth to the Continental Army and to his future country, it would have to be the letter he was sent by Maj. Gen. Greene in late April of 1781:



In this 1876 Currier & Ives lithograph, two sergeants of Marion’s Brigade rescue Continental Army prisoners from a British guard in 1779



“When I consider what you have done and suffered, and under what disadvantage you have maintained your ground, I am at a loss which to admire most, your courage and fortitude, or your address and management. Certain it is, no man has a better claim to the public thanks than you. History affords no instance wherein an officer has kept possession of a country under so many disadvantages as you have.

Surrounded on every side with a superior force, hunted from every quarter with veteran troops; you have found the means to elude their attempts and to keep alive the expiring hopes of an oppressed militia, when all succor seemed to be cut off.

“To fight an enemy bravely with the prospect of victory is nothing, but to fight with intrepidity under the constant impression of a defeat, and inspire irregular troops to do it, is a talent peculiar to yourself. Nothing will give me greater pleasure than to do justice to your merit. I shall miss no opportunity of declaring to congress, the commander in chief of the American army, and to the world, the great sense I have of your merit and services.”

MG Nathanael Greene, Commander
Continental Army in the South

Libertas Americana: Saratoga & Yorktown

By James E. Rhodes, SRNY Member



Bronze Libertas Americana, obverse and reverse.

The following two articles conclude 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. The series was initiated in the summer of 2017 and has included eleven medals of Revolutionary War heroes and three closely-related medals for Benjamin Franklin. We end the series by featuring two others that are closely-related: the *Libertas Americana* and The Diplomatic Medal. Our thanks to the authors and their publisher, George Frederick Kolbe of Crestline, California, for allowing extensive use of the published text throughout the length of this series.—Ed.

Libertas Americana, the brainchild of Benjamin Franklin, has been described as the most popular of all early American medals. As late as 2016, *Coin World* magazine stated the *Libertas Americana* medal holds a hallowed place in American medallic history, due to the evocativeness of its two sides.

Adams and Bentley affirm, “One would be sore pressed to choose between the two sides of the medal. The head of Liberty [on the obverse], simple in design and motif, is the most copied aspect of the *Libertas*. However, the reverse is immensely flattering to the French at a time when the United States needed that country’s money, as well as its forgiveness... Any individual who imbibes the simple beauty of this medal, taking the time to understand its role in history, will inevitably be inspired. The *Libertas* is a legacy to be treasured.

“The story of the *Libertas Americana* medal has been told many times. Ever since its enthusiastic reception in France, the *Libertas* has compelled the attention of numismatists, cataloguers, and art lovers of all descriptions. It is, simply put, a masterpiece. Credit for this magnificent medal goes to Benjamin Franklin, who conceived and then liberally financed the project, and to the artisan he chose to execute the dies, Augustin Dupré. The combination of one of the greatest minds of the day with one of the leading artistic talents produced a monument worthy of both.”

Franklin conceived the idea after Robert Livingston, who was Secretary of Congress at the time, informed him of the defeat and surrender of Lord Cornwallis’ army at Yorktown. In a reply to Livingston, Franklin remarked, “The extinguishing of two entire armies [Saratoga and Yorktown] in one war is what has rarely happened...” Thus, the medal immortalizes the two battles which coaxed the British into surrendering twice. Livingston replied, “I am charmed with your idea of the medal to perpetuate the memory of York and Saratoga...”



Preliminary sketch of reverse by Augustin Dupré.



Benjamin Franklin

But from there, the two founding fathers seemed to have diverged in their understandings. In the medal's design, the image on the obverse side is classical and absolutely without controversy: "The head [is] of a clear-eyed young woman representing Liberty, her hair floating in tresses behind her. Over her right shoulder is a pole, at the end of which is [attached] the Phrygian cap, symbolizing freedom. The motto: LIBERTAS AMERICANA ("American Freedom"). In the exergue: 4 JUL. 1776."

The reverse side's design, however, is a different story. Franklin used a device from classical Greek mythology to allude to France's role in the American Revolution. Hercules was said to have strangled two serpents as an infant in his cradle. The goddess Athena stood over the babe, offering him her protection. In the medal's reverse, the infant Hercules represents America while the protective Athena is France. The two serpents that Hercules smites were turned into a single lion, to represent Britain. To boot, Athena fends off the lion by holding up a shield decorated with the arms of France. Above the image are words from Horace: NON SINE DIIS ANIMOSUS INFANS ("The infant is not bold without the aid of the gods.")

It seems Franklin gave France credit for both victories. Livingston later complained that the design depicted a serious historical error: at the time of Saratoga, France was not yet America's ally. How, then, could she be given credit for the first British surrender? Clearly, a medal sponsored by the Congress would never have suggested such a thing. Franklin had no choice but to push on privately. He paid for a total production of two gold copies, sixty silver copies, and just over two hundred bronze copies.

As Adams and Bentley explain, "In sharp contrast to Jefferson's failure to make broad distribution of the *Comitia Americana* medals, Franklin sent the *Libertas Americana* to a large number of influential persons on both sides of the Atlantic. For the most part, the original provenance of these pieces has not survived. Nonetheless, a modern owner can be confident that his or her medal claims an illustrious descent. Franklin was too frugal to waste his masterpiece on the insignificant."

By the time the medals were being minted, the United States had procured a separate peace treaty from Britain even though American diplomats, including Franklin, had promised the French that the peace treaty ending the war and recognizing the United States would be a joint one. The authors conclude: "...as the American who most directly felt the wrath of the French Minister Vergennes [for the broken agreement], Franklin may have thought forgiveness to be high on the list of objectives that the medal could fulfill. "[T]he fact that the king and queen received the only two gold medals that were struck makes it clear that Franklin sought to build goodwill at the highest levels by memorializing the events that had brought the two great nations together."



Robert Livingston



Silver *Libertas Americana*, obverse and reverse.

The Diplomatic Medal of the U.S.

By James E. Rhodes, SRNY Member



The Diplomatic Medal, obverse



The Diplomatic Medal, reverse

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Soon after America won its independence, the government had to come up with a device that would represent the U.S. on official documentation, especially as related to foreign affairs. Thus, the Great Seal was born. Thomas Jefferson, as Secretary of State in 1790, asked President George Washington if the Seal could also be used as the main motif on the Diplomatic Medal of the United States. The answer was an enthusiastic yes.

Jefferson had been tasked with assigning a gift of diplomatic recognition by the United States to the long-time French minister to the US, the Marquis de La Luzerne, who retired in September 1787. Adams and Bentley point out Jefferson disliked the idea of continuing a European monarchical tradition in the newly independent United States, but he acquiesced and sought the advice of John Adams, the incoming Vice President. Adams himself had earlier received a gold medal by the States-General of The Netherlands for his former diplomatic services in Holland (1780-1781). It had been the Dutch tradition for over a century to award retiring foreign diplomats a medal with a gold chain of varying length, which corresponded to the diplomat's length of service. Jefferson jumped on the idea and fashioned an American model by using the Great Seal as the main motif in its design.



Thomas Jefferson

Description of Obverse: The obverse is the seal of the United States. In the Adams and Bentley book, the description is, "An eagle with wings spread supporting an escutcheon of both vertical and horizontal stripes, a banner in its beak reading, E PLURIBUS UNUM. Above, a radiant glory with thirteen six-pointed stars in the center. Below, the eagle holds a palm branch in the right talons and a bundle of thirteen arrows in the left."

Description of Reverse: "At the left, a seated Indian queen, representing America, receives in her hand a cornucopia from Mercury standing on the right, representing Commerce. Behind the queen, various symbols of trade including bales, a barrel, and an anchor. Behind Mercury is the ocean on which the bow of a ship, with land behind both. In the Legend: To Peace and Commerce. In the exergue: IV Jul MDCCLXXVI."

The Diplomatic Medal of the United States was not a Congressional medal, but like the *Comitia Americana* series of medals, extant copies of the originals today are exceedingly rare. Most sources cite that the original lot comprised



John Adams

just two gold copies and four surviving bronze copies; however, Adams and Bentley speculate a total of four gold copies could have been produced. While none of the gold medals has ever surfaced, a bronze copy (perhaps the best one) was brought to a Stacks Bowers auction in October 2015, where it sold for \$188,000.

The authors state, “The first [gold] medal was awarded to the Marquis de La Luzerne, France’s minister to the United States throughout the Revolutionary War.” Since Luzerne died before the medal could be struck, it was delivered to the Comte de Montmorin, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs. “The second medal was awarded to the Comte de Moustier, Luzerne’s successor.” Not more of these medals were produced in the original lot because the idea’s birth and death came in the three years Thomas Jefferson served as Secretary of State (Mar 22, 1790 - Dec 31, 1793).

In his official capacity, Jefferson spent about \$1,000 on The Diplomatic Medal in 1790. Given that the Secretary of State’s entire budget for 1790-91 was \$7,921, The Diplomatic Medal was clearly of high importance to him. “Moreover, it was to be a long-term initiative: Jefferson planned to order another five medals to hold in reserve...” Apparently, though, something occurred to stop the project in its tracks.

While Jefferson didn’t like adopting a European ideal in American affairs of state, he nevertheless pursued the project with good intentions. It may have been political circumstances that precluded the material fruition of his intent. By the early 1790s, as Adams and Bentley affirm, “our love affair with France was cooling, added to which there was growing sentiment in favor of American isolationism. For these and perhaps other reasons, the recognition intended by The Diplomatic Medal both began and ended during Thomas Jefferson’s tenure as Secretary of State.

“We may never know just why the program was curtailed... Whatever caused the demise of the project, we are nonetheless left with the legacy of an impressive medal sponsored ... at a critical juncture in our nation’s history: a rich legacy, indeed,” the authors conclude.

Scholars today believe the two gold medals gifted to the French monarchs did not survive the French Revolution. With respect to the others, the surviving paper trail indicates that while six bronze medals were originally struck, only four are accounted for today. That leaves two bronzes and possibly two other golds still unaccounted for.



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The Dutch medal given to John Adams by the States-General in 1788. Housed by the Massachusetts Historical Society today, this medal is the only 18th century diplomatic medal known to date.

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