

The SONS DRUMBEAT

Volume 41

Spring/Summer '23

No. 1 & 2

BOM Meeting

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13 Soldiers**

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Publication of the General Society Sons of the Revolution



We have hit mid-calendar year and have accomplished considerable things. The Sons of the Revolution continues to maintain its primary focus on preserving and honoring the memories of our Revolutionary War patriot-ancestors and the Cause for which they sacrificed. From Delaware to South Carolina to Missouri, the SR is making an impact on our children's education by sponsoring the purchase of key resources and by self-publishing our own educational creations for distribution.

But, as you may know, the book programs aren't the only way the SR continues to educate the public. The recent historical markers posted throughout the Brandywine Battlefield Park sponsored by the PSSR and its Color Guard, and the General Society's support of Civics Fundamentals with Judge Douglas Ginsburg, are excellent examples of how we walk our talk. Civics education goes hand-in-hand with early American history. If we fail to push Civics from coast to coast and border to border, we fail as Sons.

That's why it pleases me to see young people writing prize-winning essays sponsored by our Societies on the importance of the Constitution (see pp. 9-10) and other related topics. I commend Dylan Donigan of Florida and Anusha Cargool of North Carolina, two exemplary students. I also commend our newest member-Society, the South Atlantic Society, based in Palm Beach, Florida, for their first half-year of operations. They hit the ground running, and I have faith they will excel in their activities and membership growth (see pp. 7-8).

The Society of '83 has, thus far from its inception, raised in excess of \$80,000. All of you should be proud of that. It is remarkable the amount of good that can come from volunteerism. With a portion of those monies, the General Society has committed to preservation efforts at Historic Halifax in North Carolina, the James Monroe birthplace in Virginia, and to remembering Purple Heart veterans in Kentucky (see pp.21-22, 26). We also are organizing a new Patriots Monument Fund. More information on that will be coming soon.

Regarding our new member-Societies, I am pleased to report that activity is stirring in New Hampshire, thanks to the efforts of Past Region 1 Vice President Hans Jackson. One person's dedicated efforts can make a big difference, and we look forward to further developments there.

The second half of this year will feature our BOM Meeting in Williamsburg. This arrangement is a prudent, economical choice that will help us recoup some of the expenses from the previous BOM (see pp. 5-6). I look forward to our Triennial Meeting in 2024 in Philadelphia. It is appropriate to hold our next Triennial in the City of Brotherly Love, as so much incredible history happened there 250 years ago.

On a final note, I would like to thank our editor, David Swafford, graphic artist Rick Ross, and proofreader Sharon Toms, for their hard work in shepherding this issue of the SONS Drumbeat.





Letter from the Asst. General Chaplain:

The Rev. Dr. Augustus 'Gus' E. Succop III



Gus Succop

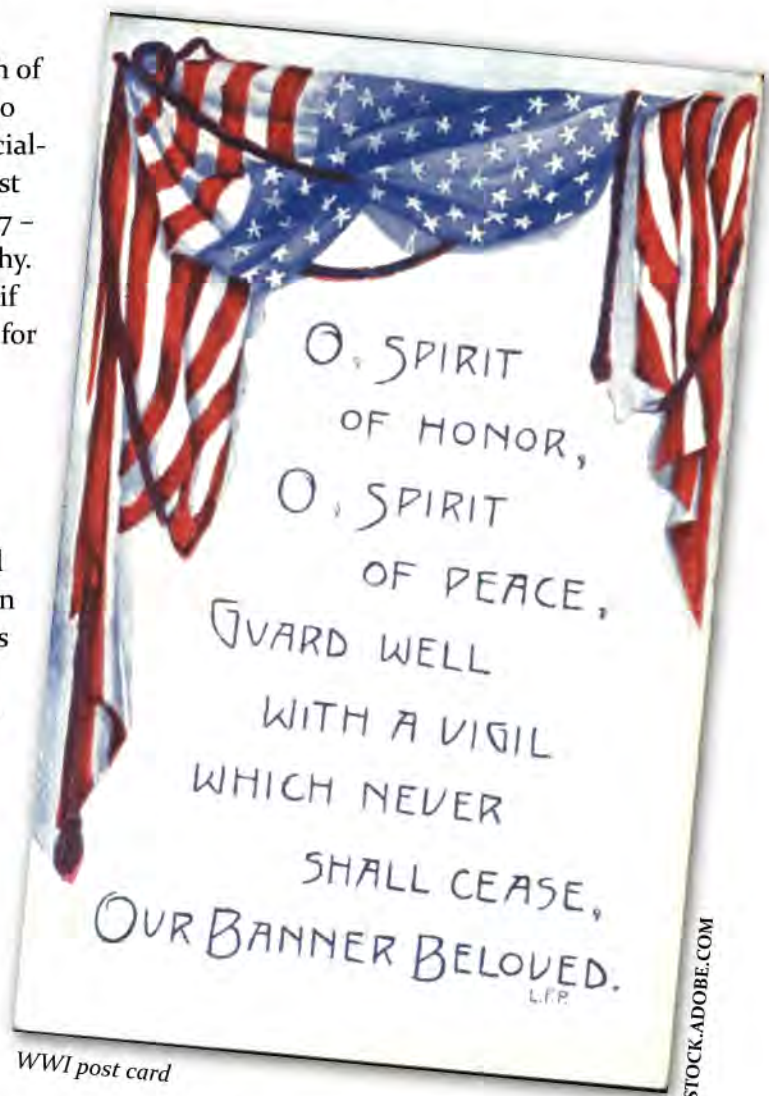
It is a complete understatement to suggest we live in challenging times. Between the mass shootings and senseless killings that seem to continue unabated, the indictment of the former president, the son of the current president under media scrutiny, and the lingering memory of the events of January 6, 2021, our nation has been sorely tested of late.

Oftentimes in the past couple of years, I have asked myself, What would our patriotic ancestors tell us at this particular hour? How would our ancestors advise us, if not comfort us? How might they ease our worry over the future of our republic and our democratic society?

I firmly believe their response would be, "It's up to each of you." It really is up to each one of us. This harkens back to the response Benjamin Franklin gave to Philadelphian socialite Elizabeth Willing Powel when she asked him on the last day of the Constitutional Convention – September 18, 1787 – whether the delegates had formed a republic or a monarchy. He replied, "A republic, *if you can keep it.*" That was a big if back then, just as it is today. In fact, it will remain a big if for all generations that follow us.

However, our ancestors would not stop there. They would continue by reminding us that the experiment entitled "The United States of America" is no mere accident. The fifty states that make up our nation, formed for the sake of unity, not uniformity, are not a mere human triumph over tyranny or chaos; rather, the United States is a triumphal act of God. In his book 1776, historian David McCullough concludes his look at that pivotal year of the Revolution with these insightful words: "Especially for those who had been with Washington and who knew what a close call it was at the beginning – how often circumstance, storms, contrary winds, the oddities or strengths of individual character had made the difference – the outcome seemed little short of a miracle."

I once had the opportunity to ask David McCullough if in using the word "miracle" he was using it metaphorically or did he intend the original meaning of the word to prevail. That is, did he honestly believe the nation is a miraculous act of God? Mr. McCullough smiled and replied, "You of all people should know I was not using the word metaphorically." Having been trained theologically, I returned his smile and gave thanks again for the miracle we embrace as a nation.



WWI post card



Tea Lights Vigil

Aside from “miracle,” there is another word that is essential for understanding the responsibility placed upon every patriot and that is incumbent to every faith-possessing citizen. That word is vigilance. “Vigilance” means to keep a careful watch upon our republic for present dangers or possible difficulties, whether internal or external. A more spiritual meaning of the word would be to assume a reverence and solemnity for our country, holding a quiet vigil in the heart of our hearts for all that this grand experiment represents.

We must not assume the American experiment is manageable, much less possible, when citizens and leaders divorce themselves from God’s blessing and the out-pouring of divine wisdom. When we cease to be vigilant in bearing a patriotic witness and when we fail to be active citizens in the divine enterprise, we will most assuredly reap the fruits of a justified if not a cruel captivity. It could come at the hands of some outside enemy or even through the machinations of a self-imposed ignorance, or worse, self-induced lethargy.

Make no mistake, our ancestors would take seriously our collective concern for our nation’s present-day tribulations, but they would be quick to remind us that we Americans come from seasoned, tested, and hearty stock. To be an American means to believe our unity as a republic is non-negotiable, that the journey we endure and enjoy together is intended to test us beyond every logical limit. It requires faith, as much faith in your neighbor as faith in yourself and faith in the Lord. And yet, the miracle continues, and some would even go so far as to suggest that “those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40: 31).

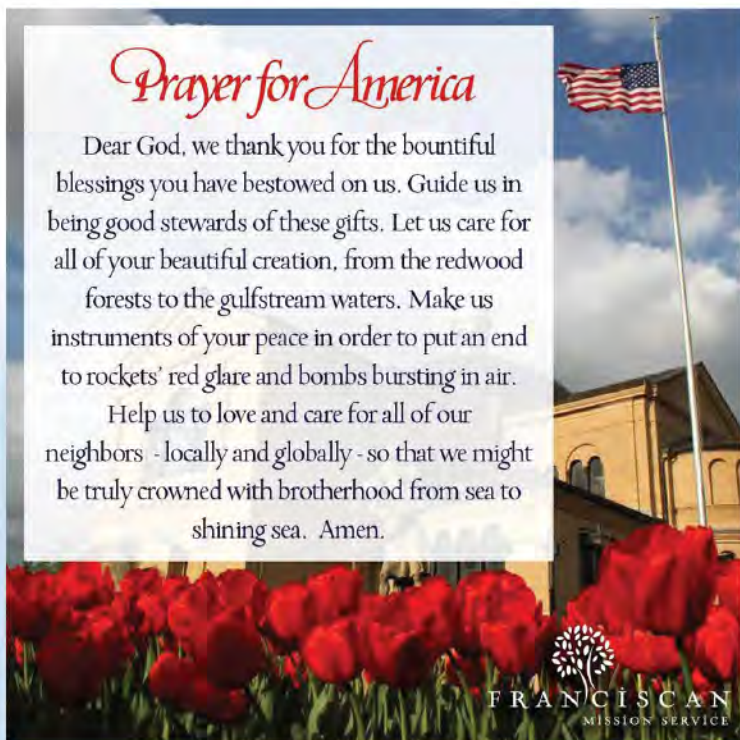
To that end, it is imperative we remain ever vigilant in bearing our patriotic witness, and why? So our descendants, our sons and our daughters 250 years from now, may be inspired to keep the light of faith and freedom ever bright, ever bold, and ever alive as one nation under God.



Prayer for America

Dear God, we thank you for the bountiful blessings you have bestowed on us. Guide us in being good stewards of these gifts. Let us care for all of your beautiful creation, from the redwood forests to the gulfstream waters. Make us instruments of your peace in order to put an end to rockets’ red glare and bombs bursting in air.

Help us to love and care for all of our neighbors - locally and globally - so that we might be truly crowned with brotherhood from sea to shining sea. Amen.



Prayer For America

2023 BOM MEETING

♦ Williamsburg, September 22-23 ♦



*Governour's Mansion, Colonial Williamsburg.
© Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.*

The 2023 GSSR Annual Business Meeting will be held Sept. 22-23 at the Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, Virginia. There will be a reception on Friday evening, Sept. 22nd, and business sessions on Saturday, Sept. 23rd. The



Entrance to Kingsmill Resort, Williamsburg.

Meeting will conclude at the end of the afternoon session on Saturday. The only lodging necessary for delegates is Friday evening; however, additional nights will be available at the Meeting rate. Delegates may extend their stay by three days prior to the Meeting, three days after the Meeting, or both.

The following rates apply for delegates and their families or guests: standard double-bed rooms are \$200 per night; king rooms are \$180 per night. One-bedroom suites are \$240 per night; two-bedroom suites \$440; and three-bedroom suites

\$630. To the room cost, add a resort fee of \$29 per room per night, an occupancy tax of \$2 per room per night, and state and local sales taxes (7% and 5%, respectively). To make your reservation, call 1-(757) 253-1703 or 1-(800) 832-5665 and identify yourself with the Sons of the Revolution.

If you fail to indicate you are with the Sons of the Revolution, the resort will hold you responsible for the regular rate. You must use a credit card or bank debit card when making your reservation, and you will be charged the first night's rate and taxes.

There are no refunds allowed for early departures. Reservations may be cancelled free of charge up to seven days prior to your originally scheduled arrival. To cancel, call the same telephone number listed above.

Board of Managers Meeting

Kingsmill Resort, Williamsburg, VA

September 22 – 23, 2023

Meeting Registration Fees:

\$250.00 per delegate; \$125.00 per guest.

(Meeting Registration forms are available from GSSR HQ. Contact C.L. Sigmon. The registration fees cover the costs of the cocktail reception, breakfast buffet, lunch for both member and guest, outing and outing transportation.).

Agenda

Friday Sept. 22nd

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM **Committee Meetings**
Location: Hospitality Suite

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM **Registration Table**
Location: TBD (A table will be set up near the conference room).

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM **Cocktail Reception** (Includes food and drinks)
Location: TBD

Hospitality Suite. (Opens after the Cocktail Reception. The Suite will be stocked with snacks and drinks.)

Saturday Sept. 23rd

7:00 AM -11:00 AM **Buffet Breakfast**

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM **Business Meeting** (Includes a 90-minute lunch break w/ a Single-Pass Sandwich Buffet).

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM **Guest Outing** (American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. Transportation to and from provided. Lunch at the museum provided.

NOTE: For those wishing to play golf, there is a reserved tee time Friday morning, 9 a.m. You are responsible for your own golf fees.



A New Charter in Florida: *South Atlantic Society*



SA-SR essay contest presenters and winners. L-R: Society Registrar Powell S. Thomas; third place winner, Hannah Famalak; Society Vice President Edward Gynn; second place winner, Arthur Paura; Society President William Richards, and first place winner, Dylan Donigan. Photo courtesy of SA-SR.

Inaugural Activities Include Essay Awards

Members of the newly formed South Atlantic Society gathered for their inaugural meeting on Wednesday, January 19th, at the Sailfish Club of Florida in Palm Beach. New officers were installed, with William B. Richards serving as President; Edward Gynn, 1st VP; Joseph Meyer, 2nd VP; Louis Allen Carmichael, 3rd VP; Reeve Bright, Secretary; Donald Liddell Twiss, Treasurer; Powell S. Thomas, Jr., Registrar; David Blackwell Lowe, Chaplain; Chips Chapman Page, Color Guard Captain, John Black McGowan, Jr., Historian, and Joseph A. McChristian, Jr., Past President.

At-Large Board members include William Douglas Parmelee, Andre Bernard Cook, Jackie Dean Miller I, and Thomas C. Krumenacker.

The highlight of the luncheon was a very interesting and informative talk given by General Society Secretary Ambrose Richardson on the significance of Fraunces Tavern and the role it played during the Revolutionary War. Ambrose is a Past President of the New York Society, which owns the Fraunces Tavern. The winter

luncheon meeting was followed by a meeting in March and another held in April. The latter event was another luncheon meeting, where forty members and guests convened in Hobe Sound at the Hobe Sound Yacht Club. We awarded rosettes to new members and military service pins to those in attendance who served.

A few days before the April event, SA-SR officers visited the Oxbridge Academy, an independent 6-12 school in Palm Beach County, to announce the winners of the 2023 Sons of the Revolution Essay Contest amongst 10th graders. A total of thirty-two sophomores submitted essays this year. The annually sponsored contest was established at Oxbridge four years ago by the Palm Beach Chapter, predecessor of the South Atlantic Society. This year, first place went to Dylan Donigan, second place to Arthur Paura, and third place to Hannah Famalak. Thirty-two sophomores submitted essays.

Dylan and his mother were guests at the April luncheon meeting, where President Bill Richards read Dylan's essay aloud. The topic was: "What does the Constitution mean to me?" (See pp. 9-13 for recent winning student essays from within the GSSR.)

DAR Medal of Honor

Society Registrar Powell S. Thomas, Jr., was recently awarded the DAR Medal of Honor earlier this year.



Oxbridge Academy, West Palm Beach, FL

COURTESY OXBRIDGE ACADEMY



DAR representatives present the Medal of Honor to Registrar Powell S. Thomas. On the left is Regent Karin Nolf and on the far right Judy Thomas, both of the Henry Morrison Flagler Chapter DAR.

VA and various other service organizations.—text and photos submitted by President William B. Richards

The medal is the most prestigious honor awarded by the DAR, given to a US Citizen by birth, male or female, who has shown extraordinary qualities of leadership, trustworthiness, service, and patriotism. The recipient must have made unusual and lasting contributions to our American heritage by truly giving of himself or herself in service to his or her community, state, and/or country.

Powell is a fifty-year member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, having served two tours in Vietnam. In 2013, Powell founded and directed the VFW Key West Fishing Tournament. The tournament, now in its eleventh year, has raised over a quarter million dollars for disabled and/or needy veterans and their families. Throughout the years, he has worked with many disabled veterans, assisting them in preparing VA claims and facilitating their care from the



Over **\$40,000** In Prizes

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11th Annual VFW FISHING TOURNAMENT

June 16-18, 2023

Key West
June 16-18 2023

Heaviest Dolphin \$5000

Family FUN

\$325.00 per boat by May 31st
\$375.00 per boat after May 31st
All proceeds benefit Veterans in Monroe County!

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or 610-304-2392 • psty2k@yahoo.com
2200 N. Roosevelt Blvd., Key West, Florida 33040
website: vfwpost3911.org

If you can read this, thank a teacher. If you can read this in English, thank a veteran.
*Heaviest Dolphin weighing 50lbs or over

VFW POST 3911



Winning Essays

Periodically we publish winning student essays from across the GSSR. If your Society sponsors an essay contest and Society leadership would like to see it published, please send it to the SONS Drumbeat for inclusion. We reserve the right to schedule these essays as space permits. In this issue, we are fortunate to be running two fine essays, including "What the Constitution Means to Me," by Dylan Donigan, a student of Oxbridge Academy of Palm Beach County, Florida, who competed in the South Atlantic Society's contest. We also have "Roles of North Carolinian Women during the Revolutionary Era," by Anusha Kargool, a student of Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina, who competed in the contest of the General Wm. Lee Davidson Chapter of SRNC.—Ed.

WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME

By Dylan Donigan



What the Constitution means to me is a question that brings me to my knees. I want to scream: FREEDOM, PRIVILEGE, OPPORTUNITY and RIGHTS. The Founding Fathers were not perfect but created this living document, The Constitution of the United States, in such a way that it continues to be as relevant today as it was in 1787. It acts as the foundation for this great and beautiful nation. The Constitution entitles every American, including myself: freedom, equal rights, opportunity, and the privilege to make our own decisions without the government controlling or dictating our every move.

To be an American citizen in the United States in 2023, it gives me great pride, purpose, and a life

of equality and liberty. When I think about the start of our country, I think about the inequalities as it pertains to the chains of slavery. I would be remiss without addressing that one might think that the Constitution had no regard to the enslaved. This gives me great pause. What continues to astonish me is the way in which these Founding Fathers: a group of white, educated men with meaningful intentions, did not bear the burden of eliminating slavery. When in fact, they had to make a sacrificial compromise to keep the union together. I marvel at their ingenuity. They had the foresight to allow adaptability to the Constitution. Fortunately, the strategic way in which they composed the most important living document, allowed for change and amendments. This came to fruition when Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery. I am proud to be a part of a nation that rights its wrongs. It is extraordinary to me that the amendments have all moved morally forward. This formidable empowerment is why I absolutely love the Constitution.



The freedom I was born with, and afforded as an American citizen is an incredible privilege. The First Amendment gives Americans five essential freedoms: the freedom of speech, press, petition, assembly, and religion. I have the right to live a free life that my brothers and sisters in other countries plainly don't get, where citizens can be persecuted for their opinions. The Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor said, "It is quite simply, the most powerful vision of freedom ever expressed" (constitutioncenter.org). My Constitution protects my freedom where it is written, "We the People of the United States... Secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity (Preamble)." My Consti-

tution mandates a Government that serves me. The Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches were all designed to make laws that protect my rights. The "checks" and "balances" secure accountability. I have endless opportunities to go to school and pursue my interests. I have opportunities to work hard and achieve greatness, being the best person I can be. I consider it remarkable that I have the right to practice my religion, while my friends have the right to practice theirs. I have the right to live without discrimination or bias because of my gender. I'm very excited that in a few years I will have the right to vote.

In conclusion, the Constitution will continue to evolve and will be valued today, tomorrow, and for future generations. I truly thank my lucky stars I was born in America, where I have the privilege of using my voice and can speak freely. I am grateful that the Constitution is the blueprint of our democracy. Most of all, what the Constitution means to me is that it is not just about, "ME," Dylan Donigan—it's about "WE," all of us. It's about a shared sense of purpose, moving morally forward in a country that provides equality, privilege and opportunity for all.



Roles of *North Carolinian Women* During the Revolutionary Era

By Anusha Kargool



Penelope Barker, early female North Carolinian activist. In 1774, she organized a historical (documented) boycott of English tea among fifty-one women.

From the beginning of humanity itself, women have been known to be the caretakers of the household. Through almost every culture, women are raised to be mothers and wives whose only purpose is to care for their husband or children. In fact, at the beginning of the 20th century itself, women legally belonged to their husbands because of the patriarchal institution that was set in place from the very creation of America. However, as the years go by, women are becoming more and more independent, learning that they have their own potential and do not just belong in the house. In fact, during the Revolutionary War, women in North Carolina played multiple key roles in maintaining the household and taking over the money-making area of the family.

Backtracking to before the war, the French and Indian War was taking place. According to Governor Robert Dinwiddie, a British colonial administrator who became governor of Virginia, “As our Enemies, the Fr., are now in Arms to dispos- sess You of Y'r huntington Grounds on the River Ohio, and threaten Vengeance ag't You and all the Fr'dly Ind's of the English, I am now raising Forces.” (Dinwid- die) This shows that, contrary to the name of the war, the French and Indian war was mainly between that of Britain and France to take over American grounds. Keep in mind that during these times, women were primarily involved in taking care of the children, cooking for their families, and making sure their household was comfortable and clean for any visitors.

According to the Lloyd Sealy Library, “The end result of the war was the expansion of the British Empire espe- cially in North America, where almost all French territory (everything from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi river) was ceded to British control.” (American History) At the beginning of British control, the Ameri- can colonists were at peace and did not mind the change in rulership. Everything was going fine until the British realized that they still had to pay off war debts from the recent French and Indian War. So, as a result, the British started to place taxes on the American colonies they were controlling so that it would help their financial situation. This marked the turning point of a woman's traditional role in society.

The British placed taxes on many common goods from printed materials, with the Stamp Act, to tea, with the Tea Act. The King and the Parliament believed they had the right to put these taxes on the Colonies because they gained control over their land. The colonists, however, were enraged by these sudden acts. They started to protest against the unjust acts which led to more violence between the British and American forces. With this came the beginning of the Revolutionary War, a war fought to regain independence from the British.

As the war became more vast and dangerous, the army started to draft more and more men to fight against the impending British forces. With the men, the



Marker located in Edenton, NC, adjacent the historical Penelope Barker House.



"Spinning in the Colonial kitchen," from *A Brief History of the United States* (1885), by Joel and Esther Steele. A woman in Revolutionary America spins her own yarn and boycotts English fabrics.

ones who were in charge of providing the financial support for the family, being gone to fight, it was becoming difficult for women to sustain themselves and their children. Moreover, because of the war, inflation peaked at around 30 percent. This is because in exchange for covering the costs of the war, including weapons and supplies, Congress decided to print more paper money. With more printing of money, the less value the money had. Even further, there were shortages in food and resources for the colonists. Since men had been in charge of farming and providing food for the community, there was a scarcity in crops. This is when the role of colonial women during the war became important. As the men fought for freedom, women at home took over the manual labor. For instance, many women began to take an interest in farming operations and cultivating land.

helped to heal wounded soldiers and boycott against common English goods to avoid further funding the English. In fact, according to the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, "On October 25, 1774, women in Edenton resolved to stop buying English tea and cloth to protest taxation without representation." (Women of Edenton) In other words, 51 women in North Carolina agreed to not participate in drinking English tea to demonstrate their patriotism along with displeasure of the actions of the British. Unfortunately, on January 16, 1775, a London newspaper called *Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser* mocked the women's engagement in politics. Around two months later, according to the Library of Congress, political cartoons were made portraying the women with masculine, non-appealing features, and drinking from punch bowls which are usually used by men at social gatherings (A Society of Patriotic Ladies). This ripple of actions showed how many people disapproved of the rapidly changing roles of women. Nevertheless, this increasing range of jobs women had brought about a change in the way women saw themselves in society.

In addition, they



FACEBOOK/ DON TROIANI

This wave of feminism and change throughout the states resulted in women's education becoming more common. In fact, according to Terrell A. Crow, about 300 academies were founded in North Carolina to accommodate female students (Crow). Although mainly white women from wealthy families were given education, this spur of change was an entryway for many more women of different backgrounds to be given the same opportunities. Not only did these educational advancements allow women to be properly taught, it also enhanced female empowerment even more by giving educated women opportunities in jobs requiring knowledge on subjects regarding math, history, and literature.

Brunswick (German) female camp follower with child. During the Revolution, some women had no choice but to follow the army and do menial work, with children in tow. Original artwork by Don Troiani (2015).

As women became more engaged in politics, multiple organizations dedicated to empowering women were brought about. According to Anastatia Sims in her book titled *The Power of Femininity in the New South: Women's Organizations and Politics*, after the Revolutionary War ended, "All of the major women's patriotic societies—the Colonial Dames, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Daughters of the American Revolution...—established chapters in North Carolina." (Sims) These organizations eventually led to the opening of eyes to how power



"Aunt Nancy Hart Captures the Tories," from Stories of Georgia (1896), by Joel Chandler Harris. Nancy Hart was an imposing woman who staunchly supported the Whig cause at her home in Elbert County, Georgia. She is said to have captured various Tories and turned them over to the Whig militia.

ful women are and how they deserve to be included in roles that were typically given to men.

However, not every woman had the privilege of education and a stable financial status. Many were slaves or indentured servants and lived most of their life under control of a male master. Many women were abused, sexually assaulted, and harassed during their servitude. In fact, women who gave birth during their servitude had years added onto their service time. Fortunately, some female indentured servants were given grants of land after their contracts ended. After being liberated, they used these grants of land to farm crops for a living.

In conclusion, the role given to colonial women in North Carolina during the Revolutionary Era was an important one. With their participation in the ongoing war, politics, and

control over their husbands' jobs, changed the way society viewed careers that women were intended to have. Ultimately, their involvement in the war was a gateway for an everlasting equality amongst men and women in not only jobs, but [in] respect and appreciation as well.

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YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

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

—George Washington, to the Pennsylvania Legislature 12 September 1789

THE GENERAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE REVOLUTION INTRODUCES:

THE "SOCIETY OF '83"

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

What will your gift accomplish?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE "SOCIETY OF '83"



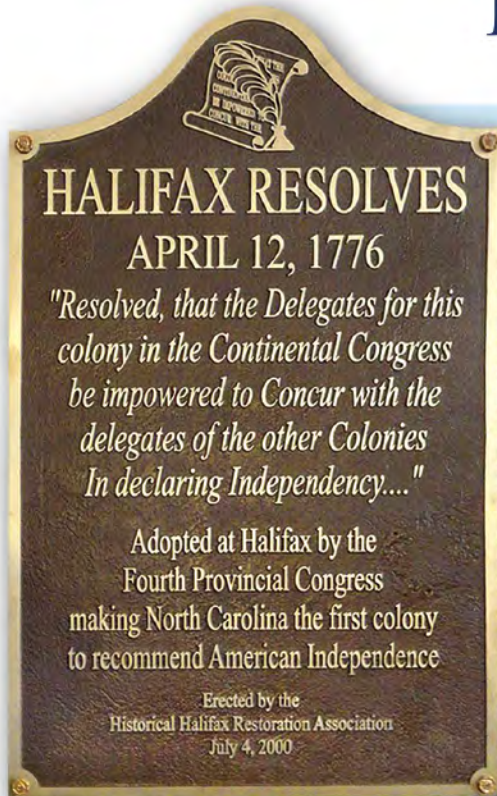
Mr. Charles D. Carroll	TN/EU	\$29,000.00
Mr. Ivan Bennett	NC	\$5,000.00
Mr. Larry Patten	PA	\$4,000.00
Mr. E. Allen James	NC	\$3,000.00
COL George P. Summers	SC	\$2,500.00
Mr. Miles K. Dechant	PA	\$2,400.00
Mr. Charles Carroll, Trustee	VA	\$2,000.00
Dr. John M. Daniel, MD	VA	\$2,000.00
Mr. S. Duffield Hopkins, III	PA	\$2,000.00
Mr. Jimmy Smith	GA	\$2,000.00
Mr. Brian Gill	NY	\$1,300.00
Mr. Peter Gulden, III, Esq.	FL	\$1,250.00
Mr. William Kimzey	NC	\$1,158.00
Mr. John B. Lurus, Jr.	VA	\$1,111.00
Mr. John B. Lurus, III	VA	\$1,111.00
Mr. Charles J. Scammell	NJ	\$1,100.00
Mr. Richard Gregg	NJ	\$1,050.00
Mr. Russell P. Rich, Sr.	MD	\$1,050.00
Mr. T. Jeffrey Clark	NJ	\$1,020.00
Mr. J. Reeves Bright	KY	\$1,000.00
Mr. Mitchell Bush	GA	\$1,000.00
Mr. Louis "Buzz" Carmichael	KY	\$1,000.00
CAPT Roger Coursey	GA	\$1,000.00
Mr. David Dickey, Esq.	GA	\$1,000.00
Mr. James F. Foster	MN	\$1,000.00
Mr. Christopher Frame	GA	\$1,000.00
Mr. Frank Hardeman, III	GA	\$1,000.00
Mr. Peter C. Hein	NY	\$1,000.00
Mr. Mark Jakobowski	VA	\$1,000.00
Dr. Larry Leslie, Sr., MD	KY	\$1,000.00
RADM J. Robert Lunney, Esq.	NY	\$1,000.00
Mr. Bev Mauck	VA	\$1,000.00
Mr. William D. Parmelee	NC	\$1,000.00
Dr. Laurence Simpson, DDS	NY	\$1,000.00
Rev. Augustus Succop, III	NC	\$1,000.00
Hon. Jeffrey G. Trauger	PA	\$1,000.00
Mr. John W. Grimes, Jr.	NC	\$500.00

RUNNING TOTAL (as of 06-2023)

\$81,550.00



A CRADLE OF HISTORY: HISTORIC HALIFAX



Plaque at State Capitol,
Raleigh, NC



Owens House built in
the 1760s



The North Carolina flag bears the date of
the adoption of the Halifax Resolves

FLICKR/JEFF ROZWADOWSK

The Sons of the Revolution in North Carolina, as a means to underscore the continued importance of the Halifax Resolves, “resolved” at its June 2022 Annual Meeting to create a partnership with the Friends of Historic Halifax to further advance restoration initiatives there.

The General Society determined to support this project as well, with funding from the Society of ‘83. General President Russell P. Rich traveled to Historic Halifax to tour the State Historic Site. The area contains thirty-nine properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

“Besides giving financial support to the Friends of Historic Halifax,” said Society President Gus Succop, “we mean to generate a wider awareness of the Resolves in our membership and through our membership to the public at large.”

Halifax, located on the Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids, is often referred to in North Carolina as the “cradle of history.” Halifax was a bustling port town and the county seat during the Revolutionary era. It was also the meeting location for North Carolina’s Provincial



The Roanoke River and Chowan River watersheds in NE North Carolina. The X signifies the location of the town.

Congress. In his 1918 *History of Halifax County*, W. C. Allen reports, “...throughout the colonial and Revolutionary periods, as well as the years since, Halifax County has played a conspicuous part in the stirring events that have made North Carolina history so interesting.”

Resolved...

On April 12, 1776, during its fourth session, the Provincial Congress convened in Halifax and adopted the Halifax Resolves. The Resolves were the first organized action by one of the Colonies to call for national, or republic-wide, independence. Thereafter, N.C. delegates to the Second Continental Congress (Joseph Hewes, William Hooper, and John Penn) submitted a copy of the Provincial Congress’ meeting minutes, which included the Resolves, to Congressional President John Hancock. They also verbally encouraged their colleagues in Philadelphia to move for the complete independence of all thirteen states and to seek alliances with overseas powers.

The presentation of the Resolves to Congress, indeed, must have influenced the delegates. Nearly three months later, the Declaration of Independence was signed (ratified) by fifty-six Congressmen and published repeatedly.



The Roanoke River at the Fall Line, upstream from Historic Halifax.

Toward Independence

The adoption of the Halifax Resolves came after a crucial patriot victory in North Carolina earlier that year at Moore’s Creek Bridge, near Wilmington. It also followed Royal Governor Josiah Martin’s late May abandonment of the state. By the time the Provincial Congress met in Halifax, there was widespread recognition across North Carolina that the patriot Cause was strengthening and was even now foreordained.

“After the Battle of Moore’s Creek Bridge [February 27, 1776],” writes W. C. Allen, “sentiment in North Carolina



for independence rapidly crystallized. Although a British army of invasion and twenty-seven enemy gunboats were on the Cape Fear, the people of the province set their faces steadfastly toward a separation from England. In Halifax County, the spirit of the revolution was [by that time] unchecked.”

That same year, North Carolina approved another issuance of state currency. Author and historian Bob Schreiner indicates the 1776 issuance featured seventeen different denominations of N.C. bills, from 1/16 dollar through twenty dollars. The \$7.50 bill (shown to the left) featured the unfurled Grand Union flag on the lower left of its design. This was one of the first national flags flown throughout the Thirteen Colonies.

Other Historical Facts

The town of Halifax was established on November 21, 1757, on lands owned by James Leslie. It was named in honor of George Montagu, the second Earl of Halifax and President of the British Board of Trade and Plantations. At that time, the Board served as the foreign policy arm of the British government. Halifax prospered so much that the following year a new county was created by the same name, and the town served as county seat. By 1769, Halifax had nearly sixty houses and public buildings.

In 1781, Cornwallis occupied the town briefly while on his way northward to Yorktown. He stayed at the Eagle Tavern, which is one of the restored edifices in Historical Halifax today. Ten years later, George Washington visited the town on his tour of the Southern states, but did not spend the night there. Forty-four years after Cornwallis overnighted there, so did the Marquis de Lafay-



Eagle Tavern, built in the 1790s



WR Davie Home

ette on his return journey to the U.S. The town remained prosperous until the late 1830s, when the new Wilmington & Weldon Railroad bypassed it.

Notwithstanding, Halifax played an important role in the Underground Railroad of the mid-nineteenth century. The National Park Service has recognized three sites along the Roanoke River as verifiable sites of the Underground Railroad, including one located within the boundaries of the Historic Halifax State Historic Site. On David St., markers leading to the river tell the story of “Runaways” who were pursued through nineteenth-century newspaper ads. The other sites are located along the river in nearby Roanoke Rapids and Weldon.—*Editor*

From Caterpillar to *Butterfly*:

Rebuilding the Birthplace Home of James Monroe



*Fifth President of the United States,
1817 - 1825*

On April 22nd, members of the Virginia Society Sons of the Revolution attended the 265th Birthday Celebration Ceremony of the nation's Fifth President at the newly opened James Monroe Birthplace and Park in Westmoreland County, Virginia, near the town of Colonial Beach. The event was sponsored by the James Monroe Memorial Foundation, which the VSSR has supported with assistance from the Society of '83.

The spring ceremony was the first heavily attended public event at the restored home, following the completion of the project and dissipation of Covid concerns. The home, which the Foundation had to completely rebuild from the ground up, opened in October 2021. The project was a ten-year endeavor of planning and fundraising. In 2005, the Foundation obtained a 99-year lease on the land from Westmoreland County to build a replica of Monroe's childhood home. Monroe was President from March 4, 1817, to March 4, 1825, the last of the "Virginia Dynasty."



At the 2021 opening event, according to a report in *The Free-Lance Star* newspaper, Colonial Beach Mayor Robin Shick spoke of a time during her childhood when her father stopped next to the site of the former President's boyhood home to fix a flat tire. Nothing was there except some gravel on the ground and an old sign. As her father changed the tire, she found a caterpillar and took it with her to school. "As that caterpillar eventually became a butterfly, so, too, have these grounds evolved from a caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly."

Career Accomplishments

After fighting with distinction in the Continental Army, Monroe resigned his commission and joined the Virginia militia. He later studied law under Thomas Jefferson and practiced law in Fredericksburg. He was named to the Virginia Convention to ratify the US Constitution, where he sided with the anti-Federalists. He would go on to serve multiple terms as Governor of Virginia. He was also appointed Ambassador to France and later to Britain. In the administration of James Madison, he became the only person in US history to fill two cabinet posts simultaneously: Secretary of State and Secretary of War. In 1803, he and Robert R. Livingston negotiated the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon Bonaparte.

According to his White House biography, Monroe's ambition and energy, and his support from President Madison, made him the Republic choice for the Presidency in 1816. He won re-election virtually unopposed in 1820. Major achievements during his terms included the Treaty of 1818, the Adams-Onís Treaty, and the Missouri Compromise. He is most remembered for the Monroe Doctrine, which forbade European countries from meddling in the affairs of newly independent nations of the Western Hemisphere.



The Monroe Doctrine was issued on December 2, 1823, and is one of the earliest tenets of US foreign policy.



*The replica house
under construction*



*The public celebration of President
Monroe's 265th birthday, April 22, 2023.*



Interior of Monroe birthplace replica

All photos courtesy James Monroe Memorial Foundation

<https://monroefoundation.org/2021/07/11/monroe-birthplace-grand-opening/>
<https://www.facebook.com/jmonroebirthplace/>
<https://www.colonial-beach-virginia-attractions.com/james-monroe.html>

Teardrop Memorials in Kentucky



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

Over the last two years, the KYSR with funding from the Society of '83 has joined with the KYSSAR to sponsor two Purple Heart Teardrop Memorials. They are located in the north-central area of the state. KYSR historian and Chapter President Jackie Miller envisioned the projects and led them to fruition. The first of these, installed in September 2021, is located in Falmouth, Pendleton County. The second is about half an hour west by car, in Williamstown, on the Grant-Pendleton county line.

The Falmouth memorial was dedicated to the memory of two Revolutionary-era patriot brothers, John and Alvin Mountjoy, who were instrumental in settling the area. Capt. John saw action at Trenton, Brandywine, and Monmouth as part of the 10th

Virginia. Lt. Alvin served in the 3rd Virginia and saw action at Princeton, Germantown, and Brandywine. Alvin Mountjoy later helped determine the original location of the Falmouth County courthouse. His log cabin was built circa 1790 and is Falmouth's oldest standing structure. KYSR Treasurer Dan Miller is a descendant of the Mountjoys and gave a speech on behalf of the family at the memorial dedication ceremony.



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

KYSR Treasurer Dan Miller gives a speech at the memorial dedication ceremony in the Old Falmouth Cemetery.



Monument Installed in Williamstown



SR, SAR, and DAR members gather at the memorial unveiling in Williamstown. KYSR Historian Jackie Miller, seated center, conceived the two projects.

In January 2023, the KYSR with assistance from the Society of '83 co-sponsored with the SAR and the DAR placement of a Purple Heart Teardrop Monument in downtown Williamstown. The memorial honors all Purple Heart veterans from the area, dating back to the Revolution. It was dedicated to the memory of revolutionary-era veteran Maj. William Arnold who was the founder of Williamstown. It was after him that the town was named (using his first name).

A native of East Jersey, Arnold was born in 1764 and later relocated to Virginia. By 1780, at 16 years of age, he volunteered for the Virginia Line and saw action in the Southern Campaign. He was part of Lafayette's division of Virginia Continentals in the spring and summer of 1781, suffering an injury at Yorktown.



A bird's-eye view of downtown Williamstown, with the Grant County District Courthouse facing Main Street. The memorial is near the front entrance.



The Sons of the Revolution name figures prominently on both sides of the memorial.





Washington Statue Resurrected

Two years ago, following the tragic death of George Floyd, vandals across the country began defacing and, in some instances, toppling statues of George Washington. Statues were vandalized in Baltimore, Chicago, Portland, and Los Angeles. This likeness of Washington, left, in downtown Los Angeles was defaced with red paint and torn from its base. It is one of the original thirty bronze copies made from Jean-Antoine Houdon's granite likeness of Washington, which stands in the rotunda of the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond.

Following that incident, the County of Los Angeles retrieved the statue, cleaned it up, and temporarily stored it in the basement of a county office. It has been in county possession since 1933. But, placing it in such an undignified space, even temporarily, did not sit well with Army Col. John L. Moriarity (Ret.), president of the

California Sons of the Revolution. President Moriarity, an attorney, began meeting with local government officials at city level (Pasadena, San Marino, and Westlake Village) and the county level to find a more appropriate space to display the restored statue.

After a process of many months, Moriarity found a new home for it. "With the help of Grace Gaston of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, we were successful in having the statue moved to the second floor of the Bob Hope Freedom Hall, in downtown Los Angeles," he said. The Bob Hope Freedom Hall, a ten-story edifice, is home to the Los Angeles County Department of Military Veterans Affairs and incorporates a hall of military history.

In addition to his leadership role in the Sons, John recently served as National Judge Advocate General of the Military Order of the World Wars. He joined the Army in 1948, served in Texas and Germany, then spent a career in the SJA Office. He retired in 1988.

The statue of Washington was adopted into the county's art collection in 2009 and was installed in Grand Park, where it remained unmolested for eleven years. Then on Aug. 13, 2020, it was vandalized. On April 1, 2023, the statue was installed in the Lincoln Room of the Freedom Hall with a specially designed marble base to be added soon. Currently, the Dept of Arts and Culture is working with the MVA to develop a new plaque that will provide context of the statue's history.—compiled by Editor

CBS NEWS LOS ANGELES



Pre August 2020, this Washington statue stood in Grand Park, downtown Los Angeles.



California SR President John Moriarity poses next to the restored bronze statue.
—Photo courtesy of John Moriarity.



HILDALSOLIS.ORG

Exterior of the Bob Hope Freedom Hall. The building is near the interchange between I-10 and I-110, southwest of the center of downtown.



Past-President Carlton Hoskins, left, hands the gavel to newly elected President Ed Rodriguez, right.

D.C. Society Continues Traditions

The D.C. Society held its Annual Meeting & Dinner last December at a country club in Maryland. As is usual at this end-of-year dinner, the Society recognized the winners of its Annual Art in American History scholarship award. Thirty people attended, including three from the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design.

After dinner, President Carlton Hoskins handed the gavel to newly elected President Ed Rodriguez, who will lead the Society for the next two years. Additionally, the Society inducted five new members – Alex Azar, Kent Boese, Rory Hoyt, Tim Messman and Drew Peterson.

On Washington's Birthday, members of the D.C. Society assembled at Mount Vernon and laid a wreath at George Washington's tomb. After a brief ceremony, the D.C. Sons had lunch at the Mount Vernon Inn. Many of the members began their meal with a helping of hoe cakes – small cornmeal pancakes soaked in butter and honey. The cakes are said to have been George Washington's favorite breakfast.

In March, the Society held its Mess Dinner at a private club in the District. The dinner is a recreation of a military mess dinner and includes toasts to the Armed Services, the President of the United States as Commander-in-Chief and the Society's ancestors.

The toasts were enjoyed with Madeira, a favorite drink of the American Patriots. The after-dinner speaker was Capt. Douglas "Sandy" Cohn, a West Point graduate, retired Army Ranger, and journalist, who had recently returned from a trip to Ukraine, where he consulted with Ukrainian officers and Western war correspondents. Our season concluded with the D.C. Society's annual Spring Brunch, held on a Sunday in late May at a country club in Maryland. – text and photos submitted by 1st VP Michael Sivy



Members pause in front of Washington's tomb at Mount Vernon after laying a wreath. The annual event is a time-honored Society tradition.



L-R: Frank and Julia Hardeman, and Leslie and Mitchell Bush in Charleston.

GA-SR Visits SCSR

On December 10, 2022, Region 3 General Vice President Frank Hardeman and General President Emeritus Mitchell Bush and their wives traveled to Charleston for the South Carolina Society's Evacuation Day black-tie cocktail. Held at the Porcher-Simonds House in Charleston, it was a chance for Region 3 SR members, new and old, to celebrate their patriotism and camaraderie. The reception was a splendid event and drew many positive comments.

The British took leave of Charleston on December 14, 1782. Gen. William Moultrie referred to Evacuation Day in Charleston as "the real day of deliverance and independence" for Carolinians. He could have included Georgians, too. The British occupied Savannah from late December 1778 to July 1782. In September of 1779, a joint American/French attempt to retake Savannah failed, with massive casualties to the patriot allies. In July 1782, British troops began filing out of Savannah, and Georgia's Royal Governor James Wright and other top officials fled to Charleston.



GSSR President Jim Smith

More Society Events

Following just over a month later, the Georgia Society held its 2023 Annual Meeting on January 13th at St. John's Episcopal Church in Savannah. The following officers were elected: Jim Smith, President; Chris Blaine, 1st Vice President; Marvin "Sammy" Strode, 2nd Vice President; Frank Hardeman, III, Secretary; Frank Brown, Treasurer, and Charlie Williams as Registrar. In addition to these, twenty-one others were elected to the Board of Managers.

In mid-February, the Society convened again for its annual George Washington's Banquet at the Savannah Yacht Club. State Representative Ron Stephens gave a talk on the issues and bills currently before the Georgia Legislature.

Then toward the end of March, 1st Vice President Chris Blaine attended the 121st Georgia State Conference of the Daughters of the American Revolution held at the Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort at Stone Mountain, Georgia. Chris brought greetings to the ladies and gave a brief talk about the SR.



Frank Hardeman, David Dickey, and Roger Coursey at George Washington Birthday banquet



Chris Frame and Frank Hardeman attending the Camden burials event.

Revisiting the SCSR

During the weekend of April 20-22, 2023, members of the S.C. and Georgia Sons gathered in Camden, S.C., to participate in the funeral service and reinterment ceremony for thirteen Revolutionary War soldiers. (See pp. 49-51 for more details.) Region III General Vice President Frank Hardeman and Chris Frame represented the SR from the Peach State. Jeffery Murrie, President of the SCSR, was named an honorary pall-bearer. The event drew a huge crowd and was well-publicized. —text and photos submitted by Frank Hardeman III and David Dickey.



FACEBOOK/WALCM

The William Arnold Log Cabin Museum, Williamstown, KY. Built of mammoth poplar logs, the cabin was moved from its original locale to the town center in 1986.

KYSR Sponsors Marker, Donates 'Berry Cannon'

On January 14, 2023, the Kentucky Sons gathered in Williamstown, Kentucky, for the Grant County Purple Heart Memorial Dedication. A Purple Heart Teardrop Monument sponsored by the KYSR, KYSSAR, and the local DAR Chapter was unveiled on the grounds of the Old Grant County Courthouse. It pays homage to the county's Purple Heart veterans from all wars, dating back to the Revolution.

Members, guests, and town dignitaries assembled for the unveiling ceremony, which included remarks from the Mayor and a musket salute by the KYSSAR Color Guard. Present were KYSR President and General Treasurer Buzz Carmichael, KYSSAR President Scott Giltner, and Kentucky DAR Regent Linda Conrad. During the same day, KYSR Historian Jackie Miller presented a small-caliber "berry cannon" to the historical William Arnold Log

Cabin Museum, in honor of the memory of the town's founder and namesake.

Maj. Arnold was born in East Jersey in 1764 but later relocated to Virginia. By 1780, at 16 years of age, he volunteered for the Virginia Line, seeing action in the Southern Campaign. He was part of Lafayette's division of Virginia Continentals in the spring and summer of 1781. At some point during the campaign, according to family history, he and Lafayette became fast friends. He was also with Lafayette at Yorktown and suffered an injury there.

After the Revolution, Arnold moved to Kentucky and served in the militia for a number of years as Indians and settlers repeatedly battled each other. In 1790, he was part of a militia force that Secretary of War Henry Knox sent to defend Fort Washington, future site of Cincinnati, Ohio.

When settlers organized Grant County in 1820, Arnold served as the county's first sheriff. During Lafayette's tour of the United States in 1824-25, the famous general made a stopover in Williamsburg to see Sheriff Arnold while on his way to Cincinnati from Lexington. According to a student essay later published and copyrighted by Grant County Schools, he breakfasted at Arnold's home, where "[t]he old friends wept at their meeting."

[Note: *The Northern Kentucky Views* website reports the excerpted essay above was written by Janet Tebelman in academic year 1963-64 for an English class at Grant County High School.]



FACEBOOK/GRANT COUNTY FISCAL COURT

The KYSSAR Color Guard honored all Purple Heart veterans from all wars with a musket salute in front of the old Grant County Courthouse.



FACEBOOK/JACKIE MILLER

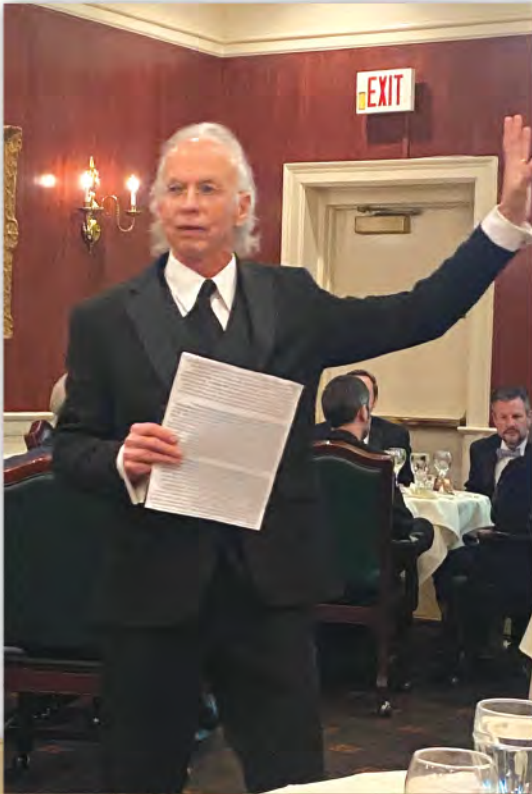
KYSR member Jackie Miller II inspects the monument after the unveiling on the grounds of the old Grant County Courthouse.

Celebrating Washington's Birthday

In late February, KYSR members and guests convened at the Lexington Club for the Annual George Washington Birthday Dinner. Again, the dinner was sold out and some, who nevertheless wanted to come, had to stand. "From a Society perspective, that's a good problem to have!" said KYSR President Buzz Carmichael.

During the dinner, the Society heard a well-received presentation from noted historian, writer, and musician Ted Franklin Belue. A retired history professor of Murray State University, Ted spoke about his latest book published in late 2020, *Finding Daniel Boone: His Last Days in Missouri and The Strange Fate of His Remains*. He is a leading authority on Boone's life and legacy.

In addition to hearing about Daniel Boone, the Society also toasted the memory of George Washington. Members who were dressed in Continental Army uniforms led a toast to the Kentucky Society. —all text and photos submitted by Buzz Carmichael





Lithograph of Gen. Lafayette, c. 1830.

General Lafayette Returns

From July 1824 to September 1825, Gilbert du Motier, by then styled General Lafayette, came back to the United States at the invitation of President James Monroe for a grand tour of the country and stopped in every one of the twenty-four states then in the Union. The former marquis, who renounced that title in 1790, arrived in Louisiana aboard the steamboat Natchez in April of 1825.

His first stop was at the Chalmette battlefield, where the nation won its second War for Independence [War of 1812] against Britain. Assembled cavalry troops, cannon fire, and huge crowds greeted him. Later the general was escorted to New Orleans by Gov. Henry S. Johnson, former Gov. Jacques Phillippe Villeré, and Armand Duplantier, his old friend and aide-de-camp. When the procession reached New Orleans, a tremendous crowd greeted the general in the Place d'Armes (Jackson Square).

A massive but temporary triumphal arch stood tall in the square, and New Orleans Mayor Louis Phillippe de Roffinac welcomed Lafayette under it. Records indicate it stood sixty-eight feet high and fifty-eight feet wide and was ornately appointed. Colossal statues of the goddesses Justice and Liberty stood on either side of the entryway. Along the top edge of the arch, appearing in English on one side and French on the other, the following words proclaimed: "A grateful Republic consecrates this monument to Lafayette."

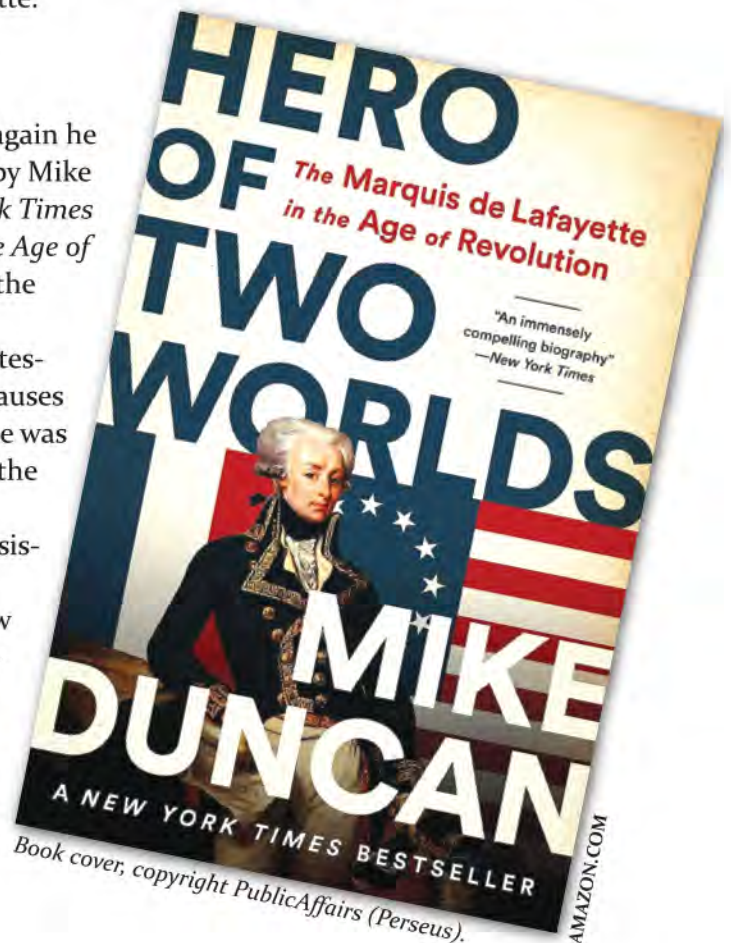
200 Years Later

Nearly 200 years after Lafayette's 1825 visit to New Orleans, again he returned to New Orleans in September 2022 in a presentation by Mike Duncan of his popular biography of Lafayette and *The New York Times* best-seller, *Hero of Two Worlds, The Marquis de Lafayette in the Age of Revolution*. The presentation was co-sponsored by the Sons of the Revolution in Louisiana.

The author presents Lafayette as a Revolutionary soldier, statesman, idealist, philanthropist, and abolitionist who fought for causes on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. After he returned home, he was instrumental in the overthrow of the Bourbon Dynasty during the French Revolution of 1830. He died in 1834.

Duncan's 436-page biography is uncommonly coherent, consistently comprehensible, and engaging. Readers will appreciate Duncan's accounting of Lafayette's years in America. The review of Lafayette's actions from Brandywine to Yorktown is fascinating. The chapter on his triumphant return to America may be the most interesting.

As our nation's 250th anniversary approaches, the Sons of the Revolution in Louisiana will continue to sponsor presentations from leading authors and historians to keep the Spirit of '76 alive. —Text and illustrations submitted by Secretary William Allerton III.





2023 Annual Dinner Dance

In March of this year, the Maryland Society held its Annual Meeting and Dinner Dance. After the business meeting was held during which a new slate of officers was installed, members flocked to the cocktail lounge at the Maryland Club preceded by spouses, significant others, the Grey Goose and the Famous Grouse. About sixty people enjoyed fellowship and camaraderie, enhanced by hors d'oeuvres and good spirits for the next hour and a half.

Special guests Charlie Scammell, Region 2 Vice President, and his wife, drove down from New Jersey to attend. At 7:30 p.m. a drummer and fifer led the SRMD Color Guard in the presentation of colors while a live band played "The World Turned Upside Down." The Craig Satchell Swing and Jazz Ensemble then played the National Anthem upon posting of the colors. Rever-

end Thomas Davidson then gave the blessing, followed by a round of traditional toasts. The steak dinner was sumptuous and the servings were more than ample.



Attendees packed the dance floor the whole evening, except when the band took a break and new members were introduced and given their certificates, ties, and rosettes. Before the dancing resumed, Society President Tom Hosford thanked outgoing Board members and welcomed new officers and managers for the next year. After President Hosford's remarks, the party, touted by one attendee as the "best in years," was well underway.

The following individuals were voted into office for the year: Thomas R. Hosford, President; Harry T. Aycok IV, 1st VP; Daniel B. Fisher, 2nd VP; Danial D. Evans, Asst. Treasurer; Eric A. Zetterberg, III, Secretary; Judson L. Smith, Jr., Asst. Secretary; James S. Hanna, Registrar; Talbot J. Albert IV, Asst. Registrar; Robert B. Carter, Historian; Russell P. Rich, Jr., Solicitor; Douglas C Borg, Asst. Solicitor; Rev. Thomas E. Davison, Chaplain; James G.

Bigwood, Genealogist; Scott Watkins, Capt., Color Guard, and Harding I. Smith, Asst. Capt., Color Guard/Webmaster.

The Society also voted in six at-large members of the board: William F. Yonkers, Thomas W. Frank, Thomas D. Jenkins, Samuel B. Hopkins, Jeffrey S. Wrobel, Jr., and Charles W. Morgan.



SRMD Visits Northern Shenandoah

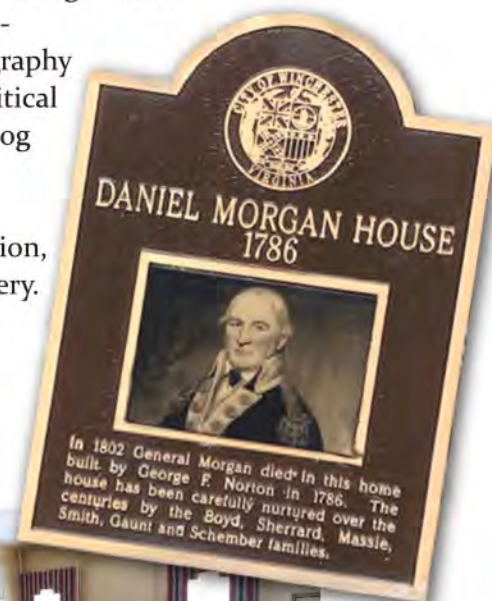
Last November, several adventuresome members and their wives enjoyed an extended visit to the northern Shenandoah Valley, which included stops in Winchester, VA, and Harper's Ferry, WV. Trips Chairman Rob Carter planned and organized the outing. The purpose of visiting was to learn more about the northern valley and see sites related to colonial, Revolutionary, and Civil War history.

In Winchester, two prominent names from the Revolutionary War figure into its history: Brig. Gen. Daniel Morgan and Command-

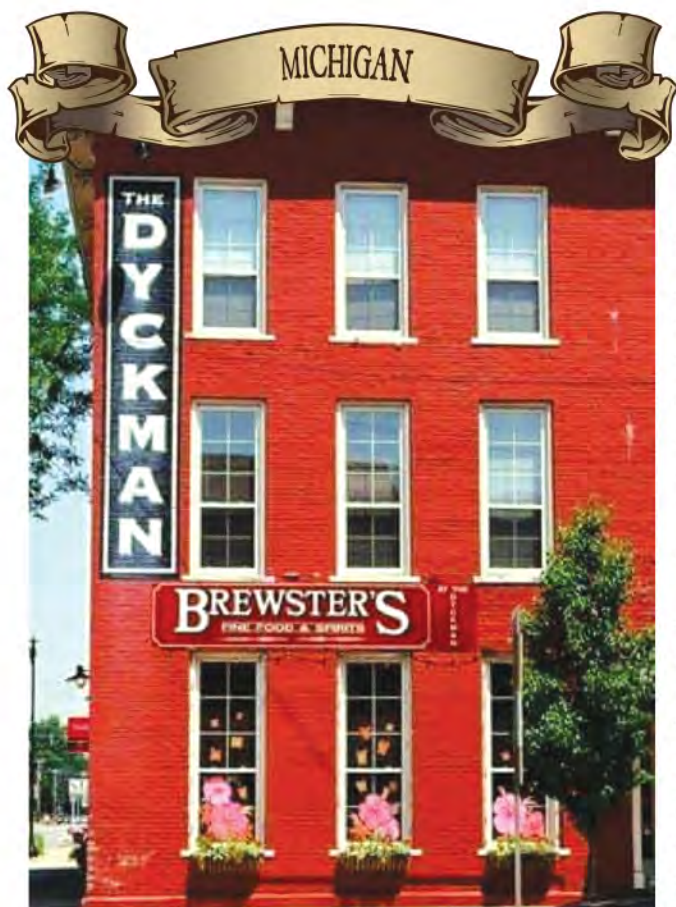
er-in-Chief George Washington. The group made stops at Morgan's gravesite in Winchester Cemetery and at the house where he retired following the Revolution. We were treated to a private tour of the home by George Schember, who is the current owner and is president of the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society. After the war, Morgan was elected a U.S. Representative from Frederick County. He died in 1802.

The tour also included stops at George Washington's Office Museum and the George Washington Hotel. From 1748 until 1758, George Washington spent more time in Winchester than any other place besides his home. He learned geography and topography there, led a militia from there, built and managed a fort there, and achieved political office while there. The George Washington's Office contains within it the small log cabin he used while Fort Loudoun was being constructed.

Apart from those sites, we also saw the homes of Winchester's first settler, Abraham Hollingsworth, and the town's founder, John Wood. At the latter location, there are several beautiful thematic gardens to enjoy as well as the family cemetery. We also took in the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley before heading off to Harper's Ferry. All in all, it was a terrific excursion. A good time was had by all, and everyone is looking forward to next year's trip to Williamsburg! – *text and photos submitted by President Thomas Hosford.*



All photos
courtesy
SRMD



Venue for the Society's Washington Birthday Luncheon

Washington Birthday Luncheon

The Michigan Society of Sons of the Revolution was pleased to host Thomas Smart, Deputy Governor General of the Order of Founders & Patriots of America, to address our membership at our Washington's Birthday Luncheon. The luncheon meeting was held at Brewster's Fine Food and Spirits at the Dyckman House in Paw Paw, MI. Tom explained that very recently the Founders & Patriots adopted some changes to the Society's criteria for membership. Essentially, if an ancestor of a current member of the Sons was a member in the Founders & Patriots, the Sons member can join the Founders & Patriots based on his ancestor's line. Several members of the MISR have now become members of Michigan OFPA, with more planning to join soon.

During the luncheon, Society President Geoffrey Hickok and others revived the scene of a toast which Benjamin Franklin gave at a diplomatic dinner following the signing of the 1783 Treaty of Paris. First, a French official rose, toasting Louis XVI, comparing him to the moon. The British ambassador then toasted his monarch, George III, likening him to the sun. Finally, the aging Franklin stood to speak on behalf of the United States. "I cannot give you the sun nor the moon, but I give you George Washington who, like Joshua of old, commanded both the sun and the moon to stand still, and both obeyed."

Of Monuments— Inanimate & Animate

During the second weekend in March, President Hickok attended the 90th State Conference of the M.S.C.A.R in downstate Port Huron. He gave greetings on behalf of the MISR and asked the young people present that day a



President Hickok presents a membership certificate to James Kraatz



Statue in Detroit

rhetorical question, regarding monuments: While many monuments have been raised to the Revolutionary War and to the individuals who fought in it, aren't you yourselves monuments to your own Revolutionary War ancestors? "You should always be proud of that fact and take that forward in your lives and act accordingly." While at the state conference, President Hickok presented a MISR membership certificate to C.A.R. member James Kraatz.

In other MISR developments, in May President Hickok attended the Michigan Heritage Days Conference in Midland, MI, and set up an information booth hoping to recruit new members or meet potential new members. He reports the Society will be hosting the Fall Michigan Heritage Days Convention.



Keith Graham Harrison

In Memoriam

The Michigan Society has lost several members in recent times, all of whom we honor and mourn, but the late Keith Graham Harrison deserves special mention. He served as a Michigan Society officer on numerous occasions, belonged to many hereditary and patriotic societies, was a devoted Civil War reenactor and a nationally recognized ecologist. He held a bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Michigan State University and a master's in Ecology from Western Michigan University.

In his profession, Keith was a widely recognized ecologist and career civil servant, culminating as Director of the Office of Special Environmental Projects within the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. He also served in executive-appointed positions of both the state and federal government. In the federal government, he participated in several National Academy of Sciences and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board committees as an invited ecology expert. His research resulted in more than 100 publications addressing a wide range of environmental and natural history issues.

Apart from his vocation, for thirty-three years of his life, Keith devoted himself as a Civil War reenactor and participated in over 550 reenactments and living histories throughout the United States. He traced his ancestry back to forty-seven Union Civil War soldiers, forty-two of whom served in Michigan regiments and five from non-Michigan regiments. He also had two ancestors who served with the Confederacy. Keith served as the Board President of Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum (Eaton Rapids, Michigan) since its inception in 2013, Chair of the Michigan Civil War History Partners, and as Treasurer of the Friends of Michigan History.

He is survived by his wonderful wife, Jean Ann Harrison of Holt, Michigan, his son and daughter-in-law, Nathan Lewis and Sarah Harrison of Grand Blanc, Michigan, brother and sister-in-law, David Dale and Stacie Lyon of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, sister-in-law, Paula Harrison of Niles, Michigan, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins throughout the United States and in England.—*all text and photos submitted by Society President Geoffrey Hickok.*





Joint Luncheon and Election

Members, spouses, and guests of the Minnesota Societies of SR and SAR met for their Annual Meeting at Jax Restaurant in

Minneapolis on February 18, 2023. Forty persons attended the joint function. The Minnesota SAR Color Guard presented the colors, and SAR President James Hagen led the Pledge of Allegiance. SR Chaplain Michael Swisher gave the invocation. With a quorum established, Michael Stainbrook, Vice-President of the SR, called to order the Sons of the Revolution portion of the meeting and presided in the absence of President James Foster.

The minutes of the Meeting held on 15 October 2022, to mark Constitution Day, had been emailed to all members and were approved as presented. The 2022 Treasurer's report was also accepted as presented. The only other item of business was the election and installation of officers and board managers for 2023.



Past President Geoffrey Bodeau presents the Society's Presidential Star, the badge of office, to incoming President Michael Stainbrook, Sr. In the background, Secretary/Treasurer Duane Galles looks on.—Photos submitted by Michael Stainbrook.

Following the separate business portions of the joint meeting, all in attendance then heard SR Secretary/Treasurer Duane Galles give an interesting and well-researched presentation on naming conventions and the cultural histories of names. The title of the talk was, "What's in a Name?" The SAR Society then presented Mr. Galles with the SAR Good Citizenship Medal. Following the presentation of his award, the Color Guard retired the Colors and the meeting was adjourned.

Nominating Committee Chair Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, MD, presented and recommended the slate of officers and board managers for a one-year term, which was unanimously approved. (See scroll, right.)

Past President Geoffrey Bodeau presented the new president with his badge of office and declared the officers elected and installed.

—submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Duane L. C. M. Galles, Ph.D.

President, Michael Stainbrook, Sr.
Vice President, Dennis Croonquist
Secretary/Treasurer, Duane L. C. M. Galles, Esq.
Assistant Treasurer/Chaplain, Michael S. Swisher
Registrar, Arthur Louis Finnell
Assistant Registrar, Tracy Ashley Croker
Solicitor, William R. Johnson, Esq.
Representative to the General Board, Duane L. C. M. Galles, Esq.

For the Board of Managers:

James Fredrick Foster (ex officio),
Robert Arthur Minish, Esq.
Col. Ronald McRoberts
John Hallberg Jones
Edward Reino Lief, Esq.
Christopher Willard Moberg
Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D.
Michael Perry Schenk



Attendees of the 2023 MOSR Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting & Historic Preservation Award

A sizeable number of members and guests convened on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at the St. Louis Country Club in LaDue, Missouri, for the Missouri Society Sons of the Revolution (MOSR) Annual Meeting and Tribute to George Washington. MOSR President David Swafford welcomed all to the afternoon meeting that featured officer reports, the presentation of the Society's 2023 Historic Preservation Award, a fitting tribute to George Washington by MOSR President Emeritus and Secretary Rick Strelinger, and a showcasing of the Society's educational activity book for children entitled, "The Battle of Fort San Carlos at Saint Louis, May 26, 1780,"

This year's Historic Preservation Award went to Tandy Christy Thompson, president of the board of directors of French Colonial America, owner-operator of the Centre for French Colonial Life in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. Other special guests included Mary Hayward, President of the Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion Board; Kina Shapleigh, President of Les Amis Saint Louis; officers and regents of the Missouri Society of DAR; officers of the Missouri Society of NSCDA, board members of French Colonial America, as well as Margaret Carr and James Donovan, previous recipients of our Historic Preservation Award.

Ms. Thompson oversees the properties and programs of the Centre for French Colonial Life. The properties include a museum dedicated to early French culture and history in southeast Missouri, three gardens, and five historic buildings that illuminate the unique architecture of early French builders in Upper Louisiana. Since the inception of French Colonial America in 2016, Tandy has led the board with vision, dedication, and purpose. Through her efforts to establish financial support, maintain the historic campus, and enable the facilitation of educational programs and community events for all ages, she has strengthened the public's awareness of, and interest in, the Colonial French story in southeast Missouri.

After Tandy's speech and the presentation of her award, Sumner and Sylvia Hunnewell introduced attendees to the Society's educational activity book, "The Battle of Fort San Carlos at Saint Louis, May 26, 1780." The Hunnewells' joint creation, the booklet presents the story of the only Revolutionary War battle fought west of the Mississippi and includes related word searches, crossword puzzles, quizzes, and coloring pages of historical scenes and historical figures. The GSSR has supported this project with funds from the Society of '83. The first printing was distributed to the Centre for French Colonial Life for direct sale to the public. All proceeds are going to the continual preservation efforts at the Centre. The Society especially thanks Rick and Peggy Strelinger for their efforts to organize and coordinate this very successful event.—*Editor*



President Swafford opens the 2023 Annual Meeting



Secretary Strelinger pays tribute to George Washington



Award recipient Tandy Thompson



Registrar Sumner Hunnewell and his wife, Sylvia.



The SRNJ Color Guard stands on the Princeton Battlefield during the "Experience the Battle of Princeton Reenactment" on January 8th, 2023, sponsored by the Princeton Battlefield Society. Following the reenactment, a Commemorative Wreath Event was presented to honor the soldiers who fought and fell in the battle. A reported 300 reenactors and over 1,000 spectators participated in the event.



SRNJ President Ben Strong, second from right, and the SRNJ Color Guard (Captain John McLean, Ned Rianhard & Dr. Kenneth McKeever) join forces with the New Jersey/Pennsylvania SAR and DAR to lay a wreath at the Battle of Trenton Monument on December 11th, 2022. The wreath honors the heroes of the Battle of Trenton (December 26, 1776).

Photos and captions submitted by Society President Ben Strong



The December 2022 SRNJ Holiday Luncheon, a Society tradition, was held at the Nassau Club in Princeton. The featured speaker was Arthur Lefkowitz, author of *Washington's Revenge*. The book focuses on the Forage War of 1777 and the British attempt to lure the Continental Army into a decisive battle in New Jersey. The author's talk was well received, and a lively question and answer discussion followed.

Rowan University Professor Jennifer Janofsky, director of Red Bank National Park, addresses the SRNJ 2023 Annual Meeting about last year's Hessian gravesite dig at Red Bank Battlefield, which uncovered human remains, possibly of Hessian soldiers. The other speaker was professional archaeologist Wade P. Catts, who directed the survey. In addition to the bones, other finds included a rare 1766 King George III gold guinea, five impacted musket balls, a knee buckle containing fabric and human blood, grapeshot, lead canister shot, as well as pewter and brass buttons. The Battle of Red Bank took place on Oct 22, 1777, at Fort Mercer, on the Jersey side of the Delaware River south of Philadelphia.



SRNJ President Benjamin Strong, center, presented four Society members with Certificates of Appreciation at the 2023 Annual Meeting luncheon. The recognition was for their collective work done in promoting the memory of Patriots who served in the American Revolution. To Ben's left are James McNielly and Jonathan McLean; to his right are Dr. Kenneth McKeever and Howard Thomas.

N.J. High School Senior Earns History Scholarship

The Gen. Daniel Morgan Chapter of the New Jersey Society, based in Hunterdon County, has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to a New Jersey high school senior for his research into the American Revolution. Tannor Fitzpatrick, 17, son of Trevor and Nicole Fitzpatrick of Readington Township, earned the prize in an essay competition.

Tannor wrote an essay about George Washington and his troops crossing the Delaware River on Christmas night in 1776, which led to the attack on the Hessians camped at the Old Barracks in Trenton. At the time of the crossing, Hunterdon County encompassed both the Trenton battle site and the spot where Washington and his troops landed after crossing the Delaware River from Pennsylvania.

"It was the big moment of the war up to then, a turning point," Tannor said at the award presentation in March. "The Americans had had a long string of defeats. Many enlistments were almost up and Washington's troops were dejected. But this surprise victory renewed their hope. The battles at Trenton and Princeton showed that they still had some fight in them."



Scholarship Winner Tannor Fitzpatrick, second from left, accepts a \$1,000 check from Howard Moreau Thomas, president of the Gen. Daniel Morgan Chapter, NJ SR. At right is Charles Scammell, Past President of the State Society, and Regional Vice President of the General Society. At left is Hank Bonnell, chapter member and owner of Bonnell Tavern, site of the scholarship ceremony. Photo by Jay Langley.

Members of the Sons want to increase interest in American history, especially among young people, said Chapter President Howard Moreau Thomas. "Americans today seem to concentrate on what divides us, rather than how much we have in common," he said. "The 250th anniversary of the Revolution is coming up soon, and we hope young people will discuss it – both good points and bad."

"I like researching history," said Tannor. "So many people don't know where we came from or how much effort went into it. Without that, we wouldn't have this amazing country."

"Given the landscape of social media and the amazing popularity of the hit musical *Hamilton*, we may expand beyond essays into other media," Mr. Thomas said. "We hope parents and teachers will talk to young people about both the Revolution and this competition."

That's how Tannor learned of the opportunity – word of mouth. His grandfather heard about the Sons' competition from a friend. A senior at Hunterdon Central High School, Tannor expects to attend Virginia Tech in the fall, to study finance and data science.

For ways to support and expand the essay competition or to join the Gen. Daniel Morgan Chapter as a full or associate member, contact Mr. Thomas at howardt4672@gmail.com.

The award was presented at Bonnell Tavern, in Clinton, NJ. It was in that tavern, in 1775, that New Jersey's first Minutemen assembled. Hank Bonnell, a member of the Morgan Chapter and a descendant of the Revolutionary tavernkeepers, is now restoring that building, which had fallen into disrepair.—text submitted by Jay Langley



The Bonnell Tavern, where Tannor Fitzpatrick received his scholarship award, has been a landmark in Clinton, since 1767. The Bonnell family operated it as a tavern from 1770 to 1870. In the latter part of 1775, N. J. Congressional delegate Charles Stewart called a meeting here to organize the region's first regiment of "Minutemen." By 1776, Stewart was colonel of the regiment and tavern owner Abraham Bonnell served as lieutenant colonel. Photo by Hank Bonnell.



Consul General of Sweden Camilla Mellander speaks during the Evacuation Day Dinner.

Evacuation Day Dinner & Commemorative Events

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York held its Annual Evacuation Day Dinner on November 21, 2022 at Fraunces Tavern, site of the original Evacuation Day Dinner hosted on November 25, 1783, by New York Governor George Clinton in honor of Commander-in-Chief George Washington. Members and guests replicated the Thirteen Toasts given in 1783. The Society was honored by the attendance of Consul General of Sweden Camilla Mellander, who spoke following the fourth toast, "To the King of Sweden."

Later in the week, members including President Peter Hein and Past President Ambrose Richardson participated in the annual commemorative lowering of the British flag and raising of the 13-star American flag at Evacuation Day Plaza, a few blocks from Fraunces Tavern. This event is organized by the Lower Manhattan Historical Association, of which the NYSR is an active participant.

Reenactment of Washington's Farewell to his Officers

Following tradition, the New York Society's Fraunces Tavern Museum again presented reenactments of George Washington's

Farewell to His Officers in the Museum's Long Room throughout the day on December 4, 2022. The original farewell occurred 240 years ago, on December 4, 1783. Daniel Shippey of the The Breeds Hill Institute portrayed Gen. Washington (see below), Doug Thomas of the American Historical Theatre portrayed Col. Benjamin Tallmadge, and Michael R. Funk portrayed Gen. Henry Knox.



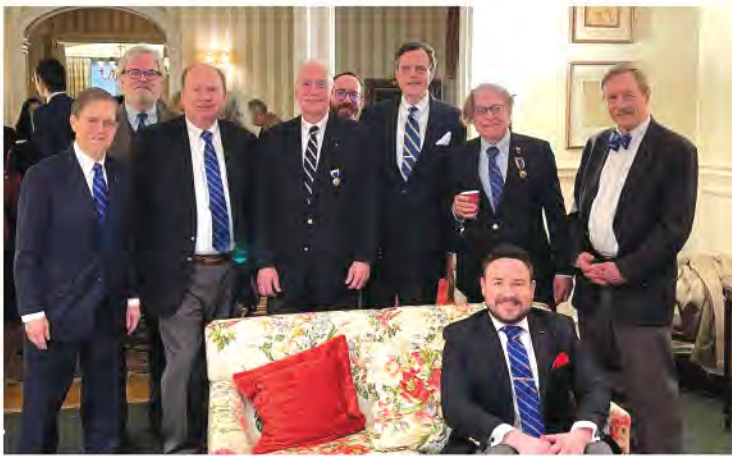
Daniel Shippey

*The Long Room of the Fraunces Tavern Museum.
Photo © by John Bigelow Taylor*

Annual Meeting & Other Events

The day following Washington's Farewell, the Society convened for its Annual Meeting at Fraunces Tavern Museum and elected and installed a new slate of officers and board members. The officers include Peter C. Hein, President; Peter J. W. Sherwin, 1st VP and Executive Committee Chair; Kenneth H. Chase, 2nd VP; Justin B. Tessier, 3rd VP; Owen A. Kloter, Esq., Secretary; Alan W. Borst, Jr., Treasurer; Scott A. Jeffrey, Registrar, and the Rev. Christopher M. Cullen, S. J., Chaplain.

In the New Year, the SRNY successfully held three big events: Tallmadge Day, the 146th Annual George Washington Birthday Ball, and the 133rd Annual Church Service. Tallmadge Day commemorates the birthday of



Members enjoy coffee hour at the Church of the Incarnation, prior to the Society's Annual Church Service.

Frederick Samuel Tallmadge, whose generous bequest enabled the Society to purchase and restore the Fraunces Tavern. The guest speaker for the event was Alyssa Loorya, founder and president of Chrysalis Archaeological Consultants.

The GW Birthday Ball was held at the Metropolitan Club on Friday, February 24th, to honor Washington and benefit the Fraunces Tavern Museum (see photos, pp. 39-40). David M. Rubenstein was given the Society's Distinguished Patriot Award for his commitment to patriotic philanthropy. On the Sunday following, the Society held its 133rd Annual Church Service at the Church of the Incarnation, during which we recognized all members who passed away in the year.

Annual FTM Book Award

On April 24, 2023, Society members and guests gathered to commemorate the Battles of Lexington and Concord, which took place on April 19, 1775. During the same event, the Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award was presented. The award is presented annually to the author of the best newly published work on the American Revolution. Entries are judged based on original scholarship, insight, and good writing. This year's award was given to Eric Jay Dolin for *Rebels at Sea: Privateering in the American Revolution*. Honorable Mentions were awarded to Kenneth Scarlett for *Victory Day: Winning American Independence, The Defeat of the British Southern Strategy* and to Stacy Schiff for *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams*.

Coming at the tail-end of April, the SRNY Color Guard participated at the 234th Anniversary Reenactment of Washington's First Inaugural, held April 30th and sponsored by the Freemasons of the State of New York. This event, which is usually held at Federal Hall, took place this year at the Grand Lodge building in Manhattan.



Author Eric Jay Dolin accepts this year's Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award.

"Private Dining at Fraunces Tavern"

On January 21, 2022, Fraunces Tavern Museum opened a new permanent museum exhibition, "Private Dining at Fraunces Tavern," in the McEntee Gallery. The exhibition was curated by NYSR member and Museum and Art Committee Co-Chair Craig Hamilton Weaver. It portrays one of the Fraunces Tavern's private dining rooms in the late eighteenth century. Government officials, prominent members of society at large (including many of the country's Founding Fathers), and organizations such as private clubs and companies reserved the use of these



The exhibition was previewed by SRNY President Peter Hein, Past President Ambrose Richardson, Executive Director Scott Dwyer, and long-time supporters Stanley and Elizabeth Scott, shortly before his passing

private rooms. Samuel Fraunces was one of the first to offer delicious food, at any time of day, in an elegant setting with individual table service.

Additionally, the exhibition showcases the City's colonial "foodways" and their influence on the cooking at Fraunces Tavern. It also provides more information on the prominent individuals who dined at the Tavern during this period as well, underscoring Samuel Fraunces' superb cooking and culinary skills. A highlight of the exhibit is a gift of an eighteenth-century chest-on-chest, by long-term supporters Stanley and Elizabeth Scott. We are grateful that Stanley and Elizabeth were able to preview the new exhibition in person shortly before his passing at the end of January.

146th George Washington Birthday Ball







Past President and Color Guard Captain Dan Hopping at Raleigh National Cemetery.

2022 Wreaths Across America

The SRNC is a co-sponsor of the Wreaths Across America Ceremonies at Raleigh National Cemetery. Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out via wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery as well as at more than 2,100 additional locations in all fifty states, at sea, and abroad. The Raleigh National Cemetery has over 5,600 graves and each year we get enough wreaths sponsored to have a wreath on every veteran's grave.

Annually, the SRNC lays a wreath in honor of the Revolutionary War Soldiers who fought to create the United States. Our Color Guard closes out the solemn ceremony by firing a volley with Revolutionary period correct firelocks and going to "Morn Arms" as the trumpet plays "Taps."

This year we had seven members firing the volley in the uniform of the North Carolina Militia. There is something soul satisfying about having ten feet of flame and your own cumulonimbus, complete with thunder!

242nd Commemoration of Cowan's Ford

On a bright and crisp January morning, members of the SR, SAR, DAR & CAR gathered at the cemetery of Hopewell Presbyterian Church to remember the Battle of Cowan's Ford, the event that caused a slowing down of Lord Cornwallis's troops and exacted the high sacrifice of the death of the commanding patriot leader, Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson. Prior to giving honors at Gen. Davidson's gravesite, the gathering was treated to a program of a first-person portrayal of "His Excellency General George Washington."

Leadership of the meeting was provided by SRNC member Greg Catledge, who also serves as the President of the Mecklenburg Chapter, NCSSAR. In addition to Greg's leadership, SRNC member Russ McCullough coordinated the presentation of wreaths and the rendering of honors at Gen. Davidson's gravesite. John Misenheimer served in the NCSSAR Color Guard. SRNC President Gus Succop offered the morning invocation and expressed greetings on behalf of the Society. Bob Ray represented the Mecklenburg Chapter as Registrar.



SRNC Pres. Succop with "Martha & George Washington" at Cowan's Ford



Mark Pace as "John Penn"

George Washington Birthday Luncheon

The annual George Washington Commemorative Birthday Luncheon was a fine event with over thirty-eight members and guests in attendance. The luncheon was held at The River Run Country Club, Davidson, NC, through the kindness of SRNC member John Allen and his wife, Ann, members of the Davidson community and the club. Our speaker was Mark Pace, who informed us about John Penn, a NC signer of the Declaration of Independence. Also in attendance were Region 3 General Vice President Frank Hardeman, SRNC President Jeff Murrie, SRNC member and Mecklenburg SAR Chapter President Greg Catledge, and Professor Hugh Dussek, who assists us in the scholarship essay at Central Piedmont Community College.



NCSR President Gus Succop addresses a gathering in Historic Halifax, N.C. on Halifax Resolves Day.

Halifax Resolves Day

Members of the SRNC Color Guard (Dan Hopping, Captain) and President Gus Succop attended the commemoration of the 247th Anniversary of the Halifax Resolves. The April 12, 1776, resolution calling for independence from Great Britain was the first among the British colonies. It was followed by comparable proclamations by other colonies and culminated with the Declaration of Independence in July 1776.

The commemoration was organized by the NC SAR. SRNC President Gus Succop gave remarks and brought greetings from the Sons of the Revolution. In January, the SRNC entered into a partnership with Historic Halifax, located in Halifax County (See related story, pp. ____). In January, we presented Historic Halifax with a gift towards the renovation of the Visitor Center's garden there.—text and photos submitted by Gus Succop and Dan Hopping.



Members of the NCSR Color Guard and President Succop during Halifax Resolves Day.

“Resolved, that the Delegates for this colony in the Continental Congress be empowered to Concur with the delegates of the other Colonies In declaring Independency....”



Keynote speaker Dr. Allen C. Guelzo

using artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT. The evening's keynote speaker was the noted historian and author Dr. Allen C. Guelzo, Senior Research Scholar for the Council of the Humanities at Princeton University. Dr. Guelzo gave an interesting comparison and contrast between the lives and careers of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

George Washington Birthday Ball

The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution celebrated George Washington's 291st birthday on February 18th at The Philadelphia Country Club in Gladwyne, PA.

PSSR Officers welcomed members and guests in the traditional receiving line, and a cocktail reception began at 6 pm. Following the reception, everyone took their seats in the dining room for the presentation of the colors led by PSSR Color Guard Captain Robert J. McNelly.

President Richard Francis Pagano then led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem. The Reverend Tommy A. Thompson of The Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge National Park gave the invocation. The Vice Presidents then gave the traditional toasts.

Attendees enjoyed two presentations that evening. Assistant Historian Andrew C. Colket spoke on how history could be affected



The man of the hour

Following dinner, members and guests danced the night away to the music of The Joe Claffy Orchestra and enjoyed an open bar. Hearty thanks go to George Washington Birthday Ball Chairman Richard Renato Paul Di Stefano, Esq., and Assistant Chairman Harvard Castle Wood, IV, for organizing and executing an exceptional event. (See related collage, pg. 45)

2023 PSSR Annual Meeting

The 135th Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Society was held Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at the 23rd Street Armory of First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry. President Richard Francis Pagano called the meeting to order at 5 pm, and Color Guard Captain Robert J. McNelly led in presentation of the colors and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. PSSR Chaplain G. Clayton Ames III offered the invocation.

The Society then heard reports from officers and committees. President Pagano, in his report, reviewed the major highlights of the previous year. President Pagano then recog



Capt. Robert J. McNelly leads the presentation of colors.

nized the fifty-year members and presented certificates to those present. Following this, the twenty-three new members inducted in the past year were presented rosettes and a complimentary copy of *Standards and Colors of the PSSR*. The Necrology Report followed and was in turn followed by an update on the Pennsylvania Society of the C.A.R.

The Society was privileged to have as a guest speaker Friederike Baer, Ph.D., who informed the membership of her fascinating research into the participation of Hessian soldiers in the Revolution. Dr. Baer, who teaches at Penn State-Abington, is author of the book *Hessians: German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War*, published by Oxford University Press.

Prior to adjournment of the meeting, Nominations Committee Co-Chair William Murray Gordon read the names of the proposed officers and managers, which the membership unanimously approved. The new officers are as follows: Richard Francis Pagano, President; William Frederick Forbes, Vice President; Kenneth Walter MacNeal, Vice President; Richard R. P. Di Stefano, Esq., Vice President; Wayne Ralph Strasbaugh, Esq., Vice President, and Christopher Michael Whelan, Vice President.

Joseph Thomas Coleman, E.D., Secretary; David Christopher Hill Byrne, Assistant Secretary; Austin William Lamac, Treasurer; Andrew Crawford Colket, Assistant Treasurer; James Kipp Gearhart, IV, Registrar; Edwin Sipler Hart, III, Historian; Rev. Tommy Alan Thompson, Chaplain; Rev. George Clayton Ames, III, Chaplain Emeritus, and Albert Lindsay Doering, IV, Esq., Counselor.

President Pagano then thanked the retiring managers and presented an award to Andrew Richard Sullivan for his outstanding work in recruiting new members. Thanks go to Annual Meeting Chairman Wayne Ralph Strasbaugh, Esq. and his committee for organizing a great meeting. Special thanks to Executive Director Schuyler C. Wickes for all his work in making the event a success.



Lancaster Annual Meeting

The Lancaster Chapter held its Annual Meeting on May 7th at Millersville University. A new slate of officers was elected and installed. We awarded our yearly academic scholarship to a Mr. Blauberg of Lancaster, who is pursuing a degree in history. Our guest speaker for the occasion was author and syndicated cartoonist Patrick Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds recently retired from producing a weekly historical cartoon strip called

'Flashbacks,' which originated in

The Washington Post and ran in that newspaper for over thirty years. Our first naturalization ceremony was held on April 21st at the Lancaster Courthouse. The next ceremony was on June 9th.

The Chapter's slate of elected officers includes:

- Troy M. Keener, Regent
- Joseph T. Coleman, Ed.D., Vice Regent
- Peter L. Hill Byrne, Treasurer
- James H. Martin, Chaplain
- Charles E. Bowman, Registrar
- Kevin C. Hill Bryne, Historian
- John E. Buckwalter, Esq., Solicitor
- G. Edward Lefevre, Color Guard Captain

—text and photos submitted by Vice President Christopher Michael Whelan



Patrick Reynolds

PHOTO BY MIKE ANDRELCZYK, LANCASTERONLINE

George Washington Birthday Ball





Saluting George Washington



NBC 10 WJAR, PROVIDENCE

The RISR and Artillery Company of Newport celebrate George Washington's 291st Birthday on February 22nd.

Following a long tradition, the Rhode Island Society and the Artillery Company of Newport came together to publicly recognize George Washington's 291st birthday on Wednesday, February 22nd. The ceremony took place in Newport, on the South Porch of the Redwood Library & Athenaeum, where a bronze replica of Houdon's Washington stands. The Color Guard of the Artillery Company of Newport began the ceremony with a presentation of colors. Society President Roy Lauth then led a reading of Washington's Prayer and presented a wreath on behalf of the RISR. The Color Guard then commenced a ceremonial musket salute. A luncheon was held after the gathering to toast those who fought for the Patriot cause in the Revolutionary War.



Challenge coins of the five patriotic societies convened for dinner.

Five Lineage Societies Host Joint Dinner

On Wednesday, May 3rd, five Rhode Island lineage societies including the Sons of the Revolution convened for a joint springtime dinner at the Quantum Association,

a private club, in Riverside. The event was held to commemorate Rhode Island Independence Day (May 4, 1776) and to celebrate the 250th anniversary year of the Boston Tea Party. The evening's guest speaker was Paul O'Shaughnessy of the Boston Tea Party Museum in Boston. His presentation did not focus on the act of dumping the tea in the harbor, but on the much lesser known backstory. In his words, "moving past the whats and delving in the whys, meaning the root issues that drove the events of that night, how they developed over time and the enormous consequences that followed."

The five convened societies were: The RISR, the Society of the Cincinnati, the Order of Founders and Patriots,



L-R: Walter Reed, President, RI Society of the Cincinnati; Roy Lauth, President, RISR; Christopher Sparks, President, RISAR; Avery "Whip" Seaman, Governor, RI Colonial Wars, and Ronald Barnes, President, RI Founders and Patriots.

the Society of Colonial Wars, and the Sons of the American Revolution. RISR President Roy Lauth confirmed 116 people attended the dinner and that they were enthralled with Mr. O'Shaughnessy's presentation.—text and photos submitted by RISR President Roy Lauth

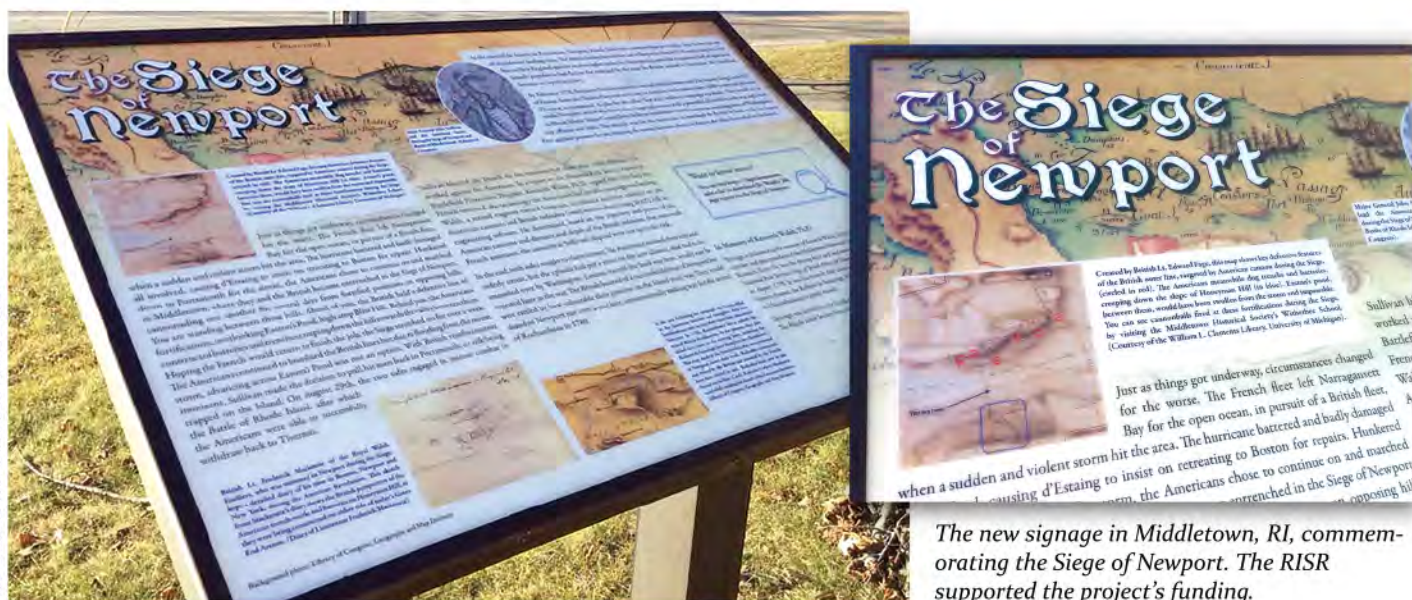
New Siege Signage for Middletown

On September 18th, the Middletown Historical Society (MHS) and RISR unveiled a new historical signboard in Middletown that denotes in detail the facts surrounding the 1778 Siege of Newport, aka the Battle of Rhode Island. The RISR was a partner in funding the project. The MHS chose the literal center of the siege zone in which to place the new marker. As people read the sign, their backsides will be facing Patriot lines (located on Honeyman Hill) and the British lines will be out in front of them (located on Bliss Hill, overlooking Easton's Pond).

During the unveiling, MHS board member Christina Alvernas said, "It is our hope that by standing in this spot,

history will come to life [for all those who read about the battle] and that the community will want to learn more about what happened here." She thanked the Rhode Island Sons for their support of the project as well as Mike Slein of the Newport Irish History Museum, who recommended the project contractor. The signboard is dedicated to the memory of Kenneth Walsh, Ph.D. (1938—2019), a founding member and past president of MHS, whose research uncovered the French origins of the fort on Vernon Avenue, the Redoute de Saintonge.

In 1778, Benjamin Franklin secured a mutual defense treaty with the French. Soon after, a plan was made to try and retake Newport from the occupying British forces. It would be the first Franco-American joint military operation, but bad weather and a breakdown of communications led to the unavailability of French forces. After a weeklong siege, the Americans retreated to the north side of Aquidneck Island before retreating to the mainland. The British attacked them in Portsmouth but the battle was inconclusive, although Britain remained in control of the island. The 1st Rhode Island Regiment, comprised of local African Americans and Native Americans, distinguished itself in providing cover to the retreating American army under Gen. John Sullivan.—compiled by Editor



The new signage in Middletown, RI, commemorating the Siege of Newport. The RISR supported the project's funding.



Charleston Evacuation Day

The South Carolina Society Sons of the

Revolution hosted a black-tie cocktail on the evening of December 10, 2022, to celebrate Evacuation Day in Charleston. The British evacuated Charleston on December 14, 1782. The event was held at the elegant Porcher-Simonds House on East Battery Street in Charleston. North Carolina Society President Gus Succop and Vice President Randall Sprinkle were present as invited guests, as well as Georgia Society members Frank Hardeman and Mitchell Bush. The cocktail was open to members and prospective members and their guests.

For many years, December 14th was a state holiday in South Carolina. When the British sailed out to sea that day, it ended more than two years of occupation. Revolutionary War Gen. William Moultrie referred to that day as "the real day of deliverance and independence" for Carolinians. Thus, another local term for the holiday was "Victory Day." (See related historical article, p 25.)



L-R: SCSR President Jeffery Murrie, SCSR VP Matthew Breen, NCSR VP Randall Sprinkle, and NCSR President Gus Succop.

SCSR Assists Commission with 250th Anniversary

The South Carolina Society is assisting the local American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission with a weekly Facebook posting called "Pee Dee Patriots." Each week, Society President Murrie chooses a different Revolutionary War patriot from the Pee Dee region to feature on the Florence County 250th Commission's Facebook page. From there it is shared to the SCSR Facebook page.

The Pee Dee region, in northeast South Carolina, is named for a local Native American group. A large river by the same name flows over 200 miles, between both Carolinas, and empties into the Atlantic at Georgetown. General Francis Marion practiced his successful guerilla warfare against the British in the Pee Dee and Low Country regions of South Carolina.



Presenting *Forgotten Founders* to Schools

In early March, the SCSR hosted a public reception at the Florence County Museum to present the Revolutionary War history book which the Society is donating to schools in the tri-county area. A copy of *Forgotten Founders* is going to the libraries of forty different public and private elementary schools in Florence, Marion, and Darlington counties.

"The importance of making this book available to children ages 7-11 cannot be underestimated," said SCSR President Jeffery Murrie. "In reading the histories of the lesser-known heroes of the Revolutionary War, students can understand the impact that every person can make in the future of their community and the world."

As reported earlier, this is part of an ongoing initiative by General President Russell Rich to improve Revolutionary War education in all states where the Sons of the Revolution operate. The Society of '83 sponsored the reception and made a donation to the museum in support of its exhibit on General Francis Marion.—text and photos submitted by SCSR President Jeffery Murrie



L-R: SCSR Treasurer David A. Kahn, Sr, President Jeffery Murrie, and member Mark Wells.



SR memorial wreath presented at Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Mountain every day and don't often consider that they are walking in unmarked cemeteries," remarked Legg. "The dead are still there. The work we are doing honors their sacrifice by shedding light on details that are not yet documented in the historical record and by providing them with decent marked graves for the contemplation of battlefield visitors."

Given the significance of the find, the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust, Historic Camden Foundation, and the Governor's Office stepped in to organize a proper and meaningful reinterment with full military honors for thirteen of the fourteen individuals. Researchers are still trying to lock down more verifiable facts about the Loyalist of Native American heritage before reinterment is arranged for those remains. Douglas W. Bostick of the SCBPT chaired the Steering Committee for this event.

On Thursday, April 20th, Army Humvees transported the hand-crafted coffins draped in flags from the State Capitol in Columbia to the Kershaw Cornwallis House in Camden, where they remained in repose until Saturday. A funeral cortege with mule-drawn caissons transported the coffins to the Bethesda Presbyterian Church on Saturday morning for an outdoors funeral service then to the Camden Battlefield for an Honors Ceremony. The procession was led by the US Army Old Guard, followed by 282nd Army Band from Fort Jackson, S.C., followed by the Color Guard of the NSSAR.

The funeral comprised a joint Anglican and Presbyterian service with eighteenth-century rites. It also featured a flyover of the US Air Force 79th Fighter Squadron from Shaw Air Force Base. Afterward, the procession commenced to the battlefield, where the coffins were placed on pre-constructed stands in front of the speakers' platform. Once the caskets were in place, a bugler played "Taps" and a bagpiper played "Flowers of the Forest."

Seven riflemen from the SC National Guard fired three volleys. The ceremony included remarks from several officials, the presentation of folded flags to representative dignitaries, and a flyover of SC National Guard AH-64 Apache helicopters. The remains of the veterans were later privately reinterred in the seven locations where they were found on the battlefield.

—Compiled by Editor

13 Revolutionary War Veterans Reinterred

During the weekend of April 20-22, 2023, members of the S.C. and Georgia Sons gathered in Camden, S.C., for an extraordinary event: a public procession, funeral service, and reinterment ceremony for fourteen Revolutionary War soldiers whose remains had been excavated late last year from very shallow locations at the 1780 battle site. The send-off event attracted thousands of people, including many from patriotic lineage societies, heritage organizations, and veterans' groups. Jeffery Murrie, President of the South Carolina Society, was named an honorary pall-bearer.

Archaeologists and anthropologists from the state and county levels, and from the University of South Carolina, uncovered the humbling finds from September through November of last year. Public Archaeologist James Legg and Research Professor Dr. Steven Smith led that project. The field team concluded that twelve of the fourteen were Continental soldiers from either Maryland or Delaware; one was a British soldier of the 71st Regiment of Foot (Fraser's Highlanders), and the other a North Carolina Loyalist of Native American heritage, possibly from the Lumbee Tribe.

"People visit battlefields like Camden, Cowpens and Kings



South Carolina National Guardsmen drape the caskets with the Stars & Stripes



All Camden burial photos by

- Sgt. 1st Class Margaret Taylor, Maryland National Guard
- Airman 1st Class Erin Stanley, 20th FWPA, Shaw Air Force Base
- South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust
- Others courtesy SCSR





Rendezvous by the River

During the weekend of April 14-15, members of the Tennessee Society Sons of the Revolution (TNSSR) attended the 3rd Annual Tennessee River Rendezvous in Saltillo, Tennessee,

just inside the northern boundary of Hardin County in West Tennessee.

The different wars represented included the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, the Civil War, and the two World Wars. The TNSSR set up a Revolutionary War-period campsite to host educational programming. On Friday, TNSSR member Bob Jones donned the attire of soldier-frontiersman-governor John Sevier. As Sevier, he addressed 400 local students about the early Watauga settlements of extreme northeastern East Tennessee.

He also related the story of the famed Overmountain Men and their march over the Blue Ridge Mountains to confront British Maj. Patrick Ferguson and his loyalist militias. The march culminated in the Battle of Kings Mountain, which Sevier participated in and resulted in a significant victory for the Americans.

The students were very interested in the story of the early settlers as well as the Revolutionary War veterans. "Living history programs and venues provide a great opportunity to educate the public about our state's early history and the American Revolution," Bob said.

On Saturday, TNSSR member John Cooper presented his collection of contemporary long rifles to the general public and spoke about militia life as well as the artistic value of flintlock rifles. The event coordinator, Mike Fields, was very pleased with the participation of the TNSSR and will be in contact with us to schedule our attendance at the 2024 event.—submitted by TNSSR member Bob Jones.



TNSSR member John Cooper (left) and Randall Ross (right) enjoy fellowship at the militia campsite set up for the 3rd Annual Tennessee River Rendezvous.

PHOTO BY BOB JONES.



FACEBOOK.COM

Highlights of the living history weekend in Saltillo, TN.



2023 Washington Birthday Dinner

Our Society held its 126th Annual George Washington Birthday Dinner on February 25th at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond Virginia. The black-tie event was sold out early in February and attended by over 250 Society members. Our guest speaker was retired Lt. Col. Oliver North (USMC), who gave a presentation based on his 2019 book of fact and historical fiction, *The Rifleman*. Daniel Morgan was a sharp-shooting rifleman from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia who with his company of expert riflemen kept the British from advancing toward Yorktown which prevented a land attack to the rear of Washington's troops thus aiding in the defeat of the British.

Other honored guests for the evening were Vice Admiral Thomas Wilson, USN (Ret.), Vice Admiral Andrew L. Lewis, USN (Ret.) Rear Admiral Robert P. Wright, USN (Ret.), Major General Robert D. Carlson, Major General Paul W. Brier, USMC (Ret.), Brigadier General Chad T. Manske, USAF (Ret.) and Rear Admiral Frederic du Rupilly, French Marine Nationale.

The Society grew by thirty-six new members in 2022, and more than twenty of them attended the dinner, where they were formally welcomed into our Society.



Lt. Col. North addresses attendees on his research into the Revolutionary War and the role played by Daniel Morgan and his sharpshooters.



The traditional silent toast to General Washington



L-R, SCSR President Jeff Murrie, PSSR President Richard F. Pagano, VSSR President Matson Roberts, and VSSR 1st Vice President Mark Jakobowski



The event began with over 250 attendees anxious to hear Col North



View of the impressive collection of VSSR flags on display above the reception area of the American Revolution Museum in Yorktown, Virginia.

Virginia Society Stand of Colors

The American Revolution Museum in Yorktown Virginia is now the permanent home of our stand of fifty-six Revolutionary War flags. We added two new flags to our collection at the dinner this year which have joined the rest of our flags prominently displayed above the main entry to the museum, highly visible to all visitors from inside of the large reception area. The history of each flag will be displayed in a presentation on monitors mounted around the reception room.



Presentation of a ceremonial sword to Past President Roberts from President Jakobowski.

2023 Annual Meeting

The weather could not have been better on May 1st for the Society's 2023 Annual Meeting at the Tuckahoe Woman's Club in Richmond Virginia. At the Board of Managers Meeting, we approved our officers for 2023 – 2024 and our Patriots Fund donations which totaled \$20,000 to organizations such as the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, James Monroe Memorial Foundation, The Virginia Convention of 1776 conservation project and the American Revolution Museum in Yorktown.

At the conclusion of the Board Meeting, our Society's Annual Meeting was held for all members and guests in attendance. Our newly elected officers were introduced, Mr. Mark M. Jakobowski, President; Mr. Dick Stone, 1st Vice President; Mr. Joe Thornton, 2nd Vice President; Mr. Sean O'Hara, Secretary and Mr. Barry Almond, Treasurer were introduced and special recognition was given to Mrs. Laurie Nesbitt, State Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution as our honored guest.

Following the meeting, our annual

Garden Reception and Cocktail Party with traditional Southern fare was held with over 200 members and guests in attendance. Additionally, we participated in a wreath laying ceremony in remembrance of President James Monroe at the Hollywood Cemetery. On May 11th, the Society attended a Naturalization Ceremony at the American Revolution Museum in Yorktown, where ninety-nine individuals took the oath as their final step to becoming US citizens.



Sean O'Hara delivering our Patriots Fund check to Scott Dodson, Executive Director of the Library of Virginia



VSSR President Jakobowski delivering a Patriots Fund check to Homer Lanier, Director of the American Revolution Museum.

Planned Fall Events

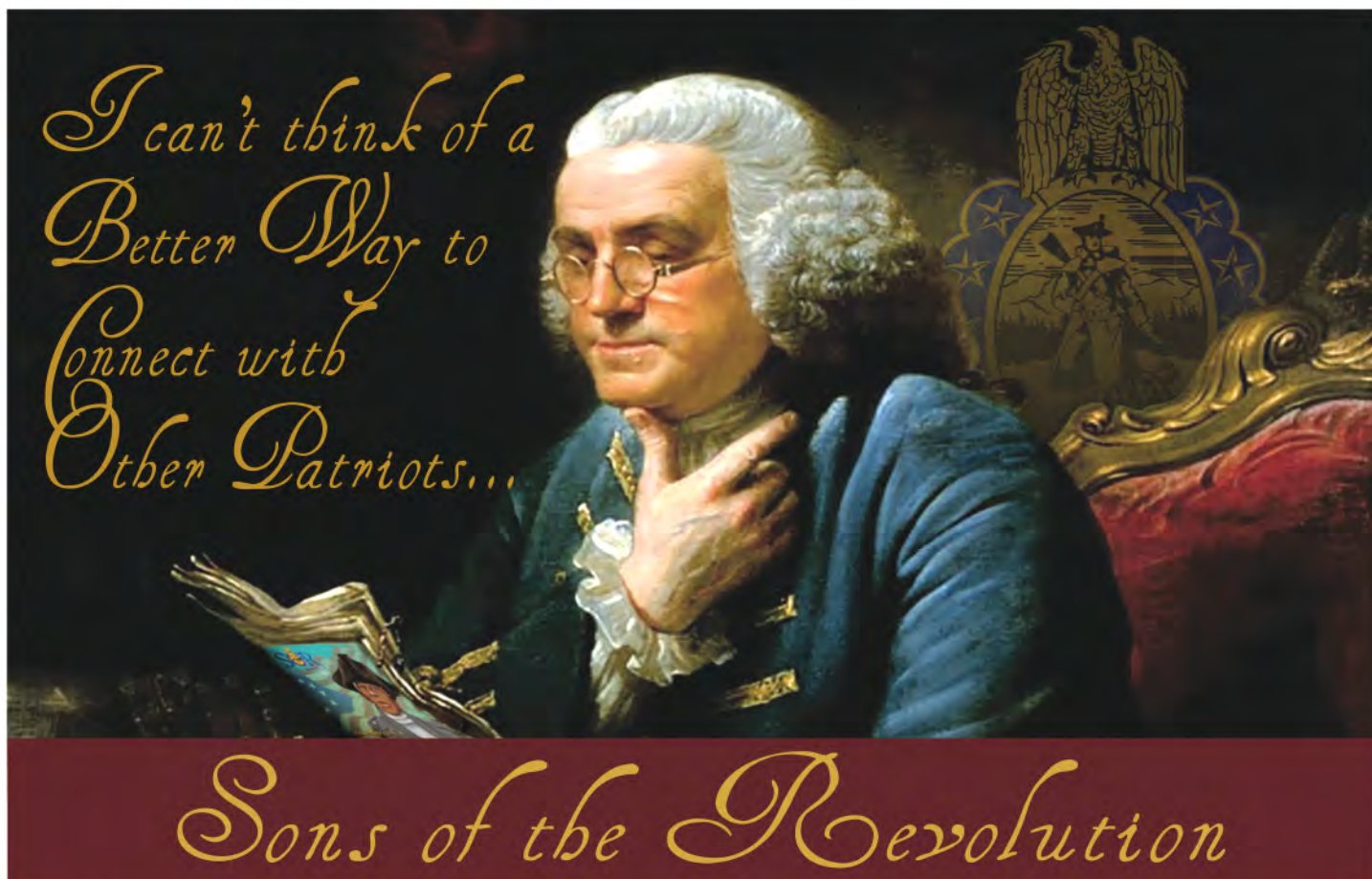
We are holding our second annual "Boots, Blue Jeans, BBQ and Bluegrass" event on October 8, 2023, at the Deep Run Hunt Club, a beautiful Virginia countryside fox hunt venue. In October we will hold our annual new member Bourbon and Cigar tasting event at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond and to wrap up our year, in November, we will continue our support of The Society of Colonial Wars and The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in co-sponsoring their Annual Oyster Roast at Wilton House in Richmond.—*all text and photos submitted by VSSR President Mark Jakobowski*



Newly elected officers of SRWI have been making presentations about the ease of membership transition to SR for SAR members. These programs were presented at the Fort Dearborn Chapter, SAR (Chicago, Union League Club) and at the Joint Hereditary Luncheon of the Wisconsin Societies (Milwaukee, Michigan Athletic Club). They have resulted in several inquiries, including a promised membership from one of the nation's leading hereditary dons.



Milwaukee Luncheon, December 3rd, 2022. Mrs. Margaret Erbes, guest speaker, presents on the subject of gunpowder and its historic use and manufacture in the USA.





Charleston's Evacuation Day

By Matthew M. Breen,
Vice President and Solicitor
South Carolina Society



The Evacuation Of Charleston by Howard Pyle (1898)

The 14th of December is an important date not only for Charleston, but for the entire South and deserves to be remembered and celebrated. On that day in 1782, the last of the British forces that had occupied the city for nearly three years made their final mass exodus. After many months of preparation, the remnants of Britain's southern army, including thousands of soldiers, loyalist civilians, and enslaved Africans, departed peacefully in a massive flotilla.

Maj. Gen. William Moultrie declared in his memoirs, "This fourteenth day of December, 1782, ought never to be forgotten by the Carolinians; it ought to be the day of festivity with them, as it is the real day of their deliverance and independence."

It was, in many ways, Victory Day for the entire region, and, one could argue, for nearly the thirteen states. Many people think that the American Revolution ended in October 1781, when British Gen. Sir Charles Cornwallis surrendered his forces to the Continental Army at Yorktown, Virginia. While that decisive battle ended Britain's dream of crushing the rebellion, it certainly wasn't the end of the war.

Aside from controlling New York City, the Redcoats continued to occupy parts of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Thousands of people in these Southern states continued to endure violence, and the Continental Army continued to fight against the unwelcome occupation.

Action following Yorktown

While most Patriot soldiers quit the army and returned to civilian life after Yorktown, Gen. Washington sent Lt. Col. Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee and Brig. Gen. "Mad" Anthony Wayne to South Carolina with their respective troops. They joined up with the men under Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene, commander of the Southern Army, who had remained in the deep South after Cornwallis led his army to Virginia.

The British recalled Gen. Sir Charles Cornwallis and sent Maj. Gen. Alexander Leslie to Charleston in November 1781. British forces still held Savannah, Wilmington, and the area around Charleston from Johns Island to Monck's Corner. By Christmas, however, the Redcoats had control of only Savannah, the peninsula of Charleston, and a few bits of land east of the Cooper River. Over the succeeding months, Greene continued moving his headquarters closer and closer to Charleston.

When news of the American and French victory at Yorktown reached London in late 1781, it shook the British government to its core. George III, who had vigorously supported the war from its beginning in 1775, considered abdicating his crown. Public sentiment against the war, and the Tory government that supported it, rose to a climax. Four months after Yorktown, the Commons adopted a motion to suspend offensive operations against their former colonies in North America. In March of 1782, Lord North's government collapsed, and in April a new Whig govern



The 1780 Siege of Charleston by Alonzo Chappel (1860)

ment under William Petty, 2nd Earl of Shelburne, began exploring negotiating for peace.

British agents reached out to Benjamin Franklin, then residing in France, and opened an informal discussion of a peace treaty to end the war. On certain conditions, the British agents stated, Britain might be willing to acknowledge the independence of the United States. Franklin rebuffed the overture, arguing that the United States had long ago declared and already won its independence. Negotiations could only begin when the British government was prepared to acknowledge this fact. The peace process cooled for several months.

Meanwhile, back in Charleston, Gen. Leslie in May of that year purportedly received secret orders from his superiors to abandon the southern states. On the 23rd of May, Leslie wrote to Gen. Greene, proposing that they should settle a cease fire agreement between their respective armies. Greene refused, stating that he had neither the orders nor authority to enter such an agreement.

Skirmishing for Food

The Southern Army was too small to launch a direct assault on occupied Charleston, but the feisty

general intended to annoy and harass the enemy to the end. Under pressure from American forces surging into Georgia, British soldiers and loyalists retreated to Savannah in the late spring of 1782, and then evacuated that city on July 11th. Their areas of control had been whittled down to New York City and the peninsula of Charleston.

As British supplies dwindled in the late summer, Leslie asked Greene to allow them to purchase food and firewood from the Americans. If this reasonable request was refused, Leslie warned, it would become necessary to take such supplies by force. Greene refused his request. True to his word, Leslie sent parties into the countryside to confiscate supplies, and General Greene sent American soldiers to check their raids.

This led to a few armed skirmishes that unfortunately resulted in casualties. In late August 1782, Lt. Col. John Laurens and several of his fellow patriot soldiers died near the Combahee River ferry while attempting to prevent British soldiers from confiscating barrels of rice from a nearby plantation.

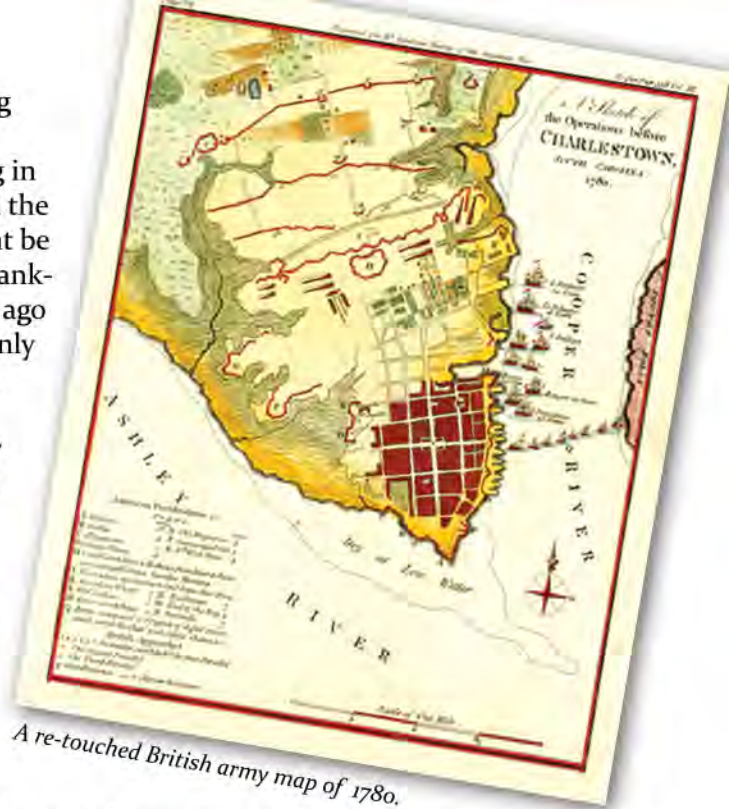
On the 14th of November 1782, Capt. William Wilmot of Maryland led a small band of Americans against a much larger British foraging party at Dills Bluff on James Island. Capt. Wilmot, and Lt. Moore, also of Maryland, and an enslaved man named William Smith were mortally wounded in the fight. These men probably represent the final American casualties of the War of Independence. As blood was being spilt on James Island in mid-November 1782, the British evacuation of Charleston was already underway.

The Coming Evacuation

To remove more than 14,000 people from the town, the British Navy had ordered a large number of warships, transport vessels, and support craft to rendezvous in Charleston harbor. As the autumn of 1782 progressed, British ships arrived and began taking on cargo. The Americans outside the town tried to pressure Leslie to prevent the removal of confiscated property, including enslaved people, but they were powerless to prevent the removal of a vast quantity of people and property.

Meanwhile in Paris, diplomats signed a preliminary agreement to end the war on the 30th of November 1782. Without settling any specifics, the British government acknowledged and recognized the independence of the United States of America. On the 5th of December 1782, George III announced to Parliament that a provisional peace treaty was signed and that he had instructed his agents "to declare [the colonies] Free and Independent States..."

When intelligence suggested that the British were nearing the end of their preparations for departure, Greene ordered the advance guard under Wayne and Lee to cross the Ashley River and investigate. During the late evening of Thursday, December 12th, and the early morning of Friday the 13th, they crossed into what is now North Charleston and marched south towards the British lines of fortification across on the Neck of the peninsula. Their orders were "to endeavour as much as possible to harass the retiring [British] garrison."



Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene

Before any offensive operations began, however, a civilian named Maurice Simmons arrived from the town bearing a message from Gen. Leslie. He proposed that if the Americans would allow the British to withdraw from the town without harassment, and without any impediment, the departing troops would do no harm to the town. It was the same request Gen. William Howe had made to Washington prior to evacuating Boston. Like Washington had, Wayne readily agreed to the proposition.

The Last Blast!

The firing of a cannon on the morning of the 14th was the signal for Wayne to begin a slow march down the broad path, now King Street Road, towards the town. Just before 11 a.m., they reached the outermost fortifications across Charleston neck, approximately where King Street crosses Columbus Street. Meanwhile, the retreating navy had posted armed galleys in both the Ashley and Cooper Rivers, and these vessels rowed southward along the edges of the peninsula, keeping their watchful eyes fixed on the advancing American troops. British men-of-war stretched along the length of the Cooper River waterfront, with cannon loaded and matches lit, just in case.

Fortunately, the evacuation took place without incident. Marching down King Street, the weary soldiers found the town quiet and seemingly deserted. There were no fireworks, no rapturous crowds, no celebratory bands or streaming banners. Adhering to the last British command, the town's few remaining inhabitants stayed locked in their homes until the potential for danger had passed. It was not until later in the day that the townspeople began to feel relieved and began welcoming the Patriot army, the generals, the provisional governor, and others in authority.

The published memoir of Maj. Gen. William Moultrie contains a telling description of the events as of late afternoon: "It was a grand and pleasing sight, to see the enemy's fleet (upwards of three hundred sail) laying at anchor from Fort Johnson to Five-fathom-hole, in a curve[d] line, as the current runs; and what made it more agreeable, they were ready to depart from the port. The great joy that was felt on this day, by the citizens and soldiers, was inexpressible..."

On Tuesday, the 17th of December, 1782, the last vessels of the British fleet crossed the bar at the mouth of Charleston harbor and sailed away into the Atlantic. Life in Charleston, and the rest of South Carolina, very slowly returned to normal in the weeks and months to come.



Maj. Gen. William Moultrie



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HIS STORY:

The Adventuresome Battles of Gustavus Conyngham

By David W. Swafford, Editor

Capt. Gustavus Conyngham (1747-1819), an Irish immigrant who arrived in the Colonies as a teenager in 1763, endured the same fate as many heroes of the American Revolution. After giving his absolute all for the freedom of his adopted country, performing feats no one else did, Congress denied the man his just rewards. Lacking proof of his commission as a naval officer, he died in relative obscurity and quickly faded from collective memory.

Despite those unfortunate circumstances, Conyngham's name has rebounded in the last century or more. It rightfully belongs in the same echelon as John Paul Jones, Esek Hopkins, and John Barry—or, for that matter, Henry Knox, Anthony Wayne, and Nathanael Greene. There was no other patriot or privateer who crossed the seas chasing the British as far and wide as Conyngham did and captured the amount of prizes he did. Nor was there a captain who irritated the British to such an extent.

In 1903, the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution (PSSR) published a booklet on Conyngham's remarkable achievements, titled simply, *Captain Gustavus Conyngham*. It was written by Charles H. Jones, Chairman of the Society's Board of Managers at the time.



Front cover, 1903 PSSR booklet.

Incredible Achievements

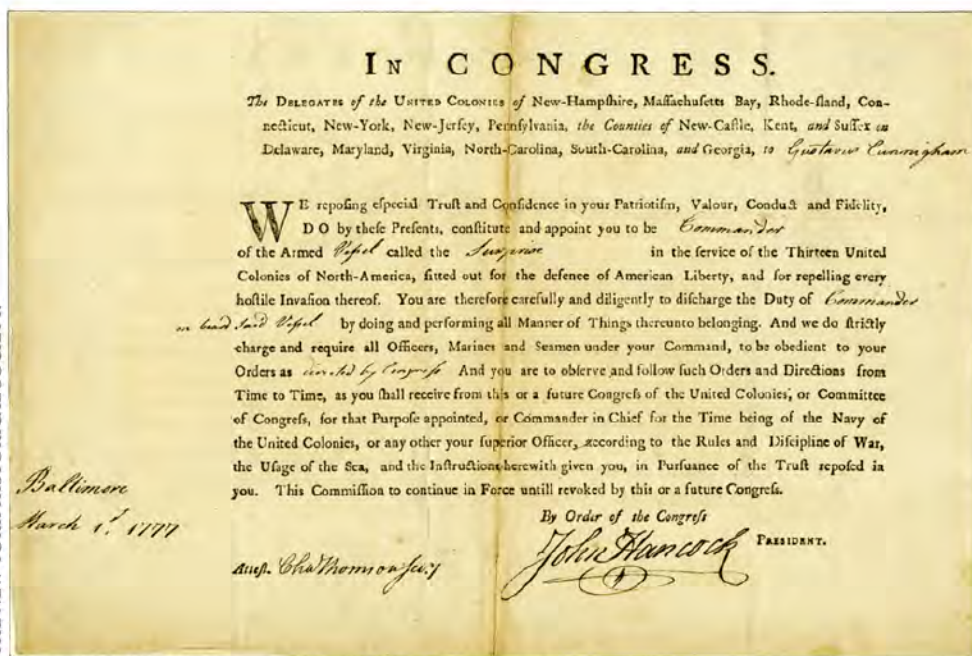
From 1775 to early 1778, he targeted the English Channel and other watery peripheries of the British Isles. Those waters, according to the PSSR booklet, provided "the most inviting place for [that] kind of attack, but it was at the same time the most perilous, for these channels were narrow and these seas were limited in their area, and they were all carefully guarded by large, vigilant, and fully equipped English fleets."

Undaunted, Conyngham sailed boldly along the east coast of England into the North Sea and the region of the Baltic, and back again through the Strait of Dover, into the Irish Channel, and from there across the rough waters of the Bay of Biscay. Reports of his prizes were frequent. In part because of him, British shipping insurance rates jumped an average of 28 percent during the Revolutionary War. Britain placed five warships in the English Channel to stop him, but they were not successful. Some merchants were so fearful of losses they used French and Dutch shipping instead.

In March 1777, Conyngham obtained a commission as Captain in the Continental Navy from American commissioners in France. Two months later, he captured two British vessels in the North Sea and took them to Dunkirk, France—a mistake. Since France had yet to sign the alliance with the Colonies, British authorities quickly called it a violation of French neutrality, and the French were forced to confiscate Conyngham's commission and surrender it to the British. He was held in a French prison for some time.



Gustavus Conyngham portrait



Conyngham's historical commission, dated March 1, 1777.

Back in the U.S.A.

In the spring of 1779, after Conyngham made his way back to the United States, he was apprehended by the British in New York. He was thrown into prison and soon transferred to England. There, bound in heavy irons, he was kept in a dungeon under deplorable conditions. After several attempts, he managed to escape in November of that year. He lived incognito in London for a time and enjoyed seeing prints of himself in shop windows. It was during this time the king wanted him hanged.

"When Congress heard that the English proposed to try Conyngham as a pirate," Jones wrote, "their Ministers were informed that he was a commissioned officer, and that three English officers had been placed in confinement [in America] to await his fate."

A report in Britannica Encyclopedia reports that he escaped the dungeon and fled to Holland, where in 1780 he joined John Paul Jones on the frigate *Alliance*. Later, after acquiring his own ship, he was once again found out, apprehended, and imprisoned. Finally, thanks to the intervention of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, he was released in a prisoner exchange and sent home.

For the remainder of his life, he tried in vain to obtain his commission to hold Congress accountable for his share of the prizes he collected. A captain and crew under Continental Navy regulations were reportedly entitled to one-half the value of all goods onboard private vessels captured. Of that amount, the captain was to have one-tenth.

He never gave up hope that his commission would resurface. Following Benjamin Franklin's death in 1790, Conyngham's hopes became an obsession. Even in middle-age, he sailed again to Europe wanting to track down the commission. It was nowhere to be found.

His Commission Resurfaces

"Though he held a grudge against the government, he would continue to serve his country," writes Erin Weinman, manuscript reference librarian for the New-York Historical Society. "He was elected to the Common Council of Philadel-

Even that did not stop him. Assuming the role of a privateer, he was outfitted with another ship and continued to harass British shipping to every extent possible. Over the next eighteen months, July 1777 to February 1779, he operated around the British Isles, off Spain, and in the West Indies, where he took twenty-seven prizes and sank thirty ships. During the time he was sailing off Spain, funding from his prizes was given to John Adams, as the Congressman-and-diplomat made his way from Spain to Paris, France, to replace Silas Deane.



Conyngham gravesite, Philadelphia



phia and assisted in the defense of the city during the War of 1812. A true fighter, he never gave up his own personal fight over his commission, which continued on until his death in 1819." He was buried in his adopted hometown of Philadelphia, in the old cemetery of Saint Peter's Episcopal Churchyard.

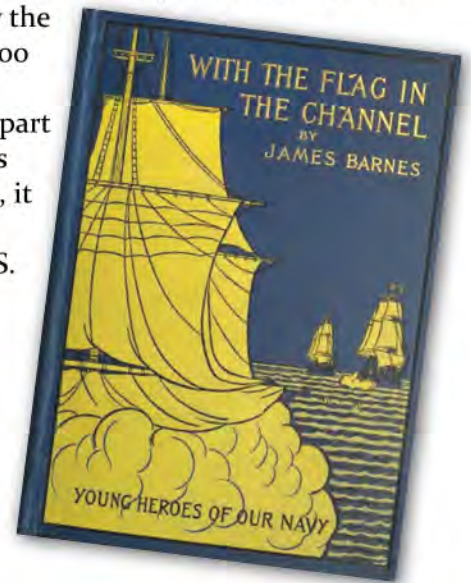
Weinman reports that toward the end of the nineteenth century, John Barnes, a naval historian and avid collector of Revolutionary War documents, while in Paris came across an advertisement for a print at the M. Charavay print shop there for 10 francs. Behold! It was Conyngham's

original commission, signed by John Hancock, president of Congress.

In 1902, Barnes published a book entitled, *With the Flag in the Channel*. "That bold Gustavus Conyngham was badly treated by his country and hardly handled by Fate the reader can perceive. He had helped the cause in the way it most needed help, but, notwithstanding, unrewarded, the man who flew the flag in the Channel went broken-hearted to his grave, and now out of the past too late, comes the authentic proof of his cause and asseverations."

In 1925, the commission found its way to the New-York Historical Society as part of the Naval History Society Collection. As Weinman writes, "Although it seems almost cruel that the document would be found years after Conyngham's death, it proves just how interesting a single document's history can be."

Although he wasn't properly reimbursed by Congress, since his death the U.S. Navy has named three destroyers in his honor. In addition to the destroyers being named after him, he is also the namesake for Conyngham Borough, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, in the northeastern region of the state.



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Treaty of Paris Bicentennial Inspires Postal Artwork

First-Day Covers of the Treaty of Paris Bicentennial Stamp

With this issue of *SONS Drumbeat*, we continue our examination of the Fleetwood Company's series of cacheted First-Day Covers (FDCs) celebrating the 1983 Treaty of Paris Bicentennial Stamp. In the last two issues, we looked at three FDCs that featured the artwork of Jim Butcher. Now we move on to other renowned artists Fleetwood contracted to lend their talents for the series, namely Shannon Stirnweis and David K. Stone.

Fleetwood was the largest producer of cacheted FDCs in the country at the time and was particularly known for including artwork of outstanding quality. The Treaty of Paris of 1783, signed on September 3, brought the Revolutionary War to an end and recognized the independence of the United States. —Ed.



Shannon Stirnweis

Fleetwood Company called Shannon Stirnweis “an imminently successful historical illustrator.” The late artist, who succumbed in 2019, over the years produced images for Fleetwood that the company included in several new stamp series. As far as we know, this image of the three American negotiators of peace is the only artwork Stirnweis produced for the Treaty of Paris bicentennial stamp.

Left to right, it shows John Jay, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams entering the Hotel d'York in Paris, where they signed the treaty that ended the Revolutionary War and recognized American independence. Franklin called the treaty “the greatest triumph in the history of American diplomacy.” John Adams would probably have disagreed, given his own diplomatic success in the Dutch Republic the year before. Nonetheless he, too, was ecstatic about concluding the war. John Jay, for his part, not only contributed to the Treaty of Paris, but his namesake treaty (Jay's Treaty, 1794) curtailed at least for a few years the rekindling of hostilities between the United States and Britain.

Stirnweis wanted to be remembered most for his scenes of the American West. However, his talent bore out in various genres, including other facets of American history.

Born in 1931, Stirnweis had a long and varied career as an illustrator and fine artist. He began producing black-and-white illustrations for men's adventure magazines in the 1950s, eventually doing color covers for many glossy periodicals. By the end of his life, his illustrations could be found on magazine covers, postage stamps, movie posters, paperback books, as well as over thirty-five children's books. Toward the end of his life, Stirnweis published a memoir entitled, *80 Years Behind the Brush*.





The National Committee for the Bicentennial of the Treaty of Paris.

image of Washington reveals a warmth and humanity about him that traditional illustrations of Washington lack.

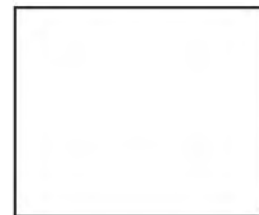
Stone was a native of Reedsport, Oregon, and an illustrator for over eighty books and magazines. His paintings are part of a permanent collection in the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Princeton University, the Smithsonian Institution, Society of Illustrators, as well as in private collections.

David K. Stone

Fleetwood said of David K. Stone (1922-2001) that without question, he ranked as one of America's foremost artists. By 1983, Stone had already designed two United States postage stamps—the 1970 Fort Snelling issue, and the 1974 Fort Harrod issue. For the Treaty of Paris bicentennial stamp, Fleetwood hired Stone to produce a series of images that it would use on its cacheted FDCs. The series comprised portraits of great American patriots who contributed mightily to the achievement of independence, hence the name of the series, Champions of Freedom. Each portrait was printed on a postcard featuring the Treaty of Paris bicentennial stamp. In this issue, we begin with his first portrait in the Cham-



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