

# The SONS DRUMBEAT

Volume 35

Number 3

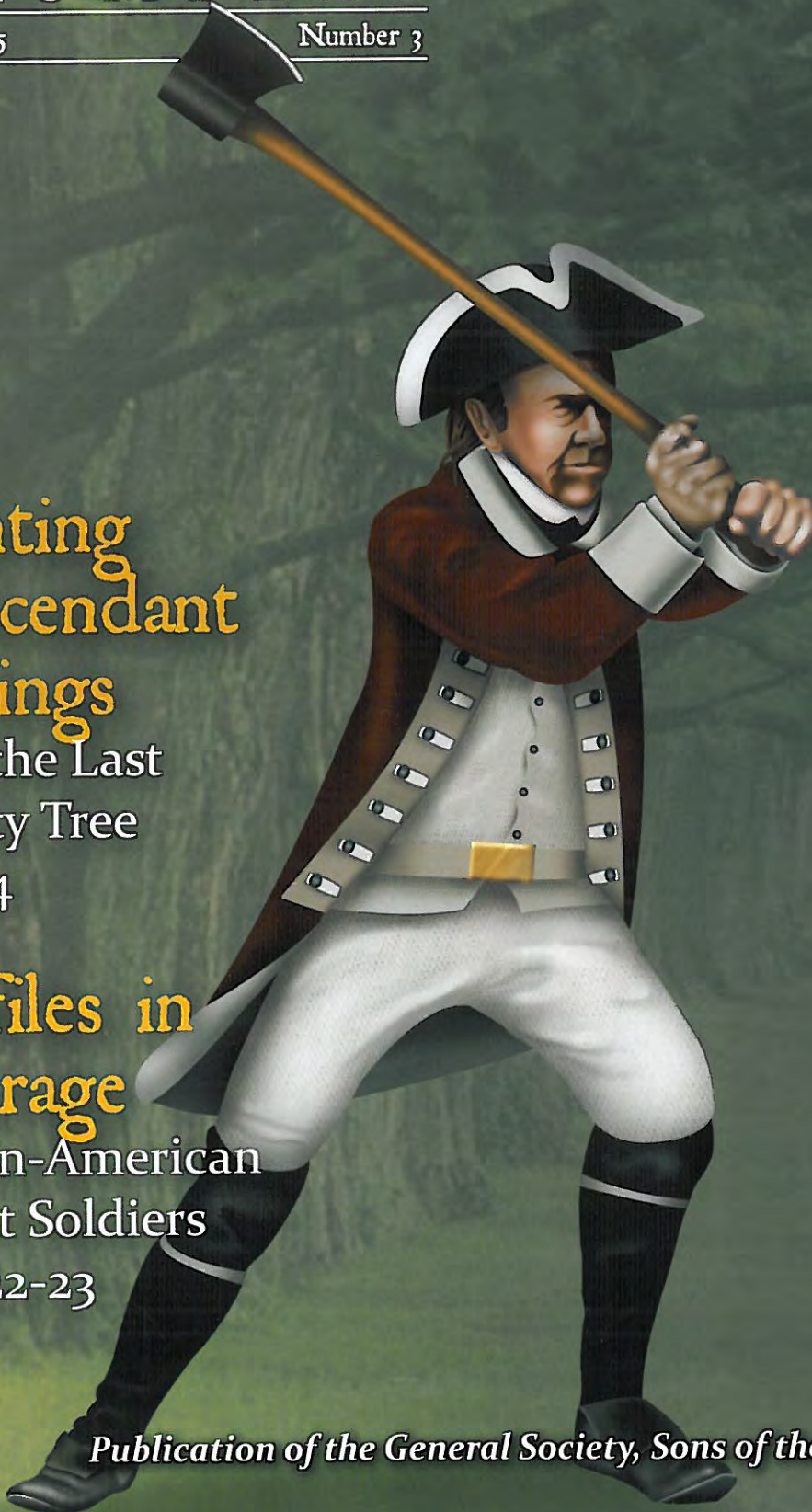
## Planting Descendant Saplings

... of the Last  
Liberty Tree  
Page 4

## Profiles in Courage

African-American  
Patriot Soldiers  
Page 22-23

*Publication of the General Society, Sons of the Revolution*



# National Report

## October BOM Meeting Successful; Charleston Charms the GSSR



Photos courtesy Ivan Bennett and David Rutherford

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends,

We as a nation are going through some edgy times, as evidenced by the number of professional football players not standing during the playing of the National Anthem and by the number of historical monuments that are either being vandalized, defaced or altogether removed. Are these two issues linked to any degree? In some instances, yes.

The athletes want to bring awareness to perceived social injustices and continued discrimination against certain segments of our society. In like manner, many of the memorial vandalizers and flag-burners want to communicate that the history of our country's social injustice, particularly during the era of slavery, must not be glorified.

Nearly two hundred and fifty years ago, the American Revolution started by way of a small number of people taking a hard stand against authority. Do the two ages, today and yesterday, have any commonality? Perhaps they do. American Patriots, after all, were fighting against what they felt were social and political injustices: Taxation without Representation, for one. But that may be where the similarities fade away, and I am certainly not advocating a new Revolution.

The Patriots had very specific grievances in terms of what they felt were social injustices, and they held these grievances against a single perpetrator, the British Crown. Meanwhile, I am uncertain the unpatriotic NFL players and monument destroyers can produce a list of specific grievances against a single adversary.

I defer to Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. With Texas courage and tact, he drew a line in the sand. Yes, he will kneel with players on the field to underscore social injustices and a need for conscientious change. But, do it before the National Anthem begins. Once that music starts, they ought to be standing. To stand for the National Anthem not only shows a love of country, but it also shows respect for the millions of Americans who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and died for this land.

In today's America, is it too much to ask of us to celebrate freedom of speech and the right to voice our opinions, yet refrain from disrespecting a national symbol and traditional rules of sports? Is it too much to ask of us to be able to hold opposing views, demonstrate them publicly, yet not run a car into a crowd of pedestrians? Finally, it is too much to ask in today's America that while we honor the sacred freedom and right to gun ownership, we show the moral restraint not to shoot at scores of innocent persons?

These latest incidents and tragedies show how desperately we as a society need balance and tolerance. Our democracy is an imperfect one, and our history is an imperfect one. However, had it not been for the ideals of our Founding Fathers which transcended their own times, we would not have the personal freedoms today which we have come to take for granted: namely, the Bill of Rights.

The heritage of our democracy extends back to George Washington's decision to resign his military commission. In that monumental decision, he put the interests of the people before his own. Several years after the Revolutionary War, he led the Constitutional Convention that established our government with its system of checks and balances and provided us a governing document that could be amended as time went on. It wasn't a perfect system, but it had a self-governing mechanism that has allowed for the people's voice to be heard and for the system to evolve over time.

For all those today who clamor to express their opinions freely with no retribution, they have the Founding Fathers to thank. Let's show Washington, Jefferson and all others of their time a measure of our respect and gratitude, rather than intolerance for their era's egregious mistakes. They did get a few things right. The lack of compassion, empathy and gratitude we are showing our fellow beings, whether they are alive or deceased, is surely our doom. Indeed, it takes a whole community.



## Last-Standing Liberty Tree Bears Multiple Descendants!

Prior to the American Revolution, Patriots throughout the Colonies gathered under designated “Liberty Trees” or around “Liberty Poles” to rally against the tyranny of British rule. After war broke out, British soldiers cut down as many of these tall symbols as they could.

When the British occupied Boston, they cut down the Liberty Tree there. When they occupied Newport, R.I., they did the same. In Charleston, they cut down that tree, too, and even burned the stump. However, they didn’t get them all.

Maryland’s official Liberty Tree, a tulip poplar on the campus of St. John’s College in Annapolis, was the last-standing of the original thirteen. It stood nearly four centuries until it had to be cut down in 1999. It did not survive the beating of Hurricane Floyd in September of that year.

On 25 October 1999, the Liberty Tree was taken down following a ceremony celebrating its long life. Its diameter at nearly five feet high measured one hundred and two inches. The tree was about ninety-six feet tall and had a total spread of sixty feet.

Fortunately, for all Americans, Maryland resident and landscaper Mark Mehnert rescued the historic wood after the tree had been cut down. The wood was purchased in 2001 by the Providence Forum of Philadelphia, and with it they began an educational and preservation program designed to “Revive the Spirit of Liberty” in America. The non-profit sponsored the original bud-grafting program from which many seedlings were successfully propagated.

Nearly two dozen saplings have already been distributed throughout the United States, all of which have the same DNA structure as the original. One of the saplings, in fact, was planted at St. John’s College earlier this year. Another sapling this September was planted at Brandywine Battlefield Park. Others have been planted at state capitols, courthouses, and universities from coast to coast.

Additionally, in April 2016, the Providence Forum gifted five planks of the Liberty Tree wood and one surviving branch to the recently opened Museum of the American Revolution (MAR), Philadelphia. It was used in the creation of a life-size Liberty Tree display.

As the mother tree was a symbol of faith in the independence of this nation, the offspring symbolize hope in our country’s future. Long may they live! If your State Society would like to plant one or more of these saplings as a project, contact General President Emeritus Curt Cheyney at [ccheyney3@wgflaw.com](mailto:ccheyney3@wgflaw.com), or call (484) 433-5443—*Editor*



*Maryland officials and volunteers celebrate a new Liberty Tree at St. John’s College.*



*On display at Philadelphia’s National Constitution Center*

## The Liberty Tree Eagle

Commissioned by the Providence Forum in 2001 and on long-term loan to the National Constitution Center of Philadelphia, this wooden bald eagle was carved from a lengthy piece of the Liberty Tree that stood in Annapolis, Maryland for nearly four hundred years—until 1999.

Spanning six feet across and three feet high, the artwork is not only venerable because of the hallowed tree from which it sprung forth: The individual who carved it was the late Eugene Landon, renowned woodcraftsman from Montoursville, Pennsylvania. Mr. Landon was a highly sought-after period furniture maker. He taught classes in eighteenth-century furniture making at the Olde Mill Cabinet Shoppe in York, Pennsylvania, and was a founding member of the Society of American Period Furniture Makers.

His work is displayed in many museums across the United States and in the White House. He was often featured in the pages of *Fine Woodworking* magazine. He was also a respected consultant to leading museum curators and antique dealers. A student of his who was invited to his home and shop described it as “the period furniture maker’s mother lode.” Eugene Landon passed away 1 June 2011. He was 76 years old.—*Editor*

# America, the Beautiful, Thank You!

By J. Robert Lunney,  
General President Emeritus

On 28 June of this year, recently elected President of the Republic of Korea, Moon Jae-in, visited the United States for strategic talks and paid an emotional visit to the Jangjin (Chosin) Reservoir Battle Monument at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia, where he delivered a heartfelt speech.

As a surviving officer of the *S.S. Meredith Victory*, I was invited with my wife, Joan, to meet President Moon Jae-in during his stop at Quantico. We enjoyed a warm conversation with him and presented him with a large copy of my photo displaying many hundreds of rescued Korean refugees on the open deck of the *Meredith Victory* at the time of the Evacuation from Hungnam, North Korea.

The *Meredith Victory*, a merchant vessel, had been supporting the U.S. X Corps, led by MG Edward M. Almond, which included the 1st Marine Div. and the Army's 7th Inf. Div. and 3rd Inf. Div. as they faced a final and fierce battle against the Chinese and North Korean troops before withdrawing from North Korea. The battle took place during November-December 1950, in sub-zero temperatures.

During this campaign, we aboard the *Meredith Victory*, under the heroic leadership of Capt. Leonard P. LaRue, evacuated 14,000 Korean refugees from Hungnam, North Korea. Among those we rescued were the President's parents and older sister. President Moon Jae-in was later born on 24 Jan 1953, on Geoje Island, where we had disembarked the refugees.

He was most impressed in learning that Capt. LaRue at the end of the Korean War joined the Benedictine Order, taking the name Bro. Marinus, and that the Apostleship of the Sea has taken recent steps to have him recognized as a Saint.



## Verbatim Remarks by President Moon Jae-in, June 28, 2017:

Honorable Marine Corps Commandment Gen. Robert Neller, Gen. Steven Olmstead and other surviving veterans who fought in the Battle of Jangjin "Chosin" Reservoir, those who were involved in the Hungnam Evacuation and their bereaved families, and especially the relatives of Gen. Edward Almond and Dr. Hyun Bong-hak, whose roles were critical in evacuating refugees, I am very pleased to meet you all.

I am filled with special emotion to see you in front of the monument to the Jangjin Reservoir Battle. At last, I am here where I have so dearly wanted to come. It is all the more meaningful for me to start off the first day of my first overseas trip as President of the Republic of Korea here today.

In 1950, 67 years ago, the U.S. Marines suffered noble sacrifices to defend "a country they never knew and a people they never met." The most heroic battle fought by them during the Korean War was the Battle of Jangjin Reservoir. Thanks to the remarkable fighting spirit of those heroes of the Jangjin Reservoir, the operation to evacuate some 100,000 refugees from Hungnam could be successful.

My parents were also among the refugees aboard the *SS Meredith Victory* at that time.

The late Captain Leonard LaRue, who was ordered by Gen. Almond to rescue refugees, jettisoned weapons and supplies on the ship to board as many refugees as possible. Loaded with a whopping 14,000 refugees, the ship set sail to freedom and human rights navigating a sea of death teeming with naval mines. The voyage was a perfect success without a single death.

During the voyage that started on December 23, 1950, from the Port of Hungnam and ended on December 25 when the ship arrived on the Island of Geoje in the sea down south, five babies were born. It was a Christmas miracle! It was the greatest humanitarian operation in history.

Two years later, I was born on Geoje Island where the *SS Meredith Victory* disembarked the refugees. Had it not been for the valiant warriors of the Jangjin Reservoir Battle and the success of the Hungnam Evacuation, my life would not have started. I would not even exist today. So, how can I fully express my gratitude for your sacrifice and devotion with any words in any language in this world? Words like respect and gratitude just seem to be far from enough.

The story goes beyond my personal and family histories. I am also deeply touched by the love for humanity the U.S.



S. Korean President Moon Jae-in speaking in front of the monument.

The ROK-U.S. alliance was forged in blood in the fire of war like this. It is not an alliance forged simply by signing several papers. As is the case with my life, the alliance between Seoul and Washington is strongly linked to the life of every single person on both sides. Because of that, I have no doubt about the future of the ROK-U.S. alliance. It will develop into a greater and stronger alliance.

Honorable warriors of the Battle of Jangjin Reservoir and their descendants, the journey of the *SS Meredith Victory* toward freedom and human rights 67 years ago must continue even hereafter. I am also willing to join that journey. I will go hand-in-hand with President Donald Trump. Building upon the great foundation of the ROK-U.S. alliance, we will jointly bring about the dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear program, peace on the Korean Peninsula and, moreover, peace in Northeast Asia.

I read the interview of Robert Lunney, an attorney, who is here today and who was a sailor on the *SS Meredith Victory*. I was overwhelmed with emotion by his saying that he really wanted to see a unified Korean Peninsula before his death. That is my dream, too.

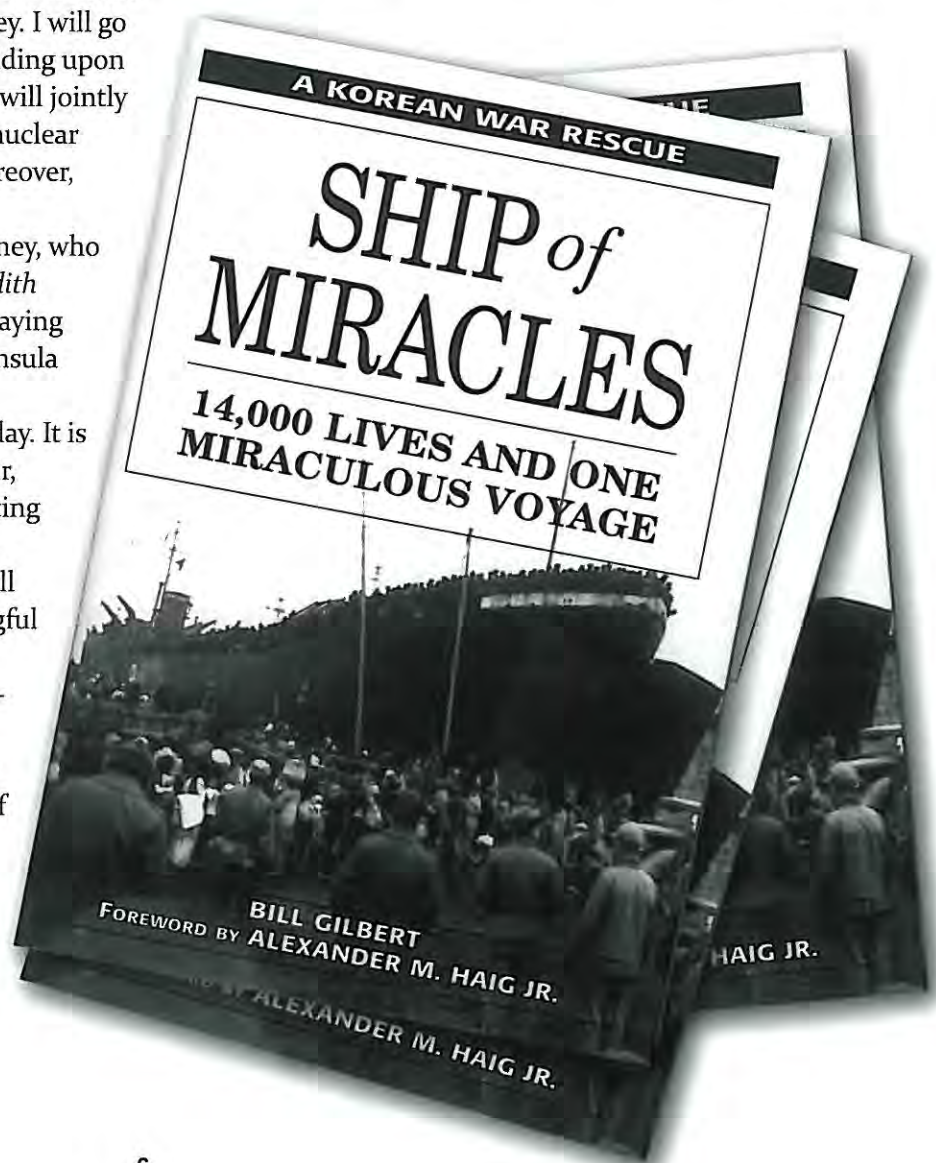
I am planting a Winter King hawthorn here today. It is to forever remember the Battle of Jangjin Reservoir, during which soldiers demonstrated a heroic fighting spirit, enduring intense cold of minus 40 degrees centigrade. Like the tree, the ROK-U.S. alliance will further flourish. It will bear the great and meaningful fruit of the unified Korean Peninsula.

I heard the number of the last-remaining survivors of the Battle is only 50. I wish you long life, good health and happiness. Again, I would like to express my gratitude and respect to the warriors of the Battle of Jangjin Reservoir, those who were involved in the Hungnam Evacuation and the bereaved families of all other Korean War veterans. Thank you very much.

service members showed when they evacuated not just their comrades but also so many refugees from the North at such an urgent moment. This is the reason why the Jangjin Reservoir Battle and the Hungnam Evacuation are regarded the greatest victories in the history of war.

My mother once said that U.S. sailors had handed out a piece of candy to each refugee as a Christmas gift on Christmas Eve while still sailing southward. This episode has not been made public yet. Even though it was just candy, I have always been grateful to warm-hearted U.S. sailors who gave a Christmas present to so many refugees in the throes of a devastating war.

Honorable warriors of the Battle of Jangjin Reservoir and their descendants, The Republic of Korea remembers the sacrifice and dedication of you and your parents. The memory of gratitude and respect will continue forever.



# ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

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

—George Washington, to the Pennsylvania Legislature 12 September 1789

THE GENERAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE REVOLUTION INTRODUCES:

## THE "SOCIETY OF '83"

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

### *What will your gift accomplish?*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

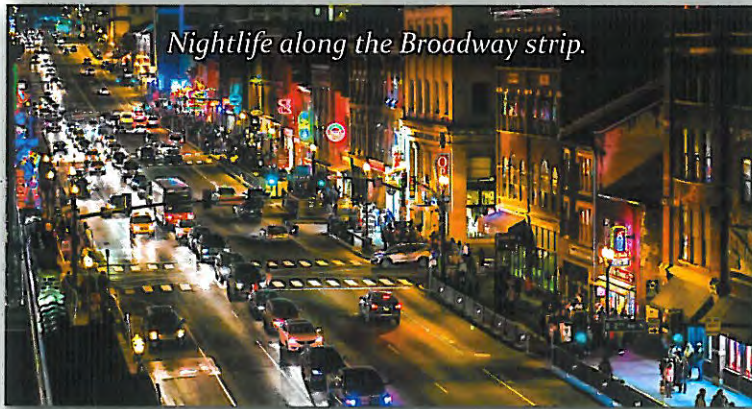
The General Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts to the General Society are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

# Announcing the 43rd Triennial Site: Nashville, Tennessee • Oct. 4-7, 2018 *Venue & Registration Details to Come*

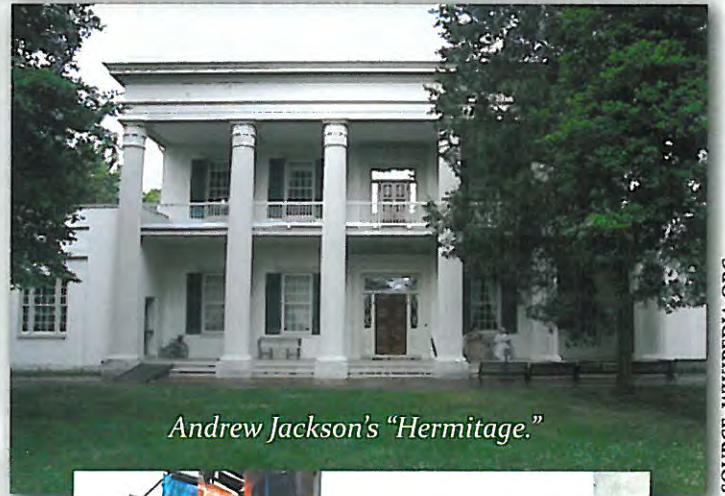
SOURCE: HEROCREATIVEMEDIA.COM



*Downtown Nashville  
as seen from the  
Cumberland River.*



*Nightlife along the Broadway strip.*



*Andrew Jackson's "Hermitage."*

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA.ORG

SOURCE: PINTEREST.COM



*The Nashville Parthenon, Centennial Park.*



*Exterior of the Tennessee State Museum, Nashville.*

CREDIT: TIMES FREE PRESS.



# State Reports



The Sons of the Revolution in the State of Georgia was asked to send members of its Color Guard to Philadelphia this spring, for the opening of the Museum of American Revolution, on 18-19 Apr 2017. The Georgia delegation included Past

President Ron Freeman, Second VP and Color Guard Captain Steven Westgate, and President Frank Hardeman III.

The celebration was quite an affair consisting of three components. The first was a ceremony held at Washington Square Park. A parade of the SR, SAR, and Military units proceeded from the Park to Independence Hall for phase two. The final part of the celebration took place at the Museum itself. A performance was given by former "Hamilton" cast member Sydney James Harcourt, a speech by ABC News and NPR political commentator Cokie Roberts, and the event's keynote address by former Vice President Joe Biden.

The Georgia delegation was especially impressed by the hospitality and trophy room of the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, which alone made the trip a success.

The grand opening of the MAR was the second museum opening which the Georgia Sons participated in this year. The first was the week-long festivities that accompanied the opening of the American Revolutionary Museum in Yorktown. We participated in Georgia Day at the ARM-Y, March 26th. It was one of thirteen days of festivities preceding the official opening of the museum in early April.

Events during Georgia Day included talks by Historian Robert Davis of Wallace State Community College, Alabama, on "Georgia during the American Revolution;" Executive Director Jack Warren of The Society of the Cincinnati, on "The Battle of Kettle Creek;" Archaeologists Rita Elliott and Daniel Elliott of The LAMAR Institute, on "Archeological Site Excavations at Kettle Creek and Savannah," and by Scholar Robert Davis, on "Elijah Clarke and the American Revolution" and "Georgia Signers of the Declaration of Independence & the U.S. Constitution."

We encourage all of the Sons to visit both museums. They are truly phenomenal. —submitted by President Frank Hardeman III.



Representatives of the GA-SR in Philadelphia, from left, Past President Ron Freeman, Second VP and Color Guard Captain Steven Westgate, and President Frank Hardeman III.



## Largest Turnout for GW Birthday

The Kentucky Society of Sons of the Revolution convened on 17 Feb 2017 at the Pendennis Club in Louisville to celebrate George Washington's Birthday. The event had the largest turnout in recent memory.



*Susan Bottom, speaker at the 17 Feb 2017 meeting.*

One of our members, Charles Lawrence, turned 100 years old and was recognized that evening for being named a "Kentucky colonel." Being named a Kentucky colonel is the highest title of honor bestowed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Commissions are given by the governor and the secretary of state to individuals in recognition of their noteworthy accomplishments and outstanding service to a community, state, or the nation.

Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Larry VanMetter was present that evening and gave a toast to General Washington while honoring his own Dutch relatives. Our keynote speaker, the brilliant and entertaining Susan Bottom, instructor at the University of Kentucky, gave an outstanding presentation on George Washington,

entitled, "Finally Home for Christmas."

Out of the proceeds of the occasion, the Kentucky Society gave a very generous contribution to the USO. As a result of this event, the Kentucky Society has gained ten prospective new members.

*—text and photos submitted by Society President Buzz Carmichael*



*Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Larry VanMetter gives a toast to General Washington.*



*Three Society members of the cloth: From left, VP Paul Holbrook, Centenarian and "Kentucky Colonel" Charles Lawrence, and Treasurer Sonny Smith.*





## Annual Meeting in March

The SRMD Annual Meeting of Members and Dinner Dance was held 18 Mar 2017, at the Maryland Club. The main event at the short business meeting was installation of new officers and

board members. Marshall W. Hawks became the new president, Jay G. Merwin, Jr. became the new 1st vice president, and Charles W. Morgan remained as 2nd vice president. Thomas Hosford took over the job as secretary and John Highby remains as treasurer.

Outgoing President Russell Rich was presented with a beautiful picture-plaque of the replicated French frigate *l'Hermione*, in recognition of his outstanding society leadership over the past two years. It was during Russell's administration when *l'Hermione* docked at Annapolis during its voyage to the East Coast, and the Society paid grand tribute to France's assistance to the Patriot cause during the Revolutionary War.

The evening's Color Guard Presentations were handled by The Continental Color Guard and Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps of the 3rd U.S. Infantry stationed at Fort Myer, Virginia. Additionally, four new members were introduced to the Society, including Daniel Fisher, King Barnes, James Bigwood, and George Calvert.



*New members, including Daniel Fisher, King Barnes, James Bigwood, and George Calvert.*



*The Continental Color Guard traditionally appears at the Society's Annual Meeting.*

As President Hawks has summarized, "It is with our hearts full of history, our feet planted in the present, and our eyes looking towards tomorrow, that we will see this Society and its legacy endure and thrive."

## Sightseeing Trip to Charlottesville

Through the efforts of Rob Carter's Historic Trips Committee, seventeen members and wives enjoyed an informative and educational trip to the Charlottesville, Virginia area on 26-27 Apr 2017. The focus of the two-day trip was to visit the homes of two American Presidents – James Madison's Montpelier, and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello.

In addition to both men having been elected President, they both made everlasting and venerable contributions to the

history of the United States. Jefferson, of course, was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence. Madison was one of the principal authors of the U.S. Constitution and chief architect of the Bill of Rights.

The weather was most cooperative. The Trips Committee had made special arrangements for our group to have a private tour of each home; our guides were very well informed about each president, home and surroundings.

Through the efforts of SR member Lee Park, we were able to make overnight accommodations at the beautiful Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville, where Dr. Park is a member. We enjoyed a wonderful private dinner in the beautiful Jefferson Room, designed by Thomas Jefferson and constructed in 1802 as an addition to the pre-1780 structure.

## Mint Julep Party

The Annual SRMD Mint Julep Party was held at the home of Sue and Ed Dickey. It was a beautiful spring afternoon and guests enjoyed the juleps and terrific food. —text and photos from *The SR Intelligencer*, Spring/Summer 2017



*Past President and Host Ed Dickey with 1st VP Chuck Morgan and his wife, Judy, during the Mint Julep Party.*



## Constitution Day Luncheon

The Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Minnesota, together with the Minnesota Society of SAR, convened in the second half of September for the Annual

Constitution Day Luncheon. The groups initially met separately to conduct business matters, then enjoyed a marvelous Chicken Chardonnay entrée in the Cosmopolitan Room of Jax Café in Minneapolis.

The event's keynote speaker was nationally-noted genealogist Tracy Ashley Crocker, a member many prestigious lineage societies. Mr. Crocker is Registrar General for the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne in the United States, Genealogist and Keeper of the Rolls for the Baronial Order of Magna Charta, and Keeper of the Rolls for The Military Order of the Crusades. He also currently serves as Assistant Registrar of the Minnesota Society, Sons of the Revolution.

His topic, "Why the Passion for Genealogy," was well received by everyone present. With more than thirty years work as a genealogist, Mr. Crocker specializes in the colonial and medieval lineages of American and English families and includes for clients both American and English documentation of their lines in his research.

A retired retail executive, Mr. Crocker is an active member of Rotary International and an avid sports enthusiast. In 2017 he was nominated as a Hereditary Community Society Honoree.—*Editor*



Tracy Ashley Crocker



Missouri Society members and guests this spring were treated to a rare viewing of one of the authentic, elk-skin-bound field journals of Meriwether Lewis held at the Missouri History Museum Library and Research Center in St. Louis. "How truly awesome is this," one member remarked. "One of those special moments when your knees weaken in front of something so historically significant." The Lewis & Clark Expedition took place between May 1804 and September 1806. *Journal photos: historyhappenshere.org; Library photo: nextstl.com.*



For your many sides,  
there's **Nationwide**.<sup>®</sup>

AUTO

HOME

RETIREMENT

LIFE

BUSINESS

POWERSPORTS



**Nationwide**<sup>®</sup>  
is on your side

**R Mitchell Bush**  
**The Bush Agency**

OK92438

800-923-6242

[mitchell.bush@nationwide.com](mailto:mitchell.bush@nationwide.com)

[www.TheBushAgency.com](http://www.TheBushAgency.com)

Products underwritten by Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Affiliated Companies. Home Office: Columbus, OH 43215. Subject to underwriting guidelines, review, and approval. Availability varies. Nationwide, Nationwide Is On Your Side, and the Nationwide N and Eagle are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. ©2017 Nationwide CPO-0836AO (08/16) 6247402



On 18 November, the North Carolina Society will gather for its annual Yorktown Luncheon Banquet. This year's event will be held at the State Club in

Raleigh. The program will feature guest speaker Jennifer Blomberg, Director of Collections Management, Division of Archives and Records North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Jennifer will discuss the conservation, environment, housing and storage of antique documents.



SOURCE: NCDCR.GOV



SOURCE: THESTATECLUB.ORG

*The State Club on campus of N.C. State University, Raleigh. Above inset: Jennifer Blomberg.*

Most of us have documents and photos that have been handed down in our families for generations. Her presentation is key in our learning how to preserve those documents for future generations. She will also discuss finding a conservator and will bring housing samples to show. She is happy to look at your papers and give advice.

Jennifer oversees the preservation programming for the Archives including disaster response, environmental monitoring, collection assessment, and policies regarding care, handling, and the storage of records. She received her Masters of Information and Library Science (MILS) with a specialization in Archives, Records Management, and Preservation from the University of Pittsburgh.

Previous to working at the State Archives of North Carolina, she worked at various cultural institutions including Duke University Libraries, University of Delaware, and the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia.—*submitted by Society President Dan Hopping*



## NEW JERSEY

For its Fall event, the New Jersey Sons of the Revolution toured the new Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. Fifty persons including members and guests participated in the 16 Sept 2017 tour.

After the tour, the group heard a private lecture on Revolutionary Philadelphia and got to see a multi-media display of Washington's battlefield marquee. Opened in April, the museum uses state-of-the-art technology in presenting many of the battles and artifacts of that period.

Following the museum, the assembled adjourned to Wick and Mary Cloud Hollingshead's house for food and refreshments—and to hear a lecture on South Jersey during the war. The Society looks forward to its next event, the Annual Meeting, in February 2018.

—text and photos submitted by President Glen Beebe



ABOVE – The group listens to a private lecture at the MAR on Revolutionary Philadelphia.



LEFT – SRNJ members and guests pause inside the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.



## SOUTH CAROLINA

### Successful Hosting of GSSR BOM

After months of planning, the 125th Meeting of the GSSR

Board of Managers held in Charleston 29 Sept – 1 Oct 2017 was a big success. The SCSR hosted the weekend event. Thirty-five members representing twelve states attended, including several GSSR officers and three General Presidents Emeriti. The Saturday banquet had nearly sixty people in attendance between members, their spouses and several guests.

Members approved a new budget and recognized compatriots who passed away during the previous year. President Ivan Bennett praised the staff of the Francis Marion Hotel for their courteous, professional assistance and presented Sales Manager Libby Hardy with a token of appreciation on behalf of the SCSR.

The guest speaker on Saturday evening was Dr. Nic Butler, Archivist and Historian, Charleston County Public Library system. He presented a fascinating talk on the sizeable pre-Revolutionary fortification around Charleston in the late 1750s known as a Horn Work. Earlier that day, he gave a presentation on the general



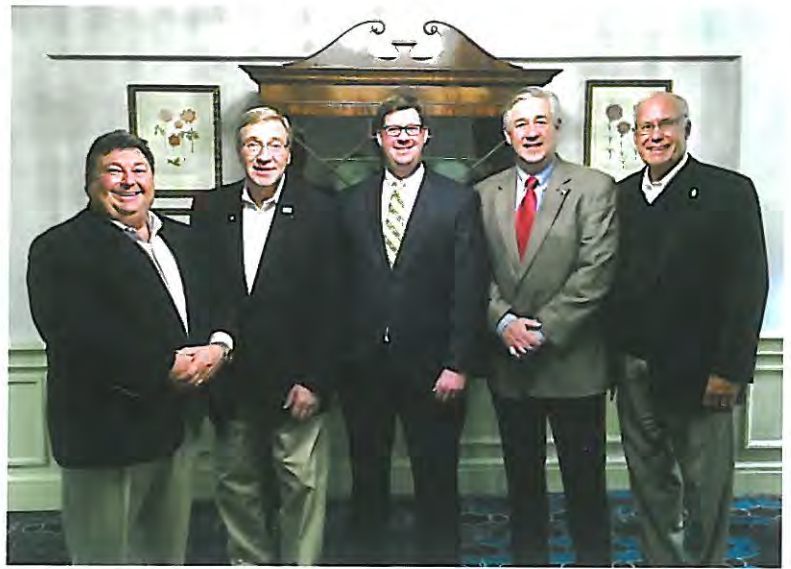
Guest speaker Nic Butler, Archivist and Historian, Charleston County Public Library System.

history of the city to spouses and guests of the attending delegates.

## Annual Meeting in November

The Society's Annual Meeting will take place 11 Nov 2017 at the Library and Museum of Revolutionary War History, in Simpsonville, S.C. The founder and director of the Museum is Tom Weidner, SCSR Regional Vice President (Upstate). Tom is planning a full day, with a guest speaker and dinner following the membership meeting.

Immediate Past President SCSR Chuck Swoope is forming a Nominations Committee and will present a slate of officers for 2018. Positions to be announced will be President, Vice President, Treasure, Secretary, Registrar, Historian, Color Guard Captain and Regional VP in the Upstate, Mid State and Coastal.



*The BOM Planning Committee first met at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston on 1 March 2017.*

## Battle of Eutaw Springs Anniversary

On 8-9 Sept 2017, Society President Ivan Bennett attended the South Carolina Society of SAR as they hosted the 236th Anniversary of the Battle of Eutaw Springs, Eutawville, S.C. This annual event has grown substantially and now embraces a wide representation of area chapters in the DAR, CAR and SAR. For the last two years, the SAR has invited the South Carolina Sons of the Revolution to attend the event.

On that Friday evening, the program featured speaker Charles Baxley, editor of "The Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution." On Saturday, a patriotic service was held at the Historic Church of the Epiphany in Eutawville, South Carolina. SCSR President Bennett was honored to lead the salute to the S.C. State Flag. The speaker was Douglas Bostick, executive director of the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust.

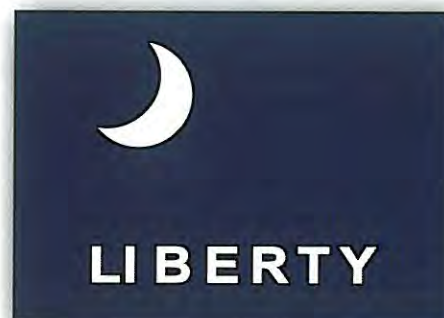
After the church service, attendees moved to the Battle Monument Park for the Wreath Laying Ceremony, the retiring of the Colors, and a Musket Volley by the SAR Color Guard.—  
*Text and photos submitted by Society President Ivan Bennett.*



*SCSR delegation at BOM Meeting: from left, David Overton, Chris Overton, Tom Weidner, Chuck Swoope and Ivan Bennett.*



*Society President Ivan Bennett participated at a Eutaw Springs battle service held 9 Sept at the Historic Church of the Epiphany in Eutawville, South Carolina.*







The Tennessee Society Sons of the Revolution had a busy summer. On June 9th and 10th, members participated in the Genealogy Jamboree at Cumberland Gap, Tennessee. An exhibit was set up to display items commonly used in the late eighteenth century. Additionally, a demonstration of eighteenth century weaving and sewing was given.

On June 14th, TNSSOR members and their families visited the Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina to pay tribute to the Over Mountain Men who mustered at Sycamore Shoals (now Elizabethton, Tennessee) and force-marched across the Great Smoky Mountains to Kings Mountain, where they fought alongside other militia



Members gathered for the 'Let Freedom Ring' ceremony held July 4th at the historic David Hall cabin, Anderson County.

units and defeated the British-led Loyalists. Society members and their families appreciated and enjoyed the video and displays at the museum prior to making their pilgrimage to the actual battle site. Some of our members were excited to trace the footsteps of their ancestors who fought there.

On July 4th, the TNSSOR hosted a Let Freedom Ring bell-ringing ceremony at the historic David Hall cabin. Built in 1799 along the Clinch River in Anderson County, Tennessee, this cabin was the original home of Pvt. David Hall who fought at Kings Mountain. He also served as a spy in the North Carolina Militia. At 2 p.m. the Declaration of Independence was read and then a bell was chimed thirteen times. Afterward, a Stars & Stripes retirement ceremony was solemnly observed. Conclud-

ing this event, a pot-luck lunch was served to all who attended.

On July 15th, members of the TNSSOR traveled to historic Rugby, Tennessee on the Cumberland Plateau to demonstrate a long hunter's camp at the Children's fair. Rugby, a British "colony," was originally established in the late 1800's by English writer and financier Thomas Hughes for British second sons of nobility who inherited extremely limited income and were frowned from doing manual labor in their home country. Children present at this fair were shown what equipment long hunters took with them on their journeys into the backwoods. Also, the children were given a firing demonstration of a flintlock rifle.

On Saturday, August 26th, the Society hosted its annual summer luncheon at Bearden Banquet Hall, a part of Buddy's Barbeque, in Knoxville, Tennessee. This event was open to members, guests and visitors. The guest speaker, Dr. Aaron Astor, Professor of History at Maryville College, provided a unique and profound insight into the culture and history of the settlers who occupied what would later become East Tennessee. Dr. Astor also discussed the important contributions which the Overmountain Men made during the Southern Campaign of our fight for independence. Live entertainment included music from a talented dulcimer player.

On Saturday and Sunday, September 9th and 10th, the Anderson County Tennessee Society



Tennessee Sons at Kings Mountain National Military Park, June 14th.

Sons of the Revolution participated in a celebration of the Historic David Hall cabin. TNSSOR members and their families set up displays and provided demonstrations of weaving, cooking, firing flintlock rifles, and giving talks on various equipment used to survive in the wilderness. Both TNSSOR members and visitors alike had an enjoyable time during this celebration.—text and photos submitted by Secretary Dennis Eggert



## SRNY Launches New Event

This year the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York launched Summer Tavern Night, a new event for the Society. Held in the early evening on 26 July 2017, it symbolized an occasion for members and guests to unite and celebrate “taverns, traditions, toasts, and togetherness” in the Bourbon Lounge at the Fraunces Tavern. The concept was so well received that the event sold out. Both younger and older members were on hand with friends or family to tip back their glasses.

“Taverns of the day were major meeting places and places of public assembly,” said SRNY President Ambrose M. Richardson III in his Summer President’s Message. “The American Revolution was formed as much or more in the taverns as in formal meetings of the Continental Congress. It is not by accident that the stage set of the musical ‘Hamilton’ is made to resemble an eighteenth-century tavern.”

President Richardson reminds everyone that the Fraunces Tavern itself was Washington’s favorite tavern in New York and was the principal meeting place of the Sons of Liberty, men like McDougall, Sears, Lamb, Willett, Mulligan, and Hamilton, from 1765 to 1776. The Society decided to launch this occasion in the spirit of our revolutionary ancestors and to recognize the important roles which taverns played in early America.

The Fraunces Tavern was endowed by the Tallmadge family, which not only provided the capital to acquire the building in 1904, but also gave the Museum many of Benjamin Tallmadge’s personal effects. Tallmadge, of course, was Washington’s spymaster. His original handwritten memoirs, describing Washington’s farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern, are on display in the McEntee Gallery of the Museum.

## National Purple Heart Day

National Purple Heart Day, 7 Aug, was celebrated in New York City by the returning of eight previously lost Purple Heart medals to either the living veteran or the families of those deceased. After a tearful ceremony held at Federal Hall, an evening reception and fundraiser was held at the Fraunces Tavern Museum for the benefit of the event organizer, Purple Hearts Reunited.

The occasion was generously supported the United War Veterans Council, the Knickerbocker Chapter of DAR, the SRNY, and the New York City Fire Department. At the Fraunces Tavern, visitors were able to meet the Purple Heart recipients and/or their families. The medals were representative of soldiers fighting in WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq.

Purple Heart Day commemorates the creation of the oldest American military decoration for merit, and it honors the men and women who are of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Purple Hearts Reunited is the only nonprofit organization in the country returning lost or stolen medals to veterans and military families at no cost.



## ‘Spy Week’ at Fraunces Tavern Museum

In another new development, the SRNY this year extended its traditional Nathan Hale Day Commemoration into a weeklong celebration of Gen. George Washington’s spy ring. During the week 17-23 Sept, Museum visitors heard not only the story of Nathan Hale, but also of Benjamin Tallmadge, Abraham Woodhull, and unsung heroes such as Lydia Darrah who were instrumental in the efforts of the Patriots’ espionage.

‘Spy Week’ coincided with the 16 Sept opening of the new FTM exhibit, “Confidential: The American Revolution’s Agents of Espionage.” On view through September 2019, the exhibit reveals how tailors, school teachers, and enslaved persons operated as secret agents for the Patriot cause. It features never-before-seen objects from the Museum’s collection, including



artifacts and images detailing the infamous story of traitor Benedict Arnold, as well as letters from the leader of Long Island's Culper Spy Ring, Benjamin Tallmadge, and from "Spy Master 711"—George Washington himself.



On Friday, 22 Sept, the SRY Color Guard convened at City Hall Park to commemorate martyred spy Nathan Hale at the foot of the Nathan Hale statue. The ceremony features the Color Guard, a mayoral proclamation, wreath-laying, and more.—Editor

*The SRY statue of Nathan Hale, City Hall Park, NYC.*



CREDIT: SRY



## Let Freedom Ring

The Pennsylvania Society, Sons of the Revolution held its annual Let Freedom Ring celebration to commemorate the two hundred forty-first anniversary of our nation's independence on July Fourth. The event began with a reception and luncheon at the Sheraton Society Hill in Philadelphia. PSSR President W. Murray Gordon gave opening remarks and society chaplain G. Clayton Ames III gave the invocation for the day's activities. PSSR officers then asked the attendees to join them in toasts to the President of the United States, the Continental Army, and the allies of the Continental Army. A capacity crowd of 150 attendees affirmed the toasts and then enjoyed a sumptuous lunch.

After lunch, the Color Guard assembled, along with the Watson Highlanders bagpipe and drum corps, for the procession from the Sheraton Hotel to Independence Hall National Historical Park. A police escort lead the way for the Color Guard, led by Captain Eric E.L. Guenther,



*Watson Highlanders Color Guard.*

and the PSSR members and their families as they made the approximately half-mile walk to the public celebration site.

The ceremony opened with a performance by the Orpheus Club and was presided over by Murray Gordon and Master of Ceremonies Jim Donovan, news anchor for CBS3 television. Guest speak-



*The Orpheus Club singers perform.*

ers included Museum of the American Revolution CEO Michael Quinn, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, Acting Regional Director of the Independence Hall National Historical Park Cynthia McLeod, and a character portrayal of Alexander Hamilton.

The event concluded with descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and select new United States citizens, participating in the nationwide bell ringing ceremony at precisely two o'clock by tapping the Liberty Bell in the building adjacent to the park.

Television coverage of the event was featured the following morning on CBS3 Morning News.

Special thanks go to Let Freedom Ring committee chairs Schuyler C. Wickes and Dr. David M. Humphrey, as well as all members of the committee, for organizing and executing a flawless event.—*text and photos submitted by Secretary Michael Whelan*



*MAR President Michael Quinn addresses the crowd.*

## Dilworth Farm added to Brandywine Battlefield

In developments of interest to the Pennsylvania Sons, in mid-September more than ten acres of scenic land known as the Dilworth Farm tract was ceremoniously added to the Brandywine Battlefield after years of hard work. The tract is located near Dilworthtown in Chester County. On that ground, the Continental Army narrowly escaped the British army's grip after a crushing flank attack on 11 Sept 1777 at Brandywine Creek.

U.S. Congressmen Patrick Meehan and Ryan Costello joined Chester County officials, Campaign 1776, and the Brandywine Battlefield Task Force to announce that the acreage had been saved. This was the first time that the American Battlefield Protection Program's Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants, administered by the National Park Service, were used at a Revolutionary War Battlefield site in Pennsylvania.

The announcement and ribbon-cutting ceremony came during the battle's two hundred and fortieth anniversary week. Brandywine is considered the largest battle of the American Revolution in terms of the physical area encompassed and the number of combatants that participated—thirty thousand.

Members of the 1st Delaware Infantry Regiment fired a musket volley to honor the soldiers on both sides who fought at Brandywine. The uniformed re-enactors also performed fife and drum music.—*Editor*

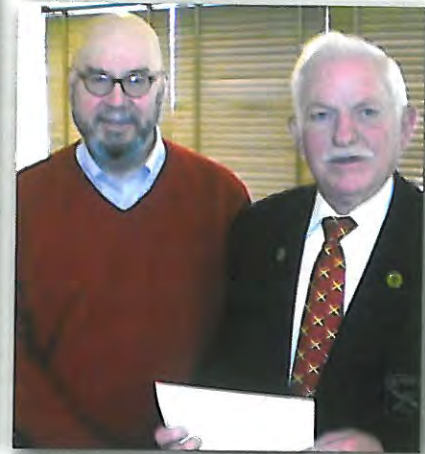


*Dilworth Farm at the Brandywine Battlefield.*

*Scenic view of Brandywine Battlefield.*

**RHODE ISLAND**

*In this collage, RI SR President Bruce MacGunnigle is seen presenting checks in early 2017 on behalf of the RI Society to various charities.*



*Recipient is the Artillery Company of Newport, represented here by Col. Robert Edendach, Commanding Officer.*

*Recipient is the Varnum House Museum, represented here by VP Barbara Weaver, Trustee William M. Weaver, and Varnum Continentals.*



*Recipient is the Nathanael Greene Homestead Association, represented here by President David M. Procaccini.*



*Recipient is the Newport Historical Society, represented here by Deputy Director Ingrid Peters.*



*Recipient is the R.I. Children of the American Revolution, represented here by Senior State President Lisa Daly (left) and President Carly Weaver.*



*Recipient is the Rhode Island Historical Society, represented here by Executive Director Dr. Morgan Grefe (left) and Librarian Phoebe Bean.*

# Patriot Chronicles

During the Revolutionary War, several thousand free and enslaved African-American men fought for the Patriot side. Many deserve to be called out for their superlative service. Here we highlight five individuals who demonstrated utmost courage under extreme conditions. —Ed.

## PROFILES IN COURAGE

### Salem Poor

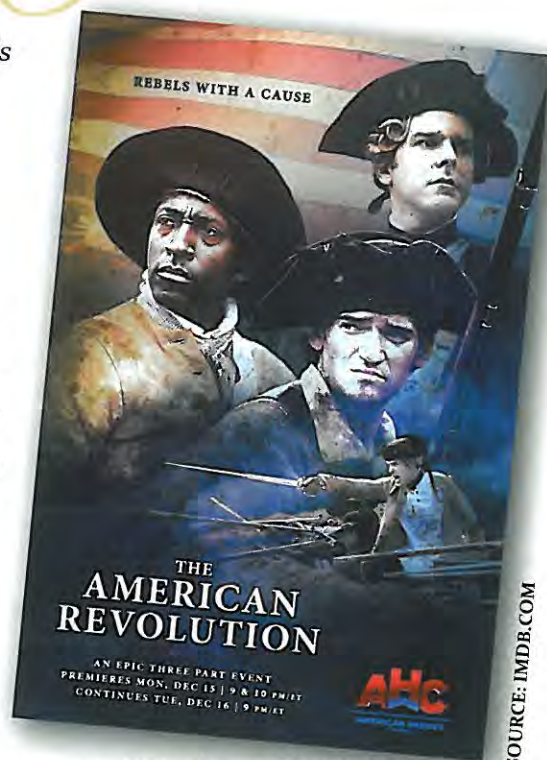
Born a slave in 1747 on a farm in Andover, Massachusetts, Salem Poor was owned by John Poor and son, but he bought his freedom in 1769. He married a free African-American woman and had a son in late 1774 or early 1775. Starting in May 1775, Salem left his wife and child behind in their home in Andover and enlisted in the Continental Army, serving in the Essex County Regiment under Capt. Benjamin Ames. He was present at the Battle of Bunker Hill and is credited with having killed British Lieutenant-Colonel Abercrombie. Although a record of his combat actions at Bunker Hill does not exist, after the battle a petition was submitted to the General Court of Massachusetts on 5 Dec 1775 to commend Salem Poor's bravery, stating he had behaved "like an experienced officer and an excellent soldier." It was signed by fourteen officers, including Col. William Prescott.

### Peter Salem

A slave who was set free by enlisting in the service, Peter Salem also fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill and was noted for great bravery. Even before that epic battle, he had fought at Concord, Massachusetts, and became one of the Minutemen heroes of the American Revolution. He also served at Saratoga and Stony Point. A week after Concord, he enlisted in Colonel Nixon's Fifth Massachusetts Regiment and served in Captain Drury's company at Bunker Hill. He is believed to have killed British Major John Pitcairn, in the redoubt and at the height of combat. The person of Peter Salem is represented in the lower right corner of John Trumbull's famous painting, *Battle at Bunker's Hill*, standing behind a white patriot soldier.

### Austin Dabney

Like Peter Salem, Austin Dabney earned his freedom in exchange for his service in the Patriot forces. But his freedom came a few years following the Battle of Yorktown. Born a mulatto slave in Georgia, Dabney served honorably under Lt. Col. Elijah Clarke and Capt. Barber in the Battle at Kettle Creek and the Battle of Augusta. He was wounded and permanently disabled in Augusta on 25 May 1782. With Clarke's support, the state of Georgia purchased Dabney and emancipated him in 1786. He was banned from participating in the land lottery open to Revolutionary War veterans in 1819, but the legislature twice granted him acreage as well as a state pension in recognition of his service. The federal government later took over the pension.



American Heroes Channel (2014).

SOURCE: IMDB.COM



Monument to Patriots of African Descent, Valley Forge.

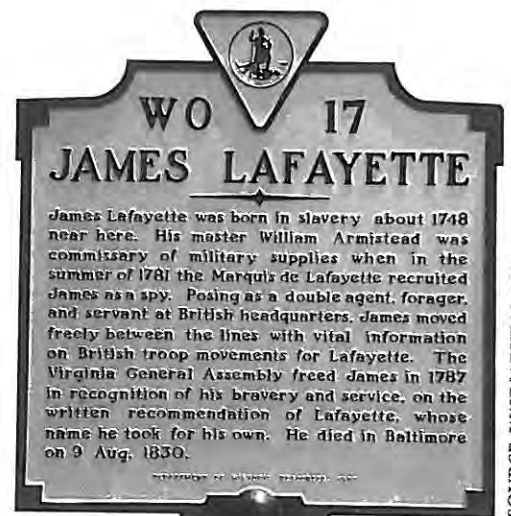
SOURCE: FLICKR.COM/WALLYG

# James Armistead Lafayette

Late in the Revolutionary War, with his owner's permission, James Armistead acted as a spy for the Marquis de Lafayette. He acquired Cornwallis' confidence and was able to slip in and out of the British headquarters at Yorktown as a double-agent. In the summer of 1781, General Washington sent a message to Lafayette asking for specifics on Cornwallis' strength. It was James Armistead's report dated 31 July 1781 that proved most valuable to the

Commander-in-Chief, since in it he divulged the British navy's plans to move ten thousand troops by sea into Yorktown to reinforce Cornwallis. That knowledge instigated Washington and Lafayette to set up the French blockade of Chesapeake Bay.

After the war, Virginia passed a law declaring that all slaves who had served in the Patriot cause were entitled to their freedom, and it furthermore condemned all slaveholders who tried to re-enslave veterans. Yet because James Armistead was considered a "war spy," not a soldier, he was returned to slavery. Lafayette discovered his fate and petitioned the Virginia General Assembly to grant him his freedom. The legislators did so on 9 Jan 1787. A grateful James dropped the Armistead surname and adopted Lafayette's last name in appreciation of and to honor the French general.



Marker located at the Old Courthouse in New Kent County, Virginia.

SOURCE: WAYMARKING.COM

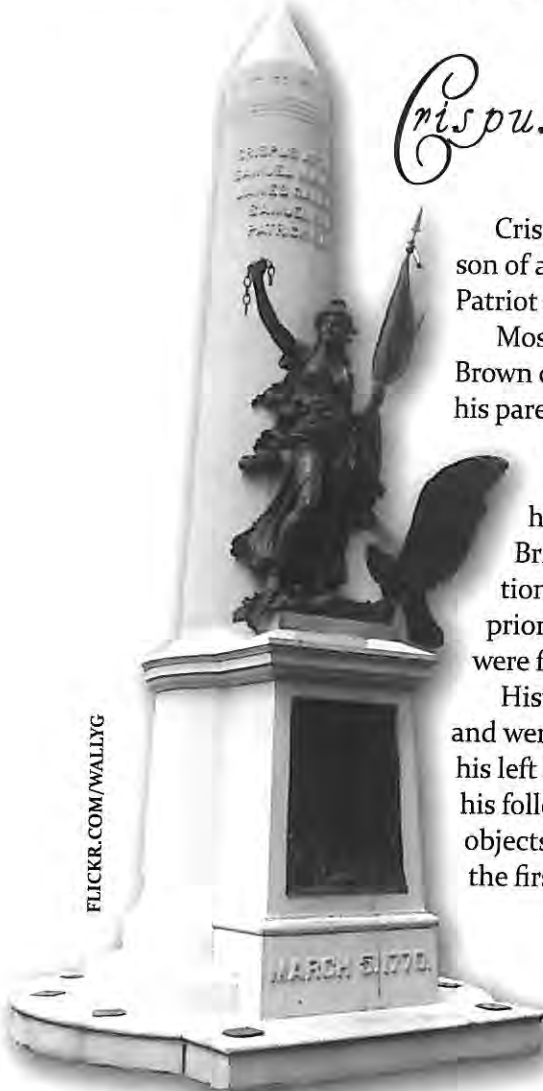
# Crispus Attucks

Crispus Attucks was the first victim to fall in the Boston Massacre, 5 March 1770. The son of an African man and a woman of Natick descent, Crispus may have been the first Patriot of African blood to die in the Revolution.

Most likely born into slavery circa 1723, Attucks and family were owned by James Brown of Framingham, Massachusetts. Crispus escaped bondage in 1750, leaving behind his parents and sister, and found work and relative anonymity on the seas. He apparently came back to the Boston area between jobs at sea.

His was an imposing figure, and eyewitness reports of the Massacre identify him as having led a crowd of sailors with clubs in their hands to confront the British soldiers gathered on King Street. Throughout the Colonies in pre-Revolutionary times, seaworthy men were aware of political issues and in several incidents prior to 1770 confronted British soldiers in defense of the people's rights. But shots were fired in Boston, making this confrontation stand out in American history.

Historical court reports of the Massacre indicate Attucks had come upon the scene and went to the front of the line, grabbed one of the soldier's bayonets, twisted it with his left hand and knocked the soldier down with his right. While doing this, he urged his followers to fight. The crowd at large began throwing snowballs, sticks, and other objects at the soldiers. When the soldiers fired their muskets in retaliation, Attucks was the first targeted and was killed instantly.



FLICKR.COM/WALLYG

Boston Massacre Memorial, Boston Commons.

# BATTLES VALCOUR ISLAND

*at a Glance*

CREDIT: NAT'L ARCHIVES OF CANADA

**Date of Battle:** 11 Oct 1776

**Location:** Lake Champlain, New York side, off Valcour Island

**Patriot Commander:** Brig-Gen Benedict Arnold

**British Commander:** Post-Capt Thomas Pringle

*British ships firing upon Royal Savage at Battle of Valcour Island; artist unknown.*

**Objective:** The immediate objective for the British was to gain maritime control of Lake Champlain, in order to advance further south. The Patriots' objective was to delay the advance as long as possible.

**Outcome:** Both sides achieved their objectives. The outcome was a tactical victory for the British, but a strategic victory for the Patriots.

**Casualties:** For the Americans, 80 men killed or wounded; 120 men captured; 11 ships lost. For the British, 40 killed or wounded; three small gunboats lost.

**Background:** The Battle of Valcour Island on 11 Oct 1776 was the only naval battle to occur between the Patriots and the Redcoats, and the only fresh-water battle. The confrontation was a resounding win for the British; however, the "win" came at a substantial cost for the Crown.

The battle occurred at the tail-end of the American retreat from Canada, after the failed attempt to take Quebec and control of the St. Lawrence River nearly a year earlier. Brig-Gen Benedict Arnold led the Patriot rearguard back toward Ticonderoga via Lake Champlain, but he waited for one last showdown on the water before taking final flight.

When the retreating Americans abandoned Fort Saint-Jean on Canada's Richelieu River in June, they torched the saw mill there and the fortifications. As they retreated down Lake Champlain, they either captured or destroyed all vessels on the lake. The combination of those actions would delay the British, as they would first need to build vessels.

Arnold was given command of the Patriot naval force in early August. His men spent the rest of the summer fortifying their position, assembling a sixteen-vessel flotilla, and waiting for the enemy's approach. In October, the British



CREDIT: WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Map of Lake Champlain.





Post-Captain Thomas Pringle

navy finally approached the locale where Arnold had chosen to station his vessels—in the shallow, protected waters between Valcour Island and the New York shoreline, south of Plattsburgh.

Even though the enemy possessed larger ships and more guns, the predominating wind was against them and it was difficult to impossible for them to make a good approach. The battle began and lasted until dark with significant harm done to each side. Still, the Brits were confident that victory would be theirs the next day.

Yet, after dark, Arnold quietly snuck out his remaining fleet through a gap between the enemy ships and the western shoreline. His objective was to try to reach Crown Point. The next morning, after Capt Pringle realized what had happened, essentially a wild goose chase began between the two fleets that nearly ended very poorly for the Patriots. Adverse winds and wintry precipitation hampered their escape. The British nearly caught up with them and overtook them.



Brig-General Benedict Arnold

In the end, about two hundred Patriots, including Arnold, successfully reached Crown Point. They had five vessels there, but chose to burn them and quickly marched to Ticonderoga. The British overtook Crown Point. They remained there for two weeks, pushing scouting parties to within three miles of Ticonderoga, according to author George Stanley in *Canada Invaded 1775–1776*. The battle-season was already late; first snows had already begun to fall. Sir Guy Carleton, at that time the Governor of Quebec, called off any further pursuit.

Arnold's tactic had succeeded, despite the near disastrous ending. He and his men successfully delayed British advances farther southward (toward the Hudson Valley) until the following spring. By that time, the Continental Army was in much better shape to put up a fight, which came at the fateful Battle of Saratoga.

As Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan put it a century later: "The little American navy on Champlain was wiped out: but never had any force, big or small, lived to better purpose nor died more gloriously, for it had saved the Lake for that year."

According to C. E. Pippenger writing in the *Journal of the American Revolution*, "the Battle of Valcour Island was, in many ways, a waterborne version of the Battle of Bunker Hill: a greatly superior British force rushed, with little forethought or planning, into a fight against Americans making a stand on ground (or water) of their choosing. After a long and bloody battle, the British drove the American forces from the field in what was ostensibly a clear British victory. It was only much later, after the ultimate consequences of the fight became clear, that it did not seem so unadulterated a victory for the Crown."



A DAR Monument to Benedict Arnold, near Plattsburgh, N.Y.



# The Comitia Americana Medals:

## Horatio Gates at Saratoga “The Safety of the Northern Regions”

By James Rhodes, SRNY Member



CREDIT: NEW ENGLAND COLLECTION (PRIVATE).

*The following continues our series of articles on the Comitia Americana medals and others closely related (see introduction, Drumbeat Vol. 35, No. 2). The late-eighteenth century Congressional medals were approved, designed and struck to honor primarily ten Revolutionary War heroes, including Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates, subject of the present article. But the project languished and fizzled before it was properly completed, and, as a result, today's extant copies are valuable tokens for their historical significance and extreme rarity.*

*The text of these articles is largely excerpted from the 2007 book, Comitia Americana and Related Medals: Underappreciated Monuments to Our Heritage, by John W. Adams and Anne E. Bentley, with permission from their publisher Kolbe & Fanning Numismatic Booksellers of Gahanna, Ohio.—Ed.*

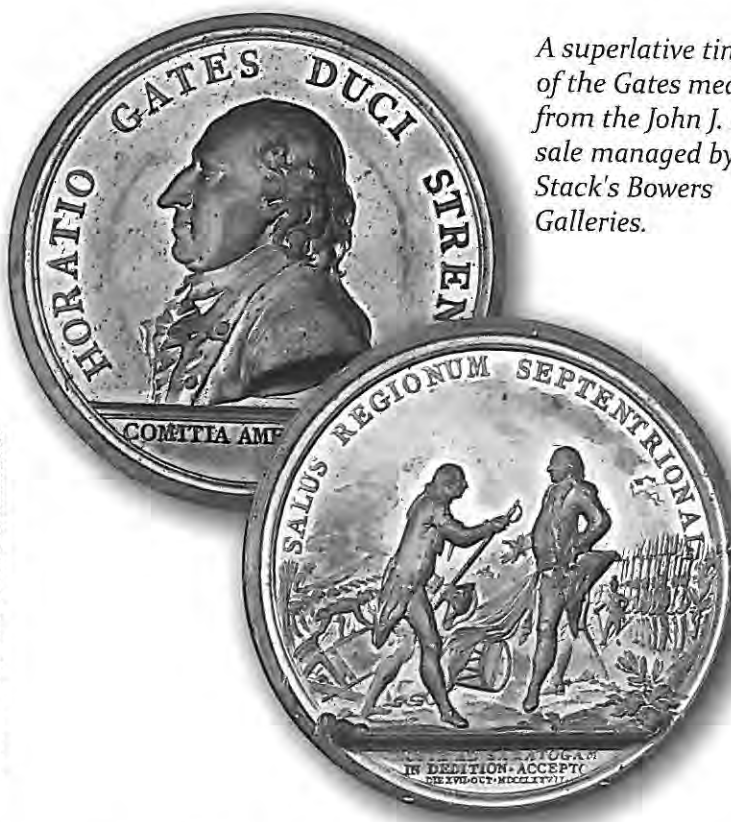
“Almost immediately after British Lieutenant-General John Burgoyne surrendered on October 17, 1777, Congress voted Patriot Major General Horatio Gates a gold medal (November 4, 1777). Henry Laurens, President of the Continental Congress, wrote to the hero in glowing terms: ‘Your name Sir will be written in the breasts of the grateful Americans of the present Age and sent down to Posterity in Characters which will remain indelible when the Gold shall have changed appearance.’”

Yet just as happened after George Washington was voted his Congressional gold medal, much time passed before Gates was presented his honor. In fact, by June 1779, “Gates complained to his friend, Laurens, ‘I believe I am to wait until you are again President, before I shall receive my medal.’”

Thankfully, he did not have to wait out fourteen years, as did Washington. Eight years passed before Jefferson sent Gates’ medal from France in 1787. It was forwarded to him by Arthur St. Clair, then President of Congress. Unlike Washington’s frigid reaction to his medal, due to its delay and the unannounced change in its design, Gates responded enthusiastically:

“I have the honour to receive your Excellency’s Letter ... the Elegant Medal in Gold, which the most Honourable Congress in their Name and in behalf of the Inhabitants of the Thirteen United States were pleased to direct the Board of war to have struck and presented ... Nothing could add to this distinguished Mark of the favour and Approbation of Congress but by receiving it in so polite a manner from the Hands of your Excellency!”

By Gates’ effusiveness, one wonders whether he may even have been somewhat surprised to receive the honor. After all, as the authors remind us, “... it was the aggressive tactics of Daniel Morgan and Benedict Arnold that distinguished both engagements [at Saratoga, September 19 and October 7], with Gates dispensing general directions from his headquarters two miles in the rear. Thus, Horatio Gates received credit for the victory, even though others—such as [Phillip J.] Schuyler, Morgan, Arnold, and [Vermont militia commander] John Stark (who commanded at Bennington)—played



A superlative tin copy of the Gates medal from the John J. Ford sale managed by Stack's Bowers Galleries.

roles that were at least as important. To whomever the credit [rightfully belongs], the victory was crucial in that it offset the bad news from Brandywine Creek and Germantown, thus convincing the French to join the war as our allies."

## Medal Design

David Humphreys contracted Frenchman Nicolas-Marie Gatteaux to design and engrave the Gates medal, a choice which Adams and Bentley describe as fortunate. Why? Gatteaux caught a detail in the model portrait of Gates that would have certainly been met with disapproval from Congress had it been reproduced.

"The portrait... showed the General wearing his medal of the Society of the Cincinnati, an organization that had not been formed until well after the [Battle of Saratoga], and that, moreover, was regarded with disapproval by many members of Congress who were sponsoring the award.

"Gatteaux... wrote to Jefferson as follows:

'Sir: I would like to request some clarification from you to avoid creating an anachro-

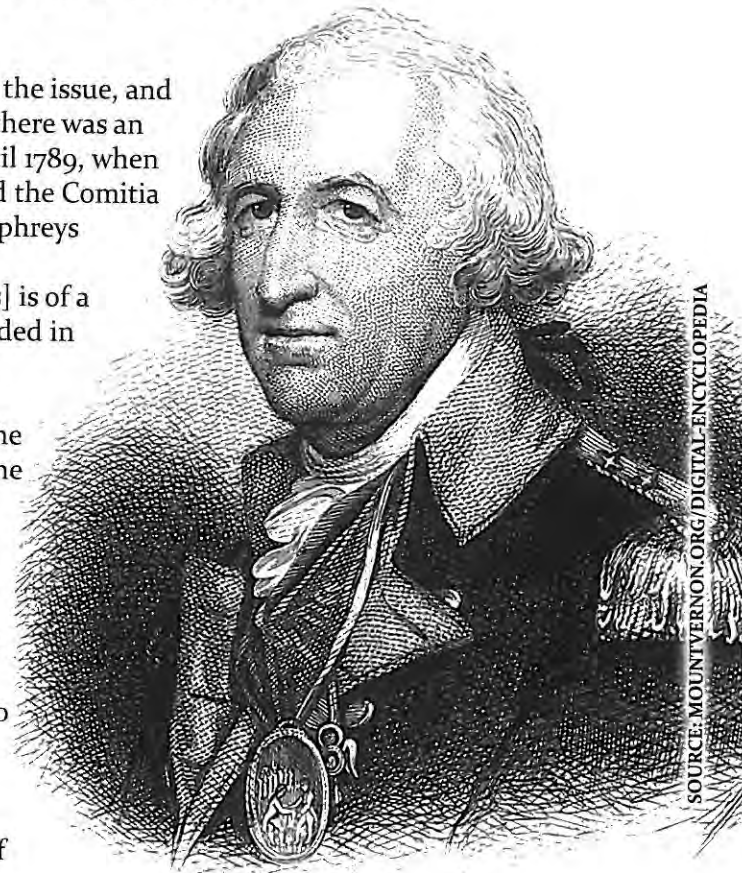
nism in the medal of General Gates, the commission of which your excellence has honored me. In the engraving that you sent to me, he is wearing the decoration of the Order of the Cincinnati, which did not exist at the time of his victory, nor yet, I believe when the Congress voted this medal...'

"Jefferson immediately wrote to Humphreys for his opinion on the issue, and the latter agreed with the engraver. With the design now settled, there was an inexplicable lapse of sixteen months in production. It was not until 1789, when Jefferson was contemplating a return to America, that he accorded the Comitia Americana project any more urgency than [had] Franklin or Humphreys [before]."

According to the authors, Gatteaux's excellent portrait [of Gates] is of a middle-aged man, purposeful but unemotional. "Gatteaux succeeded in modeling two life-like protagonists. Burgoyne, with bowed head, appears considerably more humble than was his wont. Gates, portrayed as the gracious victor, was indeed just that, returning the proffered sword after permitting the British soldiers to march to the ceremony with the honors of war."

Obverse: Bust of Gates in uniform, profile left. HORATIO GATES DUCI STRENUO (Horatio Gates, valiant general). In exergue: COMITIA AMERICANA (American Congress). N GATTEAUX (Nicolas-Marie Gatteaux) is placed above the exergue line in smaller letters.

Reverse: A be-wigged Burgoyne on the left presents his sword to a bare-headed Gates on the right, left hand on his hip holding his tri-cornered hat. British army on the left, laying down arms, American army at attention on the right. Trophies of war in the foreground. SALUS REGIONUM SEPTENTRIONALIS. (The safety of the Northern Regions). In exergue: HOSTE AD SARATOGAM IN DEDITION. ACCEPTO I DIE XVII. OCT. MDCCLXXVII (The enemy taken in surrender at Saratoga on the 17th day of October, 1777).



Portrait of Horatio Gates, donning his Congressional medal.



*'Surrender of General Burgoyne' by John Trumbull (1822).*

## Provenances

Like the Washington medal, the Gates medal was struck in gold for the general himself and several other times using other metals. The authors' extensive survey of extant Gates medals concludes that, aside from the gold medal at the New-York Historical Society, a silver copy is located at the Massachusetts Historical Society and another at the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna. Additionally, a silver copy (State 2) was sold at a Bowers & Merena auction in April 1986. The survey also revealed seven known copies in white metal (tin) and thirty-one known copies in bronze.

"According to the description that accompanies the gold medal and its box at the New-York Historical Society, Horatio Gates bequeathed it to Horatio Gates Stevens (1778-1873), the son of Ebenezer Stevens (1751-1823), who served with the general throughout the war. Lucille Stevens, the daughter of Horatio Gates Stevens, married Albert R. Gallatin in 1837. The gold medal passed to Frederic Gallatin, a son of this union, who presented it to the New-York Historical Society in 1889, 102 years after the victory at Saratoga...

"As might be expected, the gold medal in the New-York Historical Society is State 1, as are the silver medals in the Washington-Webster set and at the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna. We have seen only two bronze examples in State 1, presumably survivors from the batch of 24 struck at the same time as Gates' gold. It is a reasonable assumption that any piece in State 1 can claim French ancestry."

Softer metals such as bronze or tin were preferred to harder metals, due to the relative fragility of the dies and the high cost to reproduce them. Many of the imperfections found in the existing medals, therefore, are indicative of the imperfect dies used to cast them.

Furthermore, the clearest medals were produced in France, where the original dies were used. By the time copies of the *Comitia Americana* medals were minted in the United States, they were done so with copies of the original dies—which led to compromises in clarity and sharpness.



# Bahamajoe's

Your Vision. Our Products.

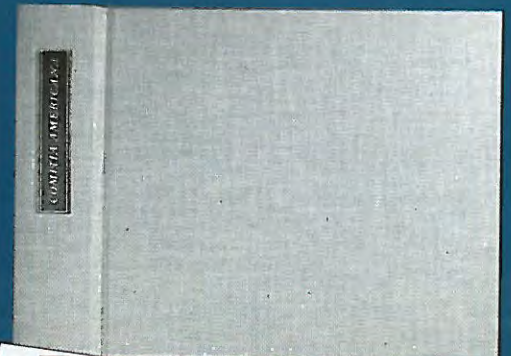


- Embroidery
- Promotional Products
- T-shirts

[www.bahamajoes.com](http://www.bahamajoes.com)



Kolbe & Fanning  
Numismatic Booksellers  
[numislit.com](http://numislit.com)



Use code **COMITIA** for 10% off your first order from our online bookstore



*Libertas Americana 1775/1781—Reverse  
Terra cotta model (8 3/4") by Augustin Duprè  
Private collection  
Photograph by Robert Williams, Wellesley, MA*

## Comitia Americana and Related Medals: Underappreciated Monuments to Our Heritage

by John W. Adams and Anne E. Bentley

Regular Edition: Bound in linen with a leather spine label and illustrated throughout using a full-color stochastic printing process. \$75

Special Edition crafted by Bird & Bull Press in full Morocco, enclosed in a Japan cloth clamshell box and printed using 18th century letterpress technology on sumptuous paper. Includes an original engraving from Loubat's 1878 *Medallic History of the United States*. Limited edition of 60 copies. \$1500

# The Provenance of Washington's Gold Medal



By far the most valuable commemorative medal in America, Washington's gold medal is the first Congressional medal ever awarded by the U.S. Congress. For one hundred and thirty years, the Boston Public Library has been the custodian of this wonderful piece of history.

- Struck in Paris in 1789
- Brought to the United States by Thomas Jefferson aboard the *Clermont*; [the medal] escapes destruction in fire aboard the *Clermont* after it lands
- Thomas Jefferson presents it to George Washington in New York, March 1790
- Circa 1800 inventory of articles at Mount Vernon ("1 large gold medal of Gen'l W—n") valued at \$150
- Willed to George Steptoe Washington, George Washington's nephew then to GSW's eldest son, Dr. Samuel Walter Washington to SWW's widow, thence to her son George Lafayette Washington to GLW's widow, Mrs. Ann Bull Washington
- During the Civil War it was buried for safekeeping in the cellar of a Washington family member's house not far from Harper's Ferry



- Offered for sale on various occasions by George Lafayette Washington and then by his widow
- Bought for \$5,000 by subscription of public-spirited citizens of Boston and deposited at the Boston Public Library. Transaction recorded on March 20, 1876, almost 100 years exactly after the event was commemorated.

# Drumbeat

## Advertising Opportunities



The *Drumbeat* will begin carrying select advertisements with the Fall 2017 issue. We invite you to think of the *Drumbeat* as a tool for promoting your business. Your business name would be seen by approximately 15,750 like-minded individuals coast to coast and beyond who see and read this publication quarterly (4,500 printed issues x 3.5 readers per issue, an industry average).

The quality controlled distribution of this newsletter assures that your firm's image will be seen by a wide range of professionals, skilled workers, and retired folks—among them, multiple generations of the same prestigious families—all who have an interest in the General Society, Sons of the Revolution. Above all, they desire to preserve and promote the history and heritage of the American Revolution.

More than two centuries ago, thousands of men gathered in a sacred fellowship, and risked their lives and livelihoods to establish the ideals of American life. Today, that fellowship and dedication to America's past, present and future continue in the Sons of the Revolution!

Your advertising dollar will help offset the costs of *Drumbeat* production, thereby conserving the budget of the General Society. However, members are under no obligation to sponsor an ad.

### 2017-18 Quarterly Advertising Rates

Rate Base: 4,500 (3.5 estimated readers per copy)

1/4 Page - 3 5/8" X 5 1/8" .....\$455 ea.  
 \$432.25 ea. for 2x contract • \$409.50 ea. for 4x contract



1/2 Page - 7.5" X 5 1/8" .....\$825 ea.  
 \$783.75 ea. for 2x contract • \$742.50 ea. for 4x contract



Full Page - 7.5" X 10.5" .....\$1500 ea.  
 \$1425 ea. for 3x contract • \$1350 ea. for 6x contract



Special Placement.....\$1650 ea.  
 \$1567.50 ea. for 2x contract • \$1485 ea. for 4x contract

Ad files will be accepted in Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop or High Resolution PDFs. All type must be converted to paths.

**Circulation:**  
 4,500 printed issues x 3.5 readers per issue (standard industry average) = 15,250 readers per issue.

**Production Information**  
 Send digital ad materials to:  
 David W. Swafford, Drumbeat Editor  
 Tel: (816) 755-0989  
 Email: drumbeat1776@sbcglobal.net

Contact: David W. Swafford, Tel. (816) 255-0989; • Email: drumbeat1776@sbcglobal.net

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE DATES

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Deadline Date</b>	<b>Issue Mailed</b>
Winter	November 15	December 31
Spring	February 15	March 30
Summer	May 15	June 30
Fall	Aug 15	Sept 30

---

**Mitchell Bush, *Publisher***  
**David W. Swafford, *Editor***  
**Ron Freeman, *Publications Chair***  
**Jeff Lambert**  
**Rick Ross, *Graphic Designer***

---

***Please send submissions to:***  
Publications Editor  
General Society, Sons of the Revolution  
Email: [Drumbeat1776@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Drumbeat1776@sbcglobal.net)  
Copyright, General Society  
Sons of the Revolution  
**To Contact GSSR HQ,**  
**Call 1-800-593-1776**