



Doubletree By Hilton, NYC Financial District.
—Source: expedia.com

SRNY Hosts 2016 BOM Meeting

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York (SRNY) cordially invites members to the 2016 General Society Board of Managers Meeting to be held in New York City, October 7th – 9th. [Please note the Meeting Registration form and Meeting Agenda on pages 4-5 of this issue.]

The General Society encourages each State Society to have a representative attend this meeting. The SRNY has reserved a discounted bloc of rooms at the Doubletree by Hilton in the Financial District, very close to the meeting venue. On Stone Street, this Doubletree rises forty-three stories high, offers views of downtown Manhattan and the Hudson River, and is located within the landmarked ‘Stone Street Historic District’.

The History of Pearl Street’s Pearl

By Laurence Simpson, D.D.S.

More than one hundred years ago, in 1904, the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York acquired the Fraunces Tavern. Its acquisition is a story of circumstances falling into place in the right way at the right time.

Had it not been for more than one fortuitous twist of fate, the building which played a pivotal role in the Revolutionary era and where George Washington in 1783 bid his Revolutionary War generals a tearful good-bye, may not have survived the first decade of the twentieth century.

From 1762, when Samuel Fraunces purchased the property, to the time of the Sons’ acquisition, the structure had seen several owners and had primarily been used as a tavern

and boarding house. By 1904, in addition to the tavern located downstairs, the upstairs had been divided into small apartments which served a transient population.

—Continued on page 6



The Fraunces Tavern on Flag Day, 2015. All images courtesy SRNY.



National Report

Second Year of Shepherd Scholarship

On 9 May 2016, North Royalton (Ohio) Middle School eighth-grade student Emily Hamilton was selected as the recipient of the second annual John Shepherd Scholarship. The scholarship funds a trip to Washington, D.C. during which the student is taken on a tour of historic sites.



Emily Hamilton with principal Jeff Cicerchi (left) and superintendent Greg Gurka (right).

—Source: Cleveland.com



John E. James visits GSSR HQ. Jeff Lambert greets Dr. James B Ebert.

Nonagenarians Visit the GSSR HQ

The General Society headquarters is always ready to receive visitors. Advancing age should not prevent anyone from making a visit, as earlier this year two nonagenarians stopped by to have a look.

Mr. John E. James of the Pennsylvania Society and Dr. James B. Ebert of the North Carolina Society, along with respective family members, made the trek to Williamsburg.

In the early spring, Dr. Ebert, who is also a former General Vice President, stopped in for a visit, accompanied by his wife, Eleanor, and their daughter-in-law. A few weeks prior to the Eberts' visit, Mr. James came by with his daughter, Dr. Marion T. Lane. Dr. Lane is a board member of the Friends of Valley Forge Park and a past National President of the Society of Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge. You are encouraged to visit your Society headquarters. Give a call to make certain someone will be here to greet you.—Jeffrey Lambert, Executive Director, GSSR

The awarding of the scholarship is based on the best student essay that commemorates Sgt. Shepherd, who passed away at the age of 117 and likely is the longest-lived veteran of the Revolutionary War. After the war, he moved his family out to Ohio and became a founder of the town of North Royalton. He is buried in the cemetery across from the school.

Emily's essay focused on Shepherd's life legacy, the "dash" between his birth date and death date. "So what does that dash mean on a tombstone? Does it mean a lifetime full of highs, lows, experiences and memories? Or is it just a tiny line on a tombstone? You tell me." ■

—Charles Phebus, Tennessee Society



The Executive Board, pictured with guests, met at the Fraunces Tavern in June 2016.—Photo courtesy Caswell Cooke



President's Message

“Let Us All Unite!”

Gentlemen, we live in complex times, but all of us need to remember that we share far more in common with each other than we might realize. By virtue of the blood, sweat, toil, and tears of our patriot-ancestors and all that they sacrificed, we inherited a unifying legacy. That legacy is simply our being descended from first-generation Americans.

Whether man or woman, black or white, rich or poor, Northerner or Southerner, we are made equal, as brothers and sisters, by virtue of being the sons and daughters of the ones who fought for a new way of life, free

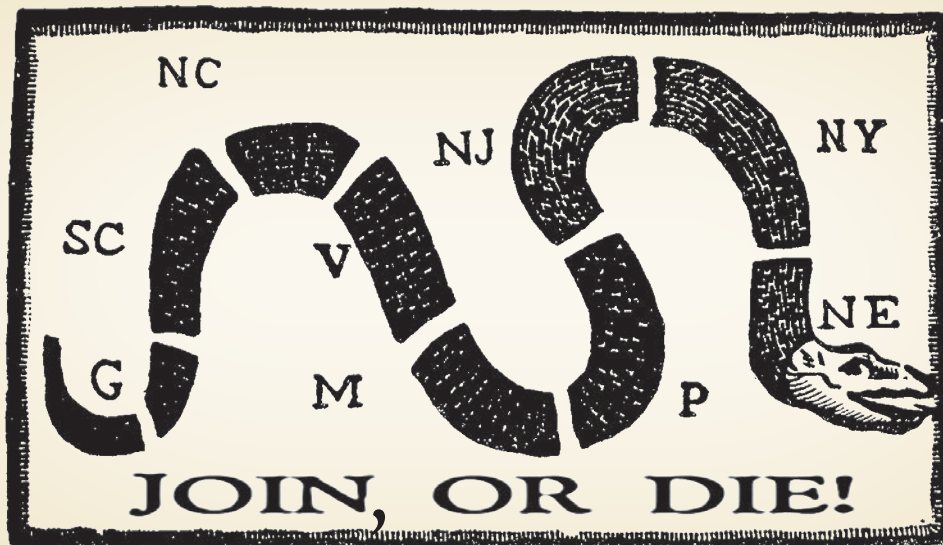
from tyranny.

We are members of a General Society through our various States. Throughout this Society, the glue that keeps us together is our shared birthright as the grateful inheritors of our Revolutionary forefathers' struggle. That should be enough, gentlemen. That should be all that is necessary to keep us unified in spirit.

We might be vastly different as individuals, with personal perspectives that clash more than they congeal, but we are called upon to be and to act as One, in order to properly honor what our ancestors did. From their graves, they are calling upon us to drop our perceived divisions and act as real Sons of the Revolution—Americans—not as Republicans vs. Democrats, Christians vs. non-Christians, gay vs. straight, etc. Although we can divide ourselves by endless categories, we should and must rise above. The only moniker we need label ourselves with is Descendant or Son.

During the American Revolution, patriots from every corner of the Thirteen Colonies came together in a collective action. Though the New Englanders were vastly different from the Virginians, and the Pennsylvanians in stark contrast to the Carolinians, their patriotic brotherhood saw them through. It was the collective will, the collective belief, in something greater than themselves that won the day.

The Sons of the Revolution as a whole is truly greater than the sum of all its parts. Although we greatly respect the history and traditions of each and every State Society, the General Society must assume the mantle of our collective fraternity, hold our singular name on high, and carry the weight of our brand. Friends, let's uphold our legacy in unity. Even George Washington would expect nothing less.





GENERAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE REVOLUTION
2016 Annual BOM Meeting Registration



October 7 - 9, 2016

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of Spouse/Guest, if attending: _____

Date and time of check-in: _____

Please check off events or meetings that you will attend:

- Delegates Luncheon Friday, Oct 7 at Fraunces Tavern
- PM Business Meeting on Friday, Oct 7 at Fraunces Tavern
- Dinner at Fraunces Tavern Restaurant, Friday, Oct 7; number to attend _____
- 'Hamilton, An American Musical' Friday, Oct 7; number to attend _____
- AM Business Meeting on Saturday, Oct 8 at Fraunces Tavern
- Reception & Dinner at Fraunces Tavern, Saturday, Oct 8; number to attend _____
- Hospitality Suite at Fraunces Tavern, Saturday, Oct 8; number to attend _____

Meeting Venue: Fraunces Tavern, 54 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10004; Tel. (212)-425-1776.

BOM Meeting Costs:

Delegate Rate: \$215.00 (includes all events)

Spouse/Guest Rate: \$195.00 (includes all events except Friday Delegate Luncheon, \$20 per person additional)

Extra Costs: Continental Breakfasts at hotel; Friday lunch for Spouse/Guest; Saturday lunch for both; Sight-seeing, entertainment and all transportation (except buses to Hamilton)

Hotel accommodations: Doubletree by Hilton, 8 Stone Street, New York, NY 10002; Tel. (212) 480-9100 or (800) 445-8667. Reserve your room by calling the number(s) listed or by booking online, <http://tinyurl.com/zbfs8lo>.

Special Room Rates for GSSR: 2 DOUBLE BEDS, \$259.00 USD/Night; 1 KING BED, \$229.00 USD/Night
These room rates are available for purchase through Sept 7, 2016. Room rates are quoted exclusive of local taxes and fees, currently 14.75% and \$3.50 occupancy tax. Breakfast served at the Hotel is \$12 per person. Self-parking is \$40.00 per night. Valet parking is \$60.00 per night.

For 'Hamilton' Tickets: The SRNY has a limited number of tickets for Hamilton. Cost is \$200 each; limit 2 per member. Contact Colyn C. Hunt to purchase. Extras may become available for those on the waiting list.

Please send completed form with payment (make checks payable to Sons of the Revolution NY) before September 15, 2016 to:

Ms. Colyn C. Hunt, Office & Membership Coordinator
 Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, Inc.
 54 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10004
 Tel: 212-425-1776
 Email: 2Administrator@sonsoftherevolution.org



GENERAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE REVOLUTION
2016 Annual BOM Meeting Agenda



October 7 - 9, 2016

• Thursday, Oct 6, 2016

Early registration begins at 4:00 pm

• Friday, Oct 7, 2016

9:00 am to 5:00 pm – Registration at The Doubletree

7:00 am to 8:30 am – Continental Breakfast at The Doubletree (\$12 per person w/ room)

9:00 am to 3:00 pm – Spouse/Significant Other Activities (Recommendations) Attire: comfortable

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm – Delegates Luncheon at Fraunces Tavern Restaurant

Business Attire: dark jacket or blazer, white collared shirts, appropriate slacks and Society ties.

1:00 pm to 4:30 pm – Business Meeting in the Flag Gallery, Fraunces Tavern Museum

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm -- Dinner at Fraunces Tavern Restaurant. Attire: business

6:30 pm -- Buses leave FTR for Richard Rodgers Theater (Hamilton) Attire: business

8:00 pm to 10:30 pm – ‘Hamilton’* (\$200 per person) at Richard Rodgers Theater

11:00 pm – Buses return to The Doubletree

• Saturday, October 8, 2016

7:00 am to 8:30 am – Continental Breakfast at The Doubletree (\$12 per person w/ room)

9:00 am to 11:30 am – Business Meeting in the Flag Gallery at Fraunces Tavern Museum. Attire: business

11:30 am to 6:00 pm – Activities on your own. Attire: comfortable

6:30 pm to 7:30 pm – Reception at Fraunces Tavern Museum. Attire: business

7:30 pm to 9:30 pm – Dinner at Fraunces Tavern Restaurant, Bissell Room

9:30 pm to midnight – Hospitality Suite at Fraunces Tavern Restaurant

• Sunday, October 9, 2016

7:00 am to 8:30 am – Continental Breakfast at The Doubletree (\$12 per person w/ room)

For any and all questions related to the BOM Meeting, agenda, and activities, please contact:

Ms. Colyn C. Hunt, Office & Membership Coordinator

Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, Inc.

54 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10004

Tel: 212-425-1776

Email: 2Administrator@sonsoftherevolution.org

—*Fraunces Tavern continued from Page 1*

Stephen DeLancey originally built it as an extravagant three-story residence after receiving the plot from his father-in-law, Dutch magistrate Stephanus van Cortland. Although the details of its interior design are missing, Delancey finished the exterior with imported Dutch bricks laid out in a Flemish bond.

In the lapse of one hundred eighty-five years (1719 – 1904), the building suffered various fires and had incurred several structural changes. By the late 1800s, it no longer resembled the eighteenth-century tavern that Samuel Fraunces owned but more resembled a tired and lackluster edifice.

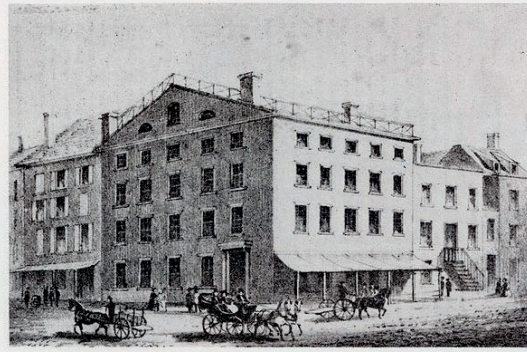
Heritage at Stake

Despite its appearance at the end of the nineteenth century, the building even then was marked with a painted sign as having been the location of Washington's farewell to his officers in 1783.

Truthfully, the Fraunces Tavern's place in Revolutionary-era history is much more than just the location where Washington bid his generals farewell. After Samuel Fraunces bought the property and opened the Queen's Head Tavern, it quickly became a meeting place of Patriots and mercantilists. The New York Chamber of Commerce was founded at the Queen's Head. The New York Tea Party was organized by the Sons of Liberty at the Queen's Head.

On 23 Aug 1775, following an attempt by John Lamb's Artillery Company to confiscate a dozen cannon from the Grand Battery (Fort George), the *HMS Asia* bombarded the City from midnight to 3 a.m. the next day. The Tavern was hit and suffered a hole punched through the roof.

After the British occupied the City and Samuel Fraunces fled to New Jersey, he was later captured and forced to return to New York to cook for a British general. During that trying time, Fraunces would secretly feed American prisoners and pass on intelligence to the Patriots.



This earliest known view of Fraunces Tavern is believed to represent the building as it was altered following a fire in 1832. From Valentine's Manual for 1854



Fraunces Tavern, c. 1880, when it was in disrepair.



Fraunces Tavern, c. 1910, after the renovation.

Following the war, the new Federal Government leased space in the Fraunces Tavern. In early 1785, the Continental Congress leased office space there for use by the Department of Foreign Affairs. For a time, the Departments of Foreign Affairs, War, and Treasury all were operated out of Fraunces Tavern. The three departments were tenants until May of 1788.

A Century Later

In 1883, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York reorganized, holding the Turtle Feast in the Long Room on the centenary of Washington's farewell speech. Five years afterwards, the Society formed a Committee to try to arrange for the acquisition of the property. It was not feasible. Just before the turn of the century, other patriotic societies expressed an interest in acquiring the site, including the DAR, but all attempts failed.

The title holders, several of them in France, were widely dispersed and refused to sell. Neither were they interested in saving the building for its historical value. As far as they were concerned,

the property would be better utilized by razing the building.

By 1901, still looking for an appropriate headquarters, the Sons opted to purchase a property in the area of Longacre Square (later renamed Times Square). Nevertheless, the City of New York was also interested in saving the old Fraunces Tavern

building; however, it could not and would not spend the funds to acquire the property at market value and restore it to its former, eighteenth-century condition.

Since the title holders would not sell, the Sons and the City began to negotiate a solution to the problem: If the City would impose eminent domain and condemn the building, the title holders would be forced to sell it to the City. The Sons would then purchase the building from the City and restore it to its eighteenth-century condition.

After the City condemned the site, effectively, the SRNY secured a mortgage for the Tavern. The last act by longtime SRNY President Frederick S. Tallmadge was to sign the deed for the Fraunces Tavern. But now, the Society faced the problem of financing the renovation.

Meanwhile, in June 1904, longtime SRNY President Frederick S. Tallmadge, grandson of Revolutionary War hero Col. Benjamin Tallmadge, died. In his will, he deeded his Gramercy Park townhome to the Society with the codicil that it must be used as a headquarters. The SRNY convinced Mr.

Tallmadge's only remaining living relative that he would have allowed the Society to sell the townhome in order to restore the Tavern.

The relative acquiesced. The Society sold the townhome and now had the cash to complete the restoration. Three years later, the Sons opened the refurbished Fraunces Tavern as a museum, restaurant, and Society headquarters.

A New York First

The idea of renovating an old building to resemble an earlier time was completely novel. As New Yorkers were accustomed to knocking down old buildings to make way for new, the press snickered at the idea. No one in the City had ever returned a tired building back through time, enhanced. Yet by the time the project was completed, the Sons' had the last laugh.

The SRNY hired architect William Mersereau to restore the building to its colonial appearance. He based the interior redesign on details found in the Philipsburg Manor in Tarrytown, New York, one of the best surviving examples of eighteenth-century architecture. As the restoration proceeded, decades of modernization were stripped away, starting with the cast iron facade. The deconstruction of 54 Pearl Street revealed red bricks on the Pearl Street side and yellow bricks on the Broad Street side.

Furthermore, a definite difference could be

seen in the older bricks and mortar of the second and third floors, compared to that of the fourth and fifth levels. The south wall of the fourth story revealed the old roof line, which helped Mersereau determine the original roof's slope, which he followed.

Although some preservationist-purists scoff at restorations, calling the results inauthentic, the conversion of the Fraunces Tavern back to its heyday involved incorporating the very best models, ideas, and minds available to assimilate what the original most probably looked like.

The Society eventually sold its property near Times Square and paid off the Fraunces Tavern mort-



Frederick S. Tallmadge

gage about the time of the Great War. In the Roaring Twenties, it acquired 101 Broad Street. Later it bought 58 Pearl Street, and 24 and 26 Water Street, all of which became a part of the Fraunces Tavern complex.

In 1965, the complex was designated a New York City Landmark. By 1977, the block was listed as a New York City Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1979, Fraunces Tavern Museum was accredited by the Association of American Museums, and in 2008, 54 Pearl was added to the National Register of Historic Places. ■

FTM Exec Director Jessica B. Phillips contributed background knowledge to this article. Laurence Simpson is General Secretary and a Past President, SRNY.

COMMODORE JOHN BARRY, REVOLUTIONARY WAR HERO

By RADM J. Robert Lunney, General President Emeritus and
Chairman, American Heritage Committee*

One of many immigrants who have defended American liberty, Commodore John Barry (1745-1803) was a native of County Wexford in Ireland, born into a family of modest means. As a Catholic and a nationalist in English-ruled Ireland during the dark days of the Penal Laws, he had little hope of finding equal opportunity, much less upward mobility or even basic civil rights. For that reason, young Barry emigrated from Ireland to America in 1760, settling in Philadelphia.

The call of the sea was irresistible to him, having been influenced by his fisherman uncle. He joined the American merchant marine while still a youngster. First shipping out as a cabin boy, he worked his way upward. His first command out of Philadelphia, aboard *The Barbadoes*, came in 1766 when he was twenty-one years old. He spent the next several years sailing.

After the commencement of hostilities between Britain and the Thirteen Colonies, Capt. Barry offered his services to George Washington and the Continental Congress in the cause of American liberty. He was commissioned as a Captain in the Continental Navy.

Barry's victories at sea were many and important to the morale of the American people as well as to the successful prosecution of the war. Throughout the war, he captured over twenty enemy ships, often more than one at a time, and often under daring circumstances. The armaments, gun powder, and other supplies captured from these ventures were highly appreciated by George Washington and the Continental Congress.

'No Sir, the thunder!'

While in command of the thirty-two gun *Alliance*, the erstwhile sailer fought many actions. On one occasion, he captured two Royal Navy sloops, *HMS Atalanta* and *HMS Trepassey*, after a trying four-hour sea battle during which he was severely injured. Off the coast of Newfoundland on 28 May 1781, the two enemy sloops faced the *Alliance* and

broadsided her. As a loss of wind made the *Alliance* vulnerable, Barry stood firm on the quarter decks and faced a barrage of enemy fire from both sloops. He was hit in the shoulder and badly wounded by grapeshot. After losing considerable blood, he was taken below decks for treatment, shortly after which an enemy shot carried away the American ensign.

The English sailors began cheering, thinking the Americans had struck. But the fallen ensign was restored, and Barry re-emerged again on deck after his second-in-command, Lieut. Hoysted Hacker, approached him with the suggestion to strike the colors. A furious Barry told him, "No Sir, the thunder! If this ship cannot be fought without me, I will be brought on deck; to your duty, Sir."

Just as this occurred, the wind changed direction and allowed the *Alliance* to broadside the two British ships. Even though wounded, Barry led the capture of both sloops.



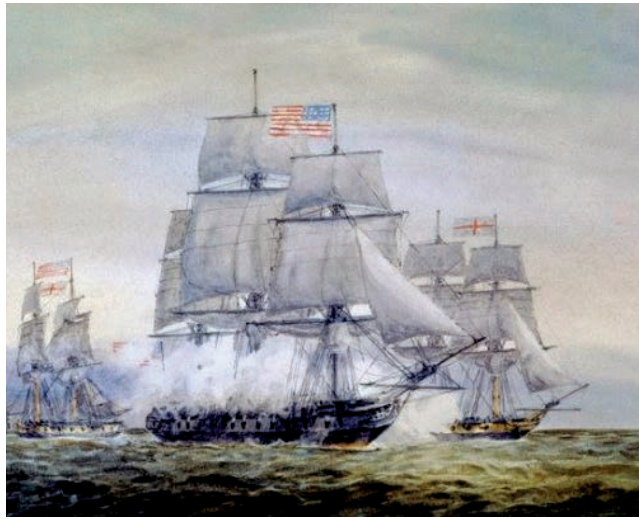
Commodore John Barry, by Gilbert Stuart, 1801.

"Howe's Offer Rebuffed"

Perhaps his most unusual service, though, came on the Delaware River. During the winter of 1776, while waiting for his next ship to be constructed, Barry participated in Washington's brilliant plan to cross the Delaware River on Christmas night. Barry assembled a company of volunteers, and they were attached to Capt. William Brown's company of marines. After the crossing, Barry and his marine volunteers

joined the army in the land battles of Trenton and Princeton.

Because of his many successful pirating and other defensive missions on the Lower Delaware, including the victorious Battle of Turtle Gut Inlet, Lord Howe apparently offered the Captain twenty thousand guineas and the command of a British frigate if he would desert the service of the United Colonies. Barry's alleged answer was: "Not the value and command of the whole British fleet can seduce me from the cause of my country."



USS Alliance, by Irwin John David Bevan (1852-1940).

Ferrying the Atlantic

More than once during the war, Barry was asked to ferry high-ranking army officers and diplomats across the Atlantic. On February 11, 1781, the *Alliance* sailed from Boston with Lieut. Col. John Laurens aboard as a special Commissioner to France to seek “an immediate, ample and efficacious succor in money, large enough to be a foundation for substantial arrangement of finance, to revive public credit and give vigor to future operations.”

They arrived in L’Orient on 9 Mar 1781. They secured from the King an extra six million French livres, which financed the Continental Army at the Battle of Yorktown. That money and additional supplies were sent back across the Atlantic aboard a different ship, as Capt. Barry had fallen ill in France.

His most lucrative crossing commenced in August 1782, when the treasures he captured en route were sold in Europe for more than £600,000. Returning by way of the West Indies and Havana on 10 March 1783, he fell in with the British frigate *HMS Sybil*. After an intense fight of forty-five minutes, the *Sybil* retreated. This was the last sea battle of the war and the last maritime transfer of money for the war effort.

After the War

After the war, Barry immediately returned to the merchant marine and enjoyed a successful career, making one of the first trading voyages to China. However, when Congress, under the Constitution, was authorized to provide and maintain a Navy, President Washington turned to Barry and conferred upon him “Commission No. 1” as Captain, United States Navy. The Commission was effective 7 June 1794 and was delivered by Washing-



The Army and Navy, by Alfred M. Hoffy (1790-1860)

ton on 22 Feb 1797.

Barry served as the senior officer of the United States Navy with the title ‘Commodore’ in official correspondence under Presidents Washington, Adams and Jefferson. As Commander of the first U.S. Naval Squadron, he had the right to fly a broad pendant which recognized him as a flag officer.

Barry remained as head of the U.S. Navy until his death on 13 Sept 1803. He is buried in Saint Mary’s Catholic Churchyard, Philadelphia. The ships which he built, and the Captains he selected, as well as the officers trained by him, constituted the United States Navy that performed outstanding service in the Quasi-War with France, in battles with the Barbary Pirates, and in the War of 1812.

Four U.S. Navy warships in our nation’s history have been named for Commodore John Barry. The latest, operating out of Norfolk, Virginia, is the *USS John Barry* (DDG-52) a guided missile destroyer.

Significantly, and by joint resolution of Congress, signed into law by President George W. Bush on 22 Dec 2005, Barry was formally recognized and honored as the first flag officer of the United States Navy (Public Law 109-142.) This Congressional resolution was strongly endorsed by the Sons of the Revolution together with many naval and military organizations.

In May 2014, the Commodore John Barry Memorial, just inside the Barry Gate at the U.S. Naval Academy was jointly dedicated by the U.S. Navy and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Many consider Barry to be the true “Father of the American Navy.” ■

**In early 2016, the American Heritage, National Defense & Education Committee was renamed American Heritage Committee.*



State News

ALABAMA

The Alabama Society is proceeding with reorganization efforts and continues to reinstate previous members and add new ones. Society President Robert Thomas was honored to bring greetings from the Sons at the C.A.R. National Convention in Alexandria recently, and



C.A.R. State President David Duffee, Jr., with Bob Thomas.

we are proud that Alabama C.A.R. State President David Duffee, Jr. received the SR Traveling Banner. President Duffee is a third-generation SR member, following his father, uncles, and grandfather.—text and photo submitted by President Bob Thomas

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

2016 Art in American History Prize

In April, the Sons of the Revolution in the District of Columbia presented its annual *Art in American History Prize* at the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design in Washington, DC. The School is part of The George Washington University. The competition is open to graduates and undergrads. Winners are selected by the Corcoran faculty in a competition, and the prize is presented at the College's annual awards ceremony.

The generous monetary award has become the

annual catalyst for a cadre of very talented art students to research an American work of art of their choosing and write about its relationship to the elements and values of American history—those that define both who we were and have become as a nation.

This year, awards went to two graduate students, Ms Cambra Sklarz and Ms Hayley Prihoda. Cambra analyzed the 1792 Gilbert Stuart painting called “The Skater” in her essay entitled, *Duration and the Moment in Gilbert Stuart’s The Skater: A Shockingly Modern Picture of a Gentleman in Motion*. Hayley chose a 1935 piece by Walter Ellison called “Train Station” in her essay entitled, *Walter Ellison’s Train Station: Constructing Criticality in the Margins*.

Cambra’s analysis of *The Skater* focused on the context of the celebrity culture prevalent in 1792 London. The painting was a sensation there when it was exhibited.

Haley determined that Ellison’s *Train Station* depicts the interior of the Macon, Georgia train station in the early twentieth century in order to subversively critique the harsh realities of racial segregation.



On the steps of the Corcoran School of Art & Design, left to right: Wade Smith, Awards and Memorials Committee; Tim Finton, First Vice-President; prize winners Cambra Sklarz and Hayley Prihoda; Lisa Lipinski, Corcoran School of the Arts & Design.

The Corcoran award winners will receive additional recognition in December as guests at the DC Society's annual meeting and formal holiday dinner gala. To receive a copy of the prize-winning essays, contact David Smith at smithdfz@state.gov or call him at 202.647.6262.—*article and photo submitted by Committee Member Wade Smith.*

FLORIDA

Meetings of the Palm Beach Chapter

In March, the newly formed Palm Beach Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Florida completed its fourth meeting in just a few months. Over thirty Founding Members were approved, representing a dramatic increase in State Society membership.



L-R: PBFL Chapter President James McCartney Wearn, General Secretary Dr. Laurence S. Simpson, PBFL Chapter Vice President Joseph Paul Meyer, and General President Emeritus James J. Shannon, Jr.

Robb Aley Allan, Chapter Secretary, gave a very informative and visual presentation of the March 1781 Battle of Guilford Courthouse, which led to the retreat of Gen. Cornwallis in the Carolinas and his surrender at Yorktown. Mr. Allan included a clip from the Broadway musical "Hamilton" in his presentation. (He kindly has provided seventy-five tickets to "Hamilton" for attendees of the GSSR BOM Meeting this fall in New York City.)

In addition to Mr. Allan's presentation, fifteen new officers and board members were inducted by outgoing President James McCarthy Wearn. The Insignia of Officer was passed to incoming President Comdr. James Gearey Ward with the assistance of General President Emeritus James J. Shannon, Jr. President Ward, in turn, presented Past President Wearn with a framed resolution in the Colors of the Continental Army, a GSSR Centennial History, and the SR Pocket Patch.

A booklet on the US Constitution and related founding documents were distributed to all attendees. William Burpee Richard has donated a Sons of the Revolution flag to the Chapter, and the Pennsylvania Color Guard has donated an American flag (Stars & Stripes).

Prior to that meeting, in the Chapter's February meeting, the group discussed planned activities for education and working with veterans. Founding Member Joseph Paul Meyer gave a very interesting presentation on George Washington's interest in Fox Hunting and Horses at their well-attended February Meeting at the Sailfish Club in Palm Beach. Joe is the Chairman of the US Polo Association. He ended his talk with a toast to honor Washington's Birthday.

Another Founding Member, Dr. Laurence S. Simpson, General Secretary, was in attendance. Dr. Simpson is a Past President of the New York Society and Past Chairman of Fraunces Tavern Museum.—*article and photo submitted by Chapter Sec. Robb Aley Allan*

GEORGIA

The Georgia Society of the Sons of the Revolution has had a productive year to date. With installation of officers at the Annual Meeting in January, Society President Roland S. Summers, MD assumed leadership with the great assistance of 1st Vice President Frank Hardeman and Immediate Past President Ron Freeman. Our Annual Banquet was held at the Savannah Yacht Club in February, where Senator Jesse Stone of Waynesboro, Georgia, spoke of his Georgian ancestors and their roles in the Revolutionary War.



L-R: Society President Roland S. Summers MD, Senator Jesse Stone, and Solicitor Hon. Lamar Davis at the Society's Annual Banquet.—Photo by David H. Dickey



Speaker Ron Freeman is introduced to the Nathanael Greene Chapter.—Photo courtesy Ron Freeman

In March, Vice President Hardeman participated in the Battle of Kettle Creek re-enactment near Washington, Georgia.

On July 4th, new member Dean Horstman laid a wreath at the DAR's celebration at The Colonial Cemetery. Established in 1750, this cemetery is the oldest intact municipal cemetery in Savannah. The DAR's "Patriots' Arch" was erected in 1913 and completed in 1914 to memorialize the Revolutionary War veterans buried there.

—submitted by President Roland S. Summers



Mitchell and Leslie Bush at the Thoroughbred Club in Lexington, Kentucky.

KENTUCKY

On 26 Feb 2016, the Kentucky Society hosted a Birthday dinner in honor of George Washington at the Lexington Club, Lexington. The Society of the Cincinnati and the local SAR Layette Chapter also attended. Col. Ron Williams spoke on Gen. Washington's spy ring.

Later in the year, General President Mitchell Bush, with his wife, Leslie, came through Lexington on a road trip to several State Societies. They were given a tour of the Thoroughbred Club and surrounding horse farms, which they thoroughly enjoyed.—text and photo submitted by President Buzz Carmichael



Kentucky Society members at the Lexington Club.

MARYLAND

In mid-October the Maryland Society held a very enjoyable Annual French Monument Wreath Ceremony and Reception. We had participation from many revolutionary period and colonial societies, the Naval Academy and the French Embassy. Over ninety persons attended, making it the largest turnout ever in the fifty-two years of this significant event.

The ceremony was co-chaired by our Society's Brigadier General (Ret) M. Hall Worthington and by Lynn Lounsberry of the Cercle Francais d' Annapolis. Remarks were provided by Captain Luc



Naval Academy Midshipmen participating in the ceremony, with SAR Musketeers in the background.

Pagès, the French Embassy French Naval Attaché. A reception was held at the St. John's Boathouse immediately following the ceremony.

Later, SR members met at the historic Philpot House for the annual President's Reception at the

Green Spring Upper Club, near Cockeysville. Special toasts were provided by Society President Russell Rich, 1st Vice President Marshall Hawks, and Past President Will Somerville.

In early December, the Society continued the good momentum with a well-attended Christmas Brunch, in honor of George Washington. Professor Steven Feeley of the McDaniel College History Department gave a very interesting talk about the role of Indians in George Washington's life and the American Revolution.

—text and photo submitted by Buzz Warren

Annapolis Cup Recipient

Midshipman Ellen Bradford, honors systems engineering graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, was given the General Society, Sons of the Revolution



Midshipman Ellen Bradford, USN.

—Source: knoxnews.com

Annapolis Cup earlier this year. Each year the Cup is awarded by a small contingency including General President Emeritus M. Hall Worthington, a Maryland Society member. Ms. Bradford completed her degree with a 4.0 GPA and ranked first in her class on the Academic Order of Merit. Additionally, Ellen is a stand-out competitive swimmer. In February 2016 she qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials in the 100-meter breaststroke. A resident of Knoxville, Tennessee, Ms. Bradford was assigned to a submarine following her graduation.—Editor

MICHIGAN

The Michigan Society of the Sons of the Revolution held a spring meeting on 16 April 2016 at the GAR Hall and Museum in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. At this meeting, new officers were elected. Long-standing Society President Gary L. Gibson (2004 – 2016) stepped down. Incoming President Geoffrey A. Hickok presented Mr. Gibson with a Presidential Gavel plaque engraved, "Presented to Patriot Gary Lee Gibson for excellence and longevity of leadership as President MI Sons of the Revolution, 2004-2016."



L-R: President Hickok presents plaque to Past President Gibson.

Other officers installed included: Vice President Gary L. Gibson, Secretary Walter E. Hickok, Treasurer Keith G. Harrison, Registrar Geoffrey A. Hickok, Historian Michael B. Culp, Chaplain James Willoughby, Chancellor James R. Neal, Esq., Captain of Color Guard David E. Miller, General Society Representative LTC Max J. Riekse, and CAR Representative Reverend Anders Garner.

Several new members received their certificates to the Michigan Society, including two proud junior members, James Thomas Gorno and Blake Addison Thomas, grandsons of Board Member Gary Thomas.

In other news, members took part in a new headstone dedication toward the end of May for Captain Daniel S. Wilson, buried in the Yorkville Cemetery, Kalamazoo County. They teamed with members of the local DAR, SAR, and CAR for the dedication. This Patriot's original headstone incorrectly indicated that he died in 1839 instead of 1834. Additionally, there was no reference to his service in the Revolutionary War.—text and photo submitted by Secretary Walter E. Hickok

NEW JERSEY

On Saturday, 9 Apr 2016, the New Jersey Society presented a check for \$1,800 to the Princeton Battlefield Society (PBS), which will be used to match funds raised toward the \$23,000 Phase II of the Restoration of the Thomas Clarke House. The presentation of the check was made by Society President Glen Beebe to Jerry Hurwitz, President, PBS. Mr. Beebe stated, "The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New Jersey were thrilled to support the Princeton Battlefield Society's work in restor-



SRNJ members at the Thomas Clarke House, Princeton.
—Photo courtesy Glen Beebe

ing the Clarke House. As the last remaining original building on the battlefield, it is a project that should demand everyone's attention."

In other news, the Scammell brothers (Charlie & Scott, both Past Presidents) are promoting the New Jersey Society's "Traveling Color Guard." The SRNJ Color Guard had been looking for a more permanent home for its wonderful flag collection. The flags had been stored in various barns and garages for many years until, recently, a solution presented itself. Scott Scammell came up with the idea of a trailer that could be used for both storing and transport the flags.

Jay Langley, another former officer, offered to donate a trailer to the SRNJ. Scott then decided to paint the trailer with various Revolutionary-era flags and insignia to spruce it up and promote the SRNJ. The trailer is now a promotional vehicle for the SRNJ. Having the trailer also makes it easier transporting the flags to various parades. "Have Trailer and Flags. Will Travel."—*Editor*



The Scammell brothers pose with trailer donated to SRNJ.
—Photo courtesy Charlie Scammell

NEW YORK

Of Two World Premieres

In the past half-year for the New York Society, Sons of the Revolution, two of their events have stood out as the equivalent of world premieres. The first was the inaugural unfurling of the Ruth Gruber Flag, which took place at the 2016 George Washington Birthday Ball. The second was the long-awaited opening of the current Fraunces Tavern Museum exhibit, *Dunsmore: Illustrating the American Revolutionary War*, which opened in June. In between those book-end events, the Society maintained its traditional busy schedule of events.

The Ruth Gruber Flag was conceived and donated to the Color Guard by Society President Ambrose M. Richardson, III, and was designed by Jonathan Wolk Ridgeway, Color Guard Chairman Emeritus. It honors the patriotic and life-saving work of author, photojournalist, and humanitarian Ruth Gruber.

At the fabulous age of 105 years, Ms. Gruber



The Ruth Gruber Flag was presented at the 2016 George Washington Birthday Ball.

has had a career as a photojournalist, has served the U.S. government, has written nineteen books to date and has accepted many writing, humanitarian, and lifetime-achievement awards. Her book, *Haven*, tells her personal story of escorting one thousand Holocaust refugees to America on behalf of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The flag was designed in honor of that mission and incorporates the Hebrew word for life in the center of the canton. The design also incorporates the number eight in several ways, since the word for life is also the eighth letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

The flag was manufactured by Annin Flagmakers of Roseland, N.J.

About three and a half months after the Ruth Gruber Flag was debuted, the Fraunces Tavern Museum opened *Dunsmore: Illustrating the American Revolutionary War*. The exhibit is a significant achievement for the SRNY as all of the paintings had to be painstakingly restored prior to the exhibit. The restoration process took nearly eleven years to complete.

A total of forty-seven of Dunsmore's works comprise the exhibit and depict the chronology of the Revolutionary War. Members of the Sons were instrumental in supporting the restorations. The exhibit itself was made possible through the generous support of Dr. Michael C. Wolf and the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution.

John Ward Dunsmore (1856-1945) was a realistic



FTM Exec Director and Curator Jessica B. Phillips on opening night of *Dunsmore*.

NORTH CAROLINA

Washington's Birthday Celebration

On Saturday, 20 Feb 2016, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of North Carolina was convened in Raleigh, N.C., to honor the memory of General George Washington. Attended by a number of other heritage societies, the commemoration was presided over by Society President Dan Hopping, who also led the board meeting that preceded the dinner.

The event was complemented by guest speaker Dale Loberger, a GIS professional consultant and re-enactor of eighteenth-century surveying tech-

niques. Mr. Loberger informed Society members and guests of the surveying tools and techniques used by Washington as a young man and later on in his life at Mt. Vernon.



N.C. Society and guests listening to Dale Loberger.

Loberger combines his interest in merging new and old mapping techniques with the study of physical slopes/gradations as well as soil types to rediscover the likeliest paths used for communication and trade during the American Revolution era.

Memorial Day at Bennett Place

Several members participated in the Remembrance celebration held at Bennett Place State Historic Site on 28-29 May 2016. Society President Dan Hopping reported, "Saturday was a beautiful day with over five hundred visitors. Sunday brought some rain, but we still had many hardy visitors."

The home of James and Nancy Bennett, who were simple yeoman farmers, in April 1865 served as the site of the surrender negotiations between Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman and Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. It was the largest surrender of the American Civil War, officially ending the fighting in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

On Memorial Day weekend, re-enactors portraying American soldiers from every war in U.S. history were on hand to educate visitors on the duty, honor, and sacrifices made during each era including the American Revolution. SRNC members represented Revolutionary War soldiers. Flowers and tokens were placed on the graves of all the deceased.

The SRNC sponsored a recruiting booth at the event, and Color Guard members brought several period flags to display. The Society came away with thirteen contacts of people interested in joining.



Color Guard members face Unity Monument at Bennett Place.

Davidson Chapter Activities

The Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson Chapter has established at Central Piedmont Community College a prize for a scholarship essay on any aspect of the American Revolution in the State of North Carolina. State Society Vice President and Chapter President Gus Succop was assisted greatly in organizing the prize by chapter member and CPCC instructor Chris Stonestreet and by CPCC Professor and Division Director Hugh Dussek.

The prize will be presented to the recipient at the chapter's annual Chartering Dinner on 29 Sept 2016, at The Charlotte Country Club. The prize is known as the "Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson Patriotic Prize."

In a collaborative spirit and effort, the SRNC via the Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson Chapter is participating with the Mecklenburg Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution and The May 20th Society to fund and dedicate a Patriots' Monument at Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville, N.C. The historic location is the final resting place for Gen. Davidson, who died at the Battle of Cowan's Ford, and a number of patriots.—*text and photos submitted by Secretary Gus Succop; photos taken by President Dan Hopping*

PENNSYLVANIA

A Replete Events Calendar

Washington's Birthday Ball, honoring the 284th anniversary of the birth of President George Washington, was held once again at the Union League of Philadelphia, on Saturday, 20 Feb 2016. Dress was white or black tie, with orders and decorations.

The traditional toasts were followed by dinner and dancing. There were nearly two hundred and ten attending this year, and the weather cooperated

to make it a pleasurable evening in Philadelphia.

The PSSR held its annual meeting on April 21st at the First City Troop Armory in Philadelphia. The meeting began promptly at 5:00 p.m. with more than one hundred attendees present. The Society Color Guard, led by Captain Robert R. Van Gulick, presented the colors to Society President W. Murray Gordon. The minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting were approved, and Secretary C. Michael Whelan recounted the events of the past year since that meeting.

Capital Campaign Committee Chairman W. Steven Mark announced the launch of the Herbert C. Rorer Memorial Fund, to establish a plan for future funding of Society projects. PSSR President Emeritus Benjamin C. Frick was named the Campaign Chairman.

Mr. Rorer was the chairman of a successful pharmaceutical company and a great benefactor to the PSSR. He died in 1962 of complications from an auto accident.

Annual Church Service

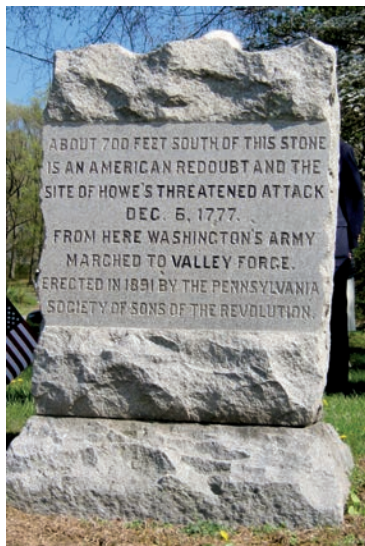


2016 Annual Church Service, St. Thomas Church in Whitemarsh.

The Annual Church Service was held on Sunday, 24 Apr 2016, at St. Thomas Church in Whitemarsh, an historic site that was once occupied by British troops during the Revolutionary War. The church service was performed by the Rector of St. Thomas Church and General Chaplain G. Clayton Ames.

After the service, attendees caravanned to the site of a PSSR monument erected in 1891 near Fort Washington dedicated to the soldiers who fought to defend the hill on which it stands from the British. About seven hundred feet south of the stone is an American redoubt and the site of General Howe's threatened attack on December 6, 1777. Members of the PSSR gathered there this year to re-dedicate the monument.

After the rededication, PSSR members and



PSSR Monument near Fort Washington, erected 1891.

their guests gathered at Manufacturer's Country Club for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner.

The annual PSSR New Citizens Reception took place this year on 21 June 2016, in the National Constitution Center. Following the ceremony presided over by the Hon. John R. Padova, all of the newly processed citizens

were welcomed to the Signer's Hall Museum. During the ceremony, Society President W. Murray Gordon addressed the assembly on behalf of the Society.

Following the presentation of the citizenship certificates by the judge, members of the Society gave to each new citizen a copy of the U.S. Constitution, a small American flag, a lapel pin, and a ball point pen.

Judge Padova selected a historically significant date for the ceremony. On 21 June 1788, the first nine of the Thirteen Colonies ratified the Constitution of the United States.

Younger Members Activities

A report from the PSSR office noted that Younger Member attendance at the George Washington's Birthday Ball was over forty, the largest attendance by Younger Members at that event to date. The Committee is grateful to all our YMs and their guests for joining the Society that evening to



Young Members and guests at the George Washington Birthday Dinner.

celebrate our Commander-in-Chief and First President of the United States.

Following that, on 17 March a few YMs attended "Tavern Talks," an event hosted by the Museum of the American Revolution held at the Philadelphia History Museum. The program featured a presentation on brewing techniques used during the Revolutionary War and samples of local beers and light fare.

Two days later, over twenty YMs and their guests participated in a tour of the Brandywine Battlefield, which was led by local historian and author Michael C. Harris. The half-day tour included numerous stops along the route the British took to out-flank the Continental and Militia forces on that fateful day, 11 Sept 1777. A luncheon was hosted by the YMs at Victory Brewing Company's Kennett Square Tavern.

On Saturday, 21 May 2016, in accordance with annual tradition, the YMs hosted its rail-side tailgate party at the Radnor Hunt Races, an annual steeplechase horse race held at Radnor Hunt in Malvern. Over forty YMs, their guests or spouses and children met at the racetrack.

—text and photos submitted by Secretary C. Michael Whelan

RHODE ISLAND

The RI Society, Sons of the Revolution held its Rhode Island Independence Day Luncheon in historic Newport on 7 May 2016. The state holiday honors Rhode Island's legislative action of 4 May 1776, which declared independence from the King and Parliament two full months before the Declaration of Independence. The event was a joint meeting of the RI SR and the RI Order of Founders and Patriots. We welcomed nine new members and presented them with their framed certificates. To



Nine new members welcomed in May.

date, the Society has added nineteen new members in the last year, which is an increase of more than 50%. Following the luncheon, several members held a brief memorial honoring RI Revolutionary War Governor John Collins at his gravesite.

—Text and photo submitted by President Bruce C. MacGunnigle

SOUTH CAROLINA

Ninety-Six National Historic Site

Members of the SCSR journeyed to the Ninety-Six National Historic Site on 2 April 2016 to attend a wreath-laying ceremony sponsored by the Cambridge Chapter of the SCSSAR. The joint group paid homage to the Patriots killed during the Battle of Ninety-Six (1775) and the Siege of Ninety-Six (1781).



SCSR President Swoope, right, at Ninety-Six NHS.

Among the fallen veterans interred at Ninety-Six NHS, there is one James Birmingham, who was the first Patriot casualty of the war in the South. He was also the only Patriot soldier killed at the 1775 battle there. Skeletal remains which might be of Birmingham were uncovered in 1972 by the University of South Carolina's Institute of Archeology and Anthropology. Confirmation of identification has yet to be made, however.

During the wreath-laying ceremony, SCSR President Chuck Swoope stepped forward and paid respects to the fallen and, on behalf of the Sons, expressed gratitude for their sacrifices. Later, Society members and their wives were captivated with David Wolfe's (Owensboro, KY) impersonation and storytelling of Gen. George Washington.

Johnsonville Annual Heritage Days

On Saturday, 21 May 2016, members of the SCSR Society participated in a membership drive at the Johnsonville Annual Heritage Days, an event that

promotes the area's Revolutionary War history. The Society manned a booth at the Lynches Scenic River Park during the weekend event. President Chuck Swoope, Treasurer Jeff Jordan, and Secretary Ivan Bennett distributed SR brochures and applications and shared information with local citizens. The Society extends its deep appreciation and thanks to Johnsonville Mayor Steve Dukes for helping to arrange SR presence at the event.

The evening before, Society President Chuck Swoope and Secretary Ivan Bennett were dinner guests of Mayor Dukes. Among topics discussed was the SCSR's desire to partner with Mayor Dukes in funding signage for the Marion Francis sculpture at Venter's Landing, formerly Witherspoon's Ferry.

In Honor of Mickey Whatley

On 11 May 2016, the Tri-County Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #3, and the Sons of the Revolution in the State of South Carolina participated in a tribute to former North Charleston Police Chief Mickey Whatley and to fallen police officers everywhere. The tribute was held at Park Circle in North Charleston, followed by the installation of a memorial statue and plaque of Mr. Whatley near his gravesite at Carolina Cemetery.

In addition to serving as police chief and as an agent with the State Law Enforcement Division, Whatley represented North Charleston in the S.C. House of Representatives and volunteered in many civic duties. Mr. Whatley's son, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Whatley, is Chaplain of the SCSR. He and his father directly descend from Revolutionary War Patriot Ian McCormick.—text and photos submitted by Secretary Ivan Bennett



Memorial plaque and statuette placed at Mickey Whatley's gravesite.

TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Society, Sons of the Revolution enjoyed participating in several patriotic events toward the end of last year and into the spring of this year. In early September, a memorial was held for Revolutionary War veteran Bartlett Siske, Sr. during which an SR plaque affixed underneath his gravestone was unveiled.

The Patriot served in the militia from both Virginia and North Carolina and during the war fought at the Battle of Stono Ferry and the Battle of Kings Mountain. Bartlett is the fourth great-grandfather of Society member Terry Sisk.



The new plaque for headstone of Bartlett Siske, Sr.



The turn of the calendar year presented two opportunities to remember the Tennessee men who fought in the Southern Campaign. In late March, the General Henry Knox Chapter hosted a free public presentation at Pellissippi State Community College on the veterans who fought at Kings Mountain as well as at Cowpens. Members Terry Sisk and Ralph Martin wore period dress to the event to help tell the story.

In late September, the Sons participated in the bicentennial memorial of Tennessee's most well-known Patriot, militia leader, and the state's first governor: John Sevier. Sevier died in September of 1815 and is buried with his wife at the old courthouse in downtown Knoxville, where a beautiful monument marks the gravesite. The Sons presented a wreath during a ceremony on the old courthouse lawn and later fired a musket salute in the governor's honor.

In early November, the Tennessee Society Color Guard gathered to march in the Veterans' Day Parade through downtown Knoxville. The weather was beautiful and the turn-out strong.

The turn of the cal-



The new marker for John Gilliland, "Father of Newport."

John Gilliland's Legacy

A few weeks later, memorial stone dedication for Revolutionary War soldier John Gilliland was held in late April at Wears Farm Park in Pigeon Forge. Gilliland, too, fought at Kings Mountain and was "a faithful friend of Col. Sevier."

Gilliland was wounded three times at the said battle, and although in bad shape, he advanced a third time to the top of the mountain to try to smite British commander Patrick Ferguson. Though Gilliland's rifle snapped in the intent, his father-in-law Robert Young is credited with firing one of the shots that knocked Ferguson out of his saddle, dead.

With the war over, John Gilliland brought his family southward into what would become Cocke County. He gave fifty acres of land for the establishment of Newport, thus earning him the nickname, "Father of Newport." He also contributed to the crafting of Tennessee's constitution.

The stone dedication was hosted by the Gen. Henry Knox Chapter Tennessee Society Sons of the Revolution, with Ralph Martin, whose wife Rebecca is a Gilliland descendant, as master of ceremonies.—Compiled by Editor; photos courtesy Terry Sisk and Ralph Martin

VIRGINIA

Strong Showings at Annual Traditions

In November, once again we had another successful Oyster Roast at Historic Fort Pocahontas. We would like to thank the Harrison Tyler family



A great time was had by all at the annual Oyster Roast.

for their generosity over the years in hosting this event at their historic home. The Oyster Roast has become a family-friendly, “standing event” each fall. Coming up in November of this year, we will join the Colonial Dames at an oyster roast at historic “Wilton,” on the banks of the James River in Richmond.

In February 2016, the VSSR held its 120th Annual George Washington Birthday dinner at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond. We are pleased to report that our Society is strong in both membership and spirit. We started 2016 with a membership of 572 and inducted forty-four new members during the dinner, which is a Virginia Society record!

Guest speaker for the evening’s celebration was William Garner, president of the George Washington Foundation of Fredericksburg, Virginia.

The February event was followed up in April with the annual wreath-laying celebration honoring the memory of James Monroe, Revolutionary patriot and U.S. President. This takes place at Richmond’s historic Hollywood Cemetery. The Virginia Society’s Peter Broadbent is the Vice President of



William Garner (seated left) was the keynote speaker at the 120th Annual Virginia Society George Washington Birthday Dinner.

the James Monroe Foundation and is always a pivotal individual at this occasion.

The Virginia Society awarded \$7,500 in scholarships to two deserving college students, with the top prize winner, Frances Leake, receiving \$5,000. Frances attended the University of Virginia and is doing graduate studies at Virginia Tech. In terms of our ongoing philanthropy, the Virginia Society continues to support the Virginia Historical Society, which houses our magnificent Stand of Colours dating to the early 1920s. We have also completed restoration of six of our flags in 2016.—text and photos by 1st Vice President Douglas Payne

WASHINGTON

The Washington Society in May 2016 had a full calendar for its annual recognition of outstanding Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) candidates. Eleven Emory Scholarships totaling \$22,000 were presented on behalf of the Sons to R.O.T.C. detachments across the state, including at the University of Washington, Central Washington University, Washington State University, Eastern Washington University, Seattle University, and Pacific Lutheran University.

The Emory Scholarship, founded in 1980 by the Washington Society, is named in honor of Admiral Campbell Dallas Emory, a former President of the Society, graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Captain of the 1920 U.S. Olympic swim team, career naval officer and, in 1947, appointed Professor of Naval Science at the University of Washington.

The Society gave additional honors to cadets at the University of Washington and at Seattle University.—text and photo submitted by Registrar Donald H Wingerson ■



Donald H Wingerson, Registrar, at the University of Washington presenting Emory Scholarships to Army Cadet Elijah McMeen and Air Force Cadet Ashley Kneeler.



Patriot Chronicles

The 'Other' European Ally of the Continental Army

By Hon. Edward F. Butler, Sr.

This final installment in the three-part series, based on the author's book, provides an overview of Spain's direct military contribution to the American Revolution, which was crucial to crushing the British dream of opening a second front along the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico. In his book, "Galvez/Spain, Our Forgotten Ally in the American Revolutionary War: A Concise Summary of Spain's Assistance," Mr. Butler provides a fascinating account of Spain's vast—if not largely unrecognized—aid to the American Patriots.—Editor

Horizontal rain pelted Bernardo de Gálvez y Madrid during the night of 18 Oct 1780 and stung him like a thousand sharp needles. The rain was propelled by sustained winds of over one hundred seventy miles per hour. Saltwater burned his eyes. Rainwater and brine saturated his clothes. His hands were bloodied from holding so fast to the jack line.

The *San Juan Nepomuceno* careened back and forth on a raging ocean, heaving up and down, slamming from starboard to port and back. At one point, the ship's wheel spun wildly out of the helmsman's control and broke his jaw. Water crashed onto the decks, sweeping away a junior officer and three twenty-four pounders.

The ship then plowed into another monstrous wall of water, which hoisted its stern out of the sea, nearly perpendicular. With the stern exposed, another wave came up and snapped off the ship's tiller. The jarring movement and force of gravity broke loose additional cannon. Now the *San Juan Nepomuceno*, its remaining crew, and its loosened cargo, were all at the complete mercy of the swirling elements...

†††



Replica of the *San Juan Nepomuceno*.
—Source: modelismonaval.com

Gálvez had left Havana two days before, 16 Oct 1780, under calm conditions. The Governor of Spanish Louisiana and Field Marshal of the Spanish army in North America had disembarked with a fleet of sixty-two ships and four thousand fighting men. His objective: to launch a siege and invasion of Pensacola, the last stronghold for the British along the Gulf Coast.²

Although Spain had initially designated an impressive six regiments (seven thousand men) from the motherland to support this invasion, the sustained British siege on Gibraltar held them back for months. Finally the "Spanish Army of Operations" crossed the Atlantic, which took an additional three months. After enduring Gibraltar and the crossing of the sea, nearly the whole army fell deathly ill or succumbed to disease. In the end the great majority of Gálvez' four thousand soldiers had to be recruited from Puerto Rico, Cuba, Hispaniola, Venezuela, and Mexico (New Spain).³

As the vessels headed north and crossed the wide Gulf Stream, an approaching hurricane engulfed the entire fleet, foiling Spain's first at-

tempt to take Pensacola. Remnants of the damaged ships washed aground along the Gulf Coast, the Mississippi delta, the Florida Keys, and the Bay of Campeche, Mexico.⁴ The outcome was a huge setback by any measure; nevertheless, it was not a defeat.

After the storm, Gálvez repaired what he could and sailed the *San Juan Nepomuceno* and remaining seaworthy ships back to Havana. He and his men spent a month regrouping the surviving fleet.

Coming to America

Five years prior to the Battle of Pensacola, in 1776, Col. Gálvez was sent to New Orleans for the first time. By the next year, at twenty-nine years old, he was appointed Governor of Spanish Louisiana.

He was named to the post when Governor Luis de Unzaga requested retirement. In an effort to cement stronger ties between the French citizenry and Spanish rulers, Unzaga had looked the other

dier-colonists rather than mercenaries. The court responded by sending over seven hundred male volunteers and their families from the Canary Islands. One of the five ships on which they sailed was the *San Juan Nepomuceno*. The total number of Canary Islanders in Louisiana reached twenty-three hundred persons. Many of them settled in St. Bernard Parish.⁷

In order to feed his troops, Gálvez sent an emissary, Francisco García, with a letter to Texas governor Domingo Cabello y Robles requesting the delivery of Texas cattle (Longhorns) to Spanish forces in Louisiana. A hurricane had destroyed Gálvez' cattle herds and had flooded out the Louisiana grain fields. Between 1779 and 1782, some ten thousand head were rounded up and trailed to Nacogdoches, Texas, and to Natchitoches and Opelousas, Louisiana, for distribution to Gálvez' forces. Several hundred horses were also sent along for artillery and cavalry purposes.⁸



Gálvez at the New Orleans World Trade Center. —Source: gatesofdixie.com



Gálvez in downtown Mobile. —Source: wikimedia.org



Gálvez in Washington D.C., Avenue of the Americas. —dcmemorials.com

way whenever British ships approached New Orleans for trading purposes.⁵ Gálvez, however, would not look the other way.

Indeed, Bernardo did much to aid the American patriots. He corresponded directly with Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, and Charles Henry Lee, personally received their emissaries, Oliver Pollock and Capt. George Gibson, and responded to their pleas to block British watercraft from the Port of New Orleans. Gálvez often worked through brokers and carefully concealed the Spanish Court's involvement in covert operations.⁶

Soon after taking over, he sent word to Madrid that a vast amount of Spanish soldiers were needed to defend the Louisiana territory, which was sparsely populated on the whole. He preferred sol-

Spain Declares War

By 1778, after the theater of war shifted to the South and the Redcoats took Savannah and Charleston, the Patriots looked weak. They had lost thousands of men in the South and suffered through the replacement of two commanding generals. The British began entertaining the idea of opening a western front.

In October of that year, Lord George Germain ordered Brig. Gen. John Campbell, 17th Earl of Strachur, Scotland, to take command of His Majesty's troops in West Florida. Germain instructed his Scottish general to "avoid disputes with, or giving occasions of Offense to, the Subjects of Spain."⁹

Nevertheless by April 1779, the court in Madrid

sent an ultimatum to the British. Among other stipulations, the Spanish demanded that the Thirteen Colonies be recognized as an independent nation. Unsurprisingly, the British rejected these terms and declared war. Spain responded with its own declaration of war, on 21 June 1779.

Less than one week later, Britain's King George III and Lord George Germain sent a top-secret letter to Campbell at Pensacola, instructing him that it was of greatest importance to organize an attack upon New Orleans. The top-secret communication was intercepted via Natchez and fell into Gálvez' hands.

Learning of this development, the "Spanish Savior" set out to stop the British cold. In September of that year, Gálvez marched more than a thousand men over a hundred miles northwest of New Orleans in eleven days. His troops included Spanish regiments and the remarkably diverse Louisiana Infantry Regiment, comprising Canary Islanders, Cajuns, French Creoles, English-Americans, Irish, Germans, Africans, and some Native Americans.¹⁰

They easily captured Manchac and took Baton Rouge by a ruse. In Baton Rouge, British Col. Alexander Dickson surrendered nearly four hundred of his regular troops; Gálvez had Dickson's militia disarmed, and he also negotiated for the transfer of Fort Panmure at Natchez, to Spanish control.¹¹ The British flag would no longer fly anywhere in the Lower Mississippi region. Spanish flags were hoisted in their place.

Next Target: West Florida

With the river free, Gálvez set his sights on the Gulf Coast and West Florida. By 25 Feb, the Spanish had landed their army on the shores of the Dog River, about ten miles outside Fort Charlotte in Mobile. They received intelligence from a deserter that the garrison numbered an estimated three hundred men, compared to the twelve hundred men



Regional context of 1779 Gulf Coast.—Source: pinterest.com

under Gálvez' command.

Having such a lopsided advantage, the gentlemanly Gálvez offered Capt. Elias Durnford a chance to surrender, but Durnford graciously refused. The outnumbered British resisted stubbornly until Spanish bombardment breached the walls of the fort. Durnford was still waiting in

vain for relief from Pensacola, but the reinforcements that Campbell sent out were delayed *en route*. Durnford was forced to surrender.¹² On 14 Mar, Gálvez took the fortress.

While in Mobile, the Spanish leader learned that additional British ships had arrived in Pensacola, including British Royal Navy vessels. Without reinforcements of his own, he left a garrison in Mobile and made a beeline for Havana to raise the troops and equipment needed for the coming showdown at Pensacola. Gálvez spent the winter in Cuba.¹³

The following spring, with the blessings of the regional *audencia*, he sailed a second time for Pensacola. He left Havana on 28 Feb 1781 with a smaller force than the first time—some forty ships and



Gálvez taking Pensacola, by Augusto Ferrer-Dalmau (2012).

over three thousand soldiers, including a Majorcan regiment, Spain's Irish Hibernia Regiment, and the Louisiana militia.¹⁴

After some initial hesitation resulting from disputes between Gálvez and Captain José Calvo de Irazabal, the governor himself sailed his own vessel, the *Galveztown*, through the straits. The other ships followed his lead, and they landed at Santa Rosa Island to begin a two-month siege of three British fortresses, including Fort George.

By 23 April, reinforcements had arrived from Havana, increasing Gálvez' total force to *nearly eight thousand men*. On 8 May, a howitzer shell from the Spanish troops struck a British magazine, exploding it and killing fifty-seven. The Spanish then opened fire with artillery on the next two British positions. The defenders were soon overwhelmed by the firepower, and, reluctantly, on 10 May, Gen. Campbell surrendered.

None of these victories came easy. Gálvez and his men fought harsh conditions, faced multiple hurricanes along the way, and ran ships aground on sandbars at more than one approach. They often marched through brackish swamps, suffered shortages of supplies, and laboriously dug trenches or

tunnels and created earthworks in preparation for repetitively sieging the enemy.¹⁵ But at each location, Spain's army vastly outnumbered the enemy, and its artillery power was superior.

In Retrospect

The attack on Pensacola was the last offensive Gálvez oversaw in the Revolutionary War. It was the final victory in a string of victories that effectively dislodged the British from both the Mississippi and the Gulf Coast, squelching the enemy's fantastical plans to squeeze the Thirteen Colonies from the west. The outcome further accelerated the finality of war between Britain and America.

After the surrender, Gálvez and fleet returned to Havana and were welcomed as heroes. King Charles III promoted Galvez to major general and made him governor of West Florida as well.

With the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, he returned to Spain and received another hero's welcome, as well as an additional promotion to lieutenant general, appointment as captain general of Louisiana, Florida and Cuba, and elevation to the viceroyalty of New Spain (Mexico).■

¹ Lorenzo G. LaFarelle, *Bernardo de Gálvez: Hero of the American Revolution* (Austin: Eakin Press, 1992)

² Hubert L. Koker, "Spanish Governor Bernardo de Gálvez Salvaged the Gulf Coast for the Future United States," *Military History* (June 1993)

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Voyage of the *U.S.S. Rattletrap*

Compiled by Gordon B. Smith

Shortly before the death of past General Historian, Gordon B. Smith, in 2013, he sent a collection of stories to the Drumbeat inbox with instructions for their exclusive use (posthumously) in this newsletter. As many know, Gordon was a prolific writer and gifted researcher. The following article concerns the exploits of American patriot Capt. James Willing along the lower Mississippi River in 1778, and the ramifications his actions had on the territory and the powers at war in the Revolution. As such, it relates well to this issue's theme of Britain's desired second front along the Mississippi and Gulf Coast.—Editor

Prior to January 1778, the idea of an American military expedition along the Mississippi River below Natchez to weed out British strongholds had been discussed among Patriot leaders. The subject first came up in the latter half of 1776, after Capt. George Gibsong and Lieut. William Linn with “eighteen men and a boy” from Fort Pitt successfully descended down the Ohio-Mississippi to New Orleans and returned with sorely needed gun powder.¹

They were successful partly because they were discreet, quietly sailing past the Loyalist strongholds of Natchez and Baton Rouge in the dead of night.

In the wake of the expedition's success, Col. George Morgan, the American agent for Indian Affairs and Deputy Commissary General for Purchases in the Western District, immediately opened a dialogue with Louisiana Governor Bernardo de Gálvez. Morgan wanted to scope out the feasibility of launching an attack on the British via the river route. Gálvez did not discourage the idea, so long as Spain was made to look blissfully unaware.²

Col. Morgan then began promoting the idea for a sizeable American invasion of West Florida via the Ohio-Mississippi. He envisioned sending a thousand men on an amphibious mission to crush the British and hand back the territory to Spain.

With Spain in control of West Florida, there would be no threat of an enemy front opening up along the Mississippi or Gulf Coast.

Invasion Politics

The Board of War agreed with Morgan's idea, formulated the plan in more detail, and identified Gen. Edward Hand, commander of Fort Pitt, to lead the mission.³ Gen. Hand and his men would make a stop in New Orleans before sailing into the Gulf to capture Mobile and Pensacola. Costs of the expedition would be offset by the seizure of English munitions and military stores and, indirectly, by the removal of all obstacles hindering trade between the

American colonies and New Orleans.

Congressmen Robert Morris and Thomas Willing (of the Philadelphia mercantile firm Willing, Morris & Co.) began lobbying their colleagues passionately for the invasion. There was much the Colonies could gain from a sweep of the



“Willing's Marine Expedition” by Charles H. Waterhouse

Mississippi River.

Henry Laurens of South Carolina, who served as President of the Congress, would not budge from his opposition to the plan, however.⁴ A significantly scaled-back plan was later submitted to the “Secret Committee of Trade” for its consideration. Both Laurens and Morris sat on the committee, with Morris as chairman. That plan was approved.

Enter James Willing

Thomas Willing's younger brother, James, had grown up in the family business. In 1774 he moved to Natchez to establish himself in business there. Thomas and Robert Morris had instructed the younger Willing to contact Pollock in New Orleans,



Henry Laurens, by Lemuel Francis Abbott, 1780



Robert Morris, by Robert Edge Pine, c. 1795



Thomas Willing, by Charles Wilson Peale, 1782

and Pollock subsequently assisted James in lobbying for a contract to supply British forces in West Florida with flour. (Not surprisingly, Willing, Morris & Co. were flour suppliers.)⁵

The British army, however, showed no interest in dealing with James Willing, and he apparently did not expend much effort to solicit other potential clients. In 1777 Pollock suggested to him relocating back to Philadelphia and bringing to Congress' attention the need for an expedition down the Mississippi.⁶

The Committee approved of Willing's scheme, conferring upon him a commission as Captain in the Continental Navy. His assignment was to carry certain dispatches to Pollock and bring back a portion of the stores which Spain had agreed to deliver to the Patriots. Secondly, he was also to "capture whatever British property he might meet with."⁷

To that end, some twenty-five soldiers comprised Willing's immediate command, most of them drawn from the 13th Regiment Virginia Continental Line. They were to serve as Marines—an interesting chapter in the history of the Corps.⁸ From Fort Pitt, on 10 Jan 1778 (the dead of winter), the captain and his little band, along with the boat crew, set out westward down the Ohio River in the U.S.S. *Rattletrap*, an armed boat or barge (later, the British sneered at the vessel as being only an "armed bateau").

Small Party, Big Ramifications

Capt. Willing's expedition sailed down the Mississippi River to Natchez, tying up at the landing on Thursday, 19 Feb 1778. The British authorities had presumed that the Americans would not operate under winter conditions, so the expedition took the towns by surprise. Willing's men easily captured Fort Panmure at Natchez and hoisted the American Stars & Stripes for all to see. The Captain forced the citizens of Natchez to sign a treaty of neutrality.

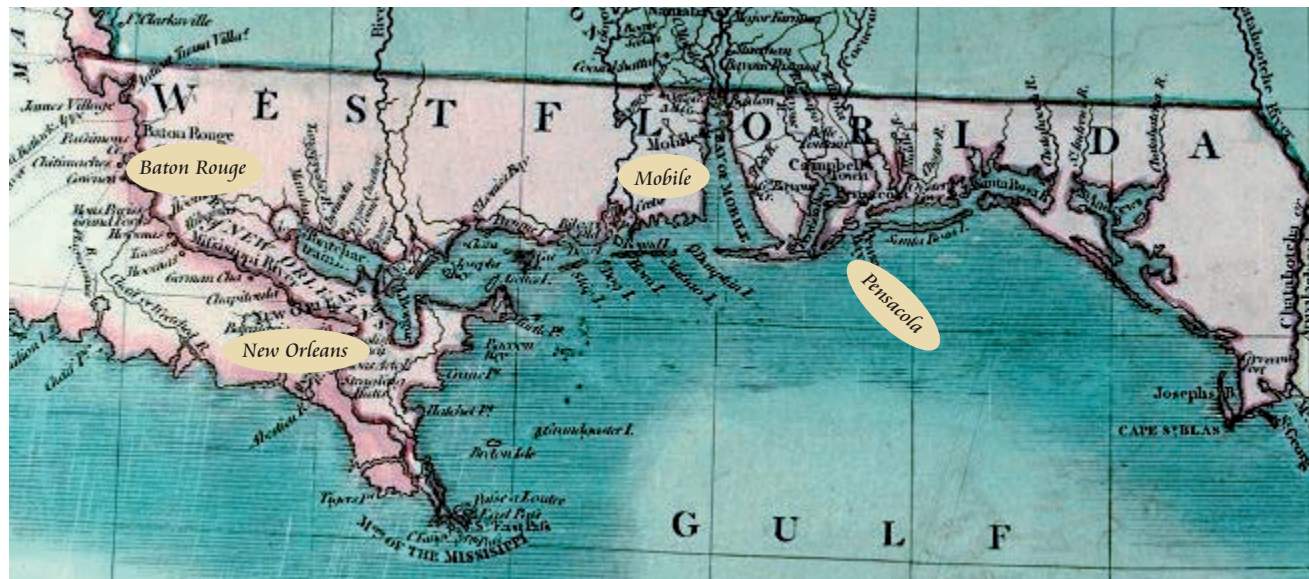
At Natchez, Willing's men had arrested a one Robert Welch, in possession of an order from Farguhar Bethune, British commissary for the Choctaw Nation, "to obstruct, harass, distress and oppose any party of Americans coming down the river." Among the terms of the agreement between Welch and Willing, Welch would be set free to travel under a flag to the Choctaw Nation in an effort to convince them to stay out of the conflict.⁹

The raiders also captured Hardy Perry, who had moved to the Choctaw Nation from Georgia as early as 1765, marrying there a Choctaw woman named Anolah and having a large family by her (Perry also married a second wife who was a Chickasaw). Willing freed both Welch and Perry on their mutual promises to influence the Choctaw to remain out of the fight. Both immediately violated their paroles, however.

In response to Willing's capture of Natchez, Peter Chester, British governor of West Florida, requested that British warships move to the mouth of the Mississippi to intercept the rebels, since it was surmised the party would continue past New Orleans. Additionally, Governor Chester sent two companies of Loyal Refugees to scout the Mississippi from its tributary at Manchac to Chickasaw Bluffs.

British Superintendent of Indian Affairs John Stuart sent a detachment of fifteen soldiers led by none other than Hardy Perry and Robert Welch—in violation of the latter's parole and the treaty with Capt. Willing at Natchez—to Bayou Manchac from Pensacola.¹⁰ Despite their movements, Willing and his men on 23 Feb, aided by fog, captured the sixteen-gun English vessel *Rebecca* at Manchac, which embarrassingly had been sent upriver to stop the Americans.

The party on the "armed bateau" so surprised the British at Fort Bute that Henry Stuart, special agent to the Choctaws and brother of John Stuart,



1787 map of Province of West Florida.—Source: fci.usf.edu

fled to a nearby Spanish post in his nightshirt.

Meanwhile, Choctaw Chief Franchimastabé (translated as “He took a Frenchman and killed him,” also found as Talanchymastabé) of West Yazoo led a war party to Natchez, where they remained for weeks, intimidating its residents into remaining loyal to the Crown. Franchimastabé—a “master of the fine art of blackmail,” warned the citizens of Natchez that “should you offer to take the rebels by the hand or enter into any treaty with them, remember also that we are behind you and that we will look on you as Virginians and treat you as our enemies.”¹¹

Since Willing and his men remained in the region for an indefinite period of time, which spoiled the intent of the mission, the British did manage to catch up to them. On 14 March 1778, in the only land fight between the British and Americans to take place in present-day Louisiana, the British killed or wounded five of Willing’s men and captured thirteen others. The Americans withdrew with their

prisoners and offered Fort Bute to the Spanish at San Gabriel, but the British re-garrisoned the fort after Willing’s party retreated.

Months passed and James Willing had worn out his welcome in Spanish Louisiana. Oliver Pollock arranged to have Lieut. Robert George assume command and lead the men up the west side of the Mississippi River. They went to Illinois Country, where they integrated into the army of Gen. George Rogers Clark. Willing was scuttled out of New Orleans onboard a ship bound for the East Coast.

He did not get very far. The British privateer *Columbus* captured the vessel at Mobile, and his captors removed him to *H.M. Ardent* and took him prisoner to New York City. At the end of 1779, they exchanged him for Col. Henry Hamilton.¹²

After the Revolution, James Willing resided back in Philadelphia. He died in that city at midnight, 13–14 October 1801, and his family buried him in Christ Churchyard, next to his brother Richard. There is no evidence that he ever married. ■

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³John Walton Caughey, “Willing’s Expedition down the Mississippi, 1778,” *Louisiana Historical Quarterly* Vol. 15 (1932) pp. 5-36.

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⁵Haynes; Russell

⁶Caughey

⁷Ibid.

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The Editor of the *SONS Drumbeat* seeks articles for publication. Suitable topics would include all meetings, social activities, and events of SR State Societies as well as their local chapters. Articles of a historical nature would be included in the *Patriot Chronicles* section. These must address the Revolutionary era and be well researched. The Editor reserves the right to edit submitted articles for style and content, in cooperation with the author(s). Publication date cannot be guaranteed, but every effort is made to publish in a timely manner.

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