



# Drumbeat

with *Flintlock & Powderhorn*



News of the Sons of the Revolution

Volume 33 Number 4

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L - R: General President Emeritus Curtis P. Cheyney, III; Guest Speaker Brian Kilmeade; and General President R. Mitchell Bush.  
—Photo courtesy R. Mitchell Bush

## 42nd Triennial Meeting

Despite inclement weather offshore, a record number of members gathered in Williamsburg, Virginia in early October for the 42nd Triennial Meeting of the General Society, Sons of the Revolution. The four-day event signified both a culmination and a new beginning, as General President Curtis P. Cheyney, III stepped down from his charge and Region 3 General Vice President R. Mitchell Bush was unanimously voted in to assume the top role.

The Virginia Society welcomed all members and guests to the Williamsburg Lodge with genteel hospitality. As General President Bush mentions in his Message (*see page 3*), Society President Carter Reid and all members of the Virginia delegation worked very hard to guarantee a superb Triennial experience. During the long weekend, members had ample opportunities to visit the Historic Triangle area of the Virginia Tidewater,

—Continued on page 4

## The ‘Other’ European Ally of the Continental Army

By Hon. Edward F. Butler, Sr.

*The Continental Army had more than one major European ally. In addition to France, the other major ally was Spain, a fact that is lost upon most standardized texts of American history. Judge Ed Butler of San Antonio, Texas, has produced a fascinating account of Spain’s vast—if not largely unrecognized—aid to the American colonists in the book, “Galvez/Spain, Our Forgotten Ally in the American Revolutionary War: A Concise Summary of Spain’s Assistance.” The ensuing multi-part article, based on the book, illuminates various key aspects of Spain’s support for the Patriot cause.—Editor*



The Cross of Burgundy was Spain’s military flag from 1506 to 1843.

### Old World Background

When King Charles III<sup>1</sup>, a Bourbon (Borbón), assumed the Spanish throne in 1758, he brought with him at least two principle desires: 1) to restore Spanish preeminence in Europe, and 2) to “stick it” to the British Empire, an adversary of old. In fact, Spain and England had repeatedly been at war with each other ever since 1337, the start of the Hundred Years’ War.

In his own times, Charles III resented England for the outcome of the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1713), which ended

—Continued on page 19

## Patrick Henry Award to Jim Shannon

General President Emeritus James J. Shannon, Jr., was awarded the Patrick Henry Award at the 42nd Triennial Meeting, held in Williamsburg, Virginia in early October. He received a standing ovation from the many people in attendance. The honor is given out by the General Society to a member who, 'being as Patrick Henry, has the courage and patriotism to speak out.'

Jim is the longest-serving active member of the Sons of the Revolution. He joined the Kentucky Society of the Sons fifty years ago and served as its President. He became a Regional General Vice President of the Sons at the 1976 Philadelphia Triennial and raised the funds for the Valley Forge Flag Pole project of the General Society. In 1979 he hosted the Triennial in Lexington, Kentucky, where he became General President.

When announcing the award, General President Curtis P. Cheney III publicly reviewed Mr. Shannon's career and volunteerism. Jim is a former Assistant Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, a former banker, real estate developer, historian, musician and civic leader. In his term as General President, Jim Shannon accomplished many outstanding things, including the establishment of a sustaining Headquarters Fund, the founding of the *Drumbeat* newsletter, the publishing of an official SOR policy and procedure manual, and the production of pamphlets on all Monuments and Markers of the General Society and State Societies.—by Curtis P. Cheney, III ■



Acting for the GSSR, Carter Reid presents the Patrick Henry Award to General President Emeritus James J. Shannon, Jr.—Photo by Robert Van Gulick



SOR member William Gresh addresses Triennial delegates—Photo courtesy Perry Gresh

## Address of William Gresh

“Good morning, gentlemen, and thank you, General President Cheney, for allowing me to speak today. My name is William Gresh, and I am the Past President, Pennsylvania State Society CAR, and current State Society Chairman for CAR, DAR, SAR, and SOR relations. I am also a member of the PSSR.

I would like to take a moment to tell you about the Children of The American Revolution. I personally recommend to all young people to join the CAR. It is a great way to meet kids from all over the world, learn about history, and help others learn, too. For example, in the past two years, I have been to Princeton, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., and Pittsburgh and Reading, Pennsylvania to learn about American history, attend historic tours, and go to meetings like this one.

The CAR has service projects just like the SOR does. In the Pennsylvania State Society, our State

Project this year is to raise funds to aid in the creation of the Governor James Pollock Gallery in the construction of the James Cameron Museum in Milton, Pennsylvania. Gov. Pollock, who was from Milton, was the director of the U.S. Mint in 1861 and was involved with establishing the phrase, “In God We Trust,” which began appearing on coinage in 1864.

The CAR's National Project is right in Philadelphia. We are helping raise funds for the “First Oval Office” permanent exhibit at the Museum of the American Revolution. For much of the Revolutionary War, George Washington lived in a large oval-shaped tent that was his bedroom and office — the first “oval office” occupied by the first commander-in-chief of American military forces. In 2013, a replica marquee was produced by Historic Trades tailors at Colonial Williamsburg and will be a central exhibit in the new museum.

I have brochures about the CAR if anyone would like one to give to your children or grandchildren. I belong to the General Anthony Wayne Society of the Pennsylvania State Society, which is located in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. In addition to supporting the National and State CAR projects, our local society volunteers at the historic Waynesboro house. Thank you.” ■



## President's Message

Greetings to all my fellow Sons. As I stated at the 42nd Triennial Meeting in Williamsburg, I am humbled to be your new General President for the 2015-2018 period. I take up the reins with enthusiasm, drive, and gratitude. My gratitude extends to our brave ancestors who fought valiantly and gave so much for this country's future. It also extends to those people who have given so much to this General Society, including, of course, General President Emeritus Curtis P. Cheyney, III, of Pennsylvania, who completed his term admirably and handed over an organization in excellent health.

The robustness of our esteemed organization has manifested in admirable ways in the past three years, including our move into a new headquarters in Williamsburg and the unveiling of the magnificent bronze likeness of Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene at Valley Forge National Historical Park. In Williamsburg, our headquarters is adjacent to hallowed footpaths where George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Patrick Henry once walked, where today thousands of tourists walk. And at Valley Forge, our tribute to Nathanael Greene is located near the Washington Memorial Chapel and Washington's Headquarters, another area that attracts thousands of tourists.

Aside from these milestones for the SOR, during Curt's term we gained nearly five hundred new members. He wrote a welcoming letter to each one of them. He visited twelve State Societies, several of them on more than one occasion. He brought greetings to other national lineage societies, local historical societies, two foundations, and the Rotary. He also participated in the Hermione festivities in Annapolis, Maryland.

I would be remiss not to recognize the Virginia Society for their genteel hospitality as host society of the 42nd Triennial. Society President Carter Reid and all members of the Virginia delegation worked very hard to guarantee a superb Triennial experience. Members had ample opportunities to see Colonial Williamsburg and surroundings.

Throughout the Triennial, everyone could see the vibrancy of our membership, which spans several generations. During a business session, General President Cheyney introduced ten-year-old William Gresh, who addressed delegates from the floor. The vibrancy was again apparent at the Saturday evening banquet, when octogenarian and General President Emeritus James J. Shannon, Jr., was presented the Patrick Henry Award.

As we look ahead, the current administration has several goals set for the next three years, including updating the SOR website in several ways. We will revamp our electronic store. We want to increase our sales by offering plenty of General Society memorabilia to all our members. Purchasing such products creates and maintains solidarity and pride among our membership. Additionally, State Society Registrars will soon be able to view General Society membership records and related genealogical documentation. We will also soon introduce a members-only section to feature private messaging capabilities, notices, etc.

Apart from those website initiatives, we have an ambitious plan to launch publicity ads in various lineage society publications and to update our membership application forms for uniformity and greater ease of completion. All these things have been targeted with the hope and expectation that we can double our overall membership numbers in the next three years. It is ambitious, I know, but ambition is the pathway to success.

Patriotically yours,

R. Mitchell Bush  
General President

—42<sup>nd</sup> Triennial Meeting continued from page 1



Saturday evening began with a rousing performance by the Virginia Military Institute Pipe Band.—Photo courtesy Doug Payne

including Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown, and the stately James River Plantations dotting the landscape in between.

It all got underway on Thursday evening, with the traditional pre-Triennial reception and dinner hosted by the Pennsylvania Society Color Guard. The Color Guard generously provided for an evening replete with good food and spirits. The event took place at the Two Rivers Country Club on Governor's Island, a private community located on land that was once an ancient Indian community.

On Friday, in addition to the business session that morning, the afternoon featured an excursion to Historic Jamestown, included in the cost of registration. Those who took part witnessed the latest archaeological discoveries on Jamestown Island.

### Business Items Addressed

The two most important business items at every Triennial are the approbation and installation of General Officers for the new term, and the announcements of the various General Society Award winners. For a listing of the GSSR Award winners, see page 5.

In addition to those items, delegates at this Triennial approved a long-pending agreement with Ancestry.com. Contract pending, Ancestry has agreed to cover the costs of digitizing all GSSR paper-based records and to move the remaining printed records still in Missouri to Williamsburg. In exchange, all SOR membership applications completed prior to 1971 and in the General Society database will be made accessible for viewing on Ancestry.com.

Importantly, this will *not* include any of the supporting documentation in those applications. Once the applications have been scanned into Ancestry's database, an SOR icon will appear by the name of each qualifying veteran ancestor of SOR members. This amounts to a wonderful way to circulate the name and insignia of our organization. Additionally, each State Society Registrar will have free access to the Ancestry.com database.

In other business items, delegates voted to obtain three proposals from firms experienced in trademarking and copyright-

ing in order to protect the GSSR insignia and seal. This concern came up following the former Missouri Society's secession from the General Society (2009-10) and its subsequent use of the Sons of the Revolution name and insignia.

Members heard from the new President of the Alabama Society, Bob Thomas, who is in the midst of reorganizing that Society. President Thomas brought antique SOR regalia and weaponry to display, which was a popular hit with everyone present. (*See page 8*)

Chuck Swoope, president of the South Carolina Society, took the floor to announce his hope that other neighboring State Societies in coming months would join forces with the South Carolina Society to fund the Kings Mountain Patriots' Memorial Project (*see Drumbeat Vol 32, No. 1, Spring 2014*). The approved monument will be a brownstone block about shoulder height, surrounded by the flags of the states from which the patriots came: South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Geoffrey A. Hickok, secretary of the Michigan Society, said his Society is now offering through its website SOR memorabilia with just the name, "Sons of the Revolution," in hopes SOR members from outside the state would be enticed to make purchases. He recommended other State Societies do the same as a means to generate revenue.

General President Emeritus Cheyney introduced to the group ten-year-old William Gresh, who addressed delegates about the Children of the American Revolution and its relationship with adult lineage societies. (*See his address, page 2*)

## The Saturday Banquet

At Saturday evening's banquet, some two hundred and twenty-five members and guests from across the U.S. and Europe heard an opening performance of resounding pipe music by the Virginia Military Institute Pipe Band. VMI is the oldest state-supported military college in the United States. After their superb performance, the Pennsylvania Society Color Guard followed with a crisp presentation of colors. General President Cheyney and Virginia Society President Reid gave separate welcomes.

Following that, General Historian David H. Dickey then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, and General Chaplain Rev. G. Clayton Ames next gave the Invocation. General Secretary Dr. Laurence Simpson then spoke on the purpose of the Society, which was followed by a hearty round of song and toasts.

The evening included an engaging presentation by Mr. Brian Kilmeade, Fox News Channel personality and author of *George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring that Saved the American Revolution*. After his talk, Brian fielded questions from the membership. At one point he asked rhetorically, "Why would you have to fictionalize a spy story set during the Revolution when the truth is just as captivating if not more?"

At the conclusion of the presentation, General President Emeritus Cheyney presented Mr.



The 42nd Triennial Commemorative Coin.

Kilmeade with the Sons' Modern Patriot Award. As stated in the Sons' history book by John Dwight Kilbourne, the Modern Patriot Award is given to a non-member recipient who is deemed to be 'an outstanding figure of broad enough interest, responsibility, and exposure to further the patriotic aims of the Society.' Past recipients have included military officers and politicians not actively running a campaign.

—Editor ■

## GSSR 42nd Triennial Awards

### 2012-2015 Modern Patriot Award:

Brian Kilmeade

*This award is presented to a non-member recipient who is deemed to be an outstanding figure of broad enough interest, responsibility, and exposure to further the patriotic aims of the Society.*

### 2012-2015 Patrick Henry Award:

James J. Shannon, Jr.

*This award is presented to a member who, being as Patrick Henry, has the courage and patriotism to speak out.*

### 2012-2015 Jay Harris Award:

Terry Lynn Davenport

*This award is presented to an individual, member or non-member, who has made significant contributions to the welfare and objectives of the Society.*

### 2012-2015 Richard Farmer Hess Award:

Societies of Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and Virginia

*This award is presented to a State Society that has demonstrated leadership in its operation and management.*

### 2012-2015 Trent Trophy Award:

Societies of District of Columbia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania

*This award is presented to a State Society that has made exceptional contributions to the purposes and good of the Sons of the Revolution since the last Triennial.*

### 2012-2015 Membership Achievement Award (Largest Numerical Increase):

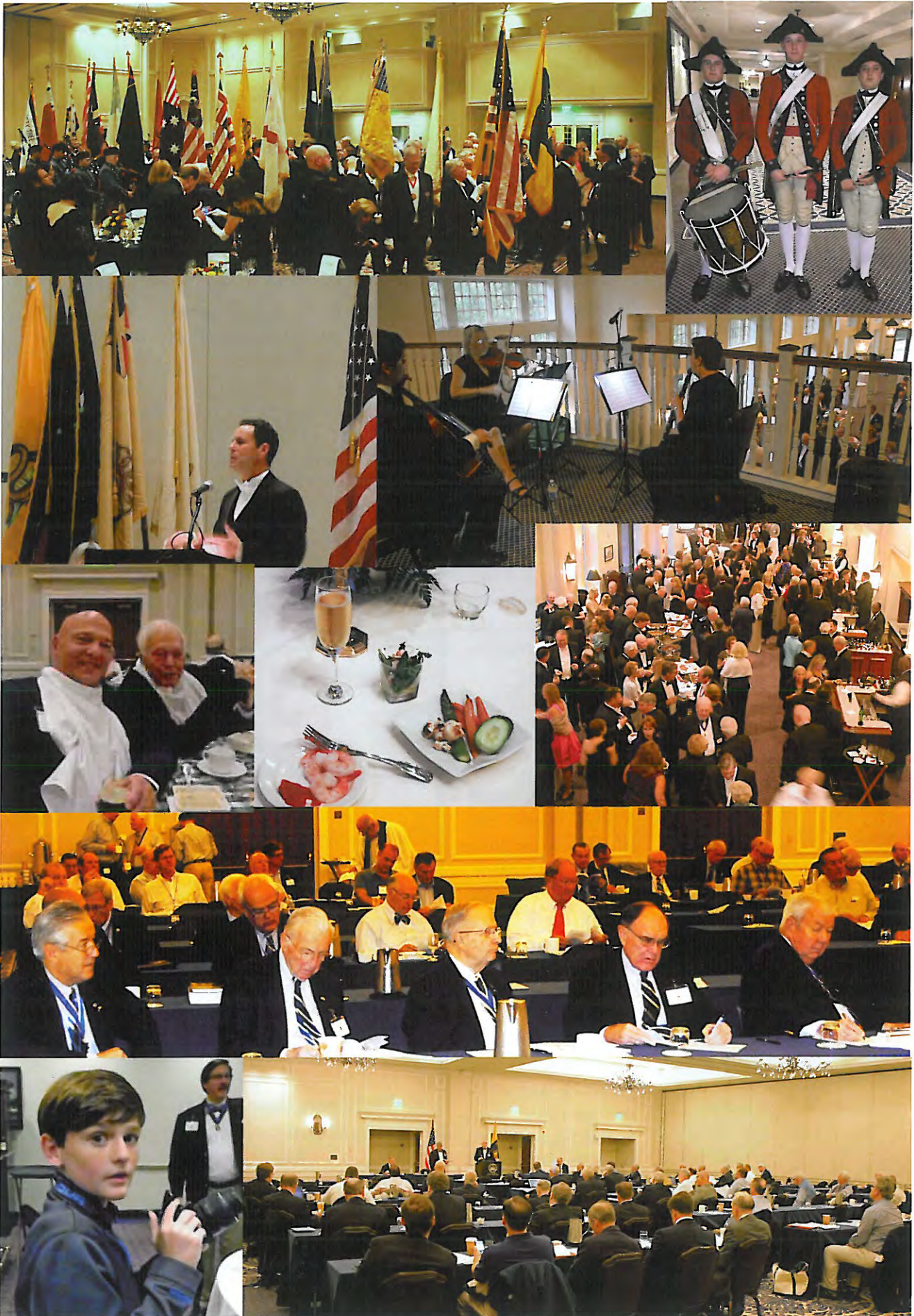
Society of Virginia

*This award is presented to the State Society that has experienced the largest numerical increase in membership since the last Triennial.*

### 2012-2015 Membership Achievement Award (Largest Percentage Increase):

Society of Minnesota

*This award is presented to the State Society that has experienced the largest percentage increase in membership since the last Triennial.*







## ALABAMA

### Alabama Society Set for Growth

After several years of inactivity, the Alabama Sons have reorganized and are now steadily increasing their membership. Society President Bob Thomas was instrumental in the rebirth of one of the General Society's traditionally most active state societies. President Thomas worked diligently all summer with the assistance and support of Curt Cheyney, Mitchell Bush, Jefferson Moak, and Jeff Lambert to get papers approved and bring the Alabama Society's charter up to date.

"We are assembling an Officer Corps and a Board of Managers to sustain the Alabama Society and ensure its future success," President Thomas said. "We plan an active recruitment campaign by participating in genealogy and hereditary society activities and developing exhibits explaining the uniqueness of the Sons of the Revolution.

"As a descendant of several Patriots who were armed and uniformed combatants, I take great pride in our Society and share the comradeship with Sons everywhere," he said.

President Thomas is a major collector of antique Sons of the Revolution memorabilia, insignia and ephemera and has many unique pieces in his collection. His most prized pieces are an SOR Color Guard ceremonial sword from the early 1900s and a 1941 *verre églomisé* painting in gold leaf and blue of the SOR insignia. It was painted by the noted French artist Jean Theodore Haqnau, who also painted pieces for Fraunces Tavern, Tiffany, Waldorf-Astoria and Plaza Hotels.

Bob has been a Senior CAR leader since 1979, and his son Benjamin is also an SR member. Each October, Bob places a wreath at Battlefield Park in honor of his patriot-ancestor, Arthur Hiott,



President Bob Thomas

who was a soldier of the 5th South Carolina Continental Line Regiment present at the battle and who survived, along with his younger brothers, Joel, a drummer boy, and Joseph, a fifer.—*Editor*



**Top:** Images of a 1941 *verre églomisé* painting of the SOR insignia.

**Right:** SOR Color Guard ceremonial sword from the early 1900s.

—Photos courtesy Bob Thomas



## FLORIDA

### Palm Beach Chapter Organizes

The Palm Beach Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Florida has been formed with ten elected officers until the initial Annual Meeting in January 2016. The first Chapter meeting was held at the Sailfish Club commemorating George Washington's farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern and the British evacuation of New York City. Furthermore, General President Emeritus Curtis P. Cheyney, III attended the chapter's organizational meeting at the Biltmore Hotel in Palm Beach, which was hosted by Robb Aley Allan.

Founding Members of the chapter are now being accepted. Five of the existing Founding Members attended the 2015 Williamsburg Triennial, two as delegates, where Founding Member and Senior General President Emeritus James J. Shannon, Jr. received a standing ovation when presented the General Society's Patrick Henry Award by Virginia Society President Carter Reid. Chapter meetings



are currently planned for December, January, and February. For information, contact Robb Aley Allan, Secretary, (561) 832-4013, robb@helical.com.  
—Text submitted by Jim Shannon



This photo was submitted by Florida Society member Ted Duay. L-R: General President Mitchell Bush, General President Emeritus M. Hall Worthington, and General Society War of 1812 President General Rick Hollis, also an SOR member, pause during the unveiling of the Nathanael Greene statue at Valley Forge. Mr. Worthington has been a longtime member in both patriotic organizations.

## GEORGIA

### Remembering the Siege of Savannah

Every year in Savannah on October 9th, members of the Sons take part in the March to the Battlefield, a re-enactment march along a historic route and ceremony at the Spring Hill Redoubt of Battlefield Park to commemorate the sacrifices made during the 1779 Siege of Savannah. The annual event is sponsored by the Coastal Heritage Society.

Wreaths are always presented from the SOR, SAR, DAR, Society of Colonial Wars, Colonial Dames and other hereditary groups. Many are dressed in colonial uniforms and carry flintlock muskets. These are fired in salute. Also, the 1st Battalion 118th Field Artillery Regiment from nearby Ft. Stewart adds to the drama with periodic bursts from their M777 Howitzers. The ceremony is both very moving and very fitting.

This year's commemoration was marked by the presence of a special guest: Prince Jean of Orleans, the Dauphin of France. Prince Jean visited Savannah to recognize the anniversary of the 1778 Franco-American Treaty of Alliance. In his remarks, the Prince paid tribute to French soldier Pierre Charles L'Enfant, who was severely wounded during the climactic battle and later gained fame as the designer of Washington, D.C.

Two hundred and thirty-six years ago, L'Enfant led a daring but unsuccessful effort to burn the ab-

atis (a barricade of sharpened tree branches) that protected the British earthen strong points. Later, on the morning of 9 Oct 1779, he participated in the fateful offensive that bent but did not break the British line.

The battlefield today is marked with eight hundred two-foot-by-two-foot granite rectangles in the formation of assault troops. These in-ground plaques are available for dedication to any patriot veteran of the siege from any nation that was touched by the American Revolution. To dedicate a stone, contact the Coastal Heritage Society at 912-651-6840, or visit [www.chsgeorgia.org](http://www.chsgeorgia.org).—text and photos submitted by President Ron Freeman



Legions of wreaths placed in commemoration of the fallen.



Prince Jean, far left, observes as Ron Freeman places the SR-GA wreath.



The Georgia Society Color Guard at Battlefield Park.

## NEW JERSEY

### Sons Give Time, Effort to Local DAR

Over a chilly weekend this November, several members of the SRNJ participated in a graveyard repair project organized by the DAR. Society President Charlie Scammell along with David Reading, Mike Alfano, Scott Scammell and Jesse Landon helped repair over thirty gravestones in the DAR Memorial Park Cemetery at Whitehouse Station, in Whitehouse, N.J.



*Jonathan Appell, center, steadies an old tombstone*



*SRNJ members straighten a veteran's headstone.*

*The DAR Memorial Park Cemetery, Whitehouse, N.J.*

"It, indeed, was a dirty job with lots of digging and lifting," said President Scammell. The repairs were done under the supervision of a professional grave repair team paid with the \$5,000.00 in donations and grants raised by the Old White House-General Frelinghuysen-Colonel Lowrey Chapter of DAR. The project was led by Jonathan Appell, Monuments Conservator, of West Hartford, Connecticut.

Many of the gravestones were leaning over and needed additional support; others were large tab-

lets that had lain in the ground and had cracked or broke over time. Aside from the repair work, over one hundred headstones were cleaned with D2, a biological cleaner.

That cemetery is located in the Whitehouse section of Readington Township and took its name from the old White House Tavern, which was owned by Abraham Van Horne. Van Horne, one of at least nine Revolutionary War veterans buried there, served as Issuing Forage Master of the Commissary Department of the Continental Army. On Van Horne's tomb is a DAR plaque which reads, "Host to General Washington at the Old White House [Tavern]."

The Revolutionary War veterans known to be buried there are:

#### **Matthew Adams**

(August 10, 1756 - April 1, 1838)  
2nd NJ Regiment

#### **Adrian Johnson**

(1755- 1844)  
3rd NJ Regiment

#### **Cornelius Messler**

(February 9, 1759 - November 28, 1843)  
4th Regiment, Hunterdon County Militia

#### **Edward Mitchell**

(July 26, 1755 - June 26, 1840)  
2nd NJ Regiment

#### **Richard Stillwell**

(1742 - 1826)  
4th Regiment, Hunterdon County Militia

#### **Abraham Van Horne (1)**

(1740 - 1817)  
Issuing Forage Master, Commissary Dept.

#### **Abraham Van Doren (2)**

(October 28, 1750 - April 17, 1823)  
Somerset County Militia

#### **Dennis Wyckoff**

(April 12, 1760 - December 6, 1830)  
4th Regiment, Hunterdon County Militia

#### **George Wyckoff**

(June 2, 1745 - 1826)  
Hunterdon County Militia



**Top photo:** The SRNJ at the annual Yale-Princeton football game.

**Bottom photo:** After the game, the group dined at the private Nassau Club of Princeton. —Group photos courtesy Caswell Cooke

SRNJ article by Charlie Scammell; Cemetery photos by Ann Rotunno

## NEW YORK

### 50 Years a NYC Landmark

Fifty years ago, the Fraunces Tavern complex was designated a New York City Landmark. As such, it was protected by law from development destruction. On 19 Oct 1965, a public hearing was held discussing the proposed designation of Fraunces Tavern as a New York City Landmark. Three representatives of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York appeared in favor of the designation. No one spoke in opposition.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission found the FT to have “a special character, special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of New York City.” Basing their decision on careful consideration of the history, architecture, and other features of the building, they further lauded Fraunces Tavern for being one of the early restorations of an eighteenth-century building in the city. The Commission also cited the buildings as being “historically outstanding,” due to its connection with the DeLancey family and as the scene of George Washington’s farewell to his officers.

When signed into law by Mayor Robert F. Wag-

ner, Jr. in April of 1965, the legislation creating the Landmarks Preservation Commission was “ground-breaking.” Now the largest municipal preservation agency in the country, the LPC oversees more than 33,000 landmarks, 114 historic districts, and 20 historic district extensions in all five boroughs. The total number of protected sites also includes 1,347 individual landmarks, 117 interior landmarks, and ten scenic landmarks.—from Nov. 2015 *Museum Messenger*

### Ribbon-Cutting for Restored Façade

On 26 Sept 2015, individuals gathered for the ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the completion of Fraunces Tavern Façade Restoration Campaign. A crowd representing the Sons and the FTM gathered at 24-26 Water Street to celebrate the completion, which was launched in early 2014. Supporters raised a total of \$55,350 for the work, an amount that was matched in full by the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution.

Janice Martin, daughter of the late Cornwell Martin, did the honor of cutting the ribbon. Mr. Martin was an active member who bequeathed \$10,000 to the project in 2014. He had served on the Flag Day Committee, Real Estate Committee, and the Board of Managers. Cornwell was also on the Color Guard.

The SRNY and Fraunces Tavern Museum staff would like to thank everyone who helped make the project a success.—from Sept 2015 *Museum Messenger*



Supporters of the Sons and the FTM celebrate the completed façade restoration.—Photo courtesy SRNY

### Next Up: Electrical System Replacement

As the façade was being finished, work began toward fully restoring the Fraunces Tavern’s electrical system. Due to the flooding of the basement and first floor from Superstorm Sandy in 2012, much of the electrical system over time corroded from salt-



Stanley D. and Elizabeth Scott.  
—Source: nysocialdiary.com

water residue. In the immediate aftermath of the storm, the Sons made about \$250,000 in emergency repairs to the system. But that was not near enough to finish what needed fixing.

In early August, the Fraunces Tavern complex received a grant of over \$500,000 federal funds administered by the Governor's Office of the State of New York for use toward restoring the electrical system. The grant was part of a \$6.2 million package of grants that Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo designated for sixteen historically significant properties in New York State that had suffered extensive damage from the storm.

As the grant to Fraunces Tavern fell short of the needed \$614,500 to fully cover the renovation, SRNY Honorary Past President Stanley D. Scott and his wife generously promised to match up to \$50,000 to complete the costs. It didn't take long. In late September, the Society announced it had raised \$141,153 above the amount of the grant—enough to cover the cost of the project and then some.

SW Engineering Company will replace all flooded electrical components, including wiring, conduits, lighting fixtures, fuses, electro-mechanical circuit breakers and switchgear. SW Engineering caters to New York City building owners, specializing in evaluating building roofing, façade, HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems.

—Editor, compiled from reports

### SRNY Activity Round-Up

Members and guests of the SRNY maintain a busy schedule all year long. The following events mark the autumn and winter of each passing year: the commemoration of the Patriot victories at the Battles of Saratoga and Yorktown held in mid-October at Trinity Church in Lower Manhattan; Evacuation Day in New York City, November 18th; and the anniversary of Washington's Farewell on December 3rd.

On the latter-mentioned date, which marks the eve of the anniversary of George Washington's fa-

mous farewell speech to his officers at the Fraunces Tavern, members of the Fraunces Tavern Museum gathered for an exclusive event which included food, drink, and a reading from Benjamin Tallmadge's memoir by a historical re-enactor. It was two hundred and thirty-two years ago that Washington's tearful farewell took place in the Tavern's Long Room:



Members and guests raise their glasses at the Evacuation Day Dinner.—Photo courtesy SRNY



Two new members receive their Society Rosette during the Evacuation Day Dinner.—Photo courtesy SRNY

As the memoir states, "General Washington told his officers, 'With a heart full of love and gratitude I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable.'" The memoir is part of the Museum's collection and is currently on exhibit in the Mesick Gallery.

On the following symbolic day, the Society held its annual meeting in the Flag Gallery of the Fraunces Tavern Museum. A full report of the meeting will appear in the Spring issue.

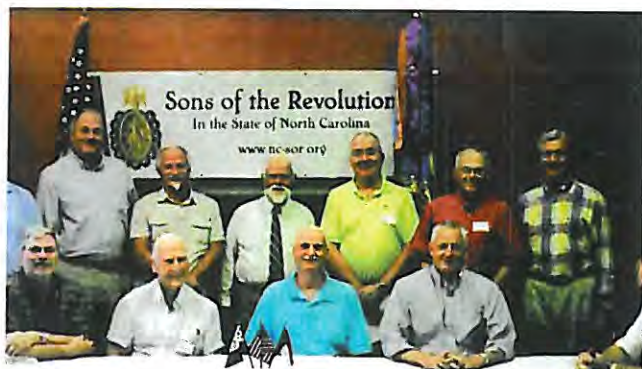
Coming up in the early part of 2016 are the

following traditional events: the Tallmadge Day Stated Meeting & Dinner on January 25th; Washington's Birthday Celebration on February 15th and the Washington Birthday Ball on February 26th, followed by the Annual Church Service on February 28th.—*Editor, compiled from reports*

## NORTH CAROLINA

### A New Chapter Organized

The Society of North Carolina has organized a new chapter—the Cols. Hinton and Polk Chapter, based in Raleigh. The chapter presented its charter at the Annual Yorktown Banquet held on 24 Oct 2015. From the 41<sup>st</sup> Triennial in Savannah (2012) to the 42<sup>nd</sup> in Williamsburg (2015), the Sons in North Carolina grew by nearly forty percent. “Our goal is to grow by at least twelve members yearly,” reports Society President Dan Hopping. “We are a small, very active Society. Our challenge is that our members are spread across five hundred miles, and meetings are therefore difficult to arrange.”



Charter members of the new Cols. Hinton and Polk Chapter.  
—Photo courtesy Dan Hopping



Society members manning a recruiting booth.  
—Photo courtesy Dan Hopping.

### Ongoing Recruiting Efforts

The Society normally mans a recruiting booth at patriotic events such as Memorial Day and NC

Museum of History events. From such efforts in 2015, we had thirty-three new prospects for membership. At these events, we have a large living history display that draws people to our booth. If parents are with children, we give the parents some Tootsie Roll Pops to give to their children. That maintains the parents long enough to inquire about their ancestors. If they are descendants of patriots who fought in the Revolution, we sell them on the Sons of the Revolution.

—*submitted by Society President Dan Hopping*

### Charlotte Chapter Activities

The Gen. Wm Lee Davidson Chapter, Charlotte, held its annual Chartering Dinner at The Charlotte Country Club on 24 Sept 2015. Mr. Scott Syfert was the featured speaker. He informed the chapter and its guests about the evidence surrounding the issuance and publication of the May 20, 1775, Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, which predates the Declaration of Independence of the United States. Mr. Syfert is a corporate attorney at Moore & Van Allen in Charlotte and is the author of *The First Declaration of Independence: The Disputed History of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20, 1775* published in 2013 by McFarland & Co. During the evening's dinner, new member Ray Wark was presented with his certificate and rosette. The Gen. Wm. Lee Davidson Chapter was chartered at the club in September 2012.

—*submitted by Chapter President Gus Succop*



L-R: NC Society Treasurer Allen James, new member Ray Wark, Chapter President Gus Succop, and Society VP Randell Sprinkle.—Photo courtesy Gus Succop

## PENNSYLVANIA

### The Annual Musket Ball

The 2015 Pennsylvania Society Sons of the Revolution kicked off the fall season with the annual Musket Ball on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. For the second year in a row, it was held at the famed Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. The venue proved to be an attraction, as more than one hundred forty members and guests attended. The Musket Ball commemorates the pivotal victories by the Continental Army forces at Saratoga and Yorktown.



L-R: General Society Color Guard Captain W. Steven Mark, Christie McNelly, Charlotte Mark and PSSR Treasurer Robert F. McNelly



PSSR Captain Robert B. Van Gulick, who is also General Assistant Treasurer, leads the Color Guard in the procession of the colors

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served at 6:30 p.m., with the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. PSSR President W. Murray Gordon presided over the event, following the presentation of the colors led by Color Guard Captain Robert R. Van Gulick. There was a convocation by General and PSSR



PSSR President W. Murray Gordon and his wife, Lori, dance to the music.

Chaplain G. Clayton Ames III. PSSR Secretary C. Michael Whelan recounted the strategic significance of the victories at Saratoga and Yorktown. Dinner and dancing followed, with everyone enjoying themselves well into the evening.

### New Citizens Reception

The Society hosted its New Citizens Reception on 15 Dec 2015 (Bill of Rights Day). The event took place at the ceremonial courtroom in the Federal Court House located on the northwest corner of 6th and Market Streets in Philadelphia. The ceremony began at 10:30 a.m., with the Hon. Cynthia M. Rufe presiding. PSSR New Citizens Reception Committee Chairman John M. Blickensderfer and other members of the PSSR attended.

Once officially sworn in as new citizens, they received their citizenship certificate from the Clerk of the Court. Each of the new citizens also received a small American flag, a copy of the U. S. Constitution, a ball point pen, and a lapel pin as gifts from the PSSR. Following the court room ceremony ending at 12 noon, the PSSR held a reception in the foyer with cake and iced tea. The PSSR also contracted a musician to play traditional American music during the reception for the benefit of the new citizens and their families.

### Younger Members Committee

The Younger Members Committee held two outdoor events this fall before the temperatures dropped. First was the Capital Day Golf Outing on September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Four Season Golf Club in Landisville, Pennsylvania. This event was held in conjunction with our Lancaster Chapter's annual Capital Day Celebration. (see sidebar, page 15)



L-R: David Byrne, Lancaster Chapter; Win Dougherty, Philadelphia Chapter; Ed Kellogg, Philadelphia Chapter; Joe Frantz, Lancaster Chapter.

Younger members from both the Philadelphia and Lancaster chapters turned out for celebration and perhaps the last good golf day of the year.

Building and strengthening ties with Younger Members across both chapters is a key focus area of the Younger Members Committee, and we look forward to building upon the success of this event.



Attendees at the Younger Members Roof Deck Party. The PSSR members include: James Price, Thomas Price, Kyle Miller, G. Clayton Ames, Tim Hennessey, Kipp Gearhart, and Bill Wolfe.

The next event was the 2nd Annual Fall Roof Deck Party on October 10th at the beautiful Rittenhouse townhome of PSSR member Robert Price. We were once again blessed with an absolutely beautiful sunset and fall evening, which undoubtedly helped drive overall attendance to exceed thirty-five Society members, which included eleven Younger Members and four prospective members.—text and photos submitted by Secretary C. Michael Whelan

### The Legacy of One Day

Following the Battle of Brandywine, the British army under General Howe occupied the City of Brotherly Love on 26 Sept 1777. As the capture of Philadelphia became imminent, the Second Continental Congress had to pull up stakes and move out of town. The initial relocation was to the Lancaster County Courthouse on 27 Sept, about sixty miles west of Philadelphia. Congress took up business there on that one day, though it was decided to move yet again—this time to York, twenty miles further inland and west of the Susquehanna River. So, for just one day, Lancaster, Pennsylvania was the Capital of the United Colonies.

However, for much of the past two hundred and thirty-eight years, that bit of civic history has been lost on many Lancastrians. Yet thanks to a contemporary group of local enthusiasts led by Matt Johnson, more people are becoming aware of Lancaster’s most famous hour in the Revolution.

Due to their work and the mayor’s involvement, the City Council in 2015 approved a proclamation naming September 27th as “Capital Day” in Lancaster. Furthermore, to give the 2015 Capital Day an extra bit of historic flair, the City unveiled a newly designed civic flag.

Among the primary differences, the large red rose located at the bottom of the white, circular field on the old design has been shifted below the white field in the new design. Also, the new design contains two significant years in the legend; 1730 on the left side, and 1907 on the right. The first alludes to the year of Lancaster’s founding, while the second indicates the year in which the city’s first civic flag was mandated.■—Editor



New Flag Design  
—commons.wikimedia.org



Old Flag Design  
—lancasteronline.com

## RHODE ISLAND



*RI State Society President Bruce MacGunnigle (middle) presented framed membership certificates to new members Peter Sarazon (L) and Charles Wharton (R) at their Annual meeting held on the anniversary of the August 29, 1778 Battle of Rhode Island.*



*Ruth Taylor, Executive Director of the Newport Historical Society was the guest speaker at the RI Society's annual meeting. Her topic was *The 1697 Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House*, which is the oldest surviving house in Newport.*

—Photos courtesy Bruce MacGunnigle

## SOUTH CAROLINA

The South Carolina Society has made solid improvements in development and growth over the past couple of years and is heading into the future with optimism. As a small Society, the positive trend is the result of much work and commitment from the State Society's current officers.



*L-R: Member Reddick Bowman, General President Mitchell Bush, Member Michael Hull, Executive Director Jeff Lambert, Member Edward Latimer, SC President Chuck Swoope, SC Secretary Ivan Bennett, Member Samuel Whatley and son, Region 3 General VP and SC Treasurer Jeff Jordan.*

Society President Chuck Swoope and Secretary Ivan Bennett represented the South Carolina Society at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Triennial in Williamsburg. There, President Swoope reported that the Society now totals twenty-three members and that nine new members had joined since the previous Triennial in Savannah, Georgia. In related news of the Triennial, Society Past President Jeff Jordan was installed as Region 3 General Vice President, filling the post vacated by General President R. Mitchell Bush.

Following the trip to Williamsburg, Society officers attended Camden Revolutionary War Field Days during the weekend of 7 Nov 2015 in Camden, S.C. During the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War, the British used Camden as their supply post. The Battle of Camden on 16 Aug 1780 was the worst defeat of the Patriots in the entire war.

A little over a month after Camden Days, General President R. Mitchell Bush and Executive Director Jeffrey Lambert traveled to Charleston to join members, wives and guests for a Christmas Party on 11 Dec 2015. The holiday meet-and-greet, which featured cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres, took place at the Holiday Inn in Mount Pleasant, S.C. Several dozen people attended, including distinguished guests from the South Carolina Historical Society.





A project worthy of the Sons to adopt is the needed installation of a memorial plaque for the statue of "Swamp Fox" Francis Marion, in Johnsonville, S.C. Sculpted by Alex Palkovich and unveiled in 2013, the monument is located at Venter's Landing in Johnsonville, but has no dedication. Venter's Landing is where Marion received his military commission on 17 Aug 1780 to raise a county militia. He and his men went on to provide crucial support to Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene.

—Source: sciway.net

—S.C. text and meeting photo submitted by Society Secretary Ivan Bennett

## VIRGINIA

### Honoring Veterans Day

The Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony, which honors Virginia men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces as far back as the Revolution, was held on 11 Nov 2015 at the Virginia War Memorial near downtown Richmond. Honored representatives from a variety of military and patriotic organizations, including the Sons, participated.



More than 1,500 attended the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial on November 11th near downtown Richmond.

Society Secretary Emmett M. Avery IV and Past President Matson L. Roberts solemnly laid a wreath on behalf of the VSSR as the ceremony ended.

Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe was the



Emmet Avery and Matson Roberts present a wreath on behalf of the VSSR.

over their head. Folks, that is unacceptable. So you have my commitment that a year from today not one single veteran will not have a safe roof over their head."

keynote speaker. He said that the nation needs to do a much better job taking care of its veterans and promised that not a single Virginia veteran would be homeless within a year.

"On any given night in Virginia, six hundred and twenty veterans go to sleep without a safe roof



Memory, a monument to Virginia's fallen troops, reflects the state's great sorrow and pride for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.—Source: panoramio.com

McAuliffe, whose son attends the U.S. Naval Academy and will enter the military as a Marine, laid out a plan to eliminate homelessness among veterans.

In other Society news, the next major event held will be the George Washington Birthday Dinner, held 20 Feb 2016, at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond. It is one of the largest gatherings of the year for the Virginia Society, Sons of the Revolution.—text and photos submitted by Doug Payne ■

**Correction:** In the previous issue of *Drumbeat* (Vol. 33, No. 2-3), it was twice incorrectly stated that five of the first six U.S. Presidents were from Virginia, when, actually, four of the first five were. This fact has been correctly stated in this newsletter previously. We regret the error and appreciate the notice.—Editor

# Flintlock & Powderhorn

## ARTICLES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

### The Revolution's Last Men

*The following begins a look at the six Revolutionary War veterans featured in The Revolution's Last Men, a recent book by Don N. Hagist published in early 2015 by Westholme Publishing of Yardley, Pennsylvania. These men lived to be centenarians and were photographed during the time of the Civil War. The images were published in the 1864 book, Last Men of the Revolution. Through detailed research, Mr. Hagist has distilled their service records, added to their post-war biographies, and sifted through historical inaccuracies previously published. The following excerpt(s) is copyrighted and republished with permission.*

#### Samuel Downing

Born 1764, Newburyport, Massachusetts; died 1867, Edinburgh, New York; in 1780, joined 2nd New Hampshire Regiment of the Continental Line as a private enlisted; discharged 1783; married Eunice George same year, with whom he had thirteen children. He outlived his wife and eleven of his thirteen children.

**Excerpts:** "Not yet sixteen and small for his age, Samuel Downing was too young to enlist. With the war entering its sixth year, however, recruits were hard to come by. The eager lad pleaded his case and was sent to... nearby Hale's Town [Weare, N.H.], a militia colonel named Nathanael Fifield... There's no way to determine exactly when Samuel Downing joined Captain John Dennett's Company of the 2nd New Hampshire in New Jersey. He spent some time guarding baggage wagons transiting from New Hampshire into central Massachusetts, which may have been ancillary duty on his journey southwest... He certainly experienced some sort of encounter with the enemy, perhaps several, in 1780 and 1781..."

When spring came in 1781, it seemed likely that an attack on [British-occupied] New York would finally occur... [but] General Washington executed a sudden and masterful move south to entrap British forces in Virginia. Although several companies of the New Hampshire troops were part of the march south, the main body of the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment remained in the Hudson Highlands... In October 1781, an alarm came to the Hudson Highlands of a battle near Johnstown, New York. The

1st and 2nd New Hampshire regiments were sent north and then west to bolster American forces in the area...

Downing's service at the [Mohawk River Valley] frontier forts was probably much like it had been in the Hudson Highlands, attending to military readiness with few actual alarms. As winter [of 1782] approached, the New Hampshire troops returned

to the main army now huddled in New Windsor, New York... Samuel Downing was discharged from military service in June 1783 and made his way back to the town of Antrim [N.H.], where he had lived for much of his youth...

His 100th birthday celebration was announced in newspapers around the country... [and] the notice in a New Hampshire paper caught the eye of Daniel Downing's son James [a nephew], who was only four years old when he had last seen his uncle in 1794. James made the trek to New York to be part of the fete, and reported the experience to the newspaper when he



Samuel Downing,  
—Photo by Nelson A. Moore

returned:

*...The people of Edinburgh and the neighboring towns, turned out in large numbers—and with cannon, martial music, speeches, toasts, etc., made the day merry and joyful. Among the things done was the felling by [Downing's] own hands of a large hemlock tree... and subsequently the felling by the same veteran hands of a cherry tree. The hero stood upon the cherry tree which, with stump and limbs, he sold at auction...*

Samuel Downing died on February 19, 1867. His death was reported in newspapers across the nation..., all equal in their praise and admiration of this remarkably long-lived veteran." ■



King Charles III of Spain, by A. R. Mengs (1761)



King Louis XV of France, by Maurice Quentin de la Tour (1748)

## The Army's 'Other' European Ally

—Continued from page 1

three years before his birth. Even though the Treaty of Utrecht<sup>II</sup> brought the Spanish Bourbons to the throne, starting with Charles' father, Philip V, it simultaneously reduced Spain's power, glory, and influence across Europe. Spain lost much of her European territories, including the Spanish Netherlands (Belgium) and parts of Italy. Other pieces she lost were Minorca and Gibraltar, both of which were given to her grand nemesis, Great Britain.

As Charles grew up, his resentment and passion grew up, too. He just couldn't stomach the thought that glorious Spain had been humiliated whilst his father and namesake sat on the throne. In 1734, as Duke of Parma, he conquered the kingdoms of Naples and of Sicily and was crowned King of both on 3 July 1735. For the next nineteen years, he reigned as Charles VII of Naples and Charles V of Sicily.

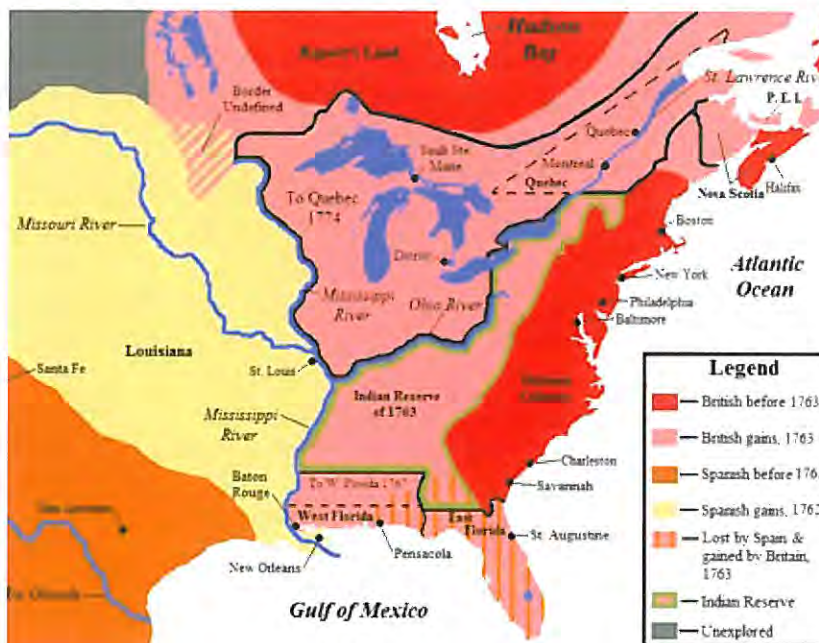
From his residence in Naples, Charles kept tabs on his elder half-brother, Ferdinand VI<sup>III</sup>, as the latter became King of Spain in 1746. Ferdinand VI has been described as a passive man. He ruled Spain for the next thirteen years. As King he worked very hard to keep Spain neutral in the years preceding the Seven Years' War. He refused tempting offers by both France and England into declaring war on the other.

Charles III was just the opposite.<sup>IV</sup> Upon succeeding to the Spanish throne on 10 August 1759, Charles instigated a period of "enlightened absolutism" or "benevolent absolutism," which included several reforms and a build-up of the Spanish military. The forty-eight-year-old monarch was determined to take back Spanish pride. He expelled the Jesuits, and, in a move that wrecked his half-brother's tradition of neutrality, rekindled the Bourbon Family Compact<sup>V</sup> with Louis XV of France.

The pact had been invoked twice in earlier times, and it was signed in secrecy a third time on 15 August 1761. It stipulated that all the Bourbon kings (representing France and Navarre; Spain; the Two Sicilies; and the Duchy of Parma) would stand united, in defense of each other, and would put an end to British maritime supremacy. Thus, in 1762, Spain joined France against England and its ally Portugal in the ongoing Seven Years' War. By that time, France knew she was losing the war.

After the September 1762 Battle of Signal Hill (Newfoundland), which ended in failure for the French, Louis XV signaled to Charles III that he would cede to Spain the city of New Orleans and the whole of French territory west of the Mississippi in order to prevent their old nemesis from gaining full control of the strategic river. Perhaps a concession of sorts from France to Spain, the land ownership was exchanged by the secretive Treaty of Fontainebleau of 1762; however, the change of title was not made public until 1764.

Meanwhile, the Treaty of Paris signed in February 1763 brought the Seven Years' War to an end and signified a major loss of territory for France. All of French North America east of the Mississippi was given to England, save for a couple of fishing outposts off Newfoundland and a few



European territories in America, 1762-1763.—Source users.humboldt.edu

Caribbean islands. Spain also lost territory east of the Mississippi. In exchange for getting back the Philippines and Cuba, which the British had occupied, Spain had to cede Florida to the British. This was another loss of Spanish territory that Charles III could not tolerate.

Therefore, the two European powers that would come to the aid of the Thirteen Colonies were disgruntled old foes of the British Empire, just waiting for the day to regroup, revamp, and reconquer. The monarchs may have been empathetic to the Patriot cause, but they were first and foremost motivated by their relative positioning in the European balance of power. Both France and Spain, therefore, viewed the American Revolution within a global context of how best to weaken Britain all around the world.

### Early Spanish Involvement

Even a year before the Americans declared their independence, the royal courts of France and Spain had committed to supporting the Patriot cause. The Continental Congress had sent diplomats to Europe as early as 1774, and one of the carrots which Benjamin Franklin and others dangled before the Bourbon sovereigns was the promise to restore their American territories to pre-Treaty of Paris designations.

At that early hour, however, both intended to remain neutral in the Thirteen Colonies' coming move toward independence. International law at the time prohibited neutral governments from providing money, arms, or ammunitions to belligerent countries/colonies. Any support they lent to the Colonies in terms of money or materials had to be absolutely covert. The Spanish monarchy was particularly concerned about maintaining secrecy. At that stage, Charles certainly did not want to provoke a declaration of war on his kingdom by Britain's King George III. Britain's ally at the time was Spain's neighbor, Portugal.

Given these delicate circumstances, it was decided that all financial and material support from Spain and France would have to be channeled through a third-party company and appear as private business transactions. There were no restric-

tions on private citizens of neutral countries doing business with private citizens of belligerent nations.

A fictitious French merchant company called Rodrigue Hortalez & Cia.<sup>vi</sup> was established in 1775

to make purchases, arrange for shipment, keep accounts, and contact American representatives in France. The playwright Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais was named as the firm's director. Both Bourbon kings initially extended one million French livres in seed money to Rodrigue Hortalez & Cia. On top of that, Arthur Lee, the diplomat from Virginia, secured an additional million livres

from Charles III.

For the actual shipping of materials, both courts primarily used the Spanish firm of Joseph Gardoqui & Sons in Bilbao, Spain. Diego Gardoqui, one of Joseph's sons, acted as representative to the Americans in Spain. He met with John Jay on several occasions and, after the Revolution, became Spain's first envoy to the United States.<sup>vii</sup>

Historic letters prove that military supplies shipped by the Gardoqui firm had started flowing much before 4 July 1776. In a letter dated 15 February 1775, Diego Gardoqui responded to an order placed by Jeremiah Lee of Marblehead, Massachusetts on behalf of the Massachusetts Committee of Supplies for over three hundred muskets, three hundred bayonets, and six hundred pistols. In another example, on 29 July 1775, fourteen tons of gunpowder arrived in Philadelphia from Joseph Gardoqui & Sons and was immediately shipped to the rebels fighting in Boston.

In 1777 alone, Benjamin Franklin arranged for shipment through Gardoqui's firm of the following inventory:

- 215 bronze cannons
- 30,000 muskets
- 30,000 bayonets
- 51,314 musket balls
- 300,000 pounds of powder
- 12,868 grenades
- 30,000 uniforms
- 4,000 tents



**Left image:** Bronze statue of Pierre de Beaumarchais in the 4th arrondissement, Paris.—Source: wikipedia.org; **Right image:** Bronze statue of Don Diego Maria de Gardoqui in Sisters Cities Park, Philadelphia.—Source: associationforpublicart.org



Sometimes British ships would intercept arms and munitions meant for delivery to the fighting rebels. In the spring of 1776, an American merchant ship was detained near Boston transporting over twenty tons of gunpowder shipped from Gardoqui. Also captured in the spring of 1776 in Delaware Bay



A piece of Spanish Louisiana in the French Quarter.—Source knowla.org

was a Spanish merchant ship with \$14,000 in a box marked “W.M.,” presumably belonging to William & Morris, another authorized shipper.

British diplomats in Spain and France knew of the movement of military stores across the Atlantic to the Thirteen Colonies and to Caribbean ports, but they could not prove the courts were financing it. Did they suspect it? Beyond his initial two million livres for the merchant company, Charles gifted several more millions of livres throughout the war to key individuals of the Patriot cause. In the three-year period 1776-1779, he loaned some eight million Spanish reales to the Colonies.<sup>viii</sup>

In addition to the money, munitions, and other materials, Spain gave immediate favored-nation trade status to the Americans, meaning all Spanish ports throughout her vast colonial empire were open to American shippers and traders. Not only were American ships welcome in Spain, but they also received open doors in places such as Havana, Cuba; Veracruz, Mexico; and New Orleans. The Port of New Orleans was a key strategic location.

In June 1776, September 1776, and June 1777 Spanish ships arrived into New Orleans laden with military supplies for the Continental Army. Those supplies were in turn shipped up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Fort Pitt. The American fiscal agent in New Orleans, Oliver Pollock, acted as intermediary between Spanish officials in Louisiana and the Continental Congress and Virginia. He worked indefatigably for the Patriot cause and fulfilled an extremely crucial, if not under-recognized, role in the chain of supply from New Orleans.

After the September 1776 shipment arrived there, Gen. Charles Henry Lee sent Capt. George Gibson with a small party down the Ohio and Mississippi to New Orleans to transport the supplies

back upriver to Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh). Pollock introduced Gibson to the Spanish Governor of Louisiana, Luis de Unzaga y Amezaga, who politely agreed to look past the military goods being shipped upriver to Fort Pitt.

These early shipments to New Orleans included thousands of barrels of gunpowder. In fact, the rebel gunpowder used at Lexington-Concord and at Bunker

Hill may have been Spanish.<sup>ix</sup> ■

*The author is a member of many patriotic and lineage societies, including the SOR. He is a past President of the Texas Society and past General Vice President. In 2009-2010, he was President General of the NSSAR and is the founder of the SAR's Mexico Society and Spain Society, respectively.*

<sup>i</sup>de Tapia Ozcariz, Enrique. *Carlos III y su época: Biografía del Siglo XVIII* (Aguilar, S. A. de Ediciones, Madrid) 1962

<sup>ii</sup>Velde, François. “The Treaties of Utrecht (1713),” *Heraldica.org*, <http://www.heraldica.org/topics/france/utrecht.htm>

<sup>iii</sup>Voltes Bou, Pedro. *La vida y la época de Fernando VI* (Editorial Planeta, Barcelona) 1998

<sup>iv</sup>Wertz, W.F. “Spain’s Carlos III and the American System—Spanish Participation in the American Revolution,” *Instit. Schiller*, Washington, D.C., 2001

<sup>v</sup>Vaughan, Benjamin. *Remarks on a Dangerous Mistake Made as to the Eastern Boundary of Louisiana* (J.T. Buckingham, Boston) 1814

<sup>vi</sup>1) Kite, Elizabeth S., *Beaumarchais and the War of American Independence* (Gorham Press, Boston) 1918; 2) Rueda Soler, Natividad. *La Compañía de Comercio Gardoqui e Hijo: 1770-1780. Sus relaciones políticas y económicas con Norteamérica* (Ediciones Gobierno Vasco, Vitoria) 1992.

<sup>vii</sup>Gartiez-Aurrecoa, Divar Javier. “El embajador Don Diego María de Gardoqui y la Independencia de los EE.UU.,” *University of Deusto*, Bilbao, Spain, 2003

<sup>viii</sup>Fernandez y Fernandez, Enrique. *Spain’s Contribution to the Independence of the United States* (Embassy of Spain, Washington, D.C.) 2000

<sup>ix</sup>Thornhoff, Robert H. “Vital Contribución de España En el Triunfo de la Revolución Americana,” *Karnes*, Texas, 2006

# A Standard to Which the Wise and Honest Can Repair

By Capt. David Eastman, USA (Ret)

The following is the first installment of the 2015 winning essay of the GSSR scholarship award. The author, David Eastman, is a graduate of West Point and former Captain in the U.S. Army who served in Afghanistan and now lives with his wife and daughter in Wasilla, Alaska. He works as a First Responder and fire fighter. The John Jay Fellows Program is a post-undergraduate educational and professional experience especially suited for career aspirants in the fields of religion, law, politics, public and international affairs, issue advocacy, social service, journalism, and education.



Cardinal Francis George—Source: tribimg.com

“I expect to die in bed, my successor will die in prison and his successor will die a martyr in the public square. His successor will pick up the shards of a ruined society and slowly help rebuild civilization, as the church has done so often in human history.” – Cardinal Francis George, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops<sup>1</sup>

On 17 Apr 2015, the first part of Cardinal George’s pronouncement did indeed take place when he died in bed in Chicago, the city of his birth. He was seventy-eight at the time of his death. At the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast preceding his death, Professor Robert George of Princeton announced: “The days of socially acceptable Christianity are over. The days of comfortable Catholicism are past...There are costs of discipleship—heavy costs, costs that are burdensome and painful to bear.”

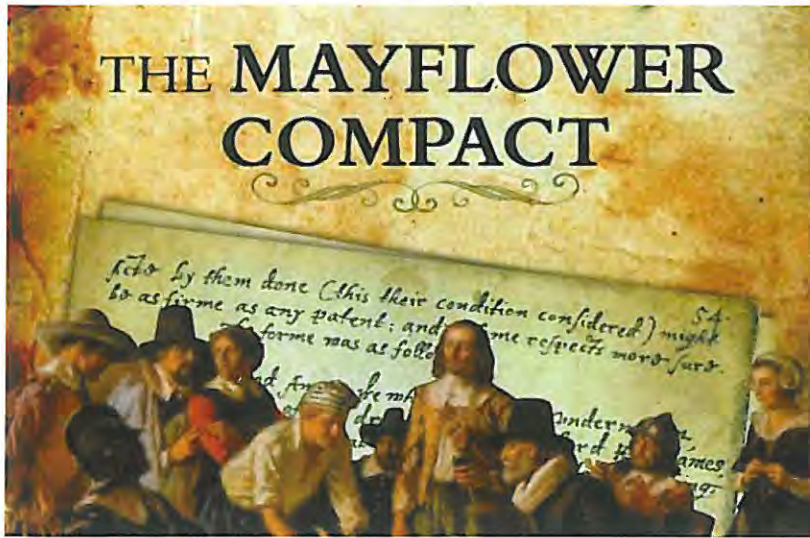
When restaurant owner Dan Cathy, in an interview with the *Baptist Press*, affirmed his support for Biblical and traditional family values, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino publicly declared: “There is no place for discrimination on Boston’s Freedom Trail and no place for your company alongside it.”<sup>3</sup>

More recently, the Denver City Council voted to delay the opening of a Chick-fil-A in Denver due to the restaurant’s policy of remaining closed on Sundays and concern that the restaurant chain might financially support organizations that advocate for traditional family values.<sup>4</sup> In 1946, when the restaurant first opened, Georgia state law required that stores could not be open on both Saturday and Sunday, and in 69 years of business Chick-fil-A has never been open on a Sunday. But what was required by law in 1946 is today cause for concern.

Likewise, the recent imprisonment of an elected official in Kentucky over her inability to validate same-sex marriages lends some support to the expectation of Cardinal George that his successor may one day die in prison for carrying out the duties of his office. In a nation of declining religious conviction, [that which] was once termed freedom of religion has now been reinterpreted by our nation’s highest court as freedom from religion.<sup>6</sup>

It was the pursuit of religious expression, or free exercise of religion as the Constitution itself refers to it, that led three of my ancestors to sign the Mayflower Compact and declare to one another and to the world: “We, whose names are underwritten... Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plan the first Colony in the northern Parts of Virginia...”

At the time of their pilgrimage in 1620, religious expression in England was not free, and their earlier attempt to flee to Holland was an illegal act, for which they had been arrested and imprisoned. It was in this context, having previously been imprisoned for their faith, that they drafted and signed the Mayflower Compact, America’s very first Constitution.



"In the name of God, Amen."—Source: worldtribune.com

### Costs for Liberty are Ongoing

Considering the breadth of human history, it was not that long ago that our forefathers, in defense of the rights endowed to them by their Creator, mutually pledged to each other their Lives, their Fortunes, and their sacred Honor. In doing so, they and their generation bore a cost all but incalculable to the great majority of Americans today. So complete was their victory, and so capable did the Constitution prove to be in helping to preserve it over time, that a belief has come to permeate American society that the price of liberty and independence was largely once paid for all.

And with such comforting thoughts, many Americans have bequeathed the preservation and care of their liberty to their government. After all, in declaring and then achieving independence, the founding generation established for all time that the securing of our inalienable rights was the chief function of government. It is for this purpose that we pay our taxes, permit the government to send our young men off to war, and delegate the writing and execution of laws to our elected representatives.

Excepting those who have seen military service (and their families), the cost of American citizenship since that time has often been light. As a substitute for service in the animating contest for free-

dom, many Americans [came] to believe that the preservation of liberty required nothing more of them than suffrage in biennial elections. Over time, the majority of Americans came to believe that even that custom was unnecessary. The last U.S. midterm election in which a majority of Americans voted was prior to U.S. entry in World War I.

Since that time, Americans have looked increasingly to governmental institutions like the United States Supreme Court to protect and determine the status of their rights, and have watched with increasing annoyance as a federal bureaucracy slowly

assumed day-to-day decision making authority over everything from the milk they were permitted to drink, to the names of their football teams, to the menus displayed at their local fast-food restaurants.

Even in such a time, there persists the notion in some segments of American society that the cost of liberty is, or ought to be, a light one. That is, if they cared to count that cost. And many choose not to. But for those of us who remember the tremendous price that has been paid for our liberty, and continue to honor the men and women who paid that price and those who are continuing to pay it today, annoyance turns quickly to sadness and deep regret at the portions of our birthright that have been given away.<sup>7</sup>

Whereas protections for conscience and self-



The Bill of Rights: first ten amendments of the Constitution.

preservation were both enshrined in the Bill of Rights, even those protections have lately come to antagonize the very government instituted to protect those rights.

Take for example the men and women today who have answered the call to service in America's armed forces only to be told that they could not legally be armed while performing their duties on federal property. When one military commander, Lieutenant Commander Timothy White, recently drew his personal firearm and defended his own life and the lives of the sailors under his command against a terrorist attack in Chattanooga, he was threatened with prosecution for his act of conscience and self-preservation.

When word came that he would be charged under federal law for discharge of a firearm on federal property, his wife, Francica White, rose to his defense: "He values human life enough to protect his sailors and others...I am honored to be his wife and stand by him one hundred percent." Yet, only when Marine Lieutenant Colonel and former Congressman Allen West rose in his defense and generated substantial public outrage, were the federal charges dismissed.<sup>8</sup> Meanwhile, the law that would have disarmed Lt. Cdr. White, and so many other military servicemen, remains in force today.

When even acts of self-preservation and defending those under your command from attack is insufficient to satisfy government prosecutors, it becomes quite easy to see why Cardinal George expected that his successors would experience persecution for remaining true to the tenants of their faith. Today, our nation is growing ever-intolerant of the very religious freedom that inspired its creation and that it once protected. In such a time as this, we might ask how those who argued so forcefully for adoption of our Constitution would have appraised the role of religious freedom in public life, and what protections for religious liberty, if any, were envisioned by the Constitution they established.

### Religious Freedom in 1787

In 1787, when the Constitution was initially presented to the States for ratification, debates on religious freedom generally related to the degree



*Lt. Cdr. Timothy White—Source: timesfreepress.com*

of freedom that should be extended to religious dissenters within each state. Before 1650, every colony except Maryland had an established Protestant state church. For example, until 1786—by state law—colonial Virginians were members of the Anglican Church.

The law, similar to laws passed in the other colonies, provided that non-Anglican Protestants could be permitted limited religious expression and practice as long as they registered as religious dissenters. However, dissenting from the Anglican Church automatically precluded them from being able to hold public office, and did not exempt them from the obligation to support the Anglican Church through the paying of public taxes.

As the Anglican Church was the established church in Virginia, the Virginia Legislature was responsible for creating parishes, regulating attendance at religious services, setting the salaries of ministers, and other church policies that enjoined public observance. Through state law, the legislature also spelled out the conditions under which dissenters could be licensed and thereby allowed to participate in religious observances outside of the Anglican Church.

It was only through the passionate efforts of men such as Thomas Jefferson and James Madison,



*James Madison championed freedom of religion.*



over and against the efforts of Governor Patrick Henry and others, that in 1786, the Virginia Assembly passed the Act for Establishing Religious Freedom.

Upon passage of the law, the State of Virginia ceased to have an established church. However, the laws in each of the others states varied widely during the writing of the Federalist Papers and the ratification debates. In Massachusetts and Maryland, only Christians were permitted to hold public office, and in Pennsylvania only Christians were permitted to serve in the legislature. In South Carolina, religious tenants of the state church were written into the State Constitution, and in New Jersey, North Carolina and Georgia only Protestants were eligible for public employment. Delaware law stipulated further that only Trinitarian Protestants could be eligible for public employment.<sup>9</sup>

And while each of the States would eventually end the relationship with their respective established church, some states maintained that relationship long after ratification of the Constitution. Owing to the strength of its Pilgrim heritage, Massachusetts maintained its established state church until 1834. It was in this context, a time when some States were distancing themselves from established religion, and other States chose to maintain that relationship, that the Constitution first came into being.



John Jay, James Monroe, and Alexander Hamilton wrote *The Federalist Papers* under the collective pen name, *Publius*.—Source: slate.com

### The Federalist Papers and ‘Publius’

The three authors of *The Federalist Papers* were no strangers to the debates over religious freedom at the time of the Founding. In writing to his lifelong friend William Bradford on January 24<sup>th</sup> 1775, James Madison confided: “That diabolical Hell conceived principle of persecution rages among some and to their eternal Infamy the Clergy can furnish their Quota of Imps for such business. This vexes me the most of any thing whatever.”<sup>10</sup>

Writing just one month earlier, his future collaborator on the Federalist Papers, Alexander

Hamilton, declared: “Remember civil and religious liberty always go together: if the foundation of the one be sapped, the other will fall of course.”<sup>11</sup> Likewise, John Jay would later write: “The most effectual means of securing the continuance of our civil and religious liberties is always to remember with reverence and gratitude the source from which they flow.”<sup>12</sup>

Any writer who would attempt to argue for the curtailment of religious liberty on the grounds of purported support in either the Constitution, or the Federalist Papers, betrays an ignorance not only of the Constitutional framework and the Founding era, but also of the authors themselves, whose support for the proposed Constitution flowed directly from their personal conviction of the necessary role that religious liberty would play in the laws of the new nation. Rather than curtail religious expression, the Constitution stood squarely on the side of permitting expression, particularly on the part of religious minorities; expression that would have been proscribed by many of the states, not to mention foreign nations.

From its first word to its last, the Constitution offered not one prohibition or limitation on religious expression, and with passage of the First Amendment, it would later preclude Congress from ever taking up a bill that would either establish a national church or limit the free exercise

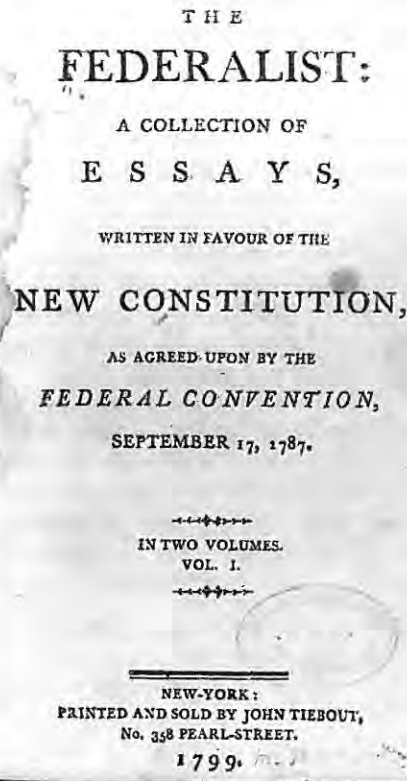
of religion. In Article VI, the Constitution prudently declared that “no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.”<sup>13</sup> Under the Constitution, states would be permitted to maintain their respective laws governing religious conduct; whether restrictive as in the case of Massachusetts, or permissive as in the case of Virginia.

Indeed, we are not surprised to find from its very first essay, *The Federalist Papers* arguing for religious tolerance: “...in politics, as in religion, it is equally absurd to aim at making proselytes by fire

and sword. Heresies in either can rarely be cured by persecution.<sup>14</sup> Even while instances of religious persecution were taking place within the various States, Publius (the pseudonym employed by all three authors of *The Federalist Papers*) argued for toleration and pointed the way forward by highlighting the absurdity of employing persecution as a tool of the state.

In his second essay, Publius draws the attention of the reader several times to the blessings of Divine Providence in preparing the land as an inheritance, and in also preparing the American people to receive it. He argued that it was not a coincidence that as a people they all professed the same religion and also the same principles of government. These circumstances had been orchestrated from on high.<sup>15</sup> In a later passage, it is taken for granted that self-preservation is a transcendent law of nature and of nature's God, and that governmental institutions must be sacrificed to the safety and happiness of society, rather than the safety and happiness of society being sacrificed to governmental institutions.<sup>16</sup>

Throughout *The Federalist Papers*, each author in turn speaks to a culture bathed in Biblical prin-

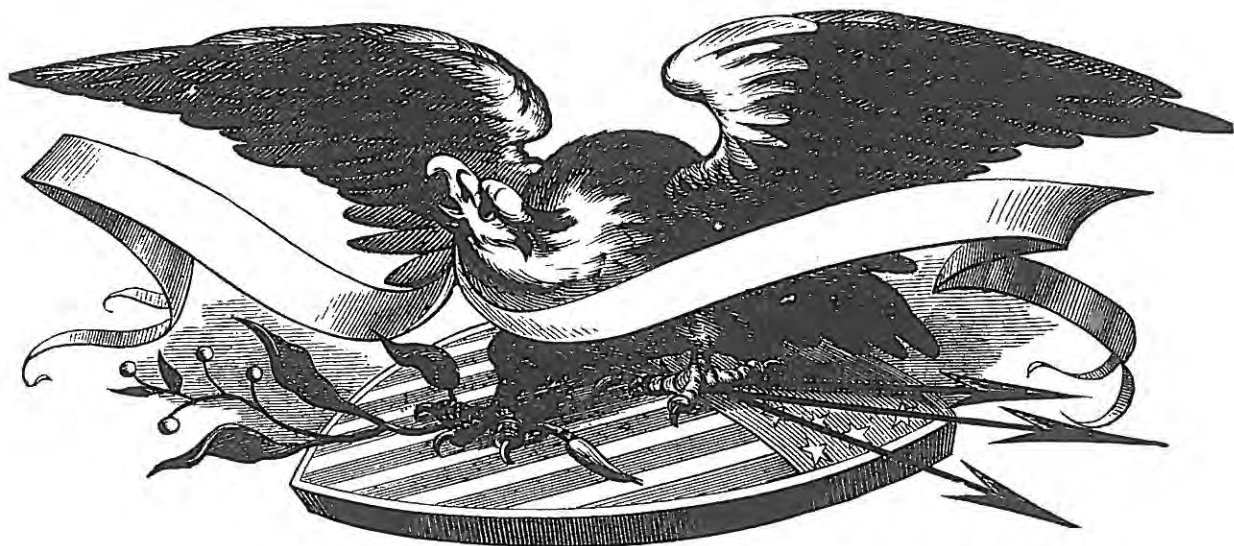


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ciples, and invites the toleration and amity that should result from the proper application of those principles, while also drawing attention to the hand of God in bringing about both the Independence of the colonies and the remarkable and unlooked for unanimity of support the Constitution had lately received from a convention that would otherwise have devolved into faction.<sup>17</sup>

In essays 52 and 57 it is again repeated that no candidate to office shall be disqualified on account of a religious test, thereby affirming the position of the national government as neutral with regard to the competing Christian denominations in the several States.<sup>18</sup> Further, in *Federalist* 57 we observe with clarity the stated purpose of the Constitution itself:

The aim of every political constitution is, or ought to be, first to obtain for rulers men who possess most wisdom to discern, and most virtue to pursue, the common good of the society; and in the next place, to take the most effectual precautions for keeping them virtuous whilst they continue to hold their public trust.<sup>19</sup> ■



<sup>1</sup>Francis George. "Cardinal's Column – The Wrong Side of History." Catholic New World - Newspaper for the Archdiocese of Chicago, 21 Oct 2012. <<http://www.catholicnewworld.com/cnwonline/2012/1021/cardinal.aspx>>.

<sup>2</sup>Robert George. "Robert P George Speaks at National Catholic Prayer Breakfast." American Principles Project, 21 May 2014. <<https://americanprinciplesproject.org/social-issues/robert-p-george-speaks-at-national-catholic-prayer-breakfast/>>.

<sup>3</sup>K. Allan Blume. "'Guilty as charged,' Cathy says of Chick-fil-A's stand on biblical & family values." Baptist Press, 16 July 2012. Available at <<http://www.bpnews.net/38271>>. "Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino's letter to the president of Chick-fil-A on gay marriage." Boston.com, 25 July 2012. Available at <[http://www.boston.com/yourtown/news/downtown/2012/07/boston\\_mayor\\_thomas\\_m\\_meninos.html](http://www.boston.com/yourtown/news/downtown/2012/07/boston_mayor_thomas_m_meninos.html)>.

<sup>4</sup>Aaron Smith. "Denver puts Chick-fil-A's restaurant bid on back burner." CNN | Money, 24 Aug 2015. Available at <<http://money.cnn.com/2015/08/24/news/companies/chick-fil-a-denver/>>.

<sup>5</sup>Neil J. Dilloff, *Never on Sunday: the Blue Laws Controversy*, 39 Md. L. Rev. 679 (1980). Available at: <<http://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/mlr/vol39/iss4/3>>.

<sup>6</sup>*Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290 (2000).

<sup>7</sup>"Posterity! You will never know, how much it cost the present Generation, to preserve your Freedom!..." (President John Adams in a letter to his wife Abigail, 26 April 1777). Available online at the Massachusetts Historical Society's Adams Family Papers <<http://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/archive/doc?id=L17770426ja>>.

<sup>8</sup>The Papers of James Madison Digital Edition, J. C. A. Stagg, editor. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, Rotunda, 2010. Available at: <<http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/JSMN-01-01-02-0029>> Original source: Congressional Series, Volume 1 (16 March 1751–16 December 1779).

<sup>9</sup>Alexander Hamilton, "A Full Vindication of the Measures of Congress," December 15, 1774. Available at: <<http://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/hamilton-the-works-of-alexander-hamilton-federal-edition-vol-1/simple>>.

<sup>10</sup>William Jay, "The Life of John Jay" (New York: J. & J. Harper, 1833), Vol. I, pp. 457-458, to the Committee of the Corporation of the City of New York on June 29, 1826.

<sup>11</sup>*U.S. Constitution*, Art. VI. Available at <[http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution\\_transcript.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_transcript.html)>.

<sup>12</sup>Alexander Hamilton, Federalist No. 1, *The Federalist Papers*, Available at <[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/fed01.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed01.asp)>.

<sup>13</sup>John Jay, Federalist No. 2, *The Federalist Papers*, Available at <[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/fed02.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed02.asp)>

<sup>14</sup>Alexander Hamilton, Federalist No. 1, *The Federalist Papers*, Available at <[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/fed01.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed01.asp)>.

<sup>15</sup>John Jay, Federalist No. 2, *The Federalist Papers*, Available at <[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/fed02.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed02.asp)>.

<sup>16</sup>James Madison, Federalist No. 43, *The Federalist Papers*, Available at <[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/fed43.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed43.asp)>.

<sup>17</sup>James Madison, Federalist No. 37, *The Federalist Papers*, Available at <[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/fed37.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed37.asp)>.

<sup>18</sup>James Madison, Federalist No. 52 and 57, *The Federalist Papers*, Available at <[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/fed52.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed52.asp)> and <[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/fed57.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed57.asp)>.

<sup>19</sup>James Madison, Federalist No. 57, *The Federalist Papers*, Available at <[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/fed57.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed57.asp)>.

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