

A Rekindled Louisiana Society



L-R: William Allerton, General President Mitchell Bush, and Louisiana Society President Clifford Jackson, III, Esq. Photo courtesy Clifford Jackson.

On 3 Dec 2016, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Louisiana, and Dudley Clifford Jackson, Society President, had the pleasure of hosting General President Mitchell Bush at the 1849 Jacob Payne-Strachan House in the Crescent City's Garden District.

The occasion was the Society's Black-Tie Annual Meeting and Cocktail Reception, whose early December date paid tribute to General George Washington's farewell speech to his officers at the Fraunces Tavern on 4 Dec 1783.

Although the venue's name does not reveal it, it was in this Greek-Rivival home where Jefferson Davis died. Davis, best remembered as President of the Confederate States of America, had been a U.S. Senator and served as Secretary of War under Franklin Pierce. He was also a U.S. Army veteran who fought with distinction during the Mexican-American war.



Two views of the 1849 Payne-Strachan House.—Source: flickriver.com

—Continued on page 11, under Louisiana

2017 BOM to Meet in Charleston

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of South Carolina received approval to host the 2017 General Society Board of Managers Meeting at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston. A contract has been signed. The meeting will take place there 28 Sept – 1 Oct, 2017, at a rate of \$270 per night, double occupancy. A registration form will be published in the next *Drumbeat*.

The South Carolina Society and the GSSR Events Committee have been coordinating the planning of the event. The Events Committee chaired by General President Emeritus Terry Daven-



The Francis Marion Hotel, named after the Revolutionary War hero.—Source: francismarionhotel.com

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National Report

Working to Preserve Williamsburg Area Sites

The General Society, Sons of the Revolution (GSSR) along with the Virginia Society are working in concert with several entities including the SAR to educate the public and support the preservation of Revolutionary War sites in the vicinity of Williamsburg, location of the GSSR headquarters.

Other entities involved in these projects are the Gloucester County Historical Society, Gloucester County Parks, Recreation & Tourism, the Yorktown Day Association, the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail, the National Park Service, and Campaign 1776, a division of the Civil War Trust.



L-R: GSSR Executive Director Jeff Lambert, Col. Lewis H. “Bucky” Burruss, Nicole Yancey (French liaison), and Warren Deal of Gloucester County Parks, Recreation & Tourism. These persons are helping identify appropriate sites to be included in the growing network of newly designated points of interest.
—Photo courtesy Jeff Lambert

The latest effort has been to identify, secure, and promote important points of interest involved in the Battle of the Hook. On 22 Oct 2016, a new Gloucester County historical marker was unveiled

commemorating the crucial allied victory at the Battle of the Hook. The marker is located near the intersection of Hook and Hayes Roads in Hayes, and replaces an old concrete marker that had fallen into disrepair.

In attendance at the October dedication ceremony were Tony Riva, Executive Assistant, Sons of the Revolution; President Edward Truslow, VSSAR; Col. Lewis H. “Bucky” Burruss of the Gloucester Historical Society, and Warren Deal, Chairman of the Battle of the Hook Committee and officiator of the marker dedication.

Prior to the installation of this marker, a previous interpretive sign installed at Yorktown was sponsored in part by the Virginia Society, Sons of the Revolution as part of the arrival of the replica frigate *Hermione* in June 2015. Future signage will be installed at Gloucester Point where Tarleton kept a toe hold on the northern shore of the York River in case Cornwallis wished to have an escape route.

The Battle of the Hook took place sixteen days prior to the British capitulation at Yorktown and was a crucial victory for the Patriots. When Gen. Cornwallis occupied Yorktown in September 1781, he sent troops to occupy Gloucester Point, then named Gloucester Town, just across the York River along the northern bank. Gen. Washington and the French allies sent troops to block what was viewed as a possible escape route through the town.

On 3 October 1781, Capt. Phil Taliaferro of the Gloucester militia alerted the allied commanders in Gloucester of the approaching enemy, scouting for food supplies. The parties clashed on a broad, flat clearing (the Hook) in what became the largest cavalry engagement of the entire war and the only open-ground meeting of opposing forces during the whole showdown at Yorktown.

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President's Message

The General Society, Sons of the Revolution is facing a dire situation. Throughout the country, our older members are passing on and we have not been successful enough at recruiting new members to fill in the numbers. This leads to the prospect of having to raise money through a capital campaign or raise our annual dues.

As this Society is decentralized, all power belongs at the State Society level. Recruitment, therefore, needs to be a State Society and local chapter initiative. I suspect not many of our State Societies are making recruitment their priority, but we must all do so for the sake of the Sons. As role models, Virginia, Rhode Island, New York, and North Carolina have been doing a great job in terms of recruiting.

Going hand-in-glove with recruitment is branding. Get your State Society's name out there. Building long-term relationships with the Children of the American Revolution and the Boy Scouts is good, but not enough. Consider sending officers to speaking engagements at local schools and colleges. Make the effort to get known in the history departments of high schools, community colleges and universities, where young men are already age-eligible or soon to be.

The JROTC programs and military academies are fertile grounds for potential members, but I encourage *more* interaction with them than one annual event. There's also the USO (United Service Organizations). Through volunteering at USO sites, recruiting into the Sons would be a natural.

Priming Our Youth

Part of our Society's mission is to educate young Americans. By helping our youth have a more thorough awareness of our nation's early history, you will already be priming the recruiting effort. If your Society interacts with schools on a regular basis, it stands to reason that recruiting will be easier. Several of our State Societies have a college essay program established, but it takes more than that to really "sync" in the minds of young people. We

should all be interacting with our youth in multiple ways.

When it comes down to it, in any fraternal organization, the glue that holds it together, and the substance that propels it forward, is fellowship. Even in such a special and purposeful society as the Sons of the Revolution, the primary objective is still fellowship.

I ask you on an individual level to become a welcoming force in your State Society. Reach out and find, recruit, and sponsor a new member. Give of yourself in the same way that someone in the Sons once gave to you. This type of support is not about opening your wallet to donate, but about opening your heart and mind with one person who is not yet a part of the Sons.

Bring that person to an event or meeting. Show them fellowship, comradeship, and friendship. Share with them your enthusiasm for history, genealogy, the roots of our great nation, and the vital importance of the Bill of Rights. Talk to them about the experiment in self-governance that our Founding Fathers risked their all to launch.

A Sacred Society

I view the Sons as a sacred organization comprising individuals who are the lineal ancestors of our patriot-heroes, the builders of this great nation. We are the carriers of the torch they once lit. If you take your membership seriously, you will not allow that bright light to extinguish. Let us be strong in our namesake and proud of our country and heritage. Let us reclaim and relive the principles with which our ancestors built this nation and for which they were willing to die.

We cannot succeed as a Society unless we are committed to our Society's future welfare. If *each* member would commit to bringing in just one new member, and seeing it through to fruition, our Society would double in size overnight. And if we were to ask all the newcomers to do the same, it would grow twofold again and again.

All it takes is one person. By doing that and only that, you can take pride in having helped keep alive the memory and values for which our ancestors sacrificed and, in some instances, for which they paid dearly. ■

— BOM Meeting, continued from page 1



Elegant and spacious first floor, hotel interior.
—Source: francismarionhotel.com

port includes Brian Gill, SRNY; Matson Roberts, VSSR; and Rob Van Gulick, Jr., PSSR. SRSC President Ivan Bennett initiated planning in September 2016. He sent the Charleston Convention & Visitors Bureau a Letter of Intent to host the BOM meeting. Five hotels responded, from which the Francis Marion was selected. Opened in 1924 and named after the Revolutionary War hero, the property is located in downtown Charleston with the city's harbor not far away.

The SRSC will later distribute a list of potential activities, apart from the Friday and Saturday meeting times and the Saturday banquet. Those activities will include walking/bus/boat tours.

—compiled from reports by Ivan Bennett and Mitchell Bush. ■



— Williamsburg sites, continued from page 2

Among the British forces were Col. Banastre Tarleton's Legion and British regulars. The allied forces included French troops and Virginia militia commanded by the flamboyant Duc de Lauzun and Lt. Col. John Francis Mercer, respectively.

The allied troops included cavalry, artillery, and infantry and successfully

pushed the Redcoats back to their original position in Gloucester Town and prevented them from advancing for the next sixteen days, negating the chance for a British escape and effectively shutting down their search for more food. Cornwallis chose surrender on 19 October 1781.

—compiled from reports by Jeff Lambert and Tony Riva. ■



On the day of the unveiling ceremony, GSSR Executive Assistant Tony Riva stands at the newly erected Gloucester County historical marker detailing the Battle of the Hook. —Photo courtesy Jeff Lambert



The Renaissance of American Heraldry

By Duane L.C.M. Galles, JD, JCD, PhD, FSA Scot
Secretary-Treasurer, Society of Minnesota

In the second installment of a three-part series on heraldry in America, Mr. Galles delves into the adoption and use of arms by American institutions—academic, ecclesiastical, and military. Like the previous installment (see Drumbeat Vol. 34, No. 3), the present article is abstracted from a presentation given by the author to the International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences, in Oslo, Norway, in August, 2014. Mr. Galles is a distinguished attorney, counselor-at-law, and canonist, residing in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and belongs to many lineage societies.

The ‘American Century’ is a term created by publishing mogul Henry Luce. It famously appeared in an article by him in his *Life* magazine in 1941, but here it is used as a metaphor for the early years of the rise to greatness as a world power of the United States of America. During the early years of the ‘American Century’ and, I suspect, not by coincidence, there was also a renaissance of heraldry in America.

At the turn of the twentieth century, a group of heraldists in the United States had begun promoting a revival of arms usage among institutions. One such man was Pierre de Chaignon LaRose¹ (c. 1874-1941), who was particularly successful in promoting the revival of academic and ecclesiastical heraldry in both the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches in the U.S. Educated at Philips Exeter Academy and Harvard College (A.B., 1895), he taught English at Harvard from 1897 to 1902. Thereafter his armorial career spanned over three decades, until his death.

During his career, he supplied many coats for the colleges, houses, and schools of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, as well as for numerous less prestigious institutions.¹¹ Ever since 1643, Harvard College has used a heraldic seal consisting of three open books bearing the letters ‘VE’ ‘RI’ and ‘TAS’. Nowadays the books are tinctured silver, and the field is crimson. It seems the Harvard arms are based on those of Oxford University, which include a silver open book between three golden crowns on an azure field. But Harvard’s location being New England, the crowns in

the Oxford arms were banished and substituted with three open books.

Other American universities followed suit. Yale, established in 1701, bears on its arms *azure upon an open book edged gold covers and ties silver the words in Hebrew “Urim and Thummin,”* light and truth. Another Ivy League university, Brown University, chartered in 1764 as the College of Rhode Island, adopted arms in 1835, viz., *silver a cross Gules between four open books of the first bound of the second.*¹¹¹

By the end of the nineteenth century, all Ivy League school arms, as well as those of the military academies at West Point and Annapolis, were emblazoned as decorative stones in the façade of New York City’s University Club, erected in 1898. At 54th Street and Fifth Avenue, the Club’s exterior remains today a proclamation of the rebirth of armory in the American



Pierre de Chaignon LaRose

academy.

In the Episcopal Church

LaRose also designed many coats of arms for dioceses of the Episcopal Church of the United States and for Roman Catholic prelates and dioceses. Whereas the British author-heraldist Arthur Charles Fox-Davies (1871 -1928) had said that “American heraldry is beneath notice,”^{11V} LaRose seemed dedicated to proving this dictum wrong.

In 1907 he began publishing a number of articles on ecclesiastical heraldry in America, and there, in elegant chiasmus, he set forth his heraldic credo, arguing *simplicitas formae antiquitatis*



Harvard Arms

nota. As he explained, “[T]he most striking characteristic of the most beautiful feudal coats and the best later grants from the point of view of sound heraldry and good design is their simplicity.”^v

A good example of LaRose’s work for the Episcopal Church is the coat he designed for the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, the bounds of which originally were co-terminous with those of the state. He began with an Anglican reference, the cross of Saint George, which was then charged with three golden crowns in pale, taken from the Swedish royal arms to recall the Swedish settlements made along the Delaware River in 1644—the first European settlement in what is today Pennsylvania. LaRose then placed these charges within a black bordure charged with eight Penn plates.^{vi}

A unique patent from the College of Arms is that to the Anglican Diocese of Connecticut. While the other American Episcopal dioceses assumed arms, in 1924 the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut had “assigned and registered” (but, *semble*, not granted) to it arms, which encapsulate its early history.

The key and crosier in its arms are taken from the arms used by The Rt. Rev’d Samuel Seabury, who was consecrated the first Bishop of Connecticut in 1784 in Scotland by bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The saltire further references the event in Scotland, and the swords reference the Diocese of London, to which the church in Connecticut had hitherto been subject. Its chief was taken from the arms of the State of Connecticut.^{vii}

Baltimore—premier Catholic see

LaRose was also a prolific designer of arms for perhaps half of the dioceses and prelates of the Roman Catholic Church in the United



Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania



Arms of Archdiocese of Baltimore



Heraldry Institute of US Army

States, which in colonial days was subject to the Vicar Apostolic of London. In the year following the Treaty of Paris of 1783, which recognized the independence of the United States, the Holy See erected the American states into an autonomous mission and appointed Fr. John Carroll as superior of mission. Five years later the Diocese of Baltimore was created, and Carroll was elected its bishop.

In 1808 Baltimore was raised to metropolitan rank, as the dioceses of Philadelphia, New York, Boston, and Bardstown (now Louisville) were erected and made suffragan to Baltimore.^{viii} The latter is thus America’s premier Catholic see. Since 1858, moreover, the Archbishops of Baltimore have enjoyed precedence over all other Catholic bishops in the United States.^{ix}

In 1911, the Baltimore archdiocese turned to LaRose to replace its *impressa*-like seal hitherto in use. To preserve Maryland’s goodly heritage, LaRose seized upon the quartered cross bottony of the Crossland coat of Lord Baltimore’s arms. He placed it (now with the red and silver tinctures reversed for difference) on a blue and silver quartered field, and in canton he placed a silver star of Our Lady who was titular of the Archdiocese’s then Cathedral of the Assumption.

The result of this amalgamation was a red, white and blue coat that looked very American in its tinctures, but also impeccably Catholic in the heraldic charges. At the same time it resonated deeply into Maryland’s heritage with the reference to the Crossland quarter of the Baltimore and Maryland arms.^x

LaRose again revisited the Baltimore coat when he designed arms for the Catholic University of America. The university was incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1887 and received



New York City's University Club, with decorative arms of Ivy League schools placed in the facade.—Source: lookze.com

its pontifical charter in 1889. One would guess that LaRose started with his Baltimore coat and then did some blending with elements from the Oxford University arms.^{x1}

The Basilica of Saint Mary

Apart from those Catholic institutions above, LaRose also designed arms for the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Basilica's coat of arms is handsome, with LaRose's typical simplicity and readability. Since 1783 the popes have conferred the title of minor basilica on certain architecturally magnificent or historically significant churches and assigned to them certain special privileges.

Besides the name, minor basilicas created by the popes enjoyed the use of the red and yellow silk *ombrellone*, a large umbrella carried half open today but once used to protect the pope from inclement weather during processions to the station churches of Rome. They also could use the *tintinnabulum*, a bell mounted on a pole and used formerly to signal the approach of the papal procession. The *ombrellone* might be also used armorially and occasionally one finds the *tintinnabulum* in heraldry as well.

The Basilica of Saint Mary became America's first minor basilica in 1926, and its coat of arms is blazoned, "Azure a fess embattled in chief between in chief a crescent and in base three bars wavy all Argent." Its symbols can literally be "read" from top to bottom to say "Basilica of Saint Mary of the City of Minneapolis." Behind the shield in pale is placed the red and yellow silk *ombrellone* of a minor basilica. The *ombrellone* betokens "basilica." The crescent is the emblem of Our Lady under her title of Immaculate Conception and it recalls that the Basilica parish had been established in 1868 as the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

The embattled fess suggests the battlements

of a city. The three wavy bars recall that "Minneapolis" is a compound name derived from "Minne," the Dakota word for "water," and "polis," the Greek word for "city."^{x11}

Federal Government Interest

In the twentieth century, federal government interest in heraldry revived. Predictably, it was military necessity that brought on the renewed interest. During the First World War, the U.S. Army expanded enormously, and to provide readable emblems for the many new army units, an insignia office within the War Department was established in 1919.

During World War II, the volume of business [in the insignia office] increased greatly. By 1957, the agency was given a fixed statutory basis and its scope of duties was enlarged. It authorized the Secretary of the Army to furnish heraldic services, not only to armed forces units, but also to federal civilian agencies. In 1960 the office acquired its present official name, "the Institute of Heraldry, United States Army."

The Institute bears its own handsome coat of arms, viz., gold a chevron Sable between three roses Gules. Besides designing arms and badges for armed forces units and federal civilian agencies, the Institute has also been responsible for the designs which added the 49th and 50th stars to the American flag. The Institute, in addition, designed the Medal of Freedom, the American counterpart to the Legion of Honour, the Order of the British Empire, the Order of Canada, or the Order of Saint Olaf.

Thus, the Institute of Heraldry is the authoritative source of public distinctions of honor as well as federal public coats of arms and is the custodian of the symbols of American national sovereignty.^{x13} ■



Pierre de Chaignon LaRose gravesite, Mount Auburn Cemetery, Massachusetts.—Source: findagrave.com

Endnotes for American Heraldry

ⁱ F. G., "Faculty Profile: Pierre La Rose," *Harvard Crimson*, March 18, 1941

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ S. E. Morison, *The Founding of Harvard College*, Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press, 1935, p. 328; Thomas Woodcock and John Martin Robinson, *The Oxford Guide to Heraldry*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1988, p. 159; *The Arms of Yale University and its Colleges at New Haven*, New Haven, Yale University Press, 1948, n.p.; Martha Mitchell, *Encyclopedia Brunoniana*, Providence, Brown University Library, 1993, p. 492.

^{iv} Harry Downing Temple, *Heraldry and the Diocese of Virginia*, n.p., 1971, p. 6.

^v Pierre de Chaignon la Rose, "Ecclesiastical Heraldry in America: II. Diocesan Arms," *Christian Art*, II (November, 1907), p. 59.

^{vi} Eckford DeKay, *Heraldry in the Episcopal Church*, Acorn Press, San Jose, CA, 1993, p. 58.

^{vii} Robert Hale Symonds, *Ecclesiastical Shield for the Interior of Churches: How the Coat of Arms and the Seal of the Diocese of Connecticut Were Obtained*, Milwaukee, Morehouse Publishing Co., 1926, p. 37.

^{viii} Michael Glazier and Thomas J. Shelley (eds.), *Encyclopedia of American Catholic History*, Collegeville, Liturgical Press, 1997, p. 226. On the armorial ensigns of superiors of mission, see Duane L.C.M. Galles, "Armorial Ensigns of Catholic Missionary Prelates," *The Coat of Arms* (Autumn, 1997), pp. 107-111.

^{ix} On Baltimore's precedence, see Duane L.C.M. Galles, "Baltimore's Failed Bid for the American Primacy," *Sacred Music*, pp. 5-14.

^x Duane L.C.M. Galles, "The Reform of Ecclesiastical Heraldry Revisited," *The American Benedictine Review*, 43 (December, 1992), pp. 415-418; *Costume of Prelates of the Catholic Church According to Roman Etiquette*, Baltimore, John Murphy Co., 1926, p. 224.

^{xi} Gerard Brassard, *Biographical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Catholic Bishops of America: Armorial of the American Hierarchy, The South Atlantic States*, Worcester, Mass., 1960, p 185.

^{xii} Duane L.C.M. Galles, "A Prince Edward Islander, a Basilica, and Its Arms," *Heraldry in Canada*, 39 (2005), pp. 24-29.

^{xiii} 10 U.S.C. §4594 authorizes the Secretary of the Army to establish an authority to design flags, insignia, badges, medals, seals, decorations, and guidons, and further states that, "Upon request the Secretary of the Army may advise other departments and agencies of the United States on matters of heraldry"; Duane L.C.M. Galles, "American Heraldic Authority," *Heraldry in Canada* (Fall, 1986), p. 31.



"Surrender of British Standards at Yorktown," by Benson J. Lossing, 1851



State News

CALIFORNIA

General President Mitchell Bush Attends 2017 Annual Meeting



Members of The Valley Hunt Club initiated the Tournament of Roses Parade in 1890.—Source: valleyhuntclub.com

General President Mitchell Bush and First Lady Leslie Bush will make an official visit to the California Society over the last weekend of January. He will be the featured speaker at the 2017 SRCA Annual Meeting on 29 January 2017. The luncheon meeting will be held at the prestigious and exclusive Valley Hunt Club in Pasadena.

The Valley Hunt Club was founded in the 1880's by former Eastern and Midwestern businessmen and manufacturers. Members wanted to display the temperate winter weather and citrus groves of their new home to people "back East" and around the world. In 1890, they started a parade of carriages covered with roses and other flowers down the main street of Pasadena called the Rose Parade on January first of each year.

By 1895, the Parade had grown so much that the Tournament of Roses Association was formed

to take over administration. The famous Wrigley Mansion now houses the Tournament of Roses Association and is located across the street from the Valley Hunt Club on Orange Grove Avenue in Pasadena.

Presiding over the Annual Meeting will be Dr. Gary Clark, President of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California. Highlights of his tenure in 2016 included the annual February reception celebrating George Washington's birthday held at the California Society's Western Heritage Library and Museum in Glendale, the Independence Day Luncheon in July, and the Saratoga-Yorktown Luncheon in October.—submitted by Douglas R. Boyd, Sr., Esq., and General Vice President, Region 6

October Luncheon Details

The Saratoga-Yorktown Luncheon was held 15 Oct 2016 at the historic Tam O'Shanter Restaurant in Los Angeles. During the proceedings, Dennis McCaragar, longtime volunteer at the Society's American Heritage Library and Museum, was recognized for his service with the Society's Meritorious Service Award.

Additionally, Society President Dr. Gary K. Clark presented on the life and service of two of his direct ancestors, Abraham Clark, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and Abraham Clark's son, Captain Thomas Clark, who fought in five major battles under General George Washington.

Rev. Clark detailed the twenty years of service which Abraham Clark gave in helping to found the United States of America. His renowned ancestor supported and signed the Declaration of Independence and served as the New Jersey delegate to help



President Rev. Gary Clark sharing the story of his ancestors.

— Courtesy Gary Clark

draft the Articles of Confederation. Furthermore, he was selected as a delegate to formulate the Constitution and insisted on adding the Bill of Rights. Indeed, he served full terms in the Second and Third United States Congress.

For his part, Thomas Clark was initially commissioned a First Lieutenant in the N. J. militia (1776). After the Battle of Princeton, he served as Capt. of Artillery in the Continental Line and engaged with the enemy at Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth. After mid-1779, he became a Whale-Boat Captain but by mid-1780 was captured near Staten Island and imprisoned on the British ship “Jersey” for three months before being released.

As part of his talk, Rev. Clark plugged a new historical novel on the life of Abraham Clark, *A Founder for All: Abraham Clark, Signer of the Declaration of Independence*, by Barb Baltrinic. Although the storyline is fictional, Abraham’s character and his life’s achievements are presented very well.

Regarding his own life, Dr. Clark has directed Christian ministries nationally and internationally, serving in countries in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, as well as Central and South America. He has also pastored churches in New England and California. He earned the Master of Divinity and the Master of Religious Education at Gordon-Conwell Seminary of Greater Boston. He earned the Doctor of Ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. He received the Doctor of Divinity from Trinity College of Ministerial Arts in Aba, Nigeria, West Africa, for Christian mission work he performed in Africa.—*Editor*

GEORGIA

“Come and Take It!”

Every November, a major re-enactment and living history event is held at Fort Morris Historic Site, about forty miles south of Savannah. This year Georgia Society President Dr. Roland Summers and Vice President Roger Coursey represented the Sons of the Revolution. Fort Morris has been called “the most important military work constructed by Georgians during the war of the Revolution.”

In the Revolutionary era, one of the most important ports on the Atlantic seaboard was Sunbury, Georgia, located at the mouth of the Medway River. It was just as important as Savannah or Charleston, if not more so. The Second Continental Congress recognized the city’s strategic position and approved construction of a fort there.

When the British moved up from Florida and



Above: A wreath presented at Fort Morris by the Georgia Society

Right: Society VP Roger Coursey parades the Colors.



demanding the fort’s surrender on 25 Nov 1778, the defiant Col. John McIntosh replied, “We, sir, are fighting the battle of America.... As to the surrendering the fort, come and take it!” The British refused and withdrew back to Florida. Forty-five days later, they returned with a superior force. On 9 Jan 1779, Fort Morris fell after a short but heavy bombardment.

In recognition of his valor of defending Fort Morris, McIntosh was awarded a sword by the Georgia Legislature with the words, “Come and Take It,” engraved on the blade. McIntosh later served in the War of 1812 as a general, still protecting the Georgia coast. He served honorably, receiving honors from the City of Savannah for his service.

Fort Morris Historic Site has the potential for containing several buried military fortifications (and activity areas) that span the period 1741 to 1865. It was used during the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.—*text and photos submitted by President Dr. Roland Summers*

LOUISIANA

Annual Meeting and Cocktail Reception

On 3 Dec 2016, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Louisiana, and Dudley Clifford Jackson, Society President, hosted General President Mitchell Bush at the 1849 Jacob Payne-Strachan



Col. Sheila Llyn Van Nederveen and Society President Clifford Jackson



Dr. Robert Hewitt and Susan Spaht

House in the Crescent City's Garden District. The occasion was the Society's Black-Tie Annual Meeting and Cocktail Reception. The early December date paid tribute to General George Washington's farewell speech to his officers at the Fraunces Tavern on 4 Dec 1783. Although the venue's name does not reveal it, it was in this Greek-Revival home where Jefferson Davis died. Davis, who is best remembered as President of the Confederate States of America, had been a U.S. Senator and served as Secretary of War under Franklin Pierce. He was also a U.S. Army veteran who fought with distinction during the Mexican-American war. When he fell gravely ill in New Orleans in December 1889, Davis was brought to the home of his friend, Louisiana Supreme Court Associate Judge Charles E. Fenner, who was Jacob Payne's son-in-law. Judge Fenner, a Confederate veteran, had given the eulogy at Robert E. Lee's funeral (1870), and his son was a partner in the brokerage firm, Fenner & Beane, which was later merged with Merrill Lynch.

For many years now, the Payne-Strachan House

has been owned by the Frank Garden Strachan family of Strachan Shipping Company, Charleston and New Orleans.

During the annual meeting held there, the following gentlemen were elected and installed as State Society officers: Dudley Clifford Jackson, Esq., President; Edward Church Bush, Esq., 1st Vice President; Robert Lee Hewitt, M.D. 2nd Vice President; James Rolater Jeter, Jr., Ph.D., Secretary; William Hulse Sewell, Esq., Treasurer; Maj. James Ryan, III, USAF (Ret.), Chancellor; Richard Bland McConnell, Jr., Comm. USCG, Registrar; David Barr Gooch, Esq., Captain of the Color Guard; Edward St. Martin, M.D., Surgeon; Pierre Armand McGraw, Historian.—text and photos submitted by President Dudley Clifford Jackson



L-R: Marvin Russell, Richard McConnell, and Rudolph Viener



Mrs. Carroll Soper and Eugene Preaus, officer of the Colonial Wars.

MINNESOTA



UM Librarian Dr. Marguerite Ragnow.—Source: yahoo.com

On 1 October 2016 the Minnesota Society held its annual Constitution Day luncheon at which Dr. Marguerite Ragnow of the James Ford Bell Library of the University of Minnesota presented an illustrated lecture of political cartoons of the Revolutionary War era. The illustrations were drawn

from the Library's superb collection.

Two of the most famous from that era include Benjamin Franklin's "Join, or Die," and Paul Revere's "The Bloody Massacre Perpetrated in King Street in Boston." Franklin's cartoon was originally published in 1754 at the start of the French & Indian War to unite the colonies against France. In 1765, it was republished to stir support against the British.—submitted by Secretary Duane L.C.M. Galles, PhD



Exterior of Jax Café, a prized steak house in northeast Minneapolis, site of the Sons annual meeting.—Source: jaxcafe.com



One of the interior rooms at Jax Café.—Source: jaxcafe.com

MISSOURI

In Vol 34, Number 3 (Fall 2016), it was stated that in 1953 the Missouri Sons had donated nearly one thousand books to the Missouri Historical Society. The correct year was in 1929, in honor of the late Society co-founder Henry Cadle. The collection was named The Cadle Memorial Library, and today it is located in the Missouri History Museum, St. Louis.

In other news, the Society has re-established its bylaws and is rebuilding its membership. The first priority was to reach out to past members and offer reinstatement of their membership at a discounted rate through 31 Dec 2016. Just under a dozen persons took advantage of that offer.—Editor

NEW JERSEY



The SRNJ toured the Morristown National Historical Park, where members paused for a group photo.

On 17 Sept 2016, the New Jersey Sons of the Revolution organized a tour of the Morristown National Historical Park in Morristown, New Jersey. The park commemorates the site of Washington's winter encampment during the winter of 1779 – 1780.

About seventy members and family attended the event, which started out at the Old Mill Inn with a board meeting, a lecture by author Robert Mayers, and a luncheon. Bob Mayers has written three books on the Revolution. His presentation to the SR focused on his latest book, *Searching for Yankee Doodle*, the common foot soldiers of the Continental Army. Who were they? What was it that inspired them to endure such appalling hardships throughout the conflict?

During the proceedings, seven new members were elected into the society.

Following the luncheon, members toured the



Members and guests converged for the annual Dartmouth/Princeton Football game in November. Princeton overtook Dartmouth, 38-21



The day in Morristown began and ended at the Old Mill Inn in Basking Ridge.

Jockey Hollow Visitors Center and Wick Farm, two distinct units of the park at Morristown. At the Visitors Center a National Park Ranger gave the assembled a special introduction to the park and presented a short video on the condition of Washington's troops during the winter encampment. After seeing the park, members then toured Washington's Headquarters in Morristown, a.k.a. the Ford Mansion.

At the headquarters museum, the members and families listened to a lecture by Ranger Eric Olsen on how weather conditions impacted fighting during the Revolutionary War. The Society also presented a check for \$1,000 to the Morristown National Historic Park for the maintenance of the park. The event ended with farewell toasts at the Historic Grain House at the Old Mill Inn in Basking Ridge.—submitted by President Glen Beebe; photos by Caswell Cooke and Charlie Scammell

NEW YORK

Fourth Quarter 2016 Events

The last calendar quarter of the year was a busy one for the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York. On 22 October, members of the SRNY Color Guard, the Veterans Corp of Artillery Color

Guard, and representatives of several other patriotic organizations convened for a wreath laying ceremony to commemorate fallen patriots of the battles of Saratoga and Yorktown. It was after Saratoga that France signed a military alliance with the United Colonies, and it was at Yorktown where the French navy and French land forces greatly assisted the Patriot cause in forcing Britain's surrender.

The ceremony took place at the gravesite of Alexander Hamilton. In addition to the SRNY and VCA, other groups represented included the SAR, the New York State DAR, Trinity Church, The Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society/Lower Manhattan, as well as several French veterans groups. The Consul General of France, Anne-Claire Legendre, as well as French Brig. Gen. Thierry Lion, head of the United Nations Military Mission, were also present.

On Sunday, 6 November, the Color Guard assembled again for the Ninety-Fifth Annual Massing of the Colors at Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Ave at 53rd Street. This event always brings out hundreds of marchers, as various military and patriotic or-



Commemoration of Saratoga-Yorktown fallen at Trinity Church, NYC.—Photo courtesy SRNY



Evacuation Day Dinner at the Fraunces Tavern.—Photo courtesy SRNY

ganizations gather from across the city to parade their flags. Then on 21 November, the Sons hosted the annual Evacuation Day Dinner at the Fraunces Tavern, marking the two hundredth and thirty-third anniversary of the British evacuation of New York City. It was on 25 Nov 1783 when their defeated army finally left New York, just over two years after the surrender at Yorktown.

On Monday, 5 Dec 2016, the Society held its one hundredth and thirty-third Annual Meeting in the Flag Gallery of the Fraunces Tavern Museum. The Annual Meeting every year is held on or close to 4 December, which marks the date of the Society's founding in 1883 and the date of Gen. George Washington's farewell to his officers at the Fraunces Tavern in 1783.

During the meeting, the following individuals were elected or re-elected as State Society officers: President, Ambrose M. Richardson III; First Vice President, Alan W. Borst, Jr.; Second Vice President, Andrew W. Russell; Third Vice President, Michael P. Coneyes; Secretary, Kenneth H. Chase; Treasurer, Peter C. Hein; Registrar, Raymond J. Manning; and, Chaplain, Rev. Christopher Cullen.



Younger Members Night at Fraunces Tavern.
—Photo courtesy SRNY

The SRNY finished out 2016 in mid-December with a Younger Members event held at the Fraunces Tavern Restaurant. Joining the Sons were their counterparts from the Knickerbocker Chapter (Manhattan) of the DAR, whose presence helped make the evening a great success.

All told in 2016, Society President Richardson welcomed nearly fifty new members into the SRNY. The total membership of the Society now exceeds eight hundred gentlemen.

Peering into 2017

Coming up toward the end of January is the Tallmadge Day Cocktail Party. The event, which takes place in the Flag Gallery of Fraunces Tavern Museum, commemorates the birthday of the Soci-

ety's second President, Frederick Samuel Tallmadge. His generosity enabled the Sons to acquire the Fraunces Tavern in 1904. Beer, wine, and hors d'oeuvre will be served. Tickets must be bought in advance.

Not quite a month later, the SRNY will sponsor its 240th Annual George Wash-



Paul W. Bucha.
—Photo courtesy SRNY

ington Birthday Ball on 24 Feb 2017 for the benefit of Fraunces Tavern Museum. On that evening, the Society will present its Distinguished Patriot of the Year 2017 award to Captain Paul W. Bucha, a distinguished Vietnam veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star with V and Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart, and the Medal of Honor. For more biographical information on Capt. Bucha, visit <http://frauncestavernmuseum.org/george-washington-birthday-ball/>

Fraunces Tavern Museum

In the last week of October, the Museum opened the special exhibit, "History's Treasures: Special Pieces from the Museum's Collection." The exhibition will be on display for the next two years, giving visitors an opportunity to see pieces from the Museum's own collection which have not been on exhibit in decades.

A splendid copy of the *Gazette of the United States*, from 24 July 1795. The issue is four pages in length and contains shipping advertisements, land sales, and more. It also contains opinion pieces regarding the 1795 Jay Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, including one piece written by Alexander Hamilton.

Since 2010, the Museum has grown in impressive ways. Total visitors have increased by fifty-five percent. Also, the staff has doubled the number of available slots for educational programs, which are booked months in advance. In 2016, open-access features were installed in the FTM for visitors with hearing difficulties or impairments. And in 2017, images of the Museum's collection will be placed online in a searchable database.

Lastly, for the first time in many years, the FTM has announced an appeal for funds. The goal is to raise \$100,000 in 2017. For further information and to contribute, visit <http://frauncestavernmuseum.org/support-the-museum/>.

—compiled from SRNY reports

NORTH CAROLINA

Yorktown Luncheon Banquet

On 10 Dec 2016, the North Carolina Society held its annual Yorktown Luncheon Banquet at the Northridge Country Club in Raleigh. The Colonels Hinton and Polk Chapter hosted the meeting and provided the venue. A large gathering of SR, SAR, and DAR members heard a presentation from Dr.



Dr. Henry E. Parfitt

Henry E. Parfitt entitled, "Lafayette, the French, and the American Revolutionary War."

He discussed some of the reasons for the French involvement in the Revolution, why Lafayette was so popular here and in France, and how this Frenchman directly contributed to the decisive victory at Yorktown on 19 Oct 1781. He also discussed manifestations of Lafayette's resurgent popularity through modern historical organizations.

Dr. Parfitt, a retired urologic surgeon, is a member of the Lafayette Society in Fayetteville and is second vice-president of the American Friends of Lafayette, a national organization based at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania.

SRNC Color Guard Activities

The SRNC Color Guard is the face of the SRNC, and the Society is proud of the work that they have done. Several members have been certified with their firelocks, which means they are able to provide volley in patriotic events. The Color Guard



Christmas Parade in Roanoke Rapids



L-R: Paul Conway, Dan Hopping, Hollis Posey and Scott Kennedy

presented colors and fired their flintlocks at three events in November and December.

On 13 Nov 2016 the SRNC Color Guard assisted the Micajah Pettaway Chapter DAR and the Halifax Resolves



President Hopping laying the wreath for Revolutionary War veterans

Chapter of the SAR in marking the grave of patriot William Perry, Jr. (1748 – 1830), at the Perry Cemetery near Franklinton, N.C. The color guard laid a wreath and fired a volley. It was a beautiful day and a moving ceremony.

Then on 4 Dec, the SRNC Color Guard and the Halifax Resolves Chapter of the SAR led the Christmas Parade in Roanoke Rapids near Halifax. SRNC Color Guard Commander Dr. Scott Kennedy, Society President Dan Hopping and Gary Hall participated in the march down the main street of Roanoke Rapids.

About two weeks later, the SRNC cosponsored the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Raleigh National Cemetery. The invocation and benediction was given by the Colonels Hinton and Polk Chapter Chaplain, LCDR (Ret) Paul Conway.

President Hopping laid the first wreath during the ceremony for all the Patriots who fought in the Revolutionary War. It was followed by the SUVCV laying a wreath for the Civil War veterans. Another wreath was laid for all Masonic veterans. Then wreaths were laid for each branch of the US military, MIAs, POWs and Medal of Honor veterans.

We had a great crowd and helped several JROTC Units and their families place the wreaths on the graves. All of the more than 5,400 veteran graves were marked with wreaths this year.

Color Guard Commander Dr. Scott Kennedy led the volley firing at the end of the ceremony and went to Morn Arms while taps was played. It was quite a moving day, and the SRNC was honored to be able to participate.—*text and photos submitted by President Dan Hopping.*

PENNSYLVANIA

Lancaster County Chapter Color Guard

The Lancaster County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society, Sons of the Revolution has organized a Color Guard. Its inaugural event was a presentation of colors at the two hundredth and thirtieth anniversary of the one-day session of the Second Continental Congress convening in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on 27 Sept 1777. The anniversary has aptly been named Capital Day.

The Color Guard presentation was in conjunction with the reading and presenting of an official proclamation by Lancaster County Commissioners to the PSSR's Lancaster County Color Guard Captain, Dr. John H. Bowman. Dr. Bowman actively supports a number of civic charities in Lancaster.

October Musket Ball

The 2016 Pennsylvania Society, Sons of the Revolution kicked off the fall season with its annual Musket Ball on Saturday, 15 October. The event is held to commemorate the Continental Army's pivotal victories at Saratoga in 1777 and Yorktown in 1781.

It was held at Waynesborough Country Club in Paoli, Pennsylvania, which last hosted the Musket Ball in 2011. The country club is located across the street from Historic Waynesborough, the home- stead of Major General Anthony Wayne. The club proved once again to be an attractive venue, as there were approximately one hundred forty guests in attendance.

Cocktails and passed hors d'oeuvres were served at 6:30 p.m. and the program and the dinner began 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 Society Chaplain G. Clayton Ames III, and a recount of the



The Lancaster County Chapter Color Guard presenting during "Capital Day" celebration.



Image of the old Lancaster County Courthouse, where Congress met on 27 Sept 1777.—Source: explorepahistory.com

strategic significance of the victories at Saratoga and Yorktown was presented by PSSR Vice President John M. Blickensderfer. Dinner and dancing followed, with everyone enjoying themselves well into the evening.

Lancaster County Chapter Fall Meeting

The Fall meeting of the Lancaster County Chapter was held on 14 November. A sizeable crowd of chapter members and their guests attended, including a contingent from the Donegal Chapter, DAR. After a brief round of introductions, Chapter Regent G. Edward LeFevre introduced the evening's speaker, Col (Ret) USA Kevin J. Weddle, Ph.D.

Dr. Weddle is professor of military theory and strategy at the US Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. A graduate of West Point, he served over twenty-eight years as a combat engineer officer, before joining the War College faculty.

His talk covered the Saratoga Campaign of 1777 and provided many details concerning the strength and weakness of both sides. He concluded the

British lost the battle due to faulty strategy from London and a number of poor decisions made by Burgoyne. Dr. Weddle's presentation was warmly received by the audience.



Army veteran, professor, and author Kevin J. Weddle speaking at the Lancaster City Chapter Fall meeting.

New Citizens Reception

The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution hosted its second New Citizens Reception of the year on 15 Dec 2016 (Bill of Rights Day). The event took place in the Ceremonial Court Room at the Federal Court House located at the corner of 6th and Market Streets in Philadelphia beginning at 10:30 a.m. The presiding judge was the Honorable Mitchell S. Goldberg. President Murray Gordon attended and delivered remarks on behalf of the Society.

Committee Chairman John M. Blickensderfer was also in attendance and at the end of the ceremony handed out to each new citizen a packet containing a small American flag, a copy of the U S Constitution, a ball point pen, and a lapel pin.

After the swearing in ceremony, attendees were invited to a buffet in the foyer with cake and iced tea, and a musician played traditional American music for the benefit of the new citizens' families. —text and photos submitted by PSSR Secretary Michael Whelan

SOUTH CAROLINA

A Busy Autumn Season

In October, the South Carolina Society met in Columbia, S.C., for its annual meeting. The following new officers for 2017-2018 were elected and installed: Ivan Bennett, President/Secretary;

John FitzGerald, Vice President/Treasurer; Chuck Swoope, Registrar; and Regional VPs Tom Weidner, Greenville (Upper State); Samuel Reid, Orangeburg (Mid State); and Samuel Whatley, Charleston, (Coastal State).

The SCSR held board meetings in November and December. The 5 Nov 2016 meeting took place at the Camden Archives and Museum in Camden, S.C. while the 3 Dec 2016 meeting was held at Simpsonville, S.C. Meanwhile, the Society continued to present wreaths at the anniversary ceremonies of the region's major Revolutionary War battles, including the Battle of Eutaw Springs and the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Business items at the Camden board meeting included President Bennett presenting an Award of Merit to immediate Past President Chuck Swoope, as well as a Certificate of Appreciation to Samuel Whatley II (SCSR Webmaster) for his having created the Society's current website.

Just before the December meeting in Simpson-



L-R: Society VP/Treas John FitzGerald, Regional VP Tom Weidner, Registrar Chuck Swoope, and President/Secretary Ivan Bennett.



SCSR Webmaster Samuel Whatley II (left) meeting with President Ivan Bennett to discuss updating the website. Sam is active with the SR, Boy Scouts, and his local church.

ville began, the board participated in a wreath-laying ceremony honoring the fallen veterans of the Battle of the Great Canebrake (22 Dec 1775). The meeting took place at the Museum and Library of Revolutionary War History, where members further discussed their desire to host the



President Ivan Bennett represented the SCSR at the anniversary of the Battle of Eutaw Springs.

2017 GSSR BOM Meeting in Charleston.—text and photos submitted by President Ivan Bennett

TEXAS

2016 Texas Genealogical Hall of Fame

Texas SR members were included in the Texas Genealogical College's Class of 2016 Hall of Fame inductees. The three SR inductees were: Judge Ed Butler, Sr., Lawrence King Casey, and Lloyd Bockstruck. Other inductees included Lynn Forney Young, immediate past President General of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution; Nancy Bennett, former president of the Texas Genealogical Society; and DeEtte Nesbitt, of Houston, who helped organize the Heritage Societies of the United States.

The inductees were announced at a ceremony in the El Tropicano River Walk Hotel, San Antonio, on 21 Oct 2016. Each year the honorees are chosen from among individuals who have distinguished themselves as: 1) a leader in Texas and national lineage, heritage or genealogical organizations; 2) a published author and/or speaker; 3) current or past President of the Texas Genealogical Society; and 4) a certified genealogist.

George Washington's Secret Ally

About a year ago, the General Society granted permission to Texas Society member Judge Ed Butler, Sr., a former President General of the SAR, to republish in a single volume his series of articles that were originally published in the *Drumbeat*



TGC 2016 Hall of Fame inductees: Judge Ed Butler, Sr., Nancy Brennan, Lynn Forney Young, DeEtte Nesbitt, and Lawrence K. Casey. Not pictured, Lloyd Bockstruck.

(Fall 2015 – Summer 2016). The three successive articles were on Spain's contribution to the Patriot cause in the American Revolution and were based on his previous book, *Galvez/Spain - Our Forgotten Ally in The American Revolutionary War: A Concise Summary of Spain's Assistance*.



The end result is a booklet entitled *George Washington's Secret Ally*, which was published by Southwest Historical Press of San Antonio, Texas, in the autumn of 2016. It is available on Amazon.com/books. Mr. Butler contracted Mr. Swafford, *Drumbeat* editor, to oversee final editing on the project. Extensive biographical information on Mr. Butler is included in the book, as well as other materials that were not first published in this newsletter. Judge Butler gives credit to the General Society, Sons of the Revolution as the original publisher of the amalgamated, narrative text.

Editor's Note: The word 'ally' has been employed loosely in these titles, meaning friend. While Spain's clandestine assistance in the Revolutionary War was significant, the only nation to sign a military alliance with the Colonies during the American Revolution was France. Spain was later brought into the war through its alliance with France, but it never became a formal ally of the Colonies during that period.



VIRGINIA

A Look Back and Ahead

Through rain, sleet, snow, or shine, the Virginia Society, Sons of the Revolution continues to thrive. In closing out 2016, Society President Carter Reid announced that total membership stood at five hundred twenty-three individuals. At the Society's George Washington Birthday Dinner on 20 Feb 2016, forty-four new members were inducted. By end of the Society's third quarter, some twenty others had joined.

The Washington's Birthday Dinner event attracted a near sell-out at the Richmond Commonwealth Club, with over two hundred people attending. Then on 2 May, a record one hundred sixty members attended the Society's Annual Meeting at The Virginia House. On 12 Nov, the eighth consecutive VSSR Oyster Roast was another big hit, as it was held in the Wilton House Museum in Richmond, in collaboration with the Society of The Colonial



Roasting the oysters.
—Photo courtesy VSSR



A large crowd for the eighth consecutive VSSR Oyster Roast.
—Photo courtesy VSSR

Dames and the Society of Colonial Wars.

This was the first to be held at the Wilton House. Serving as the headquarters of The Colonial Dames in the Commonwealth of Virginia since the 1930s, the



A group gives pause behind the Wilton House Museum.
—Photo courtesy VSSR



Interior room of the Wilton House Museum.
—Source: wiltonhousemuseum.org

home once belonged to Virginia's highly respected Randolph family. Successive generations of the Randolphs lived there from 1753 to 1859. The Dames bought the property during the 1930s. As the twentieth century pressed forward, the organization was forced to dismantle the home, sell the original lot, and painstakingly rebuild the house at a new location, architecturally restored it to its former glory.

Also occurring toward the end of 2016, the VSSR began negotiating with a local web designer to redesign the old and outdated Virginia Society Website (www.vssr.org). "We are targeting to have it completed by first quarter, 2017," President Reid reported.

In order for the Society to continue its good work of giving generously to charitable programs and causes, it maintains the Patriots Fund and asks all members to help underwrite it. Through the Patriots Fund, the Virginia Society funds scholarships and directs significant charitable gifts to deserving non-profit organizations.

In 2017, the VSSR will continue its support of the Virginia Historical Society, which houses

the Society's outstanding flag collection. The Society will also give to three other institutions: 1) toward preserving "Menokin," the home of Frances Lightfoot Lee; 2) toward maintaining Patrick Henry's "Scotchtown"—his only remaining home still standing; and 3) toward educational outreach programs of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown (formerly the Yorktown Victory Center).

— submitted by VSSR President Carter Reid

WEST VIRGINIA

Joint Project in Randolph County



WWSR President Ray Kane and his wife, Cheryl.—Photo courtesy Ray Kane

The West Virginia Society of Sons of the Revolution, as well as the Tygart Valley Chapter of the SAR, have been working on documenting the gravesites of Revolutionary War veterans and other patriots who are buried in Randolph County, West Virginia.

The initiative is the brainchild of Society President Ray Kane, who started the project for both the WWSR and the Tygart Valley Chapter of the WVSAR, which he founded and belongs to as well.

Years ago, he began collecting information on the local burials of Revolutionary War veterans and non-veteran patriots of the era. The hobby became a full-blown project between the two patriotic societies in the early summer of last year.

"So far, we have documented sixteen soldiers and patriots who are buried in Randolph County," Mr. Kane said. "It takes time to verify and locate the burial locations, photograph the headstones, map the GPS coordinates, and verify the individual's service either as veteran of war or another form of patriotic service. This will be a long-term project."

Once the above information is collected and

verified, and the individual's headstone or gravesite photographed, it is posted online in a growing list. To view the list, please visit <http://wvsr1776.org/content/rev-war-patriots-buried-randolph-county-wv>. The master list contains a link in each name to a separate jump page, which provides further details of the person's life.

It should be noted that some headstones and markers may incorrectly list an individual as a veteran, when they may not have been. Headstones, as a general rule, may also list an incorrect military unit or an incorrectly spelled name or year of death. As part of this online project, any discrepancies found in a person's biographical information are explained on the webpage.

The sixteen individuals so far identified are as follows:

John Chenoweth—Private in the 8th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line

Thomas Collett—Rendered aid to the American cause

William Currence—Built and maintained Currence Fort

Daniel Hart—Private in New Jersey; son of John Hart, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence

Edward Hart—Private in New Jersey; son of John Hart, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence

Benjamin Hornbeck—Sergeant in the Monongalia CO VA Militia

Michael Isner—Rendered aid to the American cause by furnishing rations

Abraham Kittle—Lieutenant in the 6th Battalion, Northampton Co PA Militia

Jacob Kittle—Private in PA

Nicholas Marsteller—Lieutenant and Captain in the Northampton CO PA Militia

John Rowan—Corporal in the 8th Company of the 1st Regiment of the MD Continental Line

John Ryan—Private in MD under Captains Abraham Johnson, Josiah Swearinger, and Daniel Richardson

Jacob Stalnaker—Rendered material aid to the American cause

Valentine Stalnaker—Rendered material aid to the American cause by furnishing supplies

Sylvester Ward—Captain in the 8th and 12th Regiments of the VA Continental Line

Matthew Whitman—Private in VA under Captains Gray and Cunningham.

—Editor ■



Patriot Chronicles

The Revolution's Last Men

The following continues our look at the six Revolutionary War veterans featured in The Revolution's Last Men, a book by Don N. Hagist published in early 2015 by Westholme Publishing of Yardley, Pennsylvania. This issue contains the fourth profile of the six men named. 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) are copyrighted and republished with permission.

Alexander Milliner

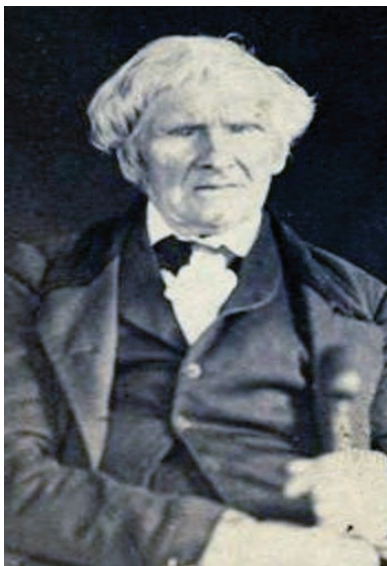
Excerpts: "...Milliner was not an ordinary soldier; the cachet of his service is that he was a drummer boy, an iconic figure of the war, too young to tote a musket but determined to beat a drum for his country.

"...Milliner's pension deposition and corroborating statements indicate that [he] was enlisted into the army by his stepfather, Florence Maroney, who was a soldier in the 1st New York Regiment... During his youth, Alexander Milliner used his stepfather's family name; military documents show him as Alexander Maroney... A muster roll of Captain Nicholas Van Rensselaer's company of the 1st New York Regiment shows that Alexander... enlisted on September 1, 1780... This means that Milliner was ten years old when he was put on the regiment's rolls, consistent with his memories of being a drummer boy for his entire service.

"A young drummer probably spent most of his time at the barracks and garrisons, but had a crucial role in keeping the military system running smoothly. Drums were used for signaling. The regiment's daily routine was regulated by distinctive beatings of the drum from reveille in the morning to taptoo at night, with tunes announcing meals,

formations, noncommissioned officers call, procurement of firewood, pay call, and all manner of other duties.

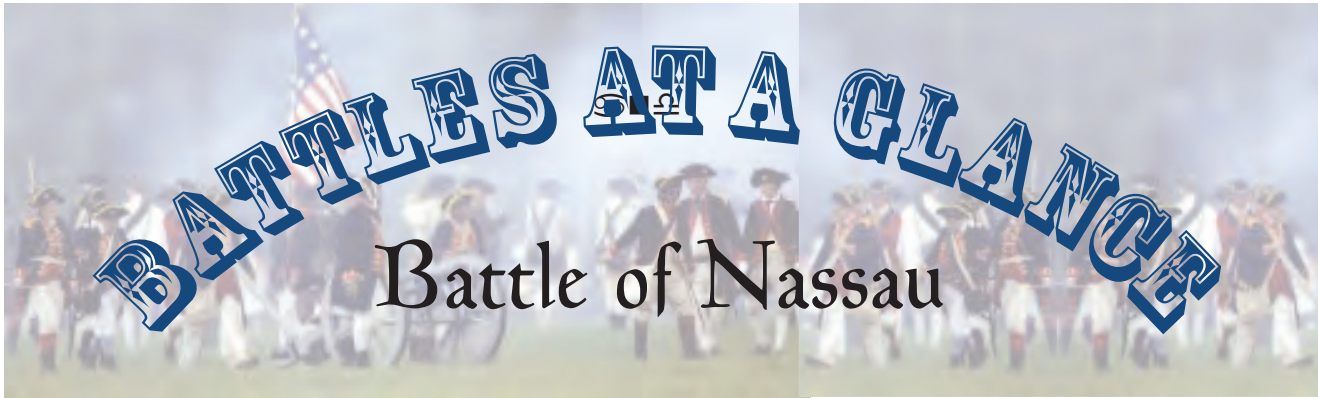
"When the regiment was formed, drum signals conveyed orders for every movement and maneuver; used primarily to train soldiers to handle muskets and march in unison, a subset of signals conveyed critical combat commands such as advance, retreat, and commence and cease firing...



Alexander Milliner

"In the summer of 1781 the 1st New York Regiment joined Washington's army for the journey south that culminated in the British surrender at Yorktown. It may have been on this campaign that the young drummer first caught the notice of General Washington; it is also quite plausible that he met the British General Cornwallis, as he related to Rev. Hilliard... Milliner and his stepfather were discharged from the army in June 1783.

"Alexander Milliner died on March 13, 1865. He was widely reported to have been 105 years of age, but was actually very close to 95. This discrepancy does not diminish the importance of the veteran who had been a local celebrity in his old age, and who had gained national recognition when the list of surviving pensioners was published." ■



Date of battle: 3-4 Mar 1776

Location: Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas

Significance: The Battle of Nassau was the first amphibious offensive of the American Revolution.

Objective: On New Providence Island in the Bahamas, the Patriots launched an offensive to capture a large cache of enemy gunpowder and other supplies.

Patriot commanders: Naval Commander in Chief Esek Hopkins; Captain Samuel Nicholas

Patriot combatants: Two hundred Continental Marines and fifty Continental Sailors.

Enemy commanders: Bahamian Governor Montfort Browne

Enemy combatants: Bahamian militiamen

Background: In December 1775, the Marine Committee issued discretionary orders for Naval Commander Esek Hopkins to rid the Chesapeake of the Royal Navy. He was to do the same at Charleston, S.C. Nevertheless, if he thought circumstances dictated, he should adopt his own plan to “distress the enemy.”

On 17 Feb 1776, Hopkins, and men departed Cape Henlopen, Delaware aboard seven newly outfitted USS vessels and made straight away for the Bahamas. Hopkins felt it was useless to confront a squadron of the Royal Navy. Instead, he wanted to

capture a large cache of British gunpowder held at Fort Nassau on New Providence Island.

The flotilla reached the extreme southwestern side of Great Abaco Island on 1 March. On the same day, they captured two merchant craft and pressed their captains to serve as pilots to New Providence Island. The next morning,

the *Providence* along with the two captured sloops journeyed to Nassau. Meanwhile, two friendly captains had separately alerted Gov. Browne of the approaching party.

At dawn on 3 March, with the Bahamian militia more than ready, the vessels entered Nassau harbor and were met by cannon fire from Fort Nassau. The vessels moved out and anchored four miles to the east, near Fort Montague, where the sailors and marines moved forward in the first amphibious event of the Revolutionary War.

Although the Bahamian militia fired big guns from Fort Montague, the Patriots remained out of range so that negotiations could commence. The two sides parlayed all afternoon. That night, the militia gave up the fort. Meanwhile, Gov. Browne had ordered the gunpowder stores at Fort Nassau to be evacuated. Incredulously, Hopkins failed to send any ship to guard the harbor entrance at Nassau. All but thirty-eight barrels were loaded onto the *Mississippi Packet* and the *HMS St. John*, which quietly sailed away at 2 a.m., bound for Saint Augustine, Florida.

The Patriots occupied Nassau the following day, without bloodshed, and remained there for two weeks. Hopkins later came under widespread criticism for his actions during the mission. ■



Esek Hopkins, as engraved by J. C. Buttre (c. 1875)—Source: U.S. Naval Historical Center



Marines storm New Providence, by V. Zveg (1973).
—Source: Navy Art Collection



Date of battle: 6 Apr 1776

Location: Block Island, Rhode Island

Significance: The Battle of Block Island was the first naval battle of the American Revolution for the Patriots.

Objective: Returning from Nassau (see previous page), the Patriot flotilla entered Block Island Sound on 4 Apr, making its way toward New London, Connecticut. On 6 Apr, near midnight, they ran into the twenty-gun HMS *Glasgow* and engaged the enemy.

Patriot commanders: Naval Commander in Chief Esek Hopkins; Captain Samuel Nicholas

Patriot combatants: Two hundred Continental Marines and fifty Continental Sailors

Enemy commanders: Captain Tryingham Howe, HMS *Glasgow*

Enemy combatants: *Glasgow* crew

Background: On 4 Apr, the Patriot flotilla reached Block Island Sound, which was heavy with traffic. In scouting formation, Hopkins' ships captured the six-gun schooner HMS *Hawk*. The next day, they captured the eight-gun brig HMS *Bolton*.

By this time in the mission, the American ships



The USS *Alfred*, flagship of the first U.S. Naval fleet.—Source: wikimedia.org

were heavily weighed down from the amount of enemy supplies onboard—a factor for its poor performance in the subsequent battle. Other factors to impede performance included fewer crew members to maneuver the

crafts, and Hopkins' failure to issue proper signals to line up his ships for battle.

Suffering from all of the above, the Patriot flotilla was approached within short distance by the *Glasgow* near midnight on 6 Apr.

A grenade was thrown onto the *Glasgow* decks from one of the Patriot ships, and the engagement commenced. Despite outnumbering the *Glasgow* by seven-to-one, the Patriot fleet could not defeat Capt. Tryingham Howe. Howe inflicted broadside after broadside, killing ten Patriot sailors and wounding fourteen others before breaking away and racing to Newport, where a squadron of British ships was moored. After giving some chase, the Americans stopped their pursuit and headed for New London.

In addition to the criticism leveled at Hopkins, others involved were heavily scrutinized as well, including John Hazard, captain of the *Providence*. His subordinate officers accused him of neglect of duty during the HMS *Glasgow* action. He was convicted by court martial and forced to surrender his commission.

British Captain Howe fared much better. For his role in the battle, Howe was awarded the command of the thirty-two-gun HMS *Thames*. ■



Rhode Island, with Block Island offshore, by Thomas Gamaliel Bradford (1838, Boston)

Russia during the American Revolution: *The Policies and Politics of Catherine the Great*

By David W. Swafford, Editor



Catherine the Great, by J. P. Lampi, c. 1780s.

Vladimir Putin is not the *first* Russian head of state to influence American politics, policy, and presidential elections. Neither was it Nikita Khrushchev or Josef Stalin or Alexander II. The distinction belongs to Sophie Friederike Auguste, a.k.a., Catherine the Great, Empress of the Russian Empire from 1762 to 1796.

Some would argue that that's obvious, since the United States was founded during her reign. But that position detracts from Catherine's legacy. Not all monarchs could have reached so far beyond their grasp. Not all would have had the tenacity to accomplish what she did. Despite the four thousand miles between St. Petersburg and the eastern seaboard of the United States, Catherine's hand continuously boosted the Patriot cause in the Revolution.

Exactly what did she do? Several times she refused King George III's requests for Russian assistance, even to the point of deeply humiliating him. Her ships continued trading with the Thirteen Colonies in flagrant violation of Britain's Navigation Acts. She also firmly held the line as a neutral power and encouraged the lesser powers of Europe to do the same.

The empress did not favor America, *per se*, though she wanted Russia to benefit commercially from a new nation on the rise, if that were to happen. She considered King George III unwise and his ministers petty and inadequate.ⁱ In her mind, the British court failed to see the larger, broader view with respect to America: Namely, that their policy was in the wrong, that the king had opened a useless quarrel with his colonies, and that the best thing England could do was to reconcile with her 'wayward sons.'ⁱⁱ

By steering clear of entanglements, Catherine knew that if the Americans won independence, her empire would stand to gain two new trading partners: the United States *and* Britain. The former would be able to trade directly with her; the latter would crawl back to her in the need to find new trading partners to replace the monopoly it had on American resources.ⁱⁱⁱ

As early as 30 June 1775, she predicted America would become independent of Europe "even in my lifetime." A year later, she penned in a private correspondence, "The colonies have told England good-bye forever."^{iv}

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Making a Mockery

Catherine made a painful mockery of George III on at least four different occasions.^v The humiliations got progressively worse each time. The first instance came in June 1775, when Sir Robert Gunning, the first Baronet of Eltham and resident minister to the Russian court, approached the empress's advisor, Count Nikita Ivanovich Panin. Gunning queried Panin, indirectly, whether Russia would consider supplying troops to Canada to aid the British cause.^{vi}

The minister thought the reply was yes, and he immediately notified the king that it was so. The king, in turn, jumped to pen a letter to the empress, formally asking whether she would consider supplying Russian troops to Canada to aid in the British cause. She replied to his letter, rebuking him for his "nefarious proposition to employ foreign troops to enslave [your] subjects."^{vii}

Gunning didn't quit, though. He asked Panin for twenty thousand troops, in time followed by fifteen thousand, then later followed by ten thousand. The Russian court grew tired of his incessant begging, and Panin had to declare he would no longer consider any discussion of the topic.

Meanwhile, nearly every court across Europe knew what the Brits were after, and nearly every court viewed it as wrong. European royalty considered the independence movement in the Thirteen Colonies as an internal conflict for Britain, and therefore something that Britain herself had to conclude—without foreign assistance.^{viii}

The opposition in Parliament also strongly objected to the use of Russians or Hessians fighting in the Revolutionary War. As quoted by historian Charles Edwards Lester, the opposition stated. “We conceive the calling in of foreign forces to decide domestic quarrels to be a measure both disgraceful and dangerous.”^{ix}

The second time came in January 1778, when Sir James Harris, Earl at the Russian Court, was asked to broach the subject again with Catherine and her advisor, Count Nikita Ivanovich Panin. After she coaxed Harris to divulge details of the proposed alliance, she coyly refused it.

In June 1779, when Spain declared war against Britain, Harris was sent yet again to St. Petersburg. She declined a third time and told him George III should reconcile with his colonies. Harris begged her to reconsider. She asked him to write out his propositions to her and submit them. After delaying her reply for three months, she again refused.

Then in late October and November of 1780, during a time when Catherine herself wanted to mediate world peace, the British “made an unpardonable blunder,” as author Frank A. Golder put it in 1915. Hoping to influence her proposals, David Murray, the Viscount Stormont, advised Harris to offer a cash payment to Russia to ally with the British. He later decided to offer a piece of territory instead.

The finalized offer: If the Empress would but implore upon the



King George III, by Alan Ramsay, 1765.



Count Nikita Ivanovich Panin, by Alexandre Roslin, 1777.



Sir James Harris, by Joshua Reynolds, c. 1786.

French to abandon their alliance with the Americans, leaving the rebels to fend for themselves, the king would not ask her to deploy any troops and might reward her with the isle of Minorca!^x

Upon hearing this latest development, she wasted no time to disgrace the British court. She immediately notified the Holy Roman Emperor, Joseph II, with news of the bribe, who in turn notified the King of France, Louis XVI. Soon, all of Europe was enjoying the situation.^{xi}

Keeping tabs on Britain’s bad luck at the Russian court, the Continental Congress in December of that year dispatched Francis Dana to St. Petersburg as the United Colonies’ Minister Resident to Russia. But he was never officially received because Russia had not and would not recognize the fledgling nation.^{xii} Although the Russian court unofficially welcomed Dana and treated him well during his stay, Catherine the Great did not officially recognize the United States until 1783, ironically just one week after Dana was recalled.^{xiii}

League of Neutrality

By September 1778, the Brits had captured nearly sixty ships on the high seas trading with the Colonies—including Danish, Swedish, Dutch, and Prussian vessels.^{xiv} Its overreaching maritime policy had begun to impact Russian shipping as well. Catherine’s response to this problem was the creation of the League of Neutrality in the summer of 1780.^{xv}

The forerunner of the league itself was her “Declaration of Armed Neutrality.” She boldly endorsed the right of neutral countries to trade with belligerent countries (except in military supplies and weaponry) without hindrance. Furthermore, Russia asserted it would not recognize blockades of whole coastlines, but only of indi-

vidual ports, and only then if a belligerent's warship were present or nearby.

The declaration was brilliant diplomacy. It kept Russia officially neutral and effectively crippled Britain's maritime blockade of its North American colonies. Denmark and Sweden quickly adopted the same policy, and the three sovereigns formed the League of Neutrality in August of that year. Although the Netherlands planned to join the League, Britain quickly declared war on it. As a nation in war, it was disqualified from joining the League.

By 1781, Prussia, Austria, and Portugal also joined. In 1782 the Ottoman Empire joined, followed by the Two Sicilies in 1783. Although the League did not have significant "teeth" for its enforcement, it was a powerful political statement that reverberated throughout Europe.^{XVI}



Peter III and Catherine II, by Georg Christoph Grooth, c. 1745.

Nearly for Naught

In hindsight, Catherine's place in history came within a hair's breadth of never happening, thanks to her mother's earlier indiscretions. The future empress was born in 1731 and christened Sophie Friederike Auguste, the daughter of minor Prussian nobles. Her father, Christian August von Anhalt-Zerbst, was a general and the Prince of Eutin. Her mother, Johanna Elisabeth, was born a princess of the House of Holstein-Gottorp and later through marriage became a princess of Anhalt-Zerbst.

By the time Sophie reached adolescence, Johanna began taking her across Europe to shop for a suitor. Although their relationship was not close, Johanna at the very least wanted to secure better prospects for her daughter than she herself had achieved in life.

Enter Russia's Empress Elizabeth (1709-1762). The Empress saw in Sophie a potential wife for her heir, nephew Karl Peter Ulrich, the future Peter III. Thus, she summoned Johanna and Sophie to Saint Petersburg in 1744 and began arranging the girl's marriage to Grand Duke Peter. The two of them were second cousins. Sophie's name was changed

to Catherine II, in honor of Elizabeth's mother.

One can only imagine Johanna's optimism at such an opportunity for her daughter. Yet it was while mother and daughter were in St. Petersburg that Elizabeth's court learned of Johanna's rumored affair with one of the empress's most outspoken detractors, Count de Beckij.^{XVII} Learning of this, Eliza-

beth angrily threatened to send them both back to Prussia. Ultimately she closed the door only on Johanna. Catherine's mother was deported and barred from her daughter's approaching nuptials.

Thus, for the young, future empress, one of the most lingering memories of her mother was of her indiscretions behind her husband's back. Whether or not through her mother's imprint, Catherine later became renowned for the very same type of behavior.

Twist of Ironies

Catherine made no excuses for her sexual appetites nor any efforts to curb her style. She unapologetically engaged in a string of affairs despite being married. It may have been a release valve from an otherwise impossible domestic situation. Contrary to Empress Elizabeth's great hopes, the marriage between Peter and Catherine was a colossal failure, due to the couple's extreme differences of personalities and opposing cultural affiliations.

Peter had grown up a protected orphan, a grandson of both Peter the Great of Russia and Charles XII of Sweden. Upon the early deaths of his parents, young Peter was groomed to eventually take up the Swedish throne.^{XVIII}

By the time Empress Elizabeth chose him as her heir, his cultural affinity was with Prussia and Frederick II. Therefore, Elizabeth isolated him and would not allow him to participate in governmental affairs. He never learned Russian and grew to resent her and hate his new homeland.

How ironic for Elizabeth, then, that Catherine would turn out to be the much more suitable ruler. Given that Elizabeth ruled for sixteen years after

the wedding between the duke and duchess, she had to have seen what the Russian people saw. Peter came out in support of Prussia during the Seven Years' War (an adversary of Russia's), and was often described as neurotic, rebellious, obstinate, and alcoholic.

Catherine, on the other hand, readily accepted her adopted homeland, proved herself to be intelligent, flexible, level-headed, and ambitious. Whereas Peter alienated the Russian people, Catherine won them over. When Elizabeth died on Christmas Day 1761, Peter III assumed the



This palace, south of St. Petersburg, is named after Catherine I, mother of Empress Elizabeth. In 1743, Elizabeth commissioned an expansion of the original edifice and ordered a display of awesome grandeur to rival Versailles. —saint-petersburg.com

thrown. He lasted just six months before his estranged wife overthrew him and later may have conspired to have him killed.^{XIX}

Russia's most memorable lady monarch was bold in every sense. That boldness manifested not only in her boudoir, but also in the way she assumed power from her husband, disposed of him, crushed internal dissidence, and

managed international relations. She was an enlightened despot, sometimes contradictory in her ideals and actions, but in every instance and in every aspect a bold persona. ■

^I Frank A. Golder, "Catherine II and the American Revolution," *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 21, No. 1 (Oct., 1915), pp. 92-96.

^{II} Ibid.

^{III} Nikolai Bolkhovitinov, "The Declaration of Independence: A View from Russia," *The Journal of American History* (1999), pp. 80-84.

^{IV} Golder

^V Ibid.

^{VI} Benson J. Lossing, LL.D., "English Ambassador at Moscow," *Harper's Cyclopaedia of United States History*, Vol. 1, Harper Bros., New York (1890), pp. 442-43

^{VII} Ibid.

^{VIII} Ibid.

^{IX} Ibid.

^X Golder

^{XI} Bolkhovitinov

^{XII} William Penn Cresson, *Francis Dana, A Puritan Diplomat at the Court of Catherine the Great*, Toronto: Longmans, Green & Co. (1930)

^{XIII} Ibid.

^{XIV} Kaplan

^{XV} Herbert H. Kaplan, *Russian Overseas Commerce with Great Britain during the Reign of Catherine II*, American Philosophical Society (1995), pp. 127-31.

^{XVI} Ibid.

^{XVII} Robert K. Massie, *Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman*, Random House (2011), pp. 433-465.

^{XVIII} Bio.com editors, "Peter III: Emperor (1728-1762)." Bio.com. <http://www.biography.com/people/peter-iii-39106> (retrieved 16 Nov 2016).

^{XIX} Ibid.

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