



Drumbeat

with *Flintlock & Powderhorn*

News of the Sons of the Revolution

Volume 30 Number 1

Spring 2012



'Savannah under Siege'

2012 Triennial Venue Oozes History

The Siege of Savannah occurred in 1779 and was a fierce encounter in the Revolutionary War. From September 16 to October 18, 1779, a joint Franco-American offensive attempted to retake control of Savannah from the occupying British. On October 9, their land assault failed. The following article details that historic morning and is excerpted from the author's book, Savannah under Siege, copyright 2002, Freeport Publishing.

By **H. Ronald Freeman,**
Georgia Society Secretary

It is near midnight on the evening of October 3, 1778, when Savannah is awakened by the first barrage from the sixty-seven guns and mortars of the allies. The following day, fifty-three heavy cannons and fourteen mortars begin a five-day bombardment of the town. The shelling fails to crack the defenses but causes considerable damage within the town.

More than a thousand shells fall on Savan-

—Continued on page 5

Attack on Savannah by Arthur Ignatius Keller (1866-1924)



General President Davenport Visits String of States

From December to March, General President Terry Davenport made a series of official visits to State Societies from coast to coast. The whirlwind of activity began when he and his wife, Shannon, visited the South Carolina Society in mid-December for a Christmas Party. In January, President Davenport then flew out to California, which followed in February by trips to New York City, and to Savannah, Georgia. His last stop was in Philadelphia, to attend the Executive Committee Meeting in early March.



The Davenports traveled from Tennessee to neighboring South Carolina to enjoy a pre-Christmas meeting and dinner party there. The Society in the Palmetto State is experiencing renewed interest among members, friends, and families.

—photo courtesy of Jeff Jordan

The South Carolina Society's Christmas Party took place at the Mediterranean Café in Lexington, S.C. The Davenports were accompanied by other special guests, including Region 3 General Vice President Mitchell Bush, the Hon. Alan Wilson, South Carolina Attorney General, and by Col. Dwight Bunderick, representing the South Carolina National Guard, as proxy for MG Robert Livingston, Jr., South

—Continued on page 3

IN HONORARIUM: JAMES THORINGTON II, 1927 - 2012



James Thorington, II

This Society mourns the loss of James Thorington, II, of Easton, Maryland, who died February 1, 2012. He was 84. Jim had been a longtime member of both the Pennsylvania and Maryland State Societies the Sons of the Revolution, and had been actively involved in the General Society for thirty years. He served as General Treasurer (1979-1985), General Captain of the Color Guard (1985-94) General President (1994-1997), and General President Emeritus (since 2000).

During his term as General President, two State Societies were welcomed into the General Society: Arizona and Oregon. The General Headquarters was also moved back to Fraunces Tavern, after it had been temporarily located in Clayton, Missouri (St. Louis). Jim also served as Captain of the Pennsylvania Society Color Guard from 1983-1987. The PSCG gave a presentation of colors at the funeral, held on February 24, 2012, in St. Michael's, Maryland.

Jim was born on October 13, 1927 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the son of Richard Wainwright Thorington, a well known Philadelphia attorney, and Louise Moffat Thorington. He was named for his grandfather, an internationally renowned eye surgeon

who served as doctor for the Panama Railroad Company when Ferdinand de Lessops, the developer of the Suez Canal, attempted to build a sea-level canal across Panama (1880s).

Jim graduated from the Episcopal Academy in 1945 and was a 1951 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. Later he joined the U.S. Army and served in the Army Air Corps.

Early in his life, he developed a strong love for sailing, an activity he pursued for the rest of his life. His connection to the sea may have come down the line from his famous grandfather. When the future eye doctor was himself a young lad, his father (a third James) had sent him on a steamship voyage around the southern tip of South America, the Strait of Magellan.

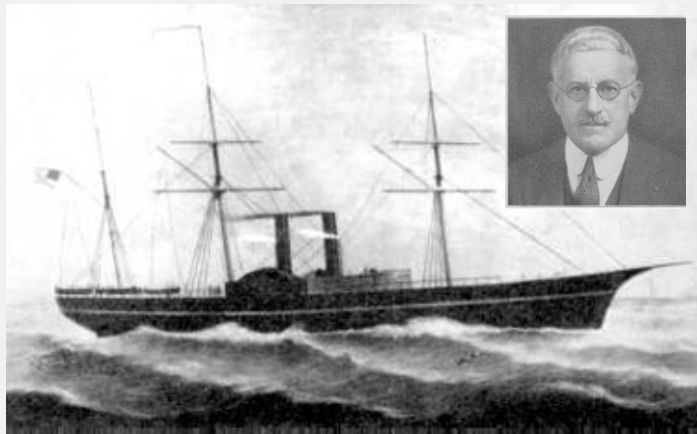
Perchance Jim's love of sailing came to him through his grandfather's youthful adventure, but it was further developed when he worked two summers during college aboard a fifty-foot-long schooner owned by John G. Alden of Boston. In later years, Mr. Thorington was a member of the Tred Avon Yacht Club of Oxford, Md., and of the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club of Easton. In later years, Mr. Thorington was active in several yacht clubs.

During his business career, Jim spent twenty-five years in the general insurance business, both as a broker and underwriter, specializing in marine insurance and reinsurance. He then transferred his business interest to several newly developing companies in the Philadelphia area.

As General President, Mr. Thorington stated that the more significant challenge to the Sons was not in perpetuating the memory of members' forefathers, but in preserving the principles of freedom and good government for which they fought.

On growing the Society, he is quoted in John Dwight Kilbourne's book *Sons of the Revolution: A History (1875-2000)*: "We must interact with other hereditary and patriotic organizations in the pursuit of goals important to all of us as Americans, and to recruit new members, particularly through the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.)."

Mr. Thorington is survived by his beloved wife, the former Frances Armitage Whitman, better known as Frankie, and by two sisters and a brother. In addition to Frankie, he leaves behind four adult children from his first marriage, six grandsons, and six stepchildren. ■—Editor



Inset portrait: James Thorington (grandfather). Credit: Archives of Opthamology.com; Steamer: Pacific mail ship "Golden Gate," ca. 1850. Credit: California State Library, California History Section.



General President's Visits

continued from page 1

Carolina Adjutant General.

In offering a toast to the gathering, Society Vice President Jeff Jordan said the event was one small way to remember and honor our nation's forefathers as well as current service members "at home



L-R: Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.; Charles A. Reardon; Terry Davenport; Mrs. Michele Jack Stratton; her parents Cathy Jack and Gerald I. Jack; Linda Boyd and Douglas R. Boyd, Sr., and Colette Witt and Charles B. Witt, Jr., MD.

—photo courtesy of Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.

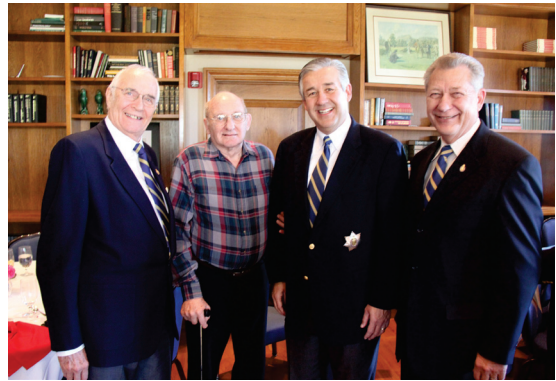
those in harm's way, wrapped in the arms of God the Great Protector."

Out West

On Friday evening, January 27, President Davenport traveled to California. He arrived in Los Angeles for his official visit to the California Society, which started the moment he stepped off the plane. That afternoon he was entreated to tours of Campo de Cahuenga and Hollywood organized by Society President Douglas R. Boyd, Sr. and Past President Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr. The highlight of the late afternoon was a visit to the back lot of Paramount Studios, arranged by Board member Gerald I. Jack's daughter, Michele Jack Stratton.

Following dinner at historic Musso & Frank

Grill, established 1919, the party continued as they walked the Hollywood Walk of Fame, visited the Kodak Theatre (site of the Oscars) and Grauman's Chinese Theatre.



Board Member Dr. Charles B. Witt, Jr.; Dr. Carl Crouthamel (guest); General President Terry L. Davenport; and Society President Dr. Paul Gray.

—photo courtesy of Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.

His trip there coincided with the Society's annual meeting that weekend at the prestigious Annandale Golf Club in Pasadena, California. A sell-out crowd of over 60 people greeted Mr. Davenport at the annual meeting, where he reported on his travels around the nation during his term, updated members on developments in the General Society, and invited all to attend the 2012 Triennial Meeting (October 4-7, Savannah, Georgia).

Following the luncheon, Mr. Reardon, a long-time member of the club, invited President Davenport to eighteen holes of golf on Annandale's century-old private course. After the game, as the sun set over the Pacific Ocean, Mr. Boyd picked up President Davenport and drove him along the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, the home of many of Los Angeles' glitterati. He took in the view of the Los Angeles coastline from the top of Pepperdine University then dined at Gladstone's On The Beach, literally steps from the ocean, before retiring to his hotel and flying back home on Sunday morning.

Back East

After enjoying California, Mr. Davenport found himself next in Savannah for a Triennial planning meeting with Georgia Society President Christopher Frame and Region 3 General Vice President Bush. (See Triennial story, page 6.) After that meeting, he whisked himself to New York City in time for the New York Society's 135th annual celebration of George Washington's birthday, convening at the Metropolitan Club.

There he congratulated newly elected Society President James R. Grayshaw and helped SRNY Color Guard Captain Jonathan Ridgeway unfurl the



General President Davenport, American Legion National Commander Fang Wong, and SRNY President James Grayshaw. — photo by Matthew Carasella

Society's new 5th New York Regiment flag, which was donated by the Color Guard to the SRNY in memory of the late Reverend Charles C. Wilcox.

The 5th New York Regiment was authorized on November 30, 1776, as part of the New York Line for service with the Continental Army. It was organized January 26, 1777, from companies in Southern New York and assigned to the Highlands Department and in 1781 became part of the 2nd New York Regiment.

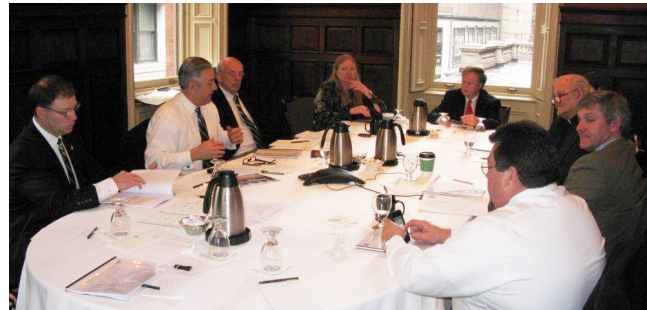
That evening, Terry was also introduced to the 2012 SRNY Distinguished Patriot Award win-



SRNY Color Guard Chairman Jonathan Ridgeway, left, gets some help unfurling the new 5th New York Regiment flag donated to the Society by the Color Guard. —photo by Matthew Carasella

ner Fang A. Wong, National Commander of the American Legion. Mr. Davenport said Commander Wong, a Chinese-American, inspires all people by his example of first-class patriotism and by his embodiment of the American Dream. Commander Wong was born in Canton, China and immigrated to the United States as a 12-year-old in 1960. He volunteered for service in the U.S. Army in 1969, serving 25 months in Vietnam. After retiring from the Army in 1989 he became deeply involved in community and veterans' affairs. Through his American Legion post in New York's Chinatown Wong helped direct relief efforts in the aftermath of 9/11.

His diverse volunteer activities have included membership on the Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment and Training and Employer Outreach of the Department of Labor, and serving as chairman of the Special Investigation Committee for the Chinese Community Benevolent Association (NYC) and the Office of the Attorney General, State of New York.



The General Society Executive Committee meeting in Philadelphia. —photo courtesy of David Rutherford

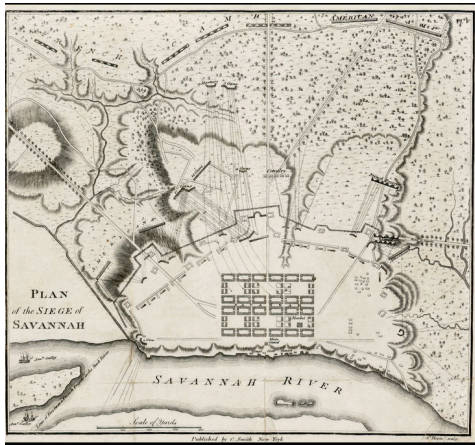
The vast journeys came to a conclusion with the March jaunt to Philadelphia, where the Executive Committee convened at the classy Union League of Philadelphia. During the meeting, the various General Officers gave reports, which included an overview of possible sites for relocating the General Society headquarters.

"Aside from the reports, the meeting featured presentations from the New York Society about Fraunces Tavern and from the Pennsylvania Society about Let Freedom Ring.

The Pennsylvania Society Color Guard graciously hosted a formal dinner for Committee members and their spouses at the renowned Philadelphia Club. The dinner included birthday recognitions for Region 3 GVP Mitchell Bush and for Barbara Cheyney, wife of the General Secretary. ■

—compiled from reports

Under Siege, Continued from page 1



British Army map of the failed Franco-American siege. Printed for Wm. Faden, Geographer to the King, Feb [17th], 1784.

nah. They shake the ground and explode with great firebursts. The people run to their cellars. It is reported that even below ground they cannot escape the fury. It is said the town is so torn to pieces that, other than the shrieks of women and children, little else can be heard.

The allied batteries continue their fire. As time drags on, the residents become complacent about the bombing. They learn to fear the cannon and mortars less than the telltale sound of small-arms fire. Even the children, as their initial fears are quelled, learn to dash in the streets and fill the freshly fired cannonballs with sand. When the shells are cool enough, they gather them up, cart them to the occupying British forces, and receive sixpence in return.

Before long, the French begin to realize the opportunity they missed some three weeks before by not having stormed the British lines when they first arrived.

Point of Encounter

Ultimately, storming the British lines is the only option left available. The Patriots start referring to it as “the forlorn hope.” More allied militia and cavalry are called down to Savannah in great numbers, while the French continue to unload their artillery and get it into position on land. The allies cannot just back away: French honor and pride are on the line; after all, the greater part of the French navy is anchored just off the coast.

As the days wear on and the barrage proves ineffectual to dislodge the British, French admiral Charles Hector, comte d’Estaing, shoots off a letter in which he quips: “After all other resources have failed, one must take sword in hand.” It is a foreboding truth.

At the break of dawn on October 9, 1779, in a commotion of mixed signals, failed planning, conflicting orders, delays, ignorance of local geography, and lack of unity between the Patriots and the French, they charge the British lines at the Spring Hill Redoubt, adjacent the fortification. They are met with a hailstorm of firepower. A blistering British fire retards the attack. Some of the allied forces break the lines. Neither army has time to reload muskets. They rush at each other with bayonets and rifle butts. Hand-to-hand fighting along the entrenchments is desperate. Disorder and pandemonium begin to prevail.

A retreat is started, but it is murderous. Three separate times D’Estaing compels a charge forward, and on each occasion the men are gunned down and hacked up. The Augusta Road becomes a funnel for the retreating army. The British, seeing this, mount two eighteen-pounders on field carriages and place them at the head of the road. From there, they lay down a slaughtering fire with canister and grapeshot. Death prevails; the Grim Reaper makes hay.



“Death of Pulaski at Savannah” by Stanislaw Batowski Kaczor, 1940

At 10 a.m., a flag of truce is sent in by the French. The sound of firepower gives way to the wailing, screaming and moaning of the injured and dying. The extent of loss is shocking even to those hardened by many a bloody campaign. As a fresh breeze lifts the fog, the sun reveals the terrible spectacle of war: The surrounding plain is strewn heavily with the dead and mortally wounded.

The Battle of Savannah is exceeded only by the Battle of Bunker Hill in the number of casualties sustained on a single side. While estimates of French losses vary, the official summary lists a total of 521 killed or wounded. Patriot losses amount to 231, including Continentals and militia. On the opposing British side, only eighteen were killed and thirty-nine wounded. ■



Lovely trees in Forsyth Park.
—photo courtesy of AOLTravel.com

Triennial 2012 around the Corner

Planning and organizing the 41st Triennial in Savannah, to be held at the Courtyard Marriott Downtown (in the historic district), October 4-7, 2012, is keeping Region 3 General Vice President Mitchell Bush, Georgia Society President Christopher Frame, and Society Secretary H. Ron Freeman busy these days.

The Georgia Society Triennial Steering Committee, in conjunction with the General Society, is making every effort to ensure that members have a pleasant and memorable time and that things run smoothly in every sense.

The three-day weekend conference of business sessions and sponsored recreational activities will feature a Riverboat excursion, the roar of old cannons, and the flow of Chatham Artillery Punch, among other things.

The Society seeks your assistance in four critical ways, for planning purposes:

1. Early registration is best, given the fact that space is limited both for the banquet and at the hotel;
2. If you plan to have children attending, please let the Georgia Society know in advance. The need to accommodate children is a new development which reflects the increasing number of relatively younger members, who in many instances have young children;
3. If you or your spouse has difficulty walking, please inform the Society so that transportation accommodations may be arranged;
4. As soon as you have an idea about your estimated time of arrival to the hotel, please inform the Society as it will help them know when to reserve the hotel's Hospitality Suite, as well as coordinate staffing and hotel transportation issues.

For the Triennial, early registration fee is \$295



Savannah riverboats ply the waters at nearly all hours.
— photo by Savannah Riverboat Cruises

per person. After Sept 4, the rate increases to \$315 per person.

The rate includes the following: Oct 4 – Open Bar Reception, Heavy Hors d'oeuvres, Savannah Yacht Club, sponsored by the PSSR and its Color Guard; Oct 5 – Continental Breakfast, Committee Meetings, Business Meeting and Hospitality Room; Oct. 6 – Continental Breakfast, Business Meeting, Luncheon and Savannah River Tour aboard the Savannah River Queen Paddle Boat; Open Bar Reception, Banquet, White Tie Optional (Limited Availability); Oct 7 – Continental Breakfast, St. John's Episcopal Church, Farewell Sherry.

Frontside of Courtyard Marriott-Historic District. —photo by Courtyard Savannah Downtown



The Old-Town Trolley, a familiar site in historic Savannah.
—photo by Historic Tours of America

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM NOW

To make hotel reservations, call the Marriott Courtyard at 912-790-8287 or 800-321-2211, 415 W. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401. Special single and double room rates are available upon request Oct. 1st thru Oct. 10th, to accommodate longer stays. The number of available rooms at this price is very limited, so it is highly recommended to call now. For Triennial meeting reservations, please complete the Registration Form on the following page and send it in promptly. ■

—submitted by Mitchell Bush and Chris Frame



**General Society
of the Sons of the Revolution
41st Triennial
Savannah, Georgia
October 4 to 7, 2012**



Your Name _____ State Society _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

Highest Past/Current Office Held _____

Or State Delegate Representative _____

Name (or Nickname) for Badge _____

Wife or Guest Name for Badge _____

_____ Persons Registration Early Discount --Before August 4* (\$295 each)\$ _____

_____ Persons Registration ---August 4 through September 4*(\$315 each) \$ _____

_____ Persons--Optional Friday (includes lunch) Historic Tour (\$35 each \$ _____

*Date received by Georgia Society Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "Georgia Sons of the Revolution"

Send to: Sons of the Revolution, State of Georgia
 P.O. Box 2802
 Savannah, GA 31402

_____ Number of Children attending functions. We need names and ages for billing purposes.

_____ Persons participating in the Saturday River Boat luncheon excursions.

Registration fees include: Oct 4 – Open Bar Reception, Heavy Hors d’oeuvres Savannah Yacht Club Sponsored by the PSSR and its Color Guard; Oct 5 – Continental Breakfast, Committee Meetings, Business Meeting and Hospitality Room; Oct. 6 - Continental Breakfast, Business Meeting, Luncheon and Savannah River Tour aboard the Savannah River Queen Paddle Boat; Open Bar Reception, Banquet, White Tie Optional (Limited Availability); Oct 7 – Continental Breakfast, St. John’s Episcopal Church, Farewell Sherry.

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR ROOM NOW

Call the Marriott Courtyard at 912-790-8287 or 800-321-2211, 415 W. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401. Special single and double room rates are available upon request for 3 days prior to Oct 4 and 3 days after Oct 7. **Number of available rooms at this price are very limited.** Please indicate the number of nights and rooms reserved at this hotel. Rooms: _____ Nights: _____

Observations of RADM J. Robert Lunney, NYNM (Ret.), General President Emeritus and Chairman, National Preparedness Committee



"Le Port de Rochefort," by Claude Joseph Vernet, 1714-1789

l'Hermione, La Frégate de la Liberté

Upon returning to France from America in 1779, during the course of the Revolution, Marquis de LaFayette received final orders from King Louis XVI in support of the *Expédition Particulière*. The Expedition, designed as a secret plan, would provide an auxiliary force to aid the Americans and "to deliver them once and for all from the yoke and tyranny of the English." The King's instructions also noted that the French troops, "will accept orders only from General Washington...and it will be required of the [French] admiral to support...all operations in which his cooperation can be claimed... and it is for General Washington to decide what will be most useful."

LaFayette was designated as the principal intermediary between French and American forces and was directed to return to America, inform General Washington of the Expedition, and prepare to receive the auxiliary French forces. On receiving his orders, LaFayette proceeded to Rochefort, France, and boarded the recently built 32-gun French frigate *l'Hermione*, *La Frégate de la Liberté*, upon which he would sail to Massachusetts.

The *Hermione* set sail on March 20, 1780, loaded down with a crew of three-hundred men and some four-thousand uniforms for the Continental Army. After a stop in Marblehead, the frigate arrived in Boston on April 28. Meanwhile, the main Expedition army arrived in Newport, Rhode Island,

on July 11, comprising thousands of French soldiers under the command of Comte de Rochambeau. The soldiers' arrival was accompanied by the naval squadron under Chevalier de Ternay.

The next year these forces, in unison with Washington's army, converged on Chesapeake Bay, meeting up with LaFayette and his troops. Together with the outstanding support of a French fleet under the command of Admiral de Grasse, they soundly defeated the English in the magnificent victory at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. The key to the ultimate success of this joint and combined operation was the *Expédition Particulière*.

In recognition of LaFayette's noble mission and the enduring friendship between France and the United States, a dedicated group of French are rebuilding an authentic replica of the *Hermione* and planning a voyage to America.

The replica frigate is being built exactly as the



L-R: European Society President Charles D. Carroll; Assistant General Secretary Dr. Laurence S. Simpson; Friends of *Hermione* Treasurer Remi Forgeas, and European Society Vice President and Secretary J. Robert Lunney, at Fraunces Tavern.
—photo courtesy of J. Robert Lunney



Ship photos courtesy of Phillippe Plinson and Friends of Hermione-LaFayette Association

original had been made in 1779, with three masts and 1,500-square-meters of sail. The construction is taking place in Rochefort, where the original Hermione was built. However, modern electronic navigation equipment will be used, and two engines have been installed to propel the ship when necessary. Along with new safety equipment, a generator will also be fitted to provide showers and a modern galley. The voyage will be manned by French and American naval cadets and will visit several major East Coast ports (see timeline).

The re-creation of LaFayette's voyage will direct the attention of the people of both France and the United States to the historic events that brought our countries together. LaFayette's voyage was an extraordinary commitment to freedom, and when it is finally rebuilt, *l'Hermione, La Frégate de la Lib-*



erté will be a "permanent ambassador" of Franco-American friendship.

For more information about the project, or to support this 501 (c)(3) entity, please visit www.friendsofhermione.org. ■

Hermione Timeline:

- ◆ July 6, 2012: the ship is launched on the Charente River – with a big celebration
- ◆ July 7, 2012: the ship is transferred to the Napoleon III dry dock (next to the current one) for final phase of construction
- ◆ October 2012: The masts will be installed
- ◆ Summer 2013: Initial sail from Rochefort to the Atlantic Ocean
- ◆ Fall 2014: Final phase of crew training on the Atlantic Ocean
- ◆ Spring-Summer 2015: Trip to the USA

Following her arrival in Boston in late April of 1780, the frigate Hermione went on to engage in combat against the armed English frigate Iris and her escort on 7 June 1780, off the coast of New York. During that conflict, she fired 260 cannonballs. On 21 July, 1781, the frigate was again engaged in battle, this time against six English vessels at Louisbourg, Nova Scotia. She is recorded as having fired no less than 509 cannonballs. The frigate was afterward sent to India to help fight the British in the Second Mysore War. The ship returned to Rochefort in April 1784. Nearly ten years later, in 1792, in service against the British, she ran aground off Croisic and was wrecked by heavy seas.—Sources: Wikipedia; Southwest Maritime History Society



CALIFORNIA

More than one-hundred members of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California gathered at the American Heritage Library and Museum on February 20, 2012, to celebrate the 280th anniversary of the birth of George Washington. Special thanks go to outgoing Society President Douglas R. Boyd, Sr., and his wife, Linda, for the food and catering. Past President Richard Breithaupt, Jr., again



Outgoing Society President Douglas R. Boyd, Sr. exchanges Society regalia, including the Breast Star shown above, with incoming Society President Dr. Paul W. Gray.
—photos courtesy of Rick Breithaupt

provided the Fish House punch, a favorite drink of George Washington's. Board member Wayne J. Rogers appeared in colonial garb and exhibited his eighteenth-century muskets. This year the library marks its 199th anniversary.

Previous to the gathering on Presidents' Day, the Society held its 2012 Annual Meeting at Annandale Golf Club on Saturday, January 28, 2012. For the more than sixty members and guests in attendance, the highlight of the meeting was a moving speech delivered by General President Terry Davenport (see related article, page 1). Another highlight was the installation of new Society officers, which President Davenport presided over.

Following the election, outgoing Society President Douglas R. Boyd, Sr., presented the ceremonial gavel and breast star to incoming Society President Dr. Paul Gray. President Gray holds five college degrees including two earned Doctorates, and serves as the Vice Provost of Azusa Pacific University. As one of his Doctorates is in Library Sciences, he is the ideal man to administer the 35,000-volume genealogical library of the California Sons.

The new officers and board of directors include:

Officers

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| President: | Paul W. Gray, Ed.D. |
| Vice President: | C. Robert Ferguson |
| Vice President: | Nishan O. Partamian |
| Secretary: | Brett A. MacDonald |
| Treasurer: | Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr. |
| Genealogist: | Wayne J. Rogers |

Directors

Douglas R. Boyd, Sr.
Richard H. Breithaupt, Sr.
Richard H. Breithaupt, Jr.
C. Robert Ferguson
Paul W. Gray
Gerald I. Jack
Brett A. Landis
Brett A. MacDonald
Nishan O. Partamian
Charles A. Reardon
Wayne J. Rogers
Scott E. Tracy
Charles B. Witt, Jr.

—submitted by Dougl's R. Boyd

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Society President Chris Nichols brought greetings from the SR to the Connecticut Society of the Children of the American Revolution at its state conference on March 2-3, 2012, at the Danbury Hotel & Conference Center. In late March, the Society was scheduled to have met in a joint meeting of the smaller hereditary and patriotic societies at J. Timothy's Taverne in Plainville. That meeting was to be hosted by the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Connecticut.

Looking ahead, the Society plans to host a GSSR Board meeting next year in New London. Society Secretary and Treasurer Stephen Shaw is leading the organizing efforts for that event. For more information on the SR in Connecticut, please visit <http://www.connecticutsr.org>.
—submitted by Chris Nichols



Current officers of the Connecticut Society, C.A.R.
—photo courtesy of Chris Nichols

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Sons of the Revolution in the District of Columbia have elected and installed new officers.

Officers

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| President | Wade Hampton Barnes Smith, Ph.D. |
| 1st Vice President | Priestley Toulmin, III, Ph.D. |
| 2nd Vice President | Joel Patrick Hinzman |
| Secretary | Timothy Christopher Finton, Esq. |
| Asst. Secretary | Gary Edward Young |
| Treasurer | Gary Nordlinger, III, Esq. |
| Registrar | Jacob Thomas Tanner |
| Asst. Registrar | Conor Torquil Sinclair |
| Chaplain | Thomas Clifton Etter, Jr |
| Chancellor | Douglas Reid Weimer, Esq. |
| Historian | Peter Arrott Dixon |
| Marshal | Nathaniel Pabody DeanColor |
| Captain | Eldon Miles Kaplan |

For more information on the Society, please visit <http://www.sonsoftherevolutiondc.org>.

--submitted by Wade Hampton Barnes Smith

EUROPE

Earlier this year at the Fraunces Tavern, European Society President Charles Carroll, 3rd Vice President and General President Emeritus J. Robert Lunney, and Dr. Laurence Simpson of the New York Society, met with special guest Remi Forgeas, a partner with WeiserMazars LLP and Treasurer, Friends of Hermione-LaFayette in America, Inc.

The European Society has made a substantial donation to the Friends in support of the association's ongoing project to replicate *L'Hermione*, the ship that brought the Marquis de LaFayette to America to assist General Washington in beating the British. (See related story, page 8.)

Messrs. Carroll and Lunney were later to have traveled to Rochefort, Charente-Maritime, France,

where the ship is being built. Following the tour of the ship and building facilities at Rochefort, they were to then have met with Society 2nd Vice President Vic. Jacques de Farcy de la Villedubois, at La Ville-du-Bois, in the southern suburbs of Paris.

—submitted by J. Robert Lunney

GEORGIA

New Georgia Society Officers & Board Members

The annual meeting of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Georgia was held on Friday, February 17th, 2012 in the fellowship hall of St. John's Episcopal Church, in Savannah. President Charles Spillane welcomed everyone to the 121st annual meeting of the Georgia Society. The invocation was given by Rev. Salley and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. It was reported that the Society's membership stands at 234 persons.

During the meeting, the following slate of officers and board members was unanimously approved:

Officers

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| President | Christopher K. Frame |
| 1st Vice-President | Mitchell Bush |
| 2nd Vice-President | H. Ronald Freeman |
| Secretary | Carolus Daniel, Jr. |
| Treasurer | Gilbert Wells |
| Registrar | Andy Blalock |
| Historian | Gordon B. Smith |
| Chaplain | Rev. George B. Salley, Jr. |
| Surgeon | Dr. Roland S. Summers |
| Color Guard Captain | Thomas Lynah |
| Solicitor | Andy Anderson |
| GSSR Representative | Stephen Lufburrow |

Board of Managers

February 2012
Brig Gen (Ret) Stephen Westgate
Mr. Richard L. Wallace
Mr. Frank Hardeman

February 2013
Mr. David Saussy
Mr. William McIntosh, Jr.
Mr. Michael Tomme

February 2014
Julian Kelly
Walter Wright
Matt Lufburrow



2012 Officers of the Chapter, State, and General Society levels mix it up in Savannah.—photo courtesy of Chris Frame

Later in the day, the annual banquet was held at the Savannah Yacht Club, where members heard a presentation on the life of General Nathanael Greene, given by guest speaker Janet Uhlar, author of *Freedom's Cost, the story of Nathanael Greene*. Janet was born and reared in Quincy, Massachusetts—hometown of John Adams, John Quincy Adams, John Hancock, and Josiah Quincy, Jr.—and now lives on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Through her writing, Janet presents biography through the living, breathing form of biographical fiction. She firmly believes that when the private lives and unique personalities of historical figures are presented, and the dynamics between these characters brought out, history becomes much more than cold, black print on a stark-white page. She is scheduled to speak at the 2012 Triennial, October 4-7, in Savannah.

—submitted by H. Ronald Freeman

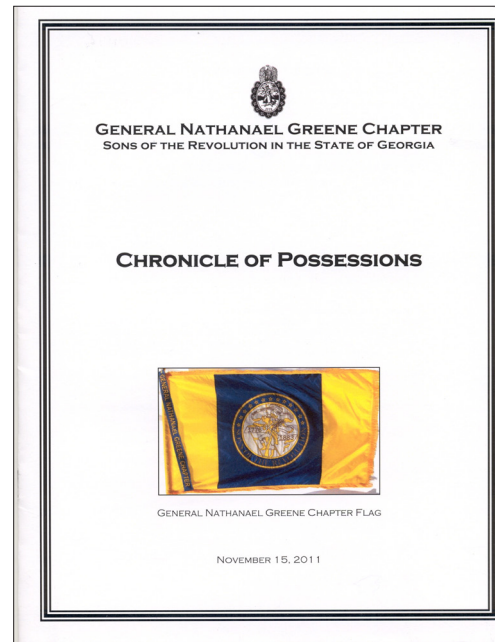
General Nathanael Greene Chapter Activities

A year ago, several members of the General Nathanael Greene Chapter requested a Chapter-sponsored opportunity to “Keep Alive the Spirit of 1776” on a year-round basis. It was not long afterward that the Chapter agreed to place beautifully framed replicas of Rembrandt Peale’s “Porthole Portrait of George Washington” in Atlanta-area schools, and hopefully throughout Georgia. The portraits are available through the George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate, Museum and Gardens.

“So far the schools have been chosen by our members,” said Chapter President Bob Evans. “We’ve put them in schools where the members’ children are attending.”

In other developments, the General Nathanael

Greene Chapter now has a webpage located on the website of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Georgia. (Please visit <http://www.sr-ga.org/index.htm>.) The webpage features articles and photographs of meetings, activities, members and publications.



In addition to the webpage, the Society has further increased its panache with a handsome booklet for members entitled, *Chronicle of Possessions*. It features many significant and valuable possessions donated by members to signify their individual and collective dedication to the ideals inherent in the American Revolution. Society President Robert J. Evans says, “The Chronicle symbolizes the culture, history, spirit and tradition of the Chapter in its honoring of the American Revolution.”

Going forward, the Chapter’s next meeting was to be its Anniversary Dinner held on March 24, 2012 at the Ansley Golf Club in Atlanta. Dr. Greg Nobles, a full professor of early American history at Georgia Tech University, was to give a presentation on his fourth and most recent book, *Whose American Revolution Was It—And Whose Is It?*

—submitted by Bob Evans and Jack Winter

ILLINOIS

On November 19, 2011, the following slate of officers was elected and installed to preside over the Society of Illinois for a one-year term:

Officers

President
Vice President

Donald E. Gradeless
Tom B. Siegel

Registrar
Treasurer

Donald E. Gradeless
Rex L. Gradeless

—submitted by Donald E. Gradeless

KENTUCKY

The Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Kentucky held a business meeting in early December last year at the Pendennis Club in Louisville, Kentucky. It was a joint meeting with the Kentuckian Society of the Order of Founders & Patriots of America. President Buzz Carmichael presided over the SR meeting. Rev. Paul W. Smith offered the Invocation, and the featured speaker was Society member Dr. Jack J. Early. Jack is a descendant of President James Madison's.

The Pendennis Club is a venue where decency, decorum, civility, good manners and the social graces are still very much in style. It is named after Pendennis Castle, which is situated on the Pendennis headland on the southern Cornish coast in England, near Falmouth. The name is derived from the Cornish word "Pen" meaning Headland and "Dinas" meaning fortress or castle. The castle dates to the 1540s, when Henry VIII ordered a series of coastal forts to be built along the southern coast of England to protect against attacks of French and Spanish fleets.

The Society's 2012 annual meeting was scheduled for April.—submitted by Buzz Carmichael



Members of the Society of the Commonwealth of Kentucky meet at the Pendennis Club in Louisville.
—photo courtesy of Buzz Carmichael

MARYLAND

Wreath-Laying at the French Monument

The 48th Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the French Monument on the grounds of St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland was held on October

20, 2011. This was the one-hundredth anniversary of the first ceremony dedicating the monument attended by President William Howard Taft on April 10, 1911. President Taft was accompanied by French Ambassador Jean J. Jusserand. In a 1924 letter, Ambassador Jusserand designated the monument as the first anywhere in the world to the unknown war dead.



General President Emeritus Hall Worthington.
—photo courtesy of Edward (Buzz) Warren

The monument had been suggested by Professor Henry Marion of the Naval Academy when touched by the care given by the French to the cemetery at Cherbourg for American seamen killed in a battle in 1864 between the US Sloop Kearsarge and the Confederate cruiser Alabama.

The cornerstone for the monument, sponsored by the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution, was laid in 1906 and the monument was installed five years later in 1911.

This year the ceremony was again chaired by Brigadier General M. Hall Worthington, General President Emeritus. The ceremony was co-chaired by Lynn Lounsberry of the Cercle Francais d' Annapolis. There were twenty-six wreath laying participants at this year's event. Remarks were provided by President of the Midshipman's French Club, Colonel de Kyspotter of the French Embassy, and retired French Navy Captain Claude Deguines.

A reception was held at the St John's Boathouse following the ceremony.—from the SR Intelligencer newsletter, Fall/Winter 2011

President's Reception Held in November

An annual tradition, the Maryland Society President's Reception was held on Sunday November 13, 2011, in the historic Philpot House at the Green Spring Valley Hounds Upper Club. During the event, Society Vice President Peter Schwab

made a toast to Society President Will Somerville. The toast recognized Mr. Somerville's Revolutionary War ancestor, Sabrett Bowen.

In proposing the toast, Vice President Schwab filled in the rich historical details: Sabrett Bowen, "apparently a contrarian like his descendant," Mr. Schwab said, defied his mother's wishes by enlisting in Moylan's 4th Regiment of Continental Light Dragoons in 1777 at age 18.

The Dragoons arrayed themselves at the time in a uniform of red coats with blue lapels, resulting on their being mistaken for redcoats and drawing friendly fire on more than one occasion. Colonel Moylan quickly changed the uniform to an equally distinctive green coat faced with red lapels.

Moylan's Dragoons served in numerous engagements in the north including Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth, as well as many battles of the southern campaign: Cowpens, Guilford Courthouse, Eutaw Springs, the Siege of Yorktown, and Wayne's re-conquest of Georgia.

By Mr. Schwab's account, when Sabrett Bowen died in 1812, it was reported in the obituary that "his life was shortened by a fall from his horse in a charge upon the Savannah lines, under Gen. Wayne, which dislocated his shoulder, and he has ever complained of that till the day that terminated his earthly cares."

The toast was followed by another, to the Dragoons themselves, based on the Moylan's Dragoons Song, embellished by Mr. Schwab:

So I ask you for a moment's pause,
To please put down your spoons
and let us drink before we go
To Moylan's brave Dragoons

—from the *SR Intelligencer* newsletter,
Fall/Winter 2011

Barbara Lucas Speaks at GW Brunch

The annual George Washington Brunch was held December 4, 2011 at the Engineer's club in Baltimore. Speaking at the event was Barbara Lucas, vice regent for Maryland of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Mrs. Lucas' presentation focused on the creation of the Fred W. Smith National Library for the study of George Washington. The 45,000-square-foot library is being constructed on a fifteen-acre site on the grounds of the estate and will serve as the keeper of Washington's invaluable legacies. Groundbreaking was last April, with completion targeted in 2013.

It was perceived that knowledge and appreciation of Washington have declined significantly over the past generation. Further, it was noted that the teaching of history and its lessons learned have continued to descend on the list of educational priorities in our schools. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association believes Washington's life still reflects the epitome of American leadership and character and should still be relevant to each new American generation. Therefore, no American President better deserves the honor of a presidential library more than our first chief executive, Mrs. Lucas said.

The library is being constructed to achieve three objectives. It will: 1) store and safeguard the books and letters of Washington; 2) enable scholars, students and other special audiences to conduct research in a state-of-the-art facility; and 3) be the international headquarters for a series of outreach programs on George Washington.

—from the *SR Intelligencer*, Fall/Winter 2011

MASSACHUSETTS

Joint Meeting hosted by Founders & Patriots

The autumn is a busy season for patriotic groups in Massachusetts, including the Sons of the Revolution. The Society was among guest groups at a fall luncheon hosted by the Massachusetts Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America. The event was held at the Boston Union Club on September 21, 2011. Other groups represented there included the Order of Lafayette, the Society of the War of 1812, and the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge.



Society members gather at the Boston Union Club, where they heard guest speaker John Laurence Busch.

—photo courtesy of James Klim

The luncheon's guest speaker was author John Laurence Busch, who in the summer of 2010 pub-

lished *Steam Coffin: Captain Moses Rogers and the Steamship Savannah Break the Barrier*. Mr. Busch gave an informative and entertaining presentation about the world's first transatlantic 'steamship' and her inventor, Capt. Rogers. The captain in 1818 persuaded Scarborough & Isaacs, a wealthy shipping firm from Savannah, Georgia, to purchase the vessel, convert it to a steamship, and gain the prestige of inaugurating the world's first transatlantic steamship service. The converted ship set sail for Liverpool from Savannah in November 1819.

In January 1820, a great fire swept through the city of Savannah, doing severe damage to the business district. Scarborough and Isaacs, which had suffered in the fire, was forced to sell the ship. With its engine removed, the Savannah was used as a sailing packet between New York and its namesake port, until running aground and breaking up at Long Island on November 5, 1821. President James Monroe once sailed aboard the vessel.

Following the lunch and presentation, members and guests proceeded to the Union Club's fifth floor, from where a beautiful view of Boston Common and the Massachusetts State House could be had.—submitted by James Klim

Remembering General Pulaski

The Sons marched in the 25th Annual Pulaski Day Parade held Monday, October 10, 2011, in Northampton. They joined with members of the local chapters of the S.A.R. The events began with a mass at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church (formerly Sacred Heart) on King. Following the mass, the parade began at the church and proceeded to Pulaski Park for formal ceremonies.



Pulaski tomb photo by Dave Roback, ©2011 The Republican (Springfield, MA)

The day's festivities honor Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski, a Polish nobleman who fought for the Patriots during the Revolutionary War. Pulaski, who has been called "the father of American cav-

alry," lost his life during the Siege of Savannah, 1779. He is one of only seven people to be awarded honorary U.S. citizenship, his coming not until 2009. Winston Churchill was given his in 1963.

—submitted by James Klim

Yorktown Victory Luncheon

The Sons were also among guests at the Annual Yorktown Victory Luncheon and Reception of the Massachusetts Society of Sons of the American Revolution (MASSAR). Appropriately, the site of the luncheon was held in Plymouth on October 22, 2012, and was hosted by the Plymouth Chapter of The Blue Water Patriot.

The guest speaker for the luncheon was the academic James Taylor, editor-in-chief of the Adams Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston. Mr. Taylor is in the midst of publishing five volumes of the papers of John Adams, to cover 1781-1784. During the past nine years he has also completed four volumes of Adams Family Correspondence that include the personal papers of the family especially letters between John, Abigail, and other family members. These volumes cover the years 1786-1795.—submitted by James Klim

A Needed Clarification

In the Winter 2011 *Drumbeat*, it was reported on Page 4 that six-thousand Minutemen and militia were under the command of Colonel Barrett at the North Bridge in Concord, Massachusetts, at the time of the 'Shot Heard Round the World.' One member quickly pointed out: "Impossible there were that many." That figure was taken from a webpage associated with the Save Our Heritage website, but which has since been replaced.

A more critical scanning of traditional sources on that battle puts the total number of combined Patriot forces at about four-hundred men, by the time they all had come down from the hills and advanced to the bridge. In all, the Patriots comprised five full companies of Minutemen and five companies of militia—from the towns of Acton, Bedford, Concord, and Lincoln.—Editor

MINNESOTA

Annual Constitution Day Luncheon

Members of the Minnesota Society Sons of the Revolution and the Minnesota Society of the Sons of the American Revolution gathered for the Annual Constitution Day Luncheon on Saturday, October 8, 2011, at Jax Cafe in Minneapolis. Sixty-six

persons were in attendance.

Everyone attending was given a copy of George Mason's "Virginia Declaration of Rights" procured from Mason's Gunston Hall estate in Mason Neck, Virginia.

Edward R. Lief, Esq., President of the Minnesota SR, presided over the meeting. The Minnesota SAR Color Guard presented the colors. SR Vice President William R. Johnson, Esq. led the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America. SAR Secretary-General John Hallberg Jones gave the invocation.

Members and guests enjoyed a meal the chefs specially prepared to feature colonial era entrees of Virginia ham, beef brisket, and stuffed game hen.

The Honorable A.M. "Sandy" Keith, former Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, was the speaker and guest of honor. He spoke on the relationship of the Minnesota Constitution to the United States Constitution and presented a case study of how abortion at taxpayer expense became a Minnesota constitutional right, albeit not a federal constitutional right. Following his address, he kindly answered a wide range of questions.



L-R: Society President Edward R. Lief, Esq., former Minnesota Chief Justice "Sandy" Keith, and Society Vice President Col. Ronald E. McRoberts.—photo courtesy of Edward R. Lief, Esq

Chief Justice Keith has a special vantage point from having served in all three branches of Minnesota government; he began his career as a State Senator and later was elected Lieutenant Governor. A graduate of Amherst College and Yale Law School, Mr. Keith also reflected on his service in the United States Marine Corps and his continuing practice of law in Rochester, Minnesota.

SR President Lief presented Chief Justice Keith with the SR "Certificate of Appreciation" and the SR book by John Dwight Kilbourne entitled *Sons of the Revolution: A History 1875-2001*.—submitted by Duane L. C. M. Galles, Esq

Annual Washington Day Luncheon

Members of the Minnesota Society Sons of the Revolution, the Minnesota Society of the American Revolution, and the Minnesota Society of the War of 1812 gathered for the Annual Washington Day Luncheon on Saturday, February 18, 2012, at Jax Café in Minneapolis. Seventy-eight persons were in attendance.

Vice-President William R. Johnson presided over the meeting, as Society President Edward R. Lief, Esq. was in Washington, DC, unable to be present. The Minnesota SAR Color Guard presented the colors. SAR President Ronald E. McRoberts led the Pledge of Allegiance, and SAR Chaplain Richard Vork gave the invocation. Following the introductory proceedings, Past Minnesota SR President John Hallberg Jones took the chair to install new officers and board members. The list is as follows:

Officers

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| President | William R. Johnson, Esq. |
| Vice President | Col. Ronald E. McRoberts |
| Secretary | Duane L. C. M. Galles, Esq. |
| Treasurer | Duane L. C. M. Galles, Esq. |
| Registrar | Arthur Louis Finnell |
| Chaplain | Michael S. Swisher |
| Solicitor | William R. Johnson, Esq. |
| GSSR Representative | Duane L.C.M. Galles, Esq. |

Board of Managers

Edward R. Lief, Esq. (ex officio)
 James Fredrick Foster
 John Hallberg Jones
 Michael P. Schenk
 Thomas Truxtun Morrison
 The Hon. Edward C. Stringer
 Michael LaLond West

Following the installation of officers, President Johnson immediately moved that outgoing President Edward Lief be commended for his great work during the past year in leading the Minnesota Society. The motion was seconded and passed by acclamation.

The new President then introduced the speaker of the day, Lt. Col. Thomas Pelham Curtis of Milwaukee, who gave a talk about the War of 1812, sometimes called America's Second War for Independence. Mr. Curtis, a retired editorial cartoonist and art teacher, spent five years on active duty in Vietnam, followed by another twenty years in the Reserve. The audience thoroughly enjoyed his presentation. Afterward, he was presented the Society's Certificate of Merit by President Johnson.—submitted by Duane L. C. M. Galles, Esq

NEW JERSEY

Celebrating Washington

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution held its Annual Meeting and homage to George Washington at the Old Barracks on February 20, 2012, in Trenton. Dr. Robert Olson was installed as the new Society President, along with a full slate of officers. The full list of names is as follows:

Officers

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| President | Robert Olson, MD |
| Vice President | Charles J. Scammell |
| Secretary | Glen E. Beebe |
| Treasurer | John Idenden, Jr. |
| Registrar | Randall W. Richards, III |
| Historian | Robert P. Vivian, Jr. |
| Chaplain | V. Brian Anderson |
| Surgeon | George J. Hill, MD |
| Librarian | Kevin M. Elliot |
| Marshall | CDR Scott Scammell, III |
| Color Guard Captain | CDR Harrie E. Copleand, III |
| GSSR Representative | R. Caswell Cooke, Jr. |

Following the meeting, chapter members paraded with revolutionary flags, marching behind the Old Barracks Fife and Drum Corp to Saint Michael's Episcopal Church. Inside the church, a special service was given in honor of George Washington's birthday. Saint Michael's was a major focal point of military action in the first Battle of Trenton, with much of the combat taking place in the churchyard.

After the service, members paraded to the Historic Trenton Masonic Temple for a luncheon, where outgoing Society President Dr. George Hill was commended for his two years at the helm.

The luncheon speaker, Richard Patterson, Executive Director of the Old Barracks Museum, spoke about George Washington as a "General Soldier."

After the luncheon and speaker presentation, the Society voted for and installed a new slate of officers, which includes the following names: Robert Olson, MD, President; Charles J. Scammell, Vice President; Glen E. Beebe, Secretary; John Idenden, Jr., Treasurer; Randall W. Richards, III, Ed.D., Registrar; Robert P. Vivian, Jr., Historian; V. Brian Anderson, Chaplain; George J. Hill, MD, Surgeon; Kevin M. Elliot, Librarian; CDR Scott Scammell, III, Marshall; CDR Harrie E. Copleand, III, Color Guard Captain; R. Caswell Cooke, Jr., Representa-

tive to the General Society



*Old Barracks' Fife & Drum Corps.
— photo courtesy of Glen Beebe*

Singing Out the Toriestavern

Members of the Sons of the Revolution from Pennsylvania and New Jersey joined forces at the Black Bass Hotel (and tavern) on Veterans Day to "Sing the Tories Out of the Tavern." About 20 people, mostly from the Daniel Bray chapter in Hunterdon County, N.J., showed up for the Friday night singing and storytelling event. The evening combined singing with historical lectures and genealogy storytelling by a few of the members.



A Patriot's Place—just for one night.—photo courtesy of Charlie Scammell

The idea behind it was to honor the veterans, learn a bit more about the role of the Tories during the Revolution, get to know the family history of some of the members, and have fun. The SR group had reserved the entire downstairs tavern with its stone walls, fireplace and beamed ceiling. It was a perfect tavern atmosphere with frivolity, camaraderie and storytelling

The Black Bass was built in 1745 and has long

been known as a Tory, or Loyalist, hangout from the days of the Revolutionary War. Even today, the charming old hotel and tavern along the Delaware River displays English paraphernalia throughout. Legend has it that George Washington was turned away at the door.

A merry ol' time was had by all who attended. The irony of a patriotic group meeting in a Loyalist tavern wasn't lost on anyone, and, indeed, was humorous!—*submitted by Charlie Scammell*

NEW YORK

Annual Meeting held in December

The 2011 annual meeting of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York was held on December 4, 2011. The date itself is a commemoration of the day George Washington bid farewell to his officers in the Long Room: December 4, 1783. Exactly one-hundred years later, on December 4, 1883, the Society began holding an annual dinner on that day to pay homage to Washington's farewell. It was called the Turtle Feast.



Michael H. Charles leads the procession of guests.
—photo by Matthew Carasella

During the 2011 meeting the following officers and board members were elected and installed:

Officers

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| President | James R. Grayshaw |
| First Vice President | Stephen T. Whelan |
| Second Vice President | Andrew W. Russell |
| Third Vice President | Christopher M. Norfleet |
| Secretary | Michael P. Coneys |
| Treasurer | Ambrose M. Richardson III |
| Registrar | Raymond Manning |
| Chaplain | Rev. Christopher M. Cullen, SJ |

Board of Managers

Robert A. Bell
Kenneth H. Chase
John P. Coombe
Brian Gill
Daniel H. Harman III
Bruce E. Jones

Cornwell C. Martin
Wesley M. Oler IV
George J. Owen
Frederick W. Pattison
Rev. Thomas Pike
Charles A. Poekel, Jr.
Jonathan W. Ridgeway
Edwin David Robertson
David Sanchez, Jr.
Steven P. Trusnovac
Craig H. Weaver



President and Mrs. James R. Grayshaw.
—photo courtesy of Matthew Carasella

Tallmadge Night Stated Meeting

On the evening of January 23, 2012, the Society held its annual Tallmadge Night Stated Meeting. This yearly dinner affair commemorates the birthday and past membership of Frederick Samuel Tallmadge (1824-1904). Mr. Tallmadge's grandfather, Benjamin, had participated in the Revolutionary War, achieving the rank of Colonel and the praise of George Washington. Frederick Samuel Tallmadge became the second President of the SRNY in 1884, a position he held for twenty years. Indeed, under his leadership the SRNY developed most of its traditions that are still honored and followed today.

Tallmadge's dream, and that of the other founders, was to have a permanent SRNY address at 54 Pearl Street, in the famous Fraunces Tavern. His last official act as the Society's President was to sign the document which allowed the Sons of the Revolution to take possession of the Fraunces Tavern building.

With his death, he generously bequeathed to the Society a townhouse in Gramercy Park, along with many other items, which provided the necessary monies to hire a historic architect to restore the Fraunces Tavern building to its Revolutionary War-era condition. It reopened in 1907. A large bronze

plaque on the exterior of the building reads, "Tallmadge Memorial." The plaque presents the building itself as a memorial to the memory and legacy of Frederick Samuel Tallmadge.

The annual Tallmadge Night Stated Meeting has been a Society tradition since 1905. This year's occasion also served to give a public thanks to the Fraunces Tavern Museum's volunteer docents, who on a daily basis contribute significantly to the institution's educational mission. "It was my pleasure to honor them and give them the praise they deserve," said Jennifer Patton, the museum's education director.—*by Past President Dr. Laurence Simpson*



*The U.S. Military Academy (West Point), the Knickerbocker Greys, and the SRNY Color Guard.
—photo by Matthew Carasella*

Celebrating the 135th Annual George Washington Ball

On Thursday, February 16, 2012, the SRNY and the The Knickerbocker Chapter, NSDAR, co-hosted the Society's 135th Annual George Washington Ball at The Metropolitan Club in New York City. A colorful event rich in tradition and ceremony, the George Washington Birthday Ball honors the birth of the famous General and first President of the United States. It also serves as a time to recognize the people who give to the Society in various ways.

The awarding of the SRNY's Distinguished Patriot Award during the ball each year provides the Society a meaningful way to recognize individuals who give to their country in significant ways. The

award this year went to Fang A. Wong, National Commander of the American Legion. A naturalized American citizen of Chinese descent, Commander Wong's story is inspiring, not only as an example of first-class patriotism, but also as the embodiment of the American Dream.

Commander Wong was born in Canton, China, and immigrated to the United States as a 12-year-old in 1960. He volunteered for service in the U.S. Army in 1969, serving 25 months in Vietnam. After retiring from the Army in 1989 he became deeply involved in community and veterans affairs. Through his American Legion post in New York's Chinatown, Mr. Wong helped direct relief efforts in the aftermath of 9/11.

His diverse volunteer activities have included membership on the Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment and Training and Employer Outreach of the Department of Labor, and serving as chairman of the Special Investigation Committee for the Chinese Community Benevolent Association (NYC) and the Office of the Attorney General, State of New York.

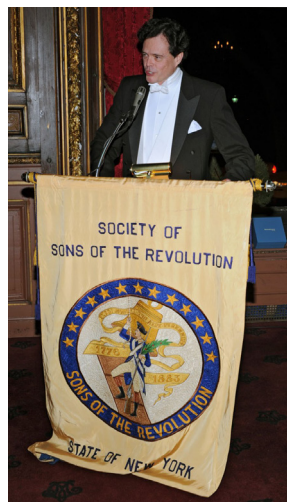
The Society has been bestowing its Distinguished Patriot Award at the Ball since 1961. In 2011, in recognition of the ten-year anniversary of the events of 9/11, the award went to Fire Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano and the entire New York City Fire Department. --*submitted by Anthony Wellman*

122nd Annual SRNY Church Service

Three days after the Birthday Ball took place, the SRNY held its 122nd Annual Church Service and remembered all Society members who died during the prior year. Those names include:

Mortimer Chute, Jr.
Frank H. Cram, Jr.
Henry Darlington III
John Hagy Davis
Warren E. Diefendorf, Jr.
William C. Dwiggin
Edwin Ridley Finch, Esq.
Dr. Robert L. French
Captain Harry Hahn
Warren L. Hansley
Edwin A. Howe
Bruce A. McKay
Robert M. Ogden III
Edwin A. Ramsdell
W. Scott Van Alstyne, Jr.
Rev. Charles C. Wilcox III

—*submitted by Anthony Wellman*



*Master of Ceremonies
Anthony Wellman. —photo
courtesy of Matthew
Carasella*

NORTH CAROLINA

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of North Carolina joined members of the Society of the Cincinnati, SAR, DAR, Society of Colonial Wars, Founders & Patriots and Colonial Dames for a formal dinner honoring our First Commander in Chief and President.

According to the Julian calendar, February 11, 1731, was the original date of George Washington's birth, so it was fitting to hold the occasion on that date. To himself, Washington always thought of his birth date as being that according to the Julian calendar, instead of the Gregorian calendar date of February 22, 1732.

The day started off with a tour of the exhibit, "The Story of North Carolina," at the North Carolina Museum of History. The exhibit included a detailed review of the Revolutionary War. The dinner took place on the site of Isaac Hunter's Tavern, which played a part in the development of the state of North Carolina in the aftermath of the war.

The color guard entered with drum and pipes in a grand ceremony. The leadership of the attending societies did a brilliant job of explaining the purpose and membership requirements of their societies. We received many compliments on the displays from the societies. The featured speaker, by highlighting the differences in the war between the north and the south, gave us many new perspectives on the overall impact that George Washington had as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army.

The patriotic synergy between the organizations made this event much more than the sum of the parts. A great time was had by all. Huzzah!!
—submitted by Jeffrey Lambert

PENNSYLVANIA

In early 2012, Robert R. Van Gulick, Jr. became Captain of the Pennsylvania Society, Sons of the Revolution (PSSR) Color Guard, succeeding W. Steven Mark, MD who had captained the Guard the previous five years. Rob's first major event as Captain was the PSSR George Washington Birthday Ball held at the Union League of Philadelphia on February 18, where the Color Guard posted colors in a ceremonial parade of flags in the large ballroom. The formal Ball was attended by over 200, with President Benjamin C. Frick, Esq. presiding.

Traditional toasts were offered by Society officers, followed by a marvelous banquet and danc-

ing. The PSSR has held annual commemorations of Washington's birthday since 1904.—submitted by Lanny Patten



Color Guard Captain Robert R. Van Gulick, Jr.
—photo courtesy Lanny Patten

RHODE ISLAND

Annual Meeting held in August

The Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the Revolution held its annual meeting and luncheon on August 30, 2011, at the Clambake Club in Middletown. During the meeting, new officers were elected and installed. The full list of names is as follows:

Officers

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| President: | Col. Frank S. Hale, II |
| Vice President: | Curtis Magee |
| Secretary: | Bruce F. Westgate |
| Treasurer: | Michael Dring |
| Historian: | Col. Bruce MacGunnigle |

The occasion's speaker was Lee Tracy, who provided a slide presentation of the restored William Ellery gravesite, a project which was sponsored by the Rhode Island Sons.

On February 22, 2012, the Society met again to celebrate George Washington's birthday. The meeting took place at the Redwood Library in Newport, where there was a reading of Washington's Prayer, followed by a musket salute by members of the Newport Artillery Company.

After the ceremony, members gathered at La-Forge Casino for a luncheon, during which toasts were given in the memory of Patriot leaders responsible for defending the colonists' freedoms from British rule.

New Book by Bruce MacGunnigle

Respected historian, prolific writer, and long-

time member of this patriotic Society and others, Bruce MacGunnigle has published a new book entitled *Regimental Book, First Rhode Island Regiment for 1781, Etc.* The time period of the materials presented actually extends far beyond the year 1781 to encapsulate the entire war. In this tome, readers will catch a glimpse of the physical descriptions of over 500 soldiers, including their height, weight, hair color, age, and occupation, as well as birth and enlistment details.

Furthermore, the book includes a register of casualties, honorary badges of distinction, and furlough details. A meticulous index enables readers to quickly find records of individuals.

The First Rhode Island Regiment was sometimes called the Black Regiment for its diverse enlistments, and the records of those men are particularly revealing. In addition to Rhode Islanders, there were men among the ranks from Spain, Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean as well.

The history is published by the Rhode Island Society of the S.A.R. For more information, visit the society's website, www.rhodeislandsar.org
—submitted by Bruce F. Westgate

SOUTH CAROLINA

A Double Envelopment 231 Years Ago

On January 14-15, 2012, Cowpens National Battlefield celebrated the 231st anniversary of a Revolutionary War battle that helped turn the tide of war to the advantage of the Patriots. The activities were free, family-oriented, and open to the public.

All weekend a Revolutionary War soldier encampment was set up and operating for visitors to observe camp life and ask re-enactors questions about daily life in the Revolutionary War. Members of the 3rd Continental Light Dragoons put on eighteenth-century cavalry demonstrations. Rangers offered guided walking tours of the battlefield. Other re-enactors presented musket, rifle, and cannon firing demonstrations of the appropriate period. There were also lectures, storytelling, and book signings by authors.

Several SR members from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee attended the battle celebration. Other lineage groups were also well represented.

A pasturing area at the time of the battle, Cowpens Battlefield commemorates the site where General Daniel Morgan and his army turned the flanks of Banastre Tarleton's "British Legion" in a classic military tactic known as a double envelopment. The result was a victory considered to the turning

point in the Revolutionary War.

A large crowd participated in this year's weekend events, which included artillery, cavalry and blacksmithing demonstrations, guided walks on the battlefield and hands-on activities for children, including quill-pen writing, sachet making, and cartridge rolling.—submitted by Jeff Jordan

Project for KM Welcome Center

The S.C. Society has identified a worthwhile fundraising project to enhance the entrance of the Welcome Center at King's Mountain National Military Park: a replica of the 83-foot white marble obelisk located on the battlefield to stand in front of the National Park Welcome Center.

Society Vice President Jeff Jordan announced the project in the last quarter of 2011. "Our goal is to raise \$10,000. We're encouraging everyone to contact businesses, family, friends, and acquaintances to donate items of value for auction."

The existing obelisk on the battlefield was installed by the federal government in 1909 as a symbol of the importance of the Revolutionary War battle, which occurred there on October 7, 1780. Along with the large tombstone of British Maj. Patrick Ferguson, the battlefield obelisk is the most commonly recognized monument of the park.

To donate to the cause or to learn more about the project, contact Jeff Jordan via email at jjordan@sc.rr.com. —submitted by Jeff Jordan

TENNESSEE

Remembering Past President Acuff

Dr. William (Bill) Joseph Acuff, Sr., who was Society President in 2003-2007, has succumbed. He was 81. His health had slowly deteriorated following a fall that damaged his kidneys, and he passed away peacefully at his beloved home and farm in South Knoxville on March 16, 2012.

Dr. Acuff was a loving father and husband, revered physician, trusted friend, and respected community leader. Early in life he realized he could be a conduit for God's love through service to the sick and destitute, following the mandate of Matthew 25:40.

He graduated in 1956 from University of Tennessee School of Medicine at Memphis and did his residency and internship at UT Hospital in Knoxville, where he later became Chief of Surgery. Subsequently he became Chief of Staff at Baptist Hospital, specializing in colon and rectal surgery. He received numerous accolades for his skills as a

physician and served many years on the Board of Trustees of Baptist Health Systems.



William Acuff, M.D., 1931-2012

For more than fifty years, Bill was a faithful member of First Baptist Church of Knoxville. He supported and encouraged the Baptist Collegiate Ministry for many years as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. A dedicated historian and preservationist, Bill also served on the advisory board of the Museum of Appalachia and was active in the Sons.

He is survived by his loving wife and best friend of thirty-six years, Sandra McKinnish Acuff and beloved children: Bill Acuff Jr. and wife Yarit of Atlanta, GA; Jane Acuff and partner Linda of Decatur, Georgia; Lisa Acuff of Gatlingburg, TN; Mary Acuff of Pigeon Forge, TN; Alex Acuff and wife Samantha of Atlanta, GA; and Nora Acuff of Knoxville, TN. Bill is also survived by 11 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, mother-in-law Evelyn Kent, sister Evelyn Lawes, sister-in-law Vickie Pecsok, and numerous nieces and nephews.

—submitted by David Whaley

February Meeting a Big Success

The Society's 118th Annual Meeting was held February 25, 2012, in honor of George Washington's birthday, as is customary. The meeting featured reports of the Society's affairs, a review of the past year's activities, next year's plans, and the election and installment of new officers.

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam, a Society member, had been scheduled to give the keynote speech at the banquet, but when the Governor's Conference in Washington, D.C., was slated for that weekend as well, he had to change his schedule. In the governor's place, U.S. Representative John R. Ragan, from Tennessee's 33rd District, spoke.

The Master of Ceremonies again this year was

the ever-popular WVLT News Anchor and board member Alan Williams. The evening began with the presentation of colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, the Salute to the Tennessee Flag, and the invocation. Following the invocation, there were several toasts given before other societies brought official greetings, including the TNSSAR, the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, and the General Society.

The following officers and board members were duly elected and installed:

Officers

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| President: | Timothy (Tim) Massey |
| Vice President: | Bertram (Bert) Chalfant, Jr. |
| Secretary: | David Rutherford |
| Treasurer: | James (Jim) Rivers |
| Registrar: | Larry Fox |
| Chaplain (Acting): | William (Bill) Christeberry |
| Delegate to GSSR: | David Whaley |

Board Members

Joe Alexander
 Stephen (Steve) Blevins
 David Bodenheimer
 Martin Cash, Sr.
 Terry Davenport
 Robert (Bob) Evans
 Reid Gryder
 Gene Hicks
 Gary McDonald, Sr.
 Gerald (Jerry) Mustin
 Harry Patton
 Gerald Ross, Sr.
 Fred Sherrodd
 David (Dave) Whaley
 Alan Williams

** Prior to his death, Dr. William (Bill) Acuff, Sr., had also been elected as a member of the board.*

—submitted by David Whaley

Old Veterans Receive New Stones

General President Terry Davenport and the McFarland Chapter of the Tennessee Society joined members of the Samuel Doak Chapter of the Tennessee D.A.R. to commemorate two Revolutionary War veterans buried at the Bent Creek Cemetery in Whitesburg, Tennessee. The ceremony, held in November of last year, was moving for the soldiers' family members who were present.



A considerable group gathered at the unveiling of the new headstones. —photo courtesy David Rutherford

The two veterans are John Arnot and Alexander McDonald. Besides the family members, Samuel Doak Chapter Regent Barbara Baker and Chaplain Ina Schmidt were on hand, along with SR Chapter members David Rutherford, R. Donahue Bible, and Warren Ridley.

The Sons placed the markers for both soldiers after Mr. Bible had documented their service and asked for assistance from the D.A.R. Both of the soldiers are ancestors of deceased members of the D.A.R. Chapter. John Arnot is an ancestor to former D.A.R. member Helen Arnett Danison. Alexander McDonald is an ancestor of past members Carol Cooper Matthews and Norma Walker Taylor.

Arnot served in the New York Militia under a Col. Pawling and Capt. Faulkner, and McDonald served under a Capt. May in the 2nd District of Botetourt County, Va.

Charles Gray, who for many years has been the caretaker of Bent Creek Cemetery, verified the location of both graves and authorized the placing of the markers. Mr. Ridley of the McFarland Chapter was able to locate the Arnot burial plot in the old cemetery from old sketches drawn by Eva Russell, a local historian who undertook the task of mapping the historic cemetery.—*submitted by Terry Davenport and David Rutherford*

Revamped Society Website Earns Praise

The Tennessee Society has rolled out a completely revamped website. Past President David Whaley gave thanks to members Steve Blevins and Reid Gryder for their arduous work on the project. It is a lean and clean design, with complete contact information, an events calendar, videos and a Society blog. It also contains an impressive list of related links. Visit www.tnsor.org.—*Editor*

VIRGINIA

The Virginia Society enjoyed freshly steamed oysters on the banks of the James River in November, with the replica *Godspeed* anchored in the background and showcased by her 80-pound cannons. The Society's Third Annual Oyster Roast was held at Fort Pocahontas and hosted by longstanding member Tyler Harrison (Grandson of President John Tyler). The informal gathering was a huge success, attracting over one-hundred members, their wives, children and guests. New to the celebration this year was the addition of a three-piece band playing everything from jazz to contemporary favorites.

However, the true celebration came on February 19, 2012, amidst two-hundred men—both members and guests—in honor of General George Washington. Known as the Society's George Washington Birthday Dinner, men in "Black Tie" converge annually on Richmond's prestigious Commonwealth



Twenty of the twenty-seven new members who were inducted into the Virginia Society on February 19, 2012. —photo courtesy Carter V. Reed

Club to honor both General Washington and their War of the Revolution patriot ancestors. In attendance were some of the highest-ranking officials of our armed forces, fellow Society leaders and guest speaker Sgt. Maj. Allen F. Farrell, USA (Ret), a professor at the Virginia Military Institute and former member of the famed Fifth Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Vietnam.

Most impressive was the evening's annual membership induction. The Virginia Society initiated twenty-seven new members, surpassing a decade-long goal of reaching five-hundred active members. Congratulations go out to Membership Chairman Robert Ross, Registrar Bev Mauck and the entire Virginia Society!

—*submitted by Carter V. Reid, Secretary*

Flintlock & Powderhorn

ARTICLES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

Mourners in Zion: Philadelphia Remembers George Washington (Part II)

by David Johnston

Submitted to the *Drumbeat* by General Secretary Curt Cheyney

The marchers on the day of George Washington's funeral were spared rain or snow. A letter written on December 30 and 31, 1799, by First Lady Abigail Adams to her sister, Mary Cranch, comments that "The weather here has been so mild, foggy, and dewy, that colds universally prevail. Dr. (Benjamin) Rush says there is a procession fever. I do not wonder at it. The procession was an hour & quarter from congress Hall to the church and an hour & half in church. The Gentlemen say they walked over shoes in Mud. I went at Eleven & did not get home till 20 minutes before four o'clock."



Washington on His Death Bed, historic lithograph, ca. 1850, artist unknown

It is a good thing that Abigail Adams got to the church when she did, for even Zion proved too small for the great mass of people who wished to honor Washington's memory. Not only had a great many of the city's 60,000 residents turned out for the occasion, but many persons had also come in from the surrounding countryside. The church filled quickly to overflowing.

The Music Begins

The funeral procession entered the church to the strains of "Dead March" from George Frederick Handel's oratorio "Saul." Although he had died in 1759, Handel remained, then as now, a popular composer. The formal grace of his music was well suit-

ed for solemn occasions of state. All but two of the works performed that day would consist of numbers from various Handel oratorios.

Over thirty musicians took part in the ensuing ceremony, which featured eight separate pieces of music. The orchestra actually outnumbered the singers. The published program of music listed sixteen instrumentalists compared with six soloists and seven members of the chorus. The total number of singers may have been somewhat larger than a mere thirteen. The final name in the section listing chorus members was followed by

"etc.," which would indicate the expectation of additional singers to augment the names shown.

The musical forces came mainly from the corps of the professionals associated with the Chestnut Street Theater. As the nation's capital during the 1790's, Philadelphia also became a center for music and drama, attracting a notable group of English born musicians and actors. That theater, located less than one block west of the State House, functioned as the hub of cultural life.

Musical director at the theater, Alexander Reinagle, led the ensemble at the church. Of Austrian descent, the English-born Reinagle had made Philadelphia his home since 1786. A man of high standards and refined taste, he was an excellent composer and enjoyed a reputation as a skilled performer on harp-

sichord, violin, and piano. While living in the city during the 1787 Constitutional Convention, George Washington attended a Reinagle concert and later engaged him as a music teacher to his step-granddaughter, Nelly Custis.

When all the dignitaries and participants had taken their seats, the proceedings commenced with a “Solemn Introduction” composed by Raynor Taylor, one of the assistant conductors that day.

Born in England in 1747, Taylor had come to Philadelphia in 1793. While living in Edinburgh, he had served as an instructor to a young Alexander Reinagle. Taylor enjoyed a reputation as a highly gifted composer, organist, teacher, and music director. He held the position of organist at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church for a number of years and also wrote incidental music for plays produced at the Chestnut Street Theater.

‘Serious Air & Chorus’

After the work by Taylor came the first vocal music. It was a “serious air and chorus,” intended to set the appropriate tone for the day. The words to the opening section had clearly been written especially for the occasion, but the remainder came from Handel’s oratorio “Samson”:



The Old Zion Church on 4th Street, in Washington’s day.
—Engraving by W. Birch & Son, Philadelphia, 1799; first published by R. Campbell & Co., Philadelphia.

“Columbia’s sons may now lament
Their spear is broke, their bow unbent,
Their glory fled;
Amongst the dead Great Washington lies,
Forever closed his eyes.
Glorious Hero! May thy grave
Peace and honor ever have;
After all thy pains and woes,
Rest eternal, sweet repose;
Bring the laurels, bring the bays,

Strew the hearse, and strew the ways.”

The subsequent “air” (i.e. area) came likewise from “Samson” and gave expression to the feelings of the assembled mourners:

“His glorious deeds inspired my tongue.
Whilst airs of joy from thence did flow,
To sorrows now I tune my song
And set my Harp to notes of woe.”

The orchestra then played a march, a work from the pen of another Philadelphia composer, Benjamin Carr. A native of London like his colleague Raynor Taylor, Carr had studied music at an early age with Charles Wesley. Carr traveled to the United States in 1793, settled in Philadelphia, and soon became a major musical force in the city. Not only an able singer and instrumentalist, Carr also showed his talents as an actor, organist, arranger, concert manager, music publisher, and composer.

He took part in the day’s music as a soloist. His composition for Zion church bore the title “Dead March and Monody.” The opening section carried an annotation instructing that it be done “very slow.” The three stanza monody was sung by a Miss Broadhurst:

“Sad, sad are the tidings the rumour tells,
A grateful people mourn his end’
Amidst the brave and just he dwells,
His country’s Father and its Friend.

With honour crowned, mature in age,
He fell the wonder of mankind’
Laden with laurels left the stage,
Nor leaves alas his like behind.

Seated in bliss supreme on high,
O! Spirit dear attend our prayer,
Our guardian angel still be nigh,
Make thy lov’d land they Heav’nly care.”

Three more arias by Handel followed, then the crowd heard a work by Carr: “Angels ever Bright and Fair,” from the oratorio *Theodora*. Carr himself then sung, “Lord Remember thy People.” Finally, the last aria came from “Judas Maccabeus.” Its opening words never fail to startle the modern listener, but presumably 18th-century congregants listened with suitable decorum:

“Pious orgies, pious airs,
Decent sorrows, decent prayers,

Will to the Lord ascend,
And move his pity
And regain his love.”

As prelude and introduction to the funeral oration, the ensemble sang a brief chorus:

“His body is buried in peace,
But his name liveth evermore.”

From Zion’s Pulpit

With the conclusion of the music, Congressman Henry Lee of Virginia climbed the steps of Zion’s lofty pulpit and prepared to deliver his oration. A man of volatile and forthright personality, Lee was well known to most Americans of that day by his nickname “Light Horse Harry,” a tribute to his accomplishments as the Revolutionary War commander of a highly effective mixed unit of cavalry and infantry whose specialty was lightning-fast raids against the British.

Lee was an ardent Federalist and held Washington in the highest esteem. Acquiring a classical education at Princeton had left Lee well versed in Greek and Roman history and literature. Lee viewed Washington as the embodiment of the virtuous leader so praised by ancient writers. His eulogy would take the form of a Roman funeral laudatio; his opening words demonstrate the sense of obligation with which he approached his task:

“In obedience to your will, I rise your humble organ, with the hope of executing part of the system of public mourning which you pleased to adopt, commemorative of the death of the most illustrious and most beloved personage this country has ever produced ...

The opening portion of the oration also shows that the American love for superlatives is not of recent origin. Lee continued:

“Desperate indeed is any attempt on each to meet correspondingly this dispensation of Heaven: for while with pious resignation we submit to the will of an all gracious Providence, we can never cease lamenting in our finite view of Omnipotent wisdom, the hears rending privation for which our nation weeps... The founder of our federated republic—our bulwark in war, our guide in peace is no more... An end did I say—his fame survives! Bounded only by the limits of the earth, and by the extent of the human mind... Still will Washington’s glory unfaded shire, and die not until love of virtue cease on earth and earth itself sink into chaos.”

Lee, however, did not just speak in general terms about Washington’s greatness. He summarized his military career beginning with the French and Indian War continuing through the battles of the War for Independence. He rehearsed the achievements of the private citizen who served as presiding officer of the Constitutional Convention and reviewed his eight years as President. As he concluded his remarks, Lee summarized the life and work of Washington in the words which probably remain the most



Light Horse Harry Lee gives his famous eulogy inside the cavernous Zion’s Church.

—image from the Free Library of Philadelphia

famous characterization of the man:

“First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen, he was second to none in the humble and endearing scenes of private life. Pious, just humane, temperate, and sincere—uniform, dignified, and commanding—his example was as edifying to all around him as were the effects of that example lasting... Correct throughout, vice shuddered in his presence and virtue always felt his fostering hand. The purity of his private character gave effulgence to his public virtues... Such was the man whom our nation mourns.”

Abigail Adams, in writing again to her sister in early January 1800, called Lee’s eulogy “a handsome performance.” She also sent her sister a copy of the oration. Many people who heard Lee that day felt the same way.

Those who had been unable to fit inside Zion Church to hear the address eagerly purchased copies of it, which the city printer’s began publishing within days of the event. Indeed the fame of Lee’s

characterization of Washington is in many ways a function of the widespread publication and distribution of the speech.

Bishop White's Participation

It fell, however, to Episcopal Bishop William White to impart a specifically Christian frame of reference to the proceedings. White, a lifelong Philadelphian, had become rector of Christ Church in 1778 and had been consecrated Bishop of Pennsylvania in 1787. He continued to hold both positions until his death in 1836 at the age of 89. In view of the fact that he had served as pastor of the church which the Washingtons attended during the presidential years in Philadelphia, it was fitting that White should serve as presiding minister at the memorial



Philadelphians crowd High Street to glimpse Washington's funeral bier on its way to Old Zion Church. —Engraving by W. Birch & Son, Philadelphia, 1799; first published by R. Campbell & Co., Philadelphia.

service.

Evidence remains sparse as to how or what White did at the service, and yet one can make several relatively sound assumptions. As far as an order of service is concerned, it would be reasonable to think that White used the Book of Common Prayer's "Order for the Burial of the Dead", even though the service, strictly speaking, was not a funeral.

White was not the sort of person to indulge in composing his own liturgy. He followed faithfully the authorized Prayer Book, which the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America had ratified in 1789. The American version of the book closely followed the original version of the Church of England. The orders for burial of the dead appear to have been virtually identical. Both were exceedingly simple: The portion of the service to be held in

a church consisted solely of passages from Scripture. Prayers were read only at the graveside committal. Whether Bishop White read the service as one piece or interspersed the readings among the musical offerings is not indicated.

The solemnities concluded with the overture to Handel's oratorio "Esther."

As Abigail Adams had indicated in her letter, the service had lasted about ninety minutes. Given her observation that it took the procession seventy-five minutes to reach the church after leaving the State House at 11 a.m., and assuming a minimum of thirty minutes elapsed for everyone to take their places in the church, the service probably began at around 12:45 p.m. That would mean that it was around 2:15 p.m. when the first people began to leave Zion.

Judging again from Mrs. Adams' comments that she did not get home until after 3:30 p.m., one can assume people lingered afterwards to prolong the sense of the occasion.

Coming as it did only days from the start of a new year and a new century, in a number of ways the ceremony at Zion church was a leave-taking: a farewell to the foremost military leader of the revolutionary struggle, as well as to the first leader of the republic as established by the US Constitution. Washington's steady and deliberate manner, frequently caricatured as being distant and dull, had served the young nation well. Few other Presidents would enjoy such a high, general respect of the American people.

The service can also be seen as something of a symbolic requiem for Philadelphia itself. Less than a year remained before the national capital would be moved from Philadelphia to its new location in the federal district carved out of Virginia and Maryland, a city which would take its name from the late General and President.

Viewed in retrospect, the service at Zion was Philadelphia's farewell to its own position as the nation's leading urban center. The eighteenth century had seen Philadelphia grow from Penn's "greene Country Towne" to the major center of business and commerce, politics and culture. The nineteenth century would see New York supplant Philadelphia as the nation's largest city, although Philadelphia would continue to play an important role in the nation's life.

Nonetheless, the last half of the 1700s belonged uniquely to Philadelphia. It had been a remarkable era, marked by epoch-making events and filled with heroic figures. Future generations might chide Philadelphia for living too much in the past, but few other cities may boast such a splendid historical legacy. ■

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Please visit the GSSR website to register for the 41st GSSR Triennial Meeting, October 4 - 7, 2012, in Savannah, Georgia. Go to <http://www.sr1776.org> and click on Activity Calendar, then on Triennial Registration Form. Early registration is recommended.

Editorial Policy

The General Society Sons of the Revolution issues the following publications in print and electronic formats.

The Editor of the *Drumbeat* and the *Flintlock & Powderhorn* actively seeks manuscripts and articles for publication. Suitable topics for the *Drumbeat* are articles about the state and local Sons of the Revolution Societies, their activities and members. Articles should be approximately 100 to 500 words, and photos should be included when possible. *Drumbeat* submissions will be printed in a timely manner.

Articles sought for the *Flintlock & Powderhorn* include narrative history, biography, historiography, historic preservation, and related fields of study that deal with the time period and place of the American Revolution. The Editor reserves the right to submit all manuscripts for review by a committee prior to publication. No guarantee is given as to when an article will be published in the *Flintlock & Powderhorn*.

The Society assumes no responsibility for statements or opinions of contributors.

All submissions are requested by email or on disk/CD, but print versions can also be mailed or faxed. When mailed or faxed, submission must be typed on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, double-spaced. If pictures are to be returned, please send self-addressed, stamped envelope. The Society is not responsible for items sent through the mail. Please do not send original or irreplaceable materials or photographs.

The Editor reserves the right to make any editorial conformity of style. Authors grant the General Society Sons of the Revolution one-time publication rights, both print and electronic editions. Articles in this publication are indexed by the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) produced by the Allen County Public Library Foundation.

Submission Deadline Dates

| <u>Deadline Date</u> | <u>Issue Mailed</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| January 1 | March 1 |
| April 1 | June 1 |
| July 1 | September 1 |
| October 1 | December 1 |

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