



Drumbeat

with *Flintlock & Powderhorn*

News of the Sons of the Revolution

Volume 27 Number 2 Summer 2009



GENERAL SOCIETY'S 40TH TRIENNIAL MEETING Convenes in Glendale, California, September 24–27

The General Society Sons of the Revolution will hold its 40th Triennial Meeting September 24–27, 2009, in Glendale, California, a suburb of greater Los Angeles.

This is the first time since 1899 that a Triennial Meeting has been held in the western United States. One-hundred and ten years ago, the third Triennial convened in Colorado.

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of California will host this year's festivities, under the leadership of State President Douglas R. Boyd, Sr.

The California Society is among the oldest state societies in the General Society, having operated continuously since its founding in 1893. An outstanding schedule of events, exciting optional activities and excellent hotel accommodations promise to make this Triennial Meeting a very memorable one.

Exciting Pre-Triennial Activity

An optional pre-Triennial activity, the "White House Luncheon and Tour," is planned for Thursday at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, departing the hotel at 10 a.m. and returning at 5 p.m.

The cost for this excursion is *not* included in the Triennial Fee (see page 7). To take part in this day trip, it's an additional \$90 per person. The fee

covers private transportation, lunch, admission to the museum and the docent-led tour.



President Ronald Reagan's Oval Office

Participants will travel the 40-mile distance from the hotel to the museum through the picturesque Santa Susana Mountains. Following lunch, which will be served on Presidential china, the tour of the library, museum and grounds follows.

The package includes a visit to the Air Force One Pavilion, home of the "Flying White House." The "big bird" was used by six different Presidents, from 1973 to 2001.

Triennial Section continues on page 3

Magna Carta to Exhibit at Fraunces Tavern Museum

September 15—December 15, 2009

 Page 10

A Tribute to Ralph Boschen Stever, Sr., 1921–2009

SR General President Emeritus, 1976–1979

In late February of this year, two days prior to his 88th birthday, SR General President Emeritus Ralph Stever passed away peacefully with family by his side. A long-time resident of Pearl River, New York, Mr. Stever had joined the SRNY in 1947 and served as Captain of the Color Guard in the late 1950s and State Society President from 1973 to 1975.

He then was elected General Society President during the nation's bicentennial, 1976–1979. Yet even the distinction of having held the Society's top office does little to convey the depths of the love he held for this organization and the ideals upon which it was founded.

"Ralph was considered 'Mr. SR' by many of us who knew him well," commented James J. Shannon, Jr., General President Emeritus, 1979–1982.

For those members who knew him well, a piece of this Society passes on with him.

"I did not have the honor or privilege to know Past President Stever personally," said General Society President Paul F. Davis, "however, his



lifelong dedication to and leadership of the Sons of the Revolution were very familiar to me. It is my hope that all those who follow him can carry on his legacy and the love he had for our esteemed organization."

In his dying hour, Mr. Stever asked his son to contact the SRNY so that he could request a fitting presentation of the colors at his funeral.

"After his son, Jonathan, explained his father's wish to me," said SRNY Color Guard Captain Jonathan Wolk Ridgeway, "he held the phone to his father's ear and I spoke most respectfully yet briefly of my esteem for his decades of contribution to the Color Guard and our Society, and I told him I would do whatever I could to serve his purpose. His son acknowledged that his father heard and understood."

The funeral was held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Pearl River. Burial followed at Rockland Cemetery, Sparkill, New York, where Capt. Ridgeway led the Color Guard in a dignified presentation of colors. ■

Dear Editor,

In the Spring 2008 issue of the *Drumbeat*, in "The Storming of Stony Point" (page 13), author John A. Baird references Lt. Col. Francis de Fleury as winning Gen. Washington's prize of \$500.

Actually, he did much more than that!

The real story begins at the bottom of the cliffs when Washington approaches his Chief of Sappers and asks Lt. Col. de Fleury if he could take Stony Point. Lt. Col. de Fleury's famous response was, "Essayons! Let us try!"

Because of his success, "Essayons" became the motto of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and it appears on the buttons of U.S. Army Engineer officers to this day. Today, the Corps of Engineers is the only part of the U.S. Army that has these distinct buttons.

Lt. Col. de Fleury is also honored through the presentation of the de Fleury medals (bronze,

Office of History, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



USACE Officer's button

US Army Officer's button

silver & gold), which are awarded by the Society of American Military Engineers.

So not only did he win a cash prize, he set the standard in Military Engineering that has lasted over 200 years.

Perry A. Colvin, C.P.E.

Major, U.S. Army (Ret.)

Society of American Military Engineers

Life Member, European Society

Triennial Opening Reception

The first organized activity of the Triennial is the Opening Reception on Thursday evening from 6:30–8:00 pm at the American Heritage Library and Museum.

The opening reception is a time for fellowship, a time for celebrating old acquaintances and making new friends. It is hoped that all members may come together in open camaraderie to recognize common interests and common causes as Society members.

Thursday Evening Agenda

6:15 pm	Depart hotel for reception
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Opening Reception (Heavy hors d'oeuvres)
8:00 pm	Depart for hotel

The library, located at 600 South Central Avenue, is only 1.5 miles from the hotel and has been owned and operated by the California Society since 1893. It is supported by the generous



donations of patriotic Americans who value our nation's heritage.

The library specializes in genealogical and early American history resources with emphasis on the Colonial and Revolutionary War period. It also houses a fine collection of 18th and 19th century vital records, family histories, American Military history and English genealogy.

Today, the library comprises over 25,000 titles and is well known as one of the largest collections relating to the American Revolution and Colonial America in the western U.S.

All Triennial texts and photos submitted by the California Society.



More Triennial Meeting coverage, pages 4-7



The American Heritage Library and Museum



The Triennial Meeting Hotel

Hotel Contact Information:

Hilton Los Angeles North
100 West Glenoaks Boulevard
Glendale, CA 91202
Tel: 1-818-956-5466

The Hilton Los Angeles North, located in Glendale's upscale business district, will serve as the headquarters hotel for the meeting. The hotel is extending a specially discounted rate to all GSSR members. Reserve by September 10, 2009, and pay just \$129 per night plus tax.



Porters Prime Steakhouse

The 4-Diamond hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to the Bob Hope (Burbank) Airport, and easy access to popular Los Angeles area attractions. The staff of this 19-story high-rise strives to provide first-class service, convenient amenities, and a comfortable stay in its newly renovated contemporary guest rooms.



Hotel Swimming Pool

The General Society recommends members traveling by air to book their tickets through the Bob Hope (Burbank) Airport, rather than through the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The Bob Hope Airport is just 8 miles from the hotel and offers free shuttle service to and from the airport. Los Angeles International (LAX), in contrast, is three times the distance from the hotel and offers no free shuttle service.



Skyline View from Hotel



Skyline Lounge

Premier Destinations Await SR Members and Guests

GETTY CENTER

The Getty Center in downtown Los Angeles presents the Getty's collection of western art from the Middle Ages to the present against a backdrop of dramatic views.

The Getty Villa at Malibu houses the Museum's collection of some 44,000 Greek, Roman, and Etruscan antiquities. Over 1,200 works in 23 galleries are on permanent exhibit, with five additional galleries for temporary exhibitions.



Getty Villa at Malibu



Griffith Park Campus, Autry National Center

AUTRY NATIONAL CENTER

The Autry National Center celebrates the American West through three important institutions of American history:

- Museum of the American West
- Southwest Museum of the American Indian
- Institute for the Study of the American West

THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, COLLECTIONS & GARDENS

Once the home of Henry E. Huntington (1850-1927), himself a long-time member of the California Society, this 55,000-sq.-ft. interpretation of an Italian Renaissance villa was hailed as the finest residence in Southern California when it was completed in 1911.

The library contains Benjamin Franklin's hand-written autobiography, first-edition works of Shakespeare, as well as the earliest known manuscript of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

The Huntington Art Gallery owns one of the greatest collections of 18th-century British art in the country. Several British masterpieces are housed there.

Frommer's says most people are drawn to the Huntington because of the extensive gardens. You'll find 14,000 different plants that cover 120 acres and are grouped into a dozen distinct themes.



Huntington Library, Collections, and Gardens



Portrait Gallery of the Huntington Collections

For Hotel Reservations: 1-818-956-5466

To get the group rate, identify yourself with the Sons of the Revolution.

CALENDAR of EVENTS

WEDNESDAY — September 23

6:00 pm–8:00 pm Triennial Registration

THURSDAY — September 24

*Pre-Triennial Meeting Special Activity**

10:00 am–5:00 pm The Reagan Presidential Library
White House Luncheon and
Museum & Air Force One Tour

1:00 pm–5:00 pm Triennial Registration

6:15 pm Depart Hotel

6:30 pm–8:00 pm Opening Reception
(Heavy hors d'oeuvres)

8:00 pm Depart reception for hotel

FRIDAY — September 25

7:30 am–8:45 am Continental Breakfast

9:00 am–11:45 am First Business Session

9:30 am–3:00 pm Autry Museum Tour and lunch**

12:00 pm–1:30 pm Delegate Luncheon

1:30 pm Second Business Session

5:15 pm Bus Departs hotel for
Reception/Dinner in Malibu

SATURDAY — September 26

7:30 am–8:45 am Continental Breakfast

9:00 am Third Business Session

2:00 pm Dr. Laurence Simpson, DDS (SRNY)
History of the GSSR

6:30 pm–7:30 pm Reception (white or black tie)

7:30 pm 40th Triennial Banquet

SUNDAY — September 27

8:00 am–9:00 am Continental Breakfast

11:00 am Farewell Sherry

* Requires separate advance sign-up. Cost \$90/person.

** For those on the optional tour, the cost of this activity is \$27/person. Lunch in the Autry Museum Cafe is “on your own.”

Triennial Meeting Fee

The Triennial Meeting fee is \$395 per person. This includes three receptions, three continental breakfasts (Friday, Saturday and Sunday), Friday's lunch (delegates only), Friday's dinner and excursion, Saturday's “black-tie/white-tie optional” Banquet, and Sunday's farewell sherry.

Suggested Attire

Tours: Walking casual

Luncheons: Informal (Coat & Tie)

Formal Reception and Banquet: Formal attire (black or white tie and decorations)

Weather

Typical Los Angeles-area weather in September consists of warm, sunny days. For those planning outdoor activities, use of sun screen is recommended.

Airport Transportation

Burbank Airport: The hotel offers complimentary shuttle service.

LAX: Transportation from LAX to the hotel can be arranged through Super Shuttle. By coordinating in advance with others from your State Society attending the meeting, a group discount may be possible.

Arriving By Car?

For those planning to arrive by car, the hotel offers self- and valet parking. Members staying only for daytime activities are charged by the hour. Overnight parking is just \$16, or \$21 for valet.

Directions to Hotel

From the 5 freeway take 134 East and exit at Brand Blvd/Central Avenue. Left on Central. Go 4 lights to Glenoaks Blvd, turn right. Hotel is on the right.

From LAX: take the 405 freeway north to 101 freeway south to 134 east. Exit at Brand Blvd/Central Avenue. Left onto Central, to Glenoaks, and turn right. ■

40th TRIENNIAL MEETING — SEPTEMBER 24-27, 2009
Registration Form

General Society Sons of the Revolution
40th Triennial
September 24-27, 2009
Glendale, California



NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE Home (_____) _____

Office (_____) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

STATE SOCIETY _____

OFFICE HELD (if any) _____

NAME(s) of GUESTS _____

PAYMENT SUMMARY

Persons _____ Registration Fee at \$395 per person \$ _____

Persons _____ Reagan Presidential Library excursion at \$90 per person \$ _____

Persons _____ Autry Museum excursion at \$27 per person) \$ _____

Persons _____ Late Fee (\$50 per person for registration postmarked after 9/1/2009) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Deadline for Triennial Meeting registration is September 1, 2009. No refunds after September 10, 2009.

Make checks payable to: **Sons of the Revolution**

Enclosed, please find \$ _____ for registration for _____ guests which includes admission to events as outlined on the Calendar of Events plus additional fees as indicated.

Mail to: Sons of the Revolution
600 S. Central Avenue
Glendale, CA 91204-2201

Hotel reservations can be made by calling Hilton Hotels at 1-818-956-5466.

A special group rate is available for all reservations made by September 10, 2009, or until GSSR rooms are exhausted. Early reservations are strongly encouraged.

President's Message

In this issue I have the honor to give a special welcome to our youngest new member—a junior member of the Tennessee Society, one-year-old Tyler Bryce Culpepper.

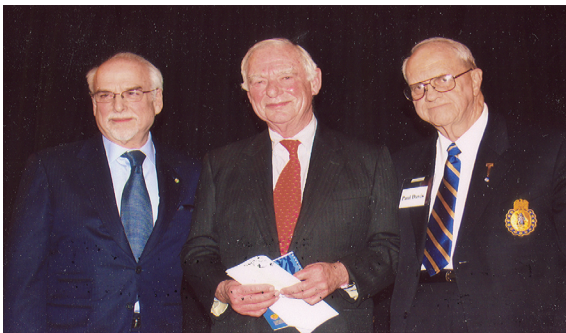
February is always busy, but February 2009 was extremely so. In the first half, I attended the annual meeting of the Arizona Society, then traveled to Independence, Missouri, for the GSSR Executive Committee meeting.

On February 19, I was honored to attend the NYSR George Washington Birthday Ball at the Metropolitan Club in New York City, truly an outstanding event. I thank outgoing President John Mauk Hilliard and incoming President Charles C. Lucas, M.D., for their fine courtesies and congratulate all New York Society members for a splendid gala.

Two evenings later, I attended the George Washington Birthday Gala of the Pennsylvania Society at the Union League Club in Philadelphia. The highlight of this annual ball is always the stirring presentation by the Pennsylvania Color Guard, led by Dr. Steven Mark.

On February 23, I accepted President Ronald Fenstermacher's invitation for lunch with his officers at the Philadelphia Club. The luncheon was followed by a personal tour of the Society offices given to me by Secretary Patten.

The following evening, I attended a welcome reception at the National Constitution Center for Dr. Bruce Cole, recently named CEO of the new American Revolution Center at Valley Forge. Representing the Society, I met with Dr. Cole and the Honorable Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



photos courtesy of Paul Davis
l-r: ARC President & CEO Bruce Cole, Chairman H. F. Lenfest, and General Society President Paul F. Davis

Then it was back to Arizona, where I received an award from the CAR (Children of the American

Revolution) for my statewide and national work with that organization.



Bill of Rights Institute President Victoria Hughes and Ambassador G. Philip Hughes

In March, I returned to the East Coast. I represented the GSSR at the Annual Student Awards Banquet at the Bill of Rights Institute in Washington, D.C., where I had the distinct honor of meeting the keynote speaker, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.



Paul F. Davis and Justice Clarence Thomas

In April, it was on to the National Society of the Children of the American Revolution's annual meeting on behalf of the GSSR.

Looking ahead to July, I will be present at both the SAR Congress and the DAR Congress as your General President. On September 15, I will be in New York City for the opening of the Magna Carta display at the Fraunces Tavern Museum. Later in September, I look forward to seeing many members at the Triennial 2009 in Glendale, California.

In closing, I want everyone to know of the high esteem with which the Sons of the Revolution is held within the greater community of hereditary, lineage, and patriotic societies. It is, for me, an honor and privilege to be your representative. I encourage all of you to become involved in your Society.

Paul F. Davis

Peace in the Holy Land

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

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to terminate the British Mandate by the following year and to partition Palestine. Because of the importance of Jerusalem to Christians, Jews and Muslims, the city was to be established as a separate entity, under a special international regime. The plan called for creating separate Arab and Jewish states from the rest of the Palestine Mandate.

However, Israel's recent and devastating assault on Gaza has opened a new window into the history of the conflict. Indeed, more than sixty years have passed since the UN voted to partition the area into two states, and the only concrete result has been decades of evolving hostilities and untold bloodshed.

In the Six Day War of 1967, Israel gained control of the West Bank, the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights region of Syria, and all of Jerusalem. In doing so, it displaced or curtailed the rights of many Palestinians and other Arabs.

While some of the territory has since been returned through various peace treaties, the general displacement of Palestinians continues as Jewish settlements spread.

Recently, *The Economist* magazine in a harsh description stated, "In the West Bank, Israeli settlements and military zones take up 40% of the land. Israel has laced the territory with walls and checkpoints that box 2.5m Palestinians into dozens of separate enclaves."

Not having an organized, effective military on

which to depend, many Palestinians have taken up armed struggle to regain their rights. These actions include suicide bombings within Israel and mortar and rocket attacks on Israel.

Fearful and obstinate, Israel bars Palestinians inside Israel from traveling to Gaza or to most Arab countries. If Palestinians move from East Jerusalem to the West Bank, or if they travel abroad to work, they risk losing their right to return. Indeed, Fulbright scholars from Palestine are being deprived of visas to study abroad.

Israel has a right to a comprehensive peace and to non-violent coexistence with its neighboring states; indeed, Palestinians and other Arabs must recognize Israel's sovereignty. But this will not happen unless Israel accepts a two-state solution and reverses its colonizing of Palestinian territory. Within the Holy Land and globally, the confiscation of land and building of illegal settlements and construction of walls on Arab lands are considered primary obstacles to peace.

Washington may offer some new thinking about how to create an independent Palestine and lasting peace in the region. President Obama's selection of former Senator George J. Mitchell as special envoy to the Middle East is an inspired choice.

Mitchell favors a two-state solution. He understands that there will be no progress without courageous and sustained U.S. leadership. The outcome of this debate will shape the future of Israel and Palestine; it may even determine the prospects for peace in the Middle East and, perhaps, across the world. ■

W3R Becomes National Historic Trail



On March 30, President Obama signed into law a House bill which designates the 685-mile Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) as a National Historic Trail.

It becomes the first National Historic Trail in the Northeast United States.

The W3R honors the American and French alliance during the Revolutionary War, which ended with victory at Yorktown in 1781. The trail extends from Newport, Rhode Island, to Yorktown, Virginia,

and includes 52 miles along the Delaware River. It passes through Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

Public and private interests, both in the United States and France, began collaborating in 1998 toward the successful culmination of this effort. Individuals from the nine states touched by the route were heavily involved, including SR members.

The legislation was initiated by Rep. Maurice Hinchey of New York and by Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut. ■

Fraunces Tavern to Exhibit Magna Carta

The Lincoln Cathedral copy of Magna Carta is coming to the Fraunces Tavern Museum for a three-month exhibit starting in September 2009.

By special arrangements initiated in early 2007, the Very Reverend Philip Buckler, Dean of Lincoln Cathedral, and John Mauk Hilliard, Past President SRNY, signed the loan agreement between the Cathedral and the Sons in August of 2008.

The nearly 800-year-old document will go on exhibit as the centerpiece in *Magna Carta and the Foundations of Freedom*. It contains four universal ideas that changed the world: The right of every person to justice and equality under the law, freedom of religion, freedom from persecution, and development of democracy.

The exhibit will also feature American freedom charters which Magna Carta inspired: Broad sides of the U. S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and the Flushing Remonstrance.

Flags of the Magna Carta Sureties from the Baronial Order of the Magna Carta likewise will be on grand display.

“We are proud to welcome this historic document to New York City, said Dr. Charles D. Lucas, SRNY President. “Magna Carta is the bedrock of modern constitutional law and the basis for much of America’s freedom and liberty. We thank Lincoln Cathedral for making this treasure available.”

The Very Reverend Philip Buckler, Dean of Lincoln Cathedral, stated, “Our Church has had possession of this world treasure since June 28, 1215.

“The Lincoln Charter was exhibited briefly in New York at the World’s Fair in 1939, after which it remained safely stored at Fort Knox during World War II. It returned to Lincoln in 1947, visited America for the 1976 Bicentennial, and once

again during the 1980s. We are happy to share this treasure with the people of New York.”

The SRNY is still in the process of raising monies for restoration of the museum itself and for construction of the exhibit. To donate monies, contact SRNY Development, 212-425-1776, ext. 18, or email 2accounting@sonsoftherevolution.org. ■



photo courtesy of SRNY

l-r: Philip Buckler and John Mauk Hilliard sign agreement.



THE GENERAL SOCIETY
Sons of the Revolution



A Lineage Society of Revolutionary Proportions

“Lost” Connecticut War Veteran Traced to Iowa Cemetery

GSSR gains new member based on research

By David W. Swafford

Sometimes it takes years of research and a coast-to-coast effort involving various persons to correctly and completely solve a genealogical mystery. And when all the pieces finally come together, the effects can bring a tremendous sense of peace, fulfillment and interconnection for those nearest the mystery.

Just ask one of the General Society’s newest members, Paul Cochran. Overnight, the retired school teacher living in central Missouri gained direct cousins he never knew of and can now claim a Revolutionary War veteran among his ancestors.



Paul Cochran becomes a new member of the St. Louis Chapter, Missouri Society.

Beyond that, he was finally able to put to rest a question that had plagued his family for generations: Whatever happened to Ebenezer Ayres?

Ebenezer was a 19-year-old Fairfield County, Connecticut, veteran of the Revolutionary War.

In 1780, young Ebenezer engaged the British along side his brother and a fellow named Gould Davenport. They were all part of Capt. Reuben Scofield’s company of the 9th Connecticut State Militia.

After the war, Ebenezer married Gould Davenport’s sister, Deborah, and moved out west. The beginnings of a genealogical mystery were sewn with that move, as Ebenezer’s public records in Connecticut were ambiguous and scarce.

The mystery was to become a problem that left a gap in the identities of great, great, great grandson Paul Cochran and his cousins, including another Missourian named Harry Dean Ayres of St. Charles County, Missouri.

But after a painstaking research effort, the mystery has been solved.

“To get to the bottom of this has been very rewarding,” Cochran said during an interview in Sedalia, Missouri. “It was always a nagging question for us. Today, I am grateful to know the facts and am proud of my lineage, proud of the service Ebenezer

Ayres gave to his country.”

Seeds of Mystery

In Ebenezer’s native state, the years following the war began to roll by. Decades melded into scores, and scores became centuries. In short, the memory of this man’s service and his person faded from collective memory. At some point, young Ebenezer’s military record was projected onto that of another Ebenezer Ayres—an uncle to the war veteran, a much older man who stayed in Connecticut.

Meanwhile, in 1802, the younger Ebenezer made another gamble and relocated from Ohio, where he had first settled, to St. Charles County, Missouri, just northwest of St. Louis.

Bottom line: It would take considerable coordinated work between people in Iowa, Minnesota, California and Connecticut before the younger Ayres’ history and identity would be properly revised.

Enter Georgia Stanley

In 1994, a woman in California, a great-great granddaughter of Ebenezer’s, was invited by a friend to join the DAR. From there, she began to investigate a quirk in the history of the Ayres family. The DAR had listed the year of Ebenezer’s birth as 1716. That would have made him a 64-year-old man by 1780! (The organization had based its line to one Ebenezer Ayres on the book, *Genealogy of the Ayres Family*, published in 1916, which was later proven inaccurate. Today, its records have been properly adjusted.)

The woman, Georgia Stanley of San Juan Capistrano, says she used her copy of *The History of Levi Greene*, which listed her ancestor E.M. Gertrude Ayres, in order to trace her lineage back to her great-great-grandfather, the Revolutionary War veteran of Connecticut born in 1761. Despite her breakthroughs, Stanley was unable to find the year Ebenezer died or where he was buried, so she left that line blank on her DAR application.



Connecticut 9th Regiment Flag: “Qui Trans Sust!”

continued on page 12

continued from page 11

That information would not come until 12 years later, when another historical researcher got involved and employed other knowledgeable and determined people to help.

Enter Barbara MacLeish

In July 2008, researcher Barbara MacLeish was working on the history of the first Fort Des Moines (1834-37) on the site of what became Montrose, Iowa, when she stumbled upon the Revolutionary War record of an Ebenezer Ayres who served in Scofield's company of the 9th Militia. She also came across the 1834 death of an Ebenezer Ayres near Fort Madison, Iowa.

Initially unaware of Stanley's efforts, MacLeish approached the question from a more academic angle. "It just wasn't making any sense that this company would have all young men and one 64-year-old," MacLeish told the *Drumbeat*.

She quickly turned to Maureen Mead, a friend and coordinator of the USGENWEB Project for the State of Connecticut, who put her in touch with Barbara Kaye, Stamford Coordinator for the USGENWEB Project for Fairfield County. A researcher herself, Kaye is specialized in the history of early Stamford families.

Back in the Midwest, MacLeish involved three other Iowans who provided crucial assistance in resolving the mystery: Linda Hayes, Mary Sue Chatfield, and GSSR at-large member Mike Rowley. As MacLeish began finding and contacting descendants, Rowley got involved in coordinating and maintaining the communication with the descendants as the list grew. Meanwhile, Hayes, as Registrar for the Fort Madison chapter of the DAR, ordered documentation on all DAR members nationwide who had been accepted under Ebenezer Ayres. This led them to Georgia Stanley in California.

What was the linchpin?

Piece by piece, MacLeish and all her colleagues traced the younger Ebenezer's moves across the country. They also discovered that in May of 1834, as a 73-year-old widower, he moved one last time from Missouri to just north of Fort Madison, Iowa, where

he died on Dec. 29, 1834, during what was known to have been a harsh winter.

After MacLeish contacted Hayes, the latter immediately went to her data base and identified where Ebenezer was buried: Hickory Grove Cemetery in Washington Township. She and Chatfield took a day, went to the cemetery and found the gravesite for Ebenezer Ayres, born 1761, veteran of the Revolutionary War. After taking pictures at the cemetery, they headed to the Fort Madison

library and found obituaries of a number of family members and probate records for Ebenezer's son, Ebenezer Davenport Ayres. These records confirmed details of the family's history.

A Satisfying Conclusion

Today there is no more obscurity over the name of Ebenezer Ayres, and he takes his rightful place in history. Stanley says the DAR has moved quickly to close the line to the older uncle and to complete her pending application.

And what of the bigger result?

"This research provides a sense of accomplishment on the part of our family," Dean Ayres told the *Drumbeat*. Like Cochran, Ayres is a great-great-great grandson of the war veteran.

"I remember my dad's stories on how Ebenezer Ayres had rafted his family down the Ohio River and then used a keel boat up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to St. Charles. He then took the red cedar timbers from the raft and built a log cabin there. We even managed to find the location of the cabin's foundation in a farmer's field.

"My father knew about the [historical confusion] between the two Ebenezers, but he had no documentation to prove the uncle wasn't in the Revolutionary War. This finding vindicates his efforts. "I just wish he were still around to appreciate it."

Maybe from a higher place and a different vantage point, he still is. ■

Note: The Editor wishes to thank all sources involved in this story for their invaluable assistance.



The Ayres family marker at Hickory Grove Cemetery in Washington Township, Lee County, Iowa.



ALABAMA

On February 17, 2009, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Alabama (SORA) held its Annual George Washington Dinner at the Mountain Brook Swim and Tennis Club in Birmingham, Ala. A new slate of state officers was installed, and Cullman, Ala., Mayor Max A. Townson delivered a presentation entitled "America, Why I Love Her."



l-r: Outgoing SORA President Wimberly Miree and incoming SORA President Joe Cox, Jr.

That event was soon followed by the Past Presidents Party, during which former State Presidents were recognized for their fine achievements. Members invited local Boy Scouts to the event for a flag retirement ceremony.

"We were honored to have in our attendance, in full American colonial soldier attire, Christopher Long from American Village," said L. Duvergne Duffee, Alabama member and General Registrar.

"Another special guest was Mr. Clark E. Center, Jr., University of Alabama Archivist and Curator of Southern History and Life Collections of the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library."

SORA was institutionalized on April 16, 1894, in Birmingham, and has included numerous distinguished members through the years.

2009 Elected Officers include:

President: Joseph Thomas Cox, Jr.

Vice President: Jeffrey Alexander Porterfield

Treasurer: Erskine Ramsay II

Secretary: Nelson Harlee Forbes

Registrar: Nelson Harlee Forbes

Genealogist: Thad Gladden Long

Director of Membership: James Arthur King III

Captain of the Color Guard: William C. Cox

Chaplain: Charles Mixson Miller, Sr.

Historian: Edward Ward Stevenson

Public Relations Chair: Lewis Duvergne Duffee

Social/Dining Chairman: James W. Cook Miree, Jr.

*information and photo submitted by
General Registrar L. Duvergne Duffee*

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA



Last year, Katherine Kokata, left, and Jacob Dingman, right, won the D.C. Society's annual cash prize for best historical art essay writing by student(s) of the Corcoran Gallery of Art and Design. Past President Peter Dixon presented the awards.

information and photo submitted by Peter Dixon

MINNESOTA

On February 21, 2009, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Minnesota gathered at the Lexington Restaurant in Saint Paul for the Annual Washington Day Luncheon.

After the lunch, SR President James Fredrick Foster called the assemblage to order and welcomed all in attendance. Compatriot John Hallberg Jones, the State's SR representative to the General Board, then led the group in having each man present tell of his revolutionary ancestor. President Foster concluded the session by making brief remarks on Stephen Taylor, the only Revolutionary War soldier known to be buried in Minnesota.

The concluding remarks served as a teaser for the fall meeting, scheduled for September 19, when Colonel Ronald McRoberts will deliver his program on "Stephen Taylor—Our Minnesota Patriot Ancestor."

information submitted by Duane Galles

NORTH CAROLINA

On February 21, the NCSR held a luncheon General Membership meeting and toasted President George Washington's birthday anniversary. The guest speaker was Jerome Tew, director of the Family History Center in Goldsboro. His presentation was on the Revolutionary War Battle of Elizabethtown.

The Society's next meeting was to take place on May 30th, when a new slate of State Officers was to have been elected and installed. Also, the 2009 Scholarship winner was to have been announced and presented with the award.

*information taken from Fife and Bugle newsletter
Vol. 2 - May 2009*

TENNESSEE

At noon on June 6, a Patriotic ceremony commemorating Tennessee, McMinn County and Joseph McMinn will be held at the Shiloh Presbyterian Cemetery in Calhoun. The event, billed "Home Sweet Home to Me," is a multi-organizational celebration with the Sons of the Revolution prominently involved.



*photo courtesy of Jerry Mustin
l-r: TN SOR members Lynn Fox, Jerry Mustin, David Whaley, and Ron Melton (Washington County Militia) in re-enactment attire at the Shiloh Presbyterian Cemetery.*

The event is meant to honor the state's 213th anniversary and McMinn County's 189th anniversary. It also recognizes former Gov. Joseph McMinn (1758-1824) himself, the state's fifth governor and its only consecutive three-term governor. McMinn, who was a Quaker, served as a legislator and helped frame the state's first constitution before becoming governor in 1815. He is buried at the Shiloh Presbyterian Cemetery. The Anderson County Chapter of the Sons will lay a wreath at McMinn's gravesite.

information submitted by Lynn Fox

PENNSYLVANIA



The Pennsylvania Society hosted a luncheon for General President Paul F. Davis, center. l-r, Secretary Lanny Patten, Treasurer Steve Holt, Davis, President Ronald Fenstermacher, and Vice President Benjamin Frick. (Mr. Frick has since been elected PSSR President.)



General President Paul F. Davis and PSSR Secretary Lanny Patten in front of a digital scan of the Liberty Bell at the State Society Headquarters. Information and photos submitted by Lanny Patton.

VIRGINIA

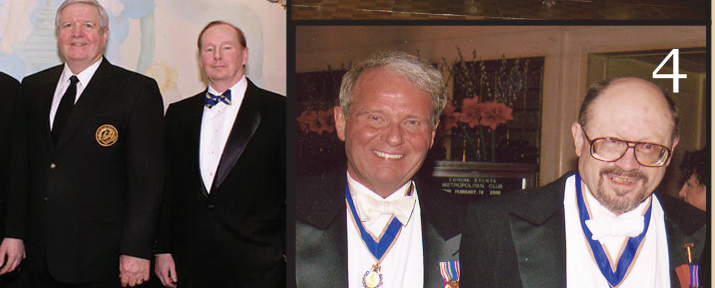
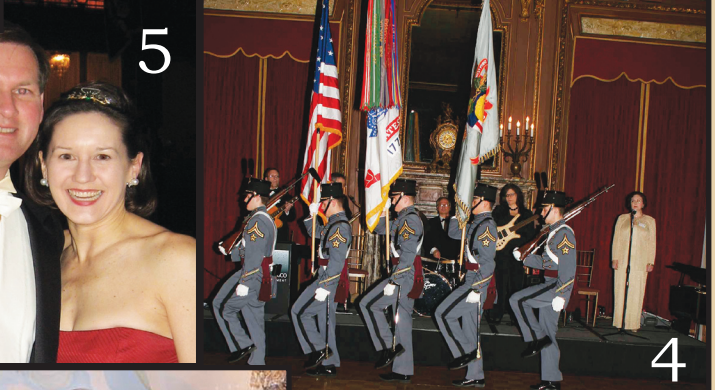
The Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Virginia held its annual George Washington Birthday Dinner at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond on Saturday, February 21, 2009. More than 250 members and their guests attended the black tie event, described by Society president Roderick Gardner as an "unapologetically patriotic" celebration of Virginia's own General Washington, our nation's first Commander-in-Chief.

The Fishburne Military School color guard presented the national colors and colors of the Commonwealth, followed by presentation of the Society's colors on the grand ballroom stage. It provided a dramatic backdrop the induction ceremony that included a record number of new members.

In addition to the distinguished military and political guests in attendance, the Virginia Society was also honored to have former Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating attend and speak at the dinner celebration. ■

information submitted by N. Douglas Payne, Jr.

Washington Birthday Celebrations



Key to State Societies:

- 1 Alabama
- 2 Georgia
- 3 Maryland
- 4 New York
- 5 Pennsylvania
- 6 Tennessee
- 7 Virginia

Flintlock & Powderhorn

ARTICLES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

Counterfeiting and the American Revolution: Villainy or Patriotism?

By Travis DuPriest , Ph.D.

The following article is based on a presentation given by the author before a joint gathering of the Illinois Sons of the Revolution and the Order of Founders and Patriots, and in the presence of SR General President Paul F. Davis and OF&P Governor General John Bourne. Mr. DuPriest wishes to acknowledge the scholarship of Kenneth Scott and David Johnson and the family research of LeLa Whisnant, all upon which this article is based.

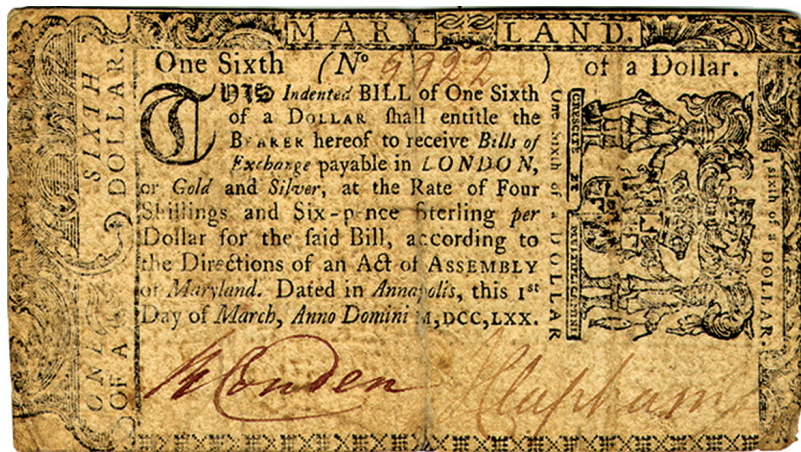
In the early years of colonization in America, each colony had its own laws and its own currency set on a fixed exchange against the currency of the mother country. People were paid in a variety of currencies, too. Of course, Native Americans were not interested in coins or script, so trade with them consisted primarily of wampum, select polished shells.

The problem with any currency—whether wampum, coinage, or script—is that it can all be easily counterfeited. As early as 1645, Virginia already was combating counterfeiting when it passed a law requiring “a new impression which shall be stamped yearly with some new ffigure” on its coins.

As the colonies grew, counterfeiting proliferated and came in to something of a “golden age,” according to 18th century scholar named David R. Johnson. Even though Great Britain tried to prevent its colonies from printing paper money, counterfeiting proliferated.

Entire communities often participated in counterfeiting as an act of defiance against the British crown, disrupting colonial economies by printing bills of credit. The problem became very widespread in a relatively short amount of time: It could be done anywhere by both men and women, and rich and poor.

Counterfeiting also became highly organized. Most was carried out in groups or “gangs” (a master printer, assistants, suppliers, guards and wider networks). If they were ever caught, they could easily escape a rather weak legal system by moving from one colony to another. Kenneth Scott in *Counterfeiting in Colonial America* names some of the more prolific counterfeiters of the pre-revolutionary period: the Derly Gang of Connecticut, Joseph Bill’s Massachusetts Gang, and the Morristown (NJ) Gang.



A bill of one-sixth of a dollar as printed in Maryland, 1770.

Source: The Robert H. Gore, Jr. Numismatic Collection

The DePriest Gang

Nevertheless, printing fake money carried heavy penalties. Many colonial bills carried the imprint “to counterfeit is death.” In colonial Virginia, the law read: “For any person or persons, [who] shall forge or counterfeit, alter or erase, any treasury note ...” the penalty is death and, moreover, “without benefit of clergy.” Even though some regarded it as a patriotic act, the mainstream regarded it as bad for trade and disruptive of peaceful international relations.

Given its epidemic spread, it should come as no surprise that a “gang” of colonial-era counterfeiters operated in the south central Piedmont section of Virginia—rural Pittsylvania County (later renamed Henry County). “The DePriest Gang” came to light in the 1760s, about the same time that Great Britain was trying to forbid the printing of paper currency in the colonies.

The gang leader was a young man named William DePriest, Jr., a sawyer by trade. Born in 1733, he was the son of William, Sr., a land owner in Goochland County, Va., himself the son of one Robert Depresse, a Huguenot immigrant ca. 1685 who settled in New Kent/Hanover County, Va. As was so often the custom of the time, William, Jr., married “the girl next door,” Tabitha Toney, whose family also owned land on Lickinghole Creek in Goochland County.

From deeds ca. 1765, we learn of William’s presses, probably located on the land belonging to his brother, Randolph. Evidently, William was good at his trade: A 1768 Annapolis newspaper refers to him as “an eminent artist ... of villainy.”

The question has always been, was he a villain or a rather courageous patriot? It seems the counterfeiting grew from discontent with living under the British crown. According to family researcher LeLa Whisnant, William and his older brother were both anti-British from an early age, perhaps because they felt that their father had been mistreated by British officials.

William’s initial defiance

The first evidence of his rebellious actions, Whisnant says, was his refusal to serve in the King’s Virginia Regiment. When he refused, a bounty of 40 shillings was offered for his capture. Ten years later, by 1767, his actions had become much more visible, and he had been placed under surveillance. The October 22, 1767 Virginia Gazette had an article on the DePriest Gang with this very interesting information:

“a man... who upon examination confessed himself [to be] one of DePriest’s gang, [said] that he, with others, guarded the said DePriest until he had struck £80,000 Maryland currency, the bills mostly of the Dollar denomination... DePriest himself is now ... committed to a Frederick county gaol.”

William’s arrest was a media event, reported throughout the colonies, including in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts. The widespread coverage of his arrest, however, isn’t the most interesting detail of the story. As Whisnant notes, the amount of Maryland currency William had printed was beyond personal enrichment—£80,000 Maryland. (Editor’s Note: £80,000 Maryland currency in the 1760s would have equaled about \$12.2 million American dollars in today’s terms.*)

Several researchers argue that such a large sum more likely was indicative of large-scale political motivations. Moreover, with counterfeiting carrying the penalty of death, who in their right minds would have joined him if not for a grand cause? Where did the two brothers get all their presses, paper, and ink for such a tremendous undertaking? Who else was involved?

Letters to Tabitha and John

Shortly after his arrest in 1767, William wrote two letters, one to his wife Tabitha seeking her aid and another to a good friend, John. Unfortunately, these poignant letters never reached their intended recipients. The Royal Governor of Maryland intercepted them, and, today, they are in the Maryland Archives. Besides the desperate tone of these letters, they are also noteworthy due to: 1) the widespread contacts William urges Tabitha to approach, including two military officers; and 2) the intentionally vague phrasing to his wife: “it is needless to mention all for you know as well as I who to apply to.”

With references to two military officers and an underground network of rebels, it is no wonder, then, that the letter was intercepted.

His final days

On 25th Sept. 1767, William DePriest signed a confession to having counterfeited 500 Eight Dollar Bills. In late October, Maryland Governor Horatio Sharpe authorized William be moved to Annapolis, probably out of fear that he would be broken out of the Frederick gaol by like-minded friends.

William died in March of 1768 in the Annapolis gaol while awaiting trial, leaving behind his wife, Tabitha, and seven children. Accounts of the day indicate that William “fell into a deep sleep,” most likely a coma of some description, and died several days later. It has been suggested the coma could have been induced from an overdose of laudanum, perhaps smuggled into the gaol by a friend.

The circumstantial evidence against him suggests that patriotic motivations stirred his illegal endeavours, rather than greed or a desire for personal gain. ■

The Rev. Travis Talmadge Du Priest is Honorary President General, The National Huguenot Society. A retired Episcopal priest, he was Director of the DeKoven Foundation for Church Work, Racine, WI and a professor of humanities at Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

William Brazelton: A Patriotic Quaker and Veteran of War

By William D. Lindsey, Ph.D.

The following article tells a story of the American Revolution as per the Quaker community in Guilford County, N. C. It focuses on the lives of a father and son, both named William Brazelton. The father, William the Quaker, upholds principle and decries war. The son, William the Patriot, proclaims Quakerism but is drawn to fight the British at the Battle of King's Mountain. The article's second installment, to be featured in the next issue, will underscore the life of John Brazelton, brother of William the Patriot.

Great historical events are a composite of discrete stories, including stories of religious commitment and family ties—and the conflicts that arise when convictions move family members in different directions. The story of brothers William and John Brazelton is a story of the Revolution in miniature, one small tale among many that make up the large chronicle of this turbulent event.

William and John grew up in the predominantly Quaker community of Little Pipe Creek, in Frederick County (later Carroll County), Maryland. Their father, John Brazelton, was an immigrant of indeterminate British origin who had settled there in the 1730s. Though no records indicate that John was a Friend, it was in this “friendly” milieu (one well-disposed to the Quakers without being overtly Quaker in affiliation) where the Brazelton brothers were raised and where their earliest memories were formed.

William's Leanings

In the year 1758, at the youthful age of 24, son William declared himself a Quaker. Carefully-kept Friends' records track William's movements through the years as he made his way from Maryland to North Carolina and finally into Tennessee. These records also provide a fascinating glimpse into how the Revolution affected him and his family.

He joined the Quakers in March of said year. By December, he had married a Friend named Sarah, daughter of Solomon Shepherd and Jane Wilson, of the Menallen meeting in York County, Pennsylvania. The young couple, once married, lived at the Little Pipe Creek settlement near the other Brazeltons until 1765. In that year, they made the fateful decision to move to Guilford County, North Carolina, an area attracting many middle-colony Quakers at the time.

The move soon placed them in the thick of the Revolutionary War, in an area where residents were so decisively divided between loyalists and revolutionaries that internecine strife was particularly pronounced.

Strain of War

Records indicate that by July 1767, William and Sarah had settled near the border of Randolph County. This is near the Deep River meeting at High Point, which was under the supervision of New Garden meeting until 1778. New Garden and Deep River minutes suggest the turbulence of the war was mirrored within Quaker families, as the strains of the conflict made their way inside households. In fact, the violence came right to William Brazelton's doorstep.

The Revolutionary War pension application of one William Gipson, a local Whig who combated Tory depredations in the area, states that he and others saw two armed men (Tories) peering through the doorway of William Brazelton's house in the summer of 1779. Col. Risdell Moore was among those gathered inside the home.

When the two Tories barged inside, Moore knocked one of them down and managed to take both to the Guilford courthouse. Hugh McPherson was court-martialed and shot, while his companion, a Mr. Campbell, was “spicketed” (that is, a spike was driven through his foot).

It seems unlikely that this William, who would become known as William the Quaker, took an active part in the violence at his doorstep. During the six-year period from 1782 to 1788, county records indicate his home was confiscated on the charge that he was a Tory—a charge whose only basis seems to have been his adherence to the Quaker Peace Testimony: “We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons...”

photo identification: Lost Creek Friends Church

The stresses of the war, the unwarranted confiscation of property, and the holding of pacifist ideals in the midst of sharp conflict all took a toll on the Brazeltons and other Quaker families—including William the Quaker's two oldest sons, William and John, christened after himself and his brother, whom had been given his father's name.

In 1786, Deep River disowned John, the oldest of William's sons, for "unbecoming behaviour and [for] using profane language." Two years afterward, it disowned the next son, William, for having carnal knowledge of his wife prior to their marriage and for having married outside Quaker discipline. In young William's case, his infraction seems primarily to have been that he married without undergoing the lengthy approval process required of Quaker couples. Yet it's clear from other records that he had already started down a rocky path, vis-à-vis his adherence to Quaker principles.

Parting Ways

Whereas his father had sacrificed his property to uphold his faith, son William broke with the Peace Testimony and joined the Patriot cause in taking up arms at King's Mountain, a decidedly anti-Quaker move. The service that young William performed for his country ultimately led him away from the middle-colony Quakers of the North Carolina seaboard. The federal government issued him a land grant in 1792 to compensate him for his service. The tract was located in what would later become eastern Tennessee (Jefferson County).

Because the devout father followed his ousted Patriot son, Quaker meeting minutes from Westfield, Tenn., pick up the lives of the Brazelton family as early as 1793. An indication that the family was in Tennessee by this date comes from a 20 October 1795 deed on which it is written that William witnessed the sale by Stockely Donelson to John Rhea, both of Knox County, of 3,000 acres "Territory south of the Ohio," in what is now Roane County (Tennessee).

Since William the Patriot had been put out by the Quakers in North Carolina, all references in these Tennessee records to William Brazelton solely and exclusively point to the father, William the Quaker. Due to the thoroughness and care with which elders recorded the minutes, the Westfield meeting notes show how lives diverged within the Brazelton family at large. In fact, sons John and William were not the only siblings to be put out. Shortly after the family's relocation to Tennessee, one Jane Haworth—daughter to William the Quaker, sister to William the Patriot—was likewise put out. She had also chosen to marry outside the Quakers.

Indeed, a generational rift was beginning to develop in this branch of the Brazeltons between father William and some of his children. It should be noted, however, that his sons Isaac and Samuel remained in good standing as Quakers following the war and the family's move away from North Carolina.

To ground the Quaker presence in his new community, William the Quaker built a log inn known as "Friends Station." The inn was a favorite stopping point for John Sevier.

Quakerism Evolves

Despite the turmoil produced by the Revolution, it is evident that this branch of the family tried to continue its Quaker ways. Yet try as they might have to maintain their traditional heritage, the Brazeltons and other Carolina Quakers were unable to sustain a single functioning congregation west of the Yadkin, as Robert W. Ramsey (Carolina Cradle) notes.

The Revolutionary War had driven a wedge into many Quaker families of the region, including the Brazeltons, causing some to leave the Quakers for other religious communions. In so doing, rifts and disagreements arose that still may characterize the shape of families affected.

The strict discipline of Quaker meetings and the refusal to permit exogamous marriage caused a loss of members, as did the pacifist stance which the Friends took in the Revolution. On the frontier, that stance became even less popular as those heading west out of the first colonies engaged in conflict with Native Americans. Of course, two much larger realities that eroded the Quaker way-of-life were slavery and the Second Great Awakening. For the Brazeltons who did not relocate to Quaker settlements further west of Tennessee, the family's Quaker ties became a thing of the past.

Through it all, William the Quaker lived a long life and died a prosperous man at 90 years of age. ■

William D. Lindsey is a semi-retired university professor with an M.A. and Ph.D. in theology and an M.A. in English. He is the author of several books and articles.

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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.

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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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