



Drumbeat

with *Flintlock & Powderhorn*

News of the Sons of the Revolution

Volume 29 Number 2

Summer 2011



SR and SAR Color Guards (MA, CT, and NH) gather at Bunker Hill, June 17, 2010.

-photo courtesy Hank McCarl

A Tale of Two Famous Boston Statues

One a militiaman; one a Minuteman

Not many people are aware of the differences between the pair of famous bronze patriots in Boston that symbolize the city's Revolutionary-era heritage. Each has quietly stood through more than a century of calendar changes, and both have endured four times as many seasons.



Whether during the flowers of spring, the sultry heat of summer, or the harsh snows of winter, the musket-armed sentinels at Lexington and at Concord are often glossed over by tourists and may even be confused by a fair share of Bostonians as well.

-Continued on page 6

The Journey Back to the Future

SRSC and CSSR activities flourish

Two State Societies that have been rather quiet in recent times are springing forward with renewed zeal and enthusiasm. The Sons of the Revolution in Connecticut (CSSR) and South Carolina (SRSC) are undergoing vigorous membership



drives and revived publicity campaigns.

This resurgence of activity proves that states may experience low points at times, but they eventually come back. They rise again, as surely as the dawn of a new day. Thus, vibrancy replaces dormancy. Sails are unfurled, the crew takes position, the yacht heels to one side, and everyone aboard

-Continued on page 8

In Memoriam: Bernard Carter Boykin

1922–2011

Maryland Society President, 1982–83
General Registrar, 1985–1990
General Registrar Emeritus, 1994



As SRMD member Frank Somerville put it so well, the Maryland Society's traditional mint julep party held on May 22 this year was marked by a regrettable void: the notable absence of Bernie Boykin. A WWII Naval veteran, a businessman and

a chemical engineer, Mr. Boykin died earlier that month of leukemia. He was 89.

His "stalwart dedication to the purposes and activities of the Society of Sons of the Revolution in the State of Maryland was unsurpassed," Mr. Somerville later wrote in the SRMD newsletter.

That dedication transcended state boundaries to the General Society level as well. At the 1988 Triennial, held in Philadelphia, Mr. Boykin reported that he had put all 161,459 General Society records on microfiche. Additionally, he had entered all post-1985 members, up until that present time, into a computer database.

During funeral services held at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Ruxton, Maryland, his daughter Bobbie noted that her father was always so prepared as an amateur electrician, carpenter or plumber that she and her sisters assumed it was what "all men do."

Bernie earned a BS degree in Chemistry from Williams College in 1942–43 and another BS degree in Chemical Engineering from John Hopkins University in 1954. In 1960 he designed and patented the Boykin RotaRule, a circular slide rule for engineers and scientists that was based on the earlier Dempster's RotaRule, but with trig scales offered in decimal degrees.

During World War II he served as a radar officer in the United States Navy, in both the

Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

The Boykin RotaRule is in the Who's Who Gallery of the online International Slide Rule Museum.

Following his military career, Mr. Boykin went into business with his father at Melvale Distillery. They also established the American Cider and Vinegar Co. Before he retired in the 1980s, Mr. Boykin's later career was focused in the electronics field. He founded his own firm, Boykin Products.

All along, Bernard Carter Boykin never lost his love for the sea. He and his beloved wife of nearly sixty years, Carolyn Croker Boykin, shared a joy for sailing. As all good sailors, Bernie had a passion for well-tied knots and colorful flags—especially the *Stars & Stripes*.

"It was Bernie who initiated and carried out for many years the unique, patriotic Maryland S.R. 'flag project,'" noted Mr. Somerville. The SRMD would identify schools which had no flag and donate copies of the fifteen-star American flag (which is the version that survived British attacks on Baltimore's Fort McHenry and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star-Spangled Banner).

Mr. Boykin and his good friend and fellow SRMD patriot, Dick Patterson, renewed a program during Mr. Patterson's presidency to give away flags to schools in need. Dick would obtain old flags from Fort McHenry that had been ripped or torn on the "fly side."

Bernie would meticulously repair each one with needle and thread.

"He was my friend and a good patriot," Dick said.

Mr. Boykin is survived by his wife, three daughters, and two grandsons. ■

—Editor







General Society Sons of the Revolution
Board of Managers Meeting
October 13–16, 2011
Wakefield, Massachusetts

Your Name _____ State Society _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

Highest Past/Current Office Held _____
 or State Delegate Representative _____

Name (or Nickname) for Badge _____

Guest Name _____

_____ Persons Registration Early Discount – Before August 15* (\$285 each) \$ _____

_____ Persons Registration – August 15 through September 21* (\$295 each) \$ _____

_____ Persons – Optional Friday Boston Day Trip/Tour (\$ 75 each) \$ _____

_____ Persons – Late Registration **after September 21, 2011*** (\$345 each) \$ _____

* Date received at GSSR Headquarters. **Total** \$ _____

Please make checks payable to “General Society Sons of the Revolution”

Send to: General Society Sons of the Revolution
 108 S. Liberty Street
 Independence, MO 64068

Registration fees include: Oct. 13 - Reception and Clambake; Oct. 14 - Continental Breakfast, Committee Meetings, Business Meeting, and Hospitality Room; Oct. 15 - Continental Breakfast, Business Meeting, Luncheon, Tour in Lexington and Concord, Cash Bar Reception, Banquet; Oct. 16 - Continental Breakfast, Farewell Sherry

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM NOW

Call the Sheraton Colonial Boston North Hotel & Conference Center at 1-800-325-3535.

Address: One Audubon Road, Wakefield, MA 01880.

Special single or double room rates are available Oct. 10 thru Oct. 19, 2011, at \$109 per night plus tax with the total cost of \$122 per night. Number of available rooms is limited.

Please indicate the number of nights and rooms reserved at this hotel. Rooms: ____ Nights: ____

Board of Managers Meeting

Revised Schedule of Events

Thursday Evening, October 13

Opening Reception at Clam Bake 5:30–6:00 PM
Clam Bake 6–9:00 PM

Friday, October 14

Registration, Hotel Lobby 9 AM–7 PM
Executive Meeting 9 AM–Noon
Committee Meetings 9 AM–Noon
GSSR Board of Managers 1–5 PM

*For spouses and guests, an optional Day Trip/
Tour and Lunch (9:00 AM – 4:30 PM)*

Saturday, October 15

Continental Breakfast 7:30–8:45 AM
GSSR Board of Managers 8:30–11:30 AM

Group Tour:

Lexington & Concord w/Lunch 11:30–4:00 PM
Reception (near Banquet Room) 6:30–7:30 PM
Banquet* 7:30 PM –

*The evening's featured speaker is historical writer Jim L. Nelson, author of *With Fire and Sword: The Battle of Bunker Hill and the Beginning of the American Revolution*.*

Sunday, October 16

Continental Breakfast 8–9:30 AM
Church Service & Flag Parade 9–10:00 AM
Farewell Sherry 10–11:00 AM

–*A Tale of Two Statues, continued from page 1*

What does each one symbolize? If they could speak, what stories would they tell?

The difference between a militiaman and a Minuteman might seem trivial or academic for some, but for those persons who appreciate historical accuracies the difference is significant.

The statue at Battle Green Square in Lexington (*right*) is of a trained soldier, a member of a local militia. He is not a Minuteman. In fact, the figure represents Militia Company Commander John Parker.

When the British army set out from Boston toward Concord, and Paul Revere and William Dawes rode through the night alerting people, it was Parker who rounded up his militia company and ordered them to stand in formation on the green as the enemy approached. Parker and his men had anticipated a British attack at Lexington for some time, and they were prepared to meet their enemy that morning.

No Lexington Minutemen

It is a fact that on the morning of April

19, 1775, there were no Minutemen present on the Lexington Green. Therefore the commonly applied term “Lexington Minuteman” to signify this site is a misnomer.

The term “Minute Man,” as it was originally spelled, was adopted to signify those men of the Revolutionary period and just before who were willing to drop their plows, pick up their muskets, and join the fight at a moment’s notice. They were largely untrained as soldiers.

The statue at the North Bridge in Concord features a man holding a musket in one hand while leaving his plow behind with the other. His hat indicates that he is a farmer accustomed to working outside under the hot sun. This statue is often correctly referred to as the “Concord Minuteman.”

At the Lexington Green, the representation of Commander Parker has no plow; he has no hat. He only has a musket and a very determined face: the mark of a soldier. Bostonians and others who are sensitive to these nuances have begun calling the Lexington figure the “Captain John Parker Statue.”



Militiaman at Lexington.

The Parker statue was erected just over 112 years ago, unveiled on April 19, 1900—the 125th anniversary of the battle. Funding was provided by a \$10,000 gift to the Town of Lexington in 1897 by Francis Brown Hayes (1820–1864), railroad executive, lawyer, state senator, and U.S. Congressman. Hayes commissioned



Minuteman at Concord.

Henry Hudson Kitson to sculpt it and had it placed near his summertime Lexington home (no longer extant).

Concord Minuteman

The Concord monument (*above*) almost did not see the light of day.

As with the Lexington monument, the Concord monument had the blessing of a private benefactor. Ebenezer Hubbard, a Minuteman himself, was said to have been a maltster who stashed musket balls inside his flour barrels as the British approached Concord. Before his death, he bequeathed \$1,000 to the town for a fitting memorial to the Minuteman and another \$600 for the construction of a foot-bridge to cross the river where the Old North Bridge had been.

Concord had erected a stele near the town center in 1836–37 to honor the patriots who had fought in the war. Yet Ebenezer was not satisfied. The obelisk, dedicated on July 4, 1837, was located on the *western* side of the Concord River, which is where the British army had stood ground. Hubbard thought a proper memorial should be built on the *eastern* side of the river, from whence 500 minutemen and militiamen advanced on the King's troops and defeated three companies.

The debate to search for and contract a sculptor was argued for many years; it was postponed time and time again by long-standing disagreements and partisanship. By

1872, three short years away from the celebration, the search for an artist was on. It was determined the monument should represent Minuteman Captain Isaac Davis of Acton, Massachusetts, who was killed at the North Bridge during the battle.

Finding a Sculptor

A young man named Daniel Chester French won a contest which the town had sponsored to find and appoint an artist whose rendition of Capt. Davis was deemed most suitable. French was twenty-two years old at the time and had been studying sculpture for only three years. Furthermore, he had never done life-size sculpturing nor worked in bronze.

The cost of the 1,280-pound sculpture was estimated to be nearly \$1,600—about \$600 beyond what Ebenezer Hubbard had bequeathed for the project. To make up the difference, the town sold cannons to the Ames Foundry in Chicopee, Massachusetts, at twenty-two cents per utilized pound and twenty cents for each pound left over. In the end, the foundry reimbursed the town a nominal amount of eight dollars.

One story says Civil War-period cannons may have been melted down to create the cast, although another story indicates ten British cannons seized during the Battle of Louisburg (1758, Nova Scotia) were used for the project.

French labored on the statue for a two-year period, 1873–1874, and the finished work was unveiled on April 19, 1875. It brought immediate critical acclaim. ■

—Editor



Note: GSSR At-Large member Bruce Hubbard of El Paso, Texas, brought to the editor's attention the connection between his ancestor (Ebenezer Hubbard) and the Concord Minuteman monument.

–*Two State Societies Flourish, cont'd. from page 1*



SRSC members and guests congregate at Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island, SC. Fort Moultrie is the only area of the National Park System where the entire 171-year-history of American seacoast defense (1776–1947) can be traced!

feels the exhilaration of a renewed sense of drive and direction.

It is lost on no one that these Societies are of the original thirteen states. As Vice President Jeff Jordan of the South Carolina Society says, “With over two hundred battles and countless more skirmishes, South Carolina has a rich history throughout its crucial role in the struggle for American Independence.

“From the first British invasion in 1776, and arguably from the first American defense of the colonies, to the departure of the British in 1782, the journey from colony to independent nation lives in every small town and back-country road, and it beats in the hearts of all Sons of the Revolution,” he said.

The Charter Oak State

Connecticut is no less familiar with this nation's beginnings; it is intimately connected to the earliest European settlements in North America. The first Europeans in Connecticut were the Dutch. In 1614 navigator Adriaen Block explored the coast of Long Island Sound and went up the Connecticut River as far as modern Hartford. Twenty years later, the first English settlers entered the colony.

The state's deep traditions have provided for the establishment of many hereditary and patriotic societies there. It is with an eye on these other groups that Society President Chris Nichols plans to build membership. In one of the first events of his Presidency, he held last year's fall meeting in conjunction with the Connecticut Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America (OFPA).

Later that same day, President Nichols led the CSSR's participation in the Massing of the Colors of the Hereditary and Patriotic Societies of Connecticut. Representatives from more than forty organizations were present.

“As you must know, we are a very small state society with about twelve members currently,” he said. “Conversely, Connecticut has the largest SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) membership in all of New England, with 550 members. Right now, we are working to get the word out about SR and build our membership. We have already received a few inquiries, and applications are on the way in as we speak.”

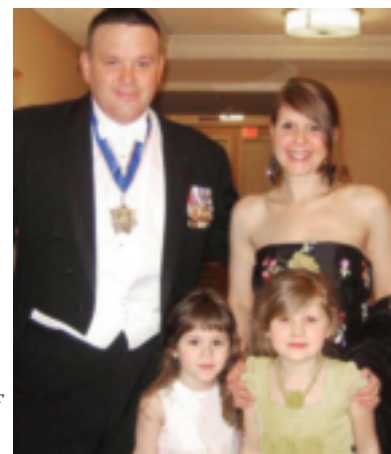
In the spring of this year, the Society held another combined meeting with CTOFPA, the Society of the War of 1812, and the Order of the Descendants of Pirates and Privateers. The meeting was held at J. Timothy's Taverne in Plainville, Connecticut.

Communications is also an important element in the Society's growth strategy. The CSSR now has a website up and running. They encourage all SR members to direct those who would like to join the CSSR to that website, www.connecticutsr.org.



Right: CSSR President Chris Nichols and family.

–photo courtesy of Chris Nichols



Connecticut once had a thriving SR Society. The very first organizational meeting took place in the spring of 1889, but the Society was not officially organized and accepted until 1893. By 1911 there were 208 members. Yet the pendulum swung backward and the Society experienced a sharp decline after 1929.



Combined meeting of the CSSR and the Connecticut Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America.

– Courtesy of Chris Nichols

“I’m definitely anxious to get ‘stuff done,’ Mr. Nichols said. “I’m going to give it the old college try, but realistically it’s going to take years to get our society in Connecticut up to where it should be.”

The Palmetto State

Meanwhile, the work to rebuild in South Carolina has been an effort shared between men in the Palmetto State and in neighboring Georgia, the Peach State. “South Carolina would like to thank Georgia and the honorable men of Savannah for helping us in the rebuilding of our Society,” said Vice President Jeff Jordan.

Mr. Jordan, a past president of the Society, explained that some eligible members in Georgia have joined the SRSC. Later, members of the North Carolina Society did the same. Mr. Jordan’s reason for having joined the Georgia Society? He is related to Georgia’s colonial governor Robert Johnson, who aided James Oglethorpe in the settlement at Savannah.

“Our membership has steadily been climbing mainly due to the efforts of the Society to hold steadfast in the honor of our Nation’s cause for Independence, to maintain a presence within the State during memorial and celebratory events, and to embrace innovation,” he said.

The SRSC is planning for organic growth from an integrated approach. They embrace technological innovation and engage their membership through social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn; they have a new website, www.srsc1776.com, and they also produce press releases and a quarterly newsletter, *The Crescent Moon*, which features Society events.

The original Society in South Carolina was organized in 1894 and admitted to the General Society in 1895, with forty-two members largely from Charleston. In 1899, the Society dedicated a bronze tablet at the building known as the Old Post Office, in Charleston, extolling the historical significance of Charles Towne.

But, as with Connecticut, after 1929 membership in the South Carolina Society declined to the point that it lay dormant for many years. It was not until 1998 that S.C. was readmitted to the General Society. *–Editor*



Official State Seal of South Carolina.



Fort Moultrie, S.C. and the official state tree, the Palmetto.

– Courtesy of Jeff Jordan

Recent Findings at—and about—Valley Forge



"The March to Valley Forge," by William B.T. Trego

W weekend symposium held in late March at Valley Forge National Historical Park revealed the latest thinking about life at the camp during the winter of 1777. *Lock, Stock & Barrel: The World of the Continental Soldier* was hosted by the Friends of Valley Forge Park and brought together some of the nation's leading Revolutionary War authorities to discuss period artifacts, campaigns, army life and the experiences of those involved in America's struggle for freedom.

For the past three summers, archaeologists from Temple University in conjunction with the National Park Service have been excavating in the backyard of General George Washington's headquarters at Valley Forge. The investigations have revealed evidence of a log cabin used by the General and his officers for both meals and meetings during the Continental Army's winter encampment of 1777-1778.

Excavations were to have been ongoing through early July this year, with lab work continuing at the site throughout the summer. Of particular interest are two refuse pits that date to the last quarter of the eighteenth

century, at least one of which was almost certainly in use during George Washington's occupation of the Potts House.

"Intriguing artifacts are coming out of the excavation," reports Carin Boone Bloom, Ph.D. candidate at Temple University and coordinator of field archeology at the park. "We have recovered a French gunflint, the type commonly used by the American troops, as well as many fragments of glass, bone, metal and ceramic.

"Some of the most interesting ceramics include pieces of a porcelain teapot, hand-painted in red and black, and a creamware cherub face that probably once decorated a fancy soup tureen or other serving piece.

"These objects are things that would have belonged to the elite classes; no enlisted soldier in a hut would be using such beautiful pieces. These objects were almost certainly used by General Washington and his officers," she said.

Bravo! BRAVO

In addition to the work in the General's back yard, teams are also working on land at the Washington Memorial Chapel. It is here where a non-profit New Jersey organization

specialized in battlefield archaeology has been contracted to work. The organization, Battlefield Restoration and Archaeological Volunteer Organization (BRAVO), utilizes systematic metal detecting surveys to build three-dimensional maps.

Scientists have determined, for example, where log huts once stood which housed members of an unidentified brigade; they were volunteers of the Continental Army.



“Significant discoveries are being made about the daily lives of the soldiers,” Bloom said. “The teams I’ve directed couldn’t have known where to begin, or have uncovered what we’ve uncovered, without the help of BRAVO.”

The firm surveyed roughly three acres of wooded landscape between the Chapel itself and the Chapel office building, Defenders’ Gate. Through their findings, BRAVO was able to render a map including every find made from three metal-detector surveys, including latitudes, longitudes, and topography of the landscape around the Chapel. The map allowed scientists to see where artifacts were clustering, thus saving thousands of hours of guesswork and unproductive shovel digs.

BRAVO is currently funding the conservation and display of such important items as uniform buttons, a belt-axe (tomahawk), two bayonets, and other various diagnostic metal artifacts found on the Chapel landscape.

Women at Valley Forge

Of the speakers at *Lock, Stock & Barrel: The World of the Continental Soldier*, one of the most interesting was Nancy K. Loane, author

of *Following the Drum: Women at the Valley Forge Encampment* (2009). Drawing from ten years of researching period journals, letters, and diaries from the encampment, Loane gave an overview of the hundreds of women who endured that very harsh winter, including a 74-year-old assistant to Washington.

Loane, who spent years as a seasonal ranger at Valley Forge, explored the archives of not only the Valley Forge library and local historical societies, but also of Mount Vernon, the David Library of the American Revolution, Colonial Williamsburg, and libraries in Philadelphia and Boston. She concluded that “there was an untold story.”

She discovered that just as there had been a social structure among the men at Valley Forge, the same held true among the women there. The top tier consisted of the high-ranking officers’ wives, including Martha Washington, who joined her husband at his request on Feb. 5, 1778, staying until June 8, 1778. These well-to-do women were not exposed to the rigors of daily camp life, Loane says.



Other tiers included wives of the enlisted soldiers and the slaves and servants of Washington’s entourage. Many worked in the encampment, performing such duties as cooking, laundering, cleaning, sewing, and tending to the sick. They were compensated by the army and given rations and a place to sleep.

Despite their skills and any appreciation shown to them by Washington, the Commander-in-Chief apparently was dissatisfied with their mobility and speed. “A clog upon every movement of the army,” he reportedly said of the camp’s women. ■

– Editor

Deliberating NATO's Future

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

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was organized in 1948 for the collective defense of its member states in response to an attack by any external party. Primarily, it was viewed as a Cold War measure to defend against Russia.

The treaty was later invoked as a result of the 9/11 attacks on the U.S., as the act of terrorism was deemed to be an attack on all NATO members. But ten years afterward, at a cost of \$100 billion a year, we are still not winning the war in Afghanistan. Although the war is being conducted under NATO auspices, America is increasingly frustrated by Europe's inability to provide needed support.

Al Qaida may have abandoned Afghanistan and gone to Pakistan, but the Taliban still survives there. Some Europeans contend that they are devoting money and lives to support *America's* war in Afghanistan, and therefore they desire to reduce their forces there. Some in Europe argue that with Russia no longer considered an enemy, NATO may be best served by limiting its goals and objectives.

The Libya Problem

Meanwhile NATO is attacking Libya, based on a U.N. resolution imposing a no-fly zone and authorizing member-states to take all necessary steps to protect civilians. Since neither the U.S. nor any NATO ally has been attacked by Libya, some observers question the justification, even under the War Powers Act.

However, there is increasing pressure on the U.S. from within NATO to provide more

air and missile strikes, given the concern that the Libyan war may end in a stalemate.

Recently, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said that both of NATO's military operations in Afghanistan and Libya point out weaknesses and failures in the alliance. He said: "The blunt reality is that there will be dwindling appetite and patience in Congress — and in the body politic — to expend increasingly

precious funds on behalf of nations that are apparently unwilling to devote the necessary resources or make necessary changes to be serious and capable partners in their own defense."

Gates did not name names but countries like Germany, Spain and Turkey have

refused to bomb Libya because they disagree with the airstrikes.

In Libya, those European members of NATO who are participating are facing difficulties of coordinating air attacks. They also face deficiencies of aircraft and ammunition, together with escalating costs. A senior NATO official said the Libyan campaign would have already ended had the U.S. not provided a large supply of ammunition.

Gates criticized those NATO allies who are "willing and eager for American taxpayers to assume the growing security burden left by reductions in European defense budgets." He also said that his generation's emotional and historical attachments to NATO are aging out. Secretary Gates added that if Europeans want to keep a security link to the U.S., "the drift of the past twenty years can't continue." ■



NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.



Remembering One, Remembering All



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

House of Representatives

Dennis J. Kucinich

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

IN HONOR OF JOHN SHEPHERD AND THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of John Shepherd, the longest-lived veteran of the American Revolution, and in honor of all of our soldiers and veterans. This Memorial Day, we will celebrate the life and patriotism of Mr. Shepherd, who lived to be 117 years, 9 months, and 18 days old.

John Shepherd was born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1729. He was a brave patriot and served in both the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. In 1871, Mr. Shepherd moved to Royalton Township in what is the present-day North Royalton, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his long life as a farmer. At the time of his death, he was the last survivor of Braddock's Defeat, and he was the longest-living veteran of the American Revolution. He was buried in the municipal cemetery of Royalton Township.

This Memorial Day, Mr. Shepherd, as well as all American soldiers and veterans will be honored with a memorial service. The Cleveland Shrine Band, the United States Army Color Guard, the Boy Scouts of America, the Sons of the American Revolution, and a number of other organizations will be on hand to mark this special occasion. This will be a fitting celebration to commemorate Mr. Shepherd, and all veterans who have served their country.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of John Shepherd. His spirit lives on through all soldiers and veterans that we proudly recognize, honor, and thank this Memorial Day.

(Appearing in the Congressional Record on May 26, 2011)



CALIFORNIA



Robert "Buzz" Patterson

retired Air Force Lt. Col. Robert "Buzz" Patterson, who carried the "nuclear football" for President Clinton for two years in the late 1990s.

Since his military retirement in 2001, Mr. Patterson has emerged as a vitally important voice for the American military and national security. He is a popular speaker, a frequently-requested media source, and is the author of two *New York Times* bestsellers. The Society's Independence Day Luncheon was set for July 9, 2011, and was also to have taken place at the Annandale Golf Club. It, too, was to have been preceded by a board meeting at the library.

—From SRCA website and other sources.

The California Society's Spring Luncheon was held on April 16, 2011, at the prestigious Annandale Golf Club in Pasadena. It was preceded by a Board of Directors meeting at the Society's American Heritage Library and Museum that morning. The featured speaker was

CONNECTICUT

The 2010 fall meeting of the Connecticut Society Sons of the Revolution was held at Lee's Log Cabin in Lebanon. This was a combined meeting of CTSR and the Connecticut Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America. The theme of the meeting was to celebrate Governor Jonathan Trumbull's 300th birthday. Governor Trumbull was the only man to have served as governor before, during and after the War for Independence.

Present were Ken Roach, Chris Nichols, Stephen Shaw, Dave Perkins, Rev. Canon Jerry Carroon, Tim Jacobs, and prospective member Damien Cregeau. Chris Nichols was sworn in as President by out-going President Stephen Shaw. Later that same afternoon, CTSR members participated in the annual Massing of the Colors of the hereditary and patriotic societies of Connecticut.

On March 25th, 2011, a combined meeting of CTSR, CTOFPA, the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Connecticut and the Order of the Descendants of Pirates and Privateers was held at J. Timothy's Taverne in Plainville, Connecticut. President Nichols purchased an SR flag and is eager to present that flag in upcoming meetings and at the next Massing of the Colors event. His primary focus is on membership growth. The Connecticut Society has a new website:

www.connecticutsr.org. —submitted by Chris Nichols



Marble of Gov. Jonathan Trumbull by Chauncey B. Ives



The new Connecticut Society website.

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA

The Sons of the Revolution in the District of Columbia held three important events in the first half of the year.

On March 7, 2011, General John M. Keane (Ret.) was the guest speaker for the Society's annual black-tie Mess Dinner held at The Metropolitan Club. The Society's Mess Dinner is

based on military tradition and includes a number of formal toasts. Gen. Keane spoke on National Security Challenges of the United States. He served 37 years in the U.S. Army and is a former Vice Chief of Staff (1999 to 2003). Currently he is a director on several corporate boards, a member of the DoD Policy Board, and an active national security analyst.

On April 26, 2011, SR-DC awarded its annual *Art in American History* scholarship prizes to an undergraduate and graduate of the Corcoran College of Art + Design, Washington's only four-year



l-r: Casey Smith, undergraduate Pamela Hadley, Wade Smith.



l-r: Casey Smith, graduate student Kaitlin Edwards, Wade Smith



General John M. Keane (Ret.)

accredited institution for education in the arts.

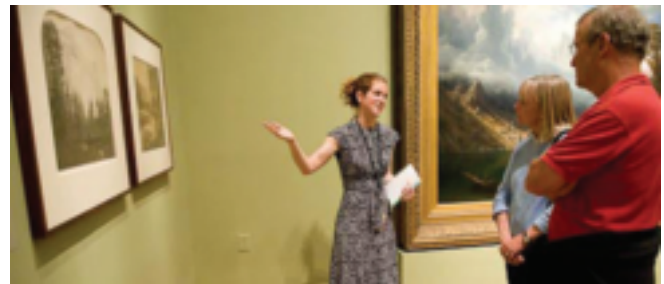
The generous prizes are awarded annually in recognition of academic achievement and superlative essay-writing on the subject of early American art. Undergraduate winner Pamela Hadley chose as her essay topic,

"Manifestly American: Bierstadt's Paintings of the West." Graduate winner Kaitlin Edwards wrote on the topic, *"Thinking outside the Box: The Hadley Chest of Mary Burt."*

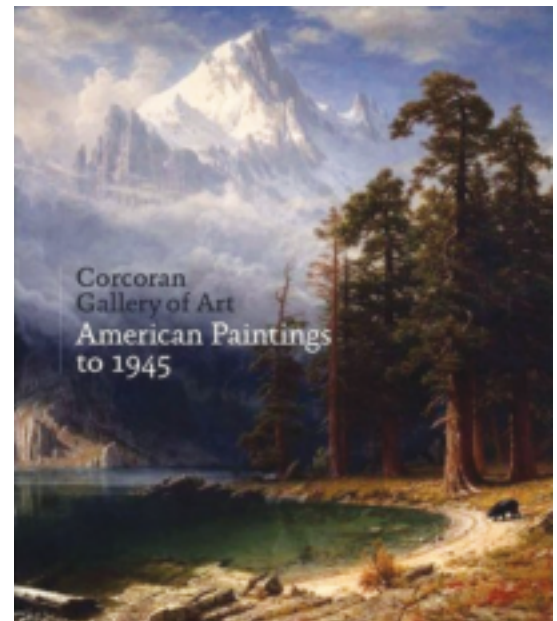
For over a dozen years, the D.C. Society has been supporting the students of Corcoran College of Art + Design. "We at the Corcoran can't thank the Sons in D.C. enough for their continued support in combining art, American history and academic achievement," said Casey Smith, Chair of Arts and Humanities at the College.

The third of the three events was held on May 15, 2011—a champagne brunch at the Cosmos Club. The Cosmos is a private social club incorporated in 1878 to further societal advancements in science, literature, and the arts. Members, their wives, and guests gathered in the East Garden of the Club for conversation prior to the brunch. A number of prospective members were present.

—submitted by Craig Metz and David F. Smith



A tour guide takes visitors through the Corcoran museum



The Corcoran is known for its collection of early American art.

FLORIDA

On Saturday, October 23, 2010, the Florida Society held its annual meeting in the private dining room of The Capital Grille in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Persons attending the event enjoyed good food, camaraderie, and a great speaker.



l-r: Guest speaker Rafael Giraldo with Florida Society President James Lohmeyer.

After a brief business meeting, the guest speaker was introduced. Rafael Giraldo, a Broward County history teacher, spent 17 years in the business world prior to becoming an educator. In 2009, as part of his teaching methodology, he biked solo across the North American continent covering more than 3,800 miles.

His biking expedition was filmed live and broadcast on *The Discovery Channel*. During his talk, he ran a PowerPoint presentation displaying thousands of photographs from his expedition. His next biking expedition involves covering the old Spanish colonial trail from the tip of South America north to California and then east from California to the city of St. Augustine. Those attending the meeting were impressed by what they saw and heard.

–Submitted by Theodore M. Duay, III, CPA

GEORGIA

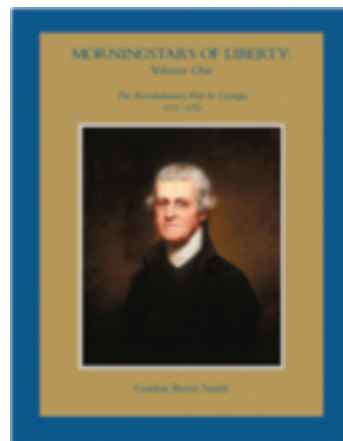
General Historian Gordon B. Smith recently appeared on Savannah television in his role as outgoing President of the Chatham Artillery. The Artillery celebrated its 225th Anniversary on May 1 at Savannah's Armstrong Atlantic State University. During the celebration, college officials presented Gordon's book, *Morningstars of Liberty, Volume One*, to U.S. Congressman John Heddens "Jack" Kingston, who represents Georgia's 1st congressional district.

Morningstars of Liberty is a comprehensive and chronological history of Georgia's participation in the American Revolution, 1775–1783. Volume Two has just been published (June) and contains

biographies of the commissioned officers of the Georgia Continental Line and Staff and service records of the enlisted personnel of the Georgia Continental Line.

Forthcoming, Volume Three will contain chapters on the British Regular, German Auxiliary, Provincial, and Loyalist Militia units in Georgia, the Georgia Whig Militia, the Georgia State Line, women, treatment of prisoners, the bounty warrant system, and monuments to the personalities and places of Georgia's Revolutionary effort. Volume Four will be the history of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia, 1783–Present.

–submitted by Mitchell Bush, GVP Region 3



Volume Two just published.

ILLINOIS

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of Illinois met for a quarterly business meeting and luncheon on Saturday, June 4, 2011, at Bob Chinn's Crabhouse in Wheeling. The meeting began at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 12 noon for the luncheon. In addition to Society members, ladies, guests, and prospective members also attended the event.

–Editor

MASSACHUSETTS



MASR Secretary Jack Manning has created a page on the Society's website with information concerning the Board of Managers Meeting this October in Boston (see pp. 4–5). The page features hotel and registration information, a preview of the work of guest speaker James L. Nelson, as well as a splendid list of sites to see and things to do while in Boston. Please visit www.masr1776.org/BOM.html.

–submitted by Jack Manning

NEW JERSEY

The 2011 Annual Spring Event co-hosted by the Daniel Bray & George Washington Chapters of the SRNJ took place on Saturday, May 14, 2011, at Morristown National Historical Park. Joining the thirty SRNJ members on hand were members of the DAR and multiple other guests, including Morristown Park Ranger/Historian Eric P. Olsen, who was the featured speaker during the lunch.

The group toured the Wick House in Jockey Hollow, as well as the Ford Mansion, which was General George Washington’s winter head quarters in 1779–80. They also saw a movie entitled, “Morristown—Where America Survived.” Lunch was served at The Morristown Club.

Scott Scammell, President of George Washington Chapter, and Charlie Scammell, President of Daniel Bray Chapter, were the masterminds behind the event and made introductions before the start of the day. Just before lunch was served, Scott Scammell rose and proposed a toast to George Washington: “To the memory of the man—first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

Ranger Olsen talked about Morristown and the Revolutionary War over coffee and desert. All present at the lunch were invited to an after-event cocktail party at “Scammellot.”

—article and photos submitted by Arthur Snyder, III



NEW YORK

New Museum Curator Selected

The Fraunces Tavern Museum has a new curator in Jessica Baldwin. Ms. Baldwin comes to the FT after having spearheaded program development at Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum for a successful two and one-half years. While there she grew the volunteers department from twenty members to more than one-hundred. She also spent many hours cataloguing and researching the in-depth WWII artifact collection.

Jessica grew up in the Hudson Valley and spent considerable time at historical sites like the General Montgomery House and Constitution Island. She received her BA in History from Marist College and an MA in Public History from the State University at Albany, where she was able to utilize the state capital's vast primary resources in early American and Revolutionary history.



Jessica Baldwin

"I am enthusiastic about working once again with Colonial, early American, and the Revolutionary War time periods, and I hope to forward the

great mission of Fraunces Tavern Museum as best I can," she said.

She takes over from Suzanne Prabucki, who has relocated to Washington, D.C. and plans to continue in the museum profession there. Before leaving, Suzanne welcomed Jessica to her new position: "I am confident that Jessica will be a great addition to the Fraunces Tavern Museum staff."

Already under Jessica's guidance, the SRNY joined with local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution to encourage high school and college students to submit original works of art, essays or poems for a special exhibit to open at the Museum in September.

Entitled "Youth Remembers 9/11," the exhibit is to recognize the tenth anniversary of the infamous attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, through the sensibilities of young people. The featured artwork will showcase various media, which may include

paint, ink, paper, canvas, clay, and fabric. Acceptable poems and essays were not to exceed 500 words.

235th Anniversary of Lexington and Concord

More than sixty members of the SRNY, family members, friends, and honored guests gathered on Monday, April 25th, in the Fraunces Tavern Restaurant to commemorate the 235th Anniversary of the Historic Battles of Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775). The evening's event started with cocktails in the Davis Gallery and proceeded to a family-style dinner, akin to those served at the Tavern's Bissell Hall in the 1770s.

SR Chaplain Rev. Christopher Cullen delivered a meaningful invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Color Guard Captain Jonathan Ridgeway. In following with tradition, SRNY members who had attained 40-year and 50-year memberships were honored. Society President Don Westervelt served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies.

Two Books Recognized



Pauline Maier

This year marked the first time ever that the SRNY Book Awards Committee announced two award-winning books. The split award went to Pauline Maier for *Ratification: The People Debate the Constitution, 1787-1788* (Simon & Schuster) and to Ron Chernow for *Washington: A Life* (Penguin Press).

"The Book Awards Committee was equally divided and equally passionate about these two titles," said Committee member James Grayshaw. "The only solution was to bestow the award to both of them. They both represent ground-breaking scholarship and writing."

Ms. Maier was the keynote speaker for the evening's event. She created a room full of laughter with a speech full of quips about the joys and challenges in writing a "thriller" about the ratification of the Constitution. Overall, it was a successful event and a good time was to be had by all. The Committee also chose one honorable mention: *George Washington's America: A Biography Through His Maps* (Walker Publishing), by Barnet Schecter.

—submitted by Anthony Wellman

NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Society celebrated its Silver Anniversary on June 18, 2011, in Pinehurst, N.C. Two new members were voted in; a total of three were inducted. The Society voted to amend the bylaws in its Constitution to allow for the chartering of regional chapters. Charlotte will become the first chapter in North Carolina.

In July, Society President Jeffrey Lambert will welcome General President Terry Davenport to Winston-Salem and will personally escort him on a tour of the region, including a stop at Guilford Courthouse, a National Military Park and site of the largest, most hotly-contested action of the Revolutionary War's climactic Southern Campaign. The battle occurred on March 15, 1781.



A large gathering of members celebrated the North Carolina Society's Silver Anniversary in mid-June.

—article and photo submitted by Jeffrey Lambert

PENNSYLVANIA



l-r: PSSR President Ben Frick, VP Murray Gordon, Lanny Patten and Rev Clayton Ames, III, pause outside the Chapel



Color Guard Captain Steven Mark, MD, (center-front) attends to details before the Guard enters the Chapel.

The Pennsylvania Society held its 123rd Annual Meeting at the Racquet Club of Philadelphia on April 21, 2011.

After adjourning, a social time and buffet meal were held for the gathered membership.

On May 2 the New Citizens Committee participated in a naturalization ceremony at the Federal Courthouse. The PSSR has honored this Law Day tradition since 1957. There were 94 new citizens from 37 countries in the ceremony, which was followed by a PSSR sponsored reception. President Benjamin Frick addressed the group with words relating back to the legacy of John Adams. The PSSR co-chairs are John Blickensderfer and Ben Leavenworth.

On Sunday afternoon, May 15, the annual church service was held at Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge. The service commemorates the encampment of the Continental Army in Valley Forge and honors all PSSR members who passed away during the year. This year's service paid respects to fifteen members who have gone.

PSSR Chaplain Reverend Clayton Ames presided in the historic chapel and preached on a subject relating to the Army veterans of 1777-78 and to PSSR ancestor-members who have passed on. A lively social reception and buffet was held under a courtyard tent following the service.

—article and photos submitted by Lanny Patten

PENNSYLVANIA, Cont'd.



President Frick, second from left, pauses with three new members.



Newly elected PSSR board members stand with President Frick, second from right.

SOUTH CAROLINA

A hearty group of about eighty people met at Buford's Crossroads on May 29, 2011, for the 231st Anniversary of a bloody massacre that occurred there on May 29, 1780, between Patriot forces led by Colonel Abraham Buford and a mainly Loyalist opposition led by General Sir Banastre Tarleton. Known officially as the Battle of Waxhaws, the clash there has proven to be among the most controversial of the entire war.

Loyalists argue Col. Buford refused to surrender or even to stop his march. Only after sustaining heavy casualties did Buford order the surrender. Even as Col. Buford attempted to surrender, enemy forces advanced on unsuspecting troops and easily overtook the detachment of 350 to 380 Virginia Continentals. According to eye-witness accounts, Loyalists killed 113 men and wounded another 253 even after the Patriots had attempted to surrender.

The circumstance that compelled the massacre was when Tarleton's horse was hit by a musket ball and fell after the Patriots had attempted to surrender. This development enraged the Loyalists.

Yet the slaughter was completely uncalled for and became the rallying call of "Tarleton's Quarter." This battle cry was invoked by Southern Patriots throughout the remainder of the war until Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.

In attendance were representatives of North Carolina and South Carolina Sons of the Revolution, North and South Carolina Sons of the American Revolution and the South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia Daughters of the American Revolution. Many were in uniform to pay their respects to the men who gave the last measure for our nation's freedom.



l-r: President Jeff Lambert, SRNC; President Chuck Swoope, SRSC; and Frank Horton, Past President, SRNC. Mr. Lambert described Waxhaws as "the butchering of the Virginia troops at the hand of Banastar Tarleton."

Siege of Ninety-Six

In mid-June, on the same day the North Carolina Society celebrated its 25th Anniversary, members of the South Carolina Society gathered to remember the Siege of Ninety-Six. Up until 1775, Post Ninety-Six was a thriving outpost where trade with the Indians flourished. It was located at an important crossing of Indian trails and derived its name because it was 96 miles to the Cherokee village of Keowae. It became a strategic point in the war of the backcountry.

In the early summer of 1781, Continental Army Major General Nathanael Greene led 1,000 troops in a siege against the 550 Loyalists in the fortified village of Ninety Six, South Carolina. The 28-day siege was centered on an earthen fortification known as Star Fort. Despite having more troops than his British adversary, Greene was unsuccessful in taking the town. SCSR Society members toured the area in remembrance of the Patriots who lost their lives there.

—Submitted by Jeff Jordan

TENNESSEE

Living History Day

On the first weekend in June, following tradition, the Gideon Morgan – Roane County Chapter of the Tennessee Society hosted its annual Living History Day at Fort Southwest Point in Kingston, Tennessee. This year's event fell on June 4–5, 2011. Among the highlights, Chapter members participated in a mock attack on the fort, and various church choirs were on hand to provide music for the event.



And the canons roared...

—photo by Martin Cash, Sr.

Every year, Living History Day features storytelling of old, period songs, music, tomahawk throwing, black powder shooting, canon firing, tours of the fort, and lots of food.

Participators and visitors alike can view old-time blacksmithing and see how hard it was to wash clothes with a washboard and lye soap. The East Tennessee Historical Society conducts genealogy workshops during the event, and representatives of the Cherokee Nation are present as well.

Fort Southwest Point was constructed in 1797 and remained a working fort through 1811. At its peak there were over 625 soldiers stationed there. Fort Southwest Point is the only fort in Tennessee being reconstructed on its original foundation. The completed sections of the fort include a barracks, a blockhouse and 250 feet of palisade walls. The fort is owned, operated, and maintained by the City of Kingston. The facility was built on a bluff overlooking the junction of the Tennessee, Clinch, and Emory rivers.



Cumberland Gap Genealogy Jamboree

From Thursday, June 9, through Sunday, June 12, 2011, the TNSOR and the TNSSAR were among the societies participating in the first annual Cumberland Gap Genealogy Jamboree: a celebration of genealogy and history. The event featured seventeen national speakers, demonstrations, exhibitors, researchers—even a horse-drawn carriage. In all, more than one-hundred surnames were represented at the Genealogy Jamboree.

Organizer Mark Treadway, a native of Tennessee, says he chose to hold the event at Cumberland Gap because “over 50 million Americans have ties to this area”—the beautiful juncture where Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia come together at a point. Thousands of pioneering Americans traversed west through the Cumberland Gap.

He continued: “My German teacher asked me to do a family tree as a class project. So here 34 years later I’ve been a national vendor and traveled all over the country promoting genealogy and especially the history of the Cumberland Gap.”

Correction

In the last issue of the *Drumbeat* (Vol.29, No. 1), it was incorrectly stated that Jeremiah Jack, Sr., (1750–1833), was an uncle to Capt. James Jack, bearer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, and a brother to Patrick Jack, Jr.

Jeremiah was, in fact, a first cousin once removed to Capt. James Jack and a great nephew to Patrick Jack, Jr. A pioneer into Cherokee country, Jeremiah fought at King’s Mountain and is buried in Lebanon-by-the-Forks Cemetery, Knox County, Tennessee. His veteran’s marker was just recently installed by SR California board member Jerry Jack. Please accept our apologies for the confusion.



Fort Southwest Point (at left) has been reconstructed on its original foundation. The completed sections include a barracks, a blockhouse, and 250 feet of palisade walls. The fort is owned and operated by the City of Kingston.

VIRGINIA

In early May, at The Virginia House, a 16th century manor house overlooking the James River, the Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Virginia conducted its annual meeting and voted in a new slate of officers.

President: Matson L. Roberts
 1st V.P.: William W. Tunner, Esq.
 2nd V.P.: N. Douglas Payne, Jr.
 Secretary: Carter V. Reid
 Membership Chairman: Robert T. Ross
 Board of Managers (three-year terms):
 R. Garnett Hall, Jr.; Wymond Cabell;
 and Frank W. Roach.

Also in May, the Society participated in a Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremony at St. John's Episcopal Church in Richmond, site of the 1775 Second Virginia Convention where Patrick Henry gave his famous "Give me liberty or give me death!" speech. Society President Matson Roberts and 2nd Vice President Douglas Payne participated in the solemn remembrance, laying a wreath at the grave site of George Wythe, signer of the Declaration of Independence.



l-r: 1st Vice President William Tunner; 2nd Vice President N. Douglas Payne, Jr.; and GSSR Assistant General Treasurer J. E. B. Stuart IV.



Missy Roberts and her husband, Society President Matson Roberts, lay a wreath at St. John's Episcopal Church.

*Photos courtesy of
Carter Reid.*

Thomas Jefferson's 268th Anniversary

On the 268th anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birth, the Founding Father's fifth-great grandson was a guest of the Society of the Commonwealth of Virginia to pay homage to Jefferson inside the capitol building which the statesman himself designed.



Turner Payne, son of Society VP Douglas Payne, cuts Mr. Jefferson's birthday cake. Looking on are: l-r, Dr. Ken Wallenborn; Edward Leake Jr.; Gene Crotty; Harrison Ruffin Tyler, grandson of President John Tyler; and Tom Camden, of the Library of Virginia.

- photo by MEDIA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE, ©

John Works, the descendant and a life member of the SRNY, spoke during the ceremony held April 13, 2001, in Richmond. He cited several instances in which Jefferson had tried to end slavery, including an effort in 1769 to persuade the Virginia General Assembly to emancipate slaves. Yet the fact that Jefferson owned slaves unfortunately continues to mar his image, despite his being a brilliant man.

Also on hand to speak at the occasion was Harrison Ruffin Tyler, member of the Society and grandson to President John Tyler. Mr. Tyler told the gathering that his grandfather and Jefferson were roommates at the College of William & Mary. "They slept on cots on the second floor of the Wren Building," he said, "and they both became governors of Virginia."

Mr. Tyler is 82 and lives in the family's ancestral home, Sherwood Forest. His father, Lyon Gardiner Tyler, was president of William & Mary for 31 years.

Gerard Robinson, representing Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell, also spoke at the event. Joining guests and members of the SR were members of the Thomas Jefferson Heritage Society.

-submitted by Douglas Payne

Flintlock & Powderhorn

ARTICLES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

Patriot Vignettes

The Bible Family of Fort Hinkle, Va., 1775

By Ray Donahue Bible

The Hessians were not the only Germans to fight in the Revolutionary War. There were pockets of German immigrants already in America that joined the Patriot cause. One of those pocket communities was the area known as Germany Valley in western Virginia.

In June of 1775, 47-year-old Johann Adam Bible (Biebel), Sr., was a member of the Augusta County, Virginia, Militia Company based at Fort Hinkle (Henckel). The fort had been built between 1760 and 1762 by Johann Justus "Jost" Hinkle, the patriarch of a large German family. The fort was a well organized operation that sheltered men and horses and furnished supplies to Virginia militia troops headed further west, especially during Lord Dunmore's War.

Adam's wife, Maria Eva (Mueller) Bible, was also a member of Capt. John Skidmore's company. She is recorded to have been "head of ammunition" during the time the Bibles were at Fort Hinkle. The women of the fort made ammunition and bandages, cared for horses, and served as nurses.

The Bibles had come a very long way to Germany Valley. Both Adam and Eva were born in northeastern France (Goersdorf, Alsace), near the



German border. They grew up and were married there before they decided to leave. Since emigration from France was prohibited at the time, probably a result of the significant population decline from the Thirty Years' War, the Bibles sailed to America clandestinely from Rotterdam, aboard

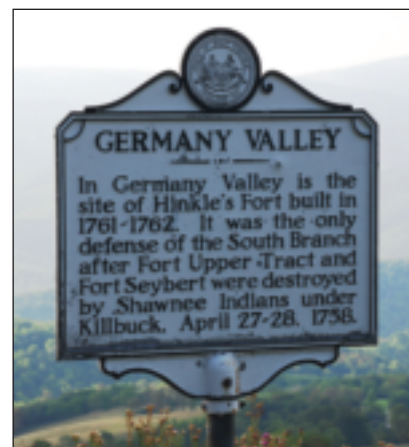
the ship *Sandwich*. They arrived in Philadelphia on November 30, 1750.

After living for some time in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, they settled in the Shenandoah Valley. By the outbreak of the War for Independence, they were at Fort Hinkle, located deep in the Allegheny Mountains on the North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River, in what is now Pendleton County, West Virginia. Records indicate the Bibles had lived at the fort at least since 1770, as two of their ten children were born there, in 1770 and 1772, respectively.

Their older children also served in the war effort. Johann Christian Bible, who was 23 years old at the time, joined the same company his parents belonged to. His younger brother, Adam Bible, Jr., later served in the 8th Virginia regiment of the Continental Line under Colonel (later General) Peter Muhlenberg. Their sister, Eva Catherine Bible, born in Pennsylvania in 1756, served with her mother in the production of ammunition at Fort Hinkle.

The Skidmore Company's muster roll, as well as genealogical information pertaining to the forty-seven men in said company, was recorded by a young French blacksmith, Joseph Louis Cheuvront, who served as company clerk. Also hailing from Alsace, Cheuvront recorded the genealogical information on blank pages and margins of a 1672 copy

–cont'd. on
page 24



The Bible Family, continued from page 23.

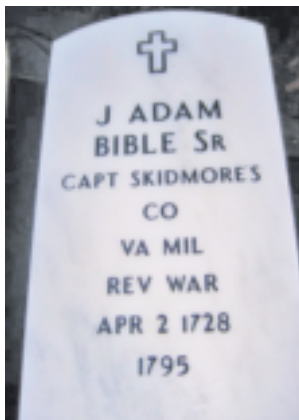


of the New Testament in French. Later on, Chevront would marry a granddaughter of old "Jost" Hinkle's.

Adam and Eva stayed in that area for the rest of their lives. They are buried on their old farm in the Brock's Gap area of Rockingham County, Virginia, just over Shenandoah Mountains from the old fort. Adam Jr., and his wife, Magdalena (Shoemaker)

Bible, are also buried there. Christian moved to Greene County, Tennessee, in about 1790 and is buried in the Bible Family Cemetery at Gum Spring, near Warrensburg. All three men have Revolutionary War gravemarkers.

Ray Donahue Bible lives in Mohawk, Tennessee, and is a member of the Col. Robert McFarland Chapter of the Tennessee Society.



Platt Family of Connecticut and New York: About 'Richard the Deacon' and his sons

By David W. Swafford, Editor

This is the third and final installment of a three-part story (see Vol. 28, No. 4 and Vol. 29, No. 1, respectively) of the Platt family men, of Connecticut and New York, who served in the Revolutionary War. The author wishes to thank Michigan Society member and GSSR Representative Max Riekse, and his wife, Nelly Riekse, for their collaboration and assistance in the telling of this story. Thanks also to Richard N. Platt of Milford, Connecticut.

The pioneering-mercantile spirit that caught the imagination of Zephaniah Platt and his brothers did not originate in them; it had been passed down from previous generations. One might say it extended at least as far back as Richard I, sometimes called Richard the Deacon.

At least a dozen modern Platt lines originated with Deacon Richard and his sons.

In 1639 the Puritan (Congregationalist) Reverend Peter Prudden and some fifty families decided to break away from New Haven, Connecticut, and organize a church of their own, meaning they would found a new community.

They selected a spot on the shoreline a few miles west, where there was a natural harbor at the mouth of the Wepawaug River. Rev. Prudden purchased the land from the local Indians and, with the help of other men, built and organized his church. They named the new town Milford, which was the sixth town to be organized in the colony.

The Birth of Democracy

Of the Prudden group, or "Hertfordshire group," as they were known, there was one Richard Platt, his wife, and four children—all recent immigrants. Richard not only was one of the founding fathers of the town, but also of the original church, where he remained a Deacon until his death. That church is still in existence and is today known as "The First United Church of Christ, Congregational."

As a founder of Milford, Richard qualified as one of Milford's "Free Planters," as opposed to all subsequent settlers who would be termed "After Planters." Without regard to charters or patents, and without heeding a sovereign or proprietary,

these planters went about establishing jurisdiction upon every square foot of land that had been "under tribute" to the Pequot.



*First United Church of Christ,
Congregational*

By 1638, the General Court of Connecticut had been designated to draft a constitution. In May of that year, Thomas Hooker gave his 'Constitution Sermon' and laid out three essential doctrines that became the basis of democratic government: 1) "That the choice of public magistrates belongs unto the people by God's own allowance;" 2) "that the privilege of election, which belongs unto the people, must not be exercised according to their humor, but according to the will of God;" and 3) "that they who have the power

to appoint officers and magistrates, it is [within] their power also to set the bounds of the power and the place unto which they call them."

It was upon those precepts which Connecticut based its first constitution—called the Fundamental Orders. Free planters in the three largest towns came together to approve it, and, thus, in January of 1639, the Commonwealth of Connecticut was established. Thereafter, any man welcomed into Connecticut who was deemed by his fellows as worthy of voting rights, would be regarded as a "Freeman." Each spring, these freemen from each town voted for governor, six magistrates, and four representatives for the General Assembly. It was a hint of democracy being born.

Of all of Richard the Deacon's sons, only Josiah and Joseph remained their entire lives in Milford. Today, nearly four centuries later, one Richard N. Platt, Jr., is town historian and former president of the Milford Preservation Trust. It was his fourth great-grandfather who had the presence of mind

—continued on page 26

–*The Platt Family, continued from page 25*

to retrieve a fallen Hessian's Brown Bess flintlock musket from off the Long Island battlefield, as was cited at the beginning of this series.

"That musket now hangs on my living room wall," Richard boasts. "I also have his commission as Lieutenant of the 2nd Company of the militia, dated 1783, signed by Jonathan Trumbull, and a coat that belonged to him."

In addition to the musket, a document from the Revolutionary War and an old dowry from 1769 are on display. A previous writer described his home as being immersed in Milford and Platt family history.

Epenetus and Isaac Platt

The success of the four Platt brothers at the mouth of the Saranac River is reminiscent of the accomplishments of two of their Platt ancestors born during the mid-seventeenth century. Epenetus and Isaac Platt of New Haven, Connecticut, would grow up and eventually move to Long Island, in Sunken Meadow, near Huntington. Sunken Meadow is the proper name for a region of meadowland in the Smithtown area which separates the uplands of Long Island from the sandy beach along the North Shore.

Epenetus was one of the four children that Richard and Mary emigrated with from England. Isaac was born in America. In May 1664, at a general assembly at Hartford, Connecticut, Epenetus and Isaac Platt were made free planters on Long Island, the jurisdiction being a part of Connecticut at the time, not of New York. They settled in Suffolk County. They were given "the liberty to act in the choice of public officers, and for the carrying out of public affairs in that plantation."

Among the people of Suffolk County, natives of Milford, New Haven, and elsewhere in the Constitution Colony were commonly called "freemen of Connecticut." It did not take long for the two Platt brothers to feel at home across the Sound.

Records indicate Isaac was one of the ten grantees of the tract called "Pausssgasuck" on Long Island, which the grantees had placed under New Haven's jurisdiction in 1655. The first record of Epenetus making a real estate transaction at Huntington is on February 24, 1665, when he bought from Gabriel Finch all of the latter's houses,

outhouses, orchards, land, barns, and meadows, consisting of some seven acres plus additional meadow lands.

For the purchase, Epenetus agreed not to molest his neighbor Samuel Wood in the harvesting of corn when the latter would have to access his cornfield by using Mr. Platt's land.

The completeness of the Finch purchase, along with later references, suggests that Epenetus bought a ready-made homestead, lock, stock and barrel, possibly to start his own family.

Amassing Lands

On November 30, 1666, New York Governor Richard Nicholl required the inhabitants of Huntington to take out a patent of confirmation; the names of Isaac and Epenetus Platt appear as patentees, among the fifty-seven landowners of Huntington. In January 1672, Epenetus increased his holdings again by buying out neighbor Thomas Skidmore Sr., a blacksmith, who sold his six-acre home lot, house and workshop—as well as eight acres of meadow on Santepauq Neck.

For his part, Isaac received a five-acre grant of land from the town on the south side of the east field path on May 23, 1681, which adjoined his previous two acres. On October 31, he received approximately eighteen additional acres toward his division at Jonathan Hartnet's Hollow on the north side of the path to Stony Brook.

In 1688 Governor Thomas Dongan issued a new patent for Huntington; again both Isaac and Epenetus Platt were listed among the patentees.



In other words, both Epenetus and Isaac were amassing lands together to build a community. From this activity, the family was able to purchase the farm at Sunken Meadows. At least a half-dozen generations of Platts were born at Sunken Meadows.

“Epenetus Platt played a part in the revolts that occurred throughout the Colonies following the Glorious Revolution in England,” reports Michigan Society’s Max Riekse, who belongs also to the Society of Colonial Wars through his connection to Epenetus. “In 1689, he led a company of Long Island militia, one of eight, that together took over a British fort in New York.”

Starting first in Boston and spreading to nearby Plymouth, then New York and Maryland, these revolts forced the king’s government to hand power back over to the colonists. The Glorious Revolution served as a wake-up call to the colonists that monarchical power was not absolute.

Back to Nathaniel

The Platt family story comes full circle by swinging the focus back to Nathaniel. By 1814, living in Plattsburgh, Nathaniel was 73 years old—one year shy of the age of his patriot father was when the latter refused to evacuate Long Island in advance of the British army. Nathaniel was a grandfather by then and lived with younger family members in the home of William Bailey, his son-in-law.

Shortly after dawn on September 11 of that year, in one of the last battles of the Second Revolution, British troops invaded Plattsburgh and pushed toward the area of the Bailey-Platt house. To assure themselves safety, the family had fled to a neighboring farm some seven or eight miles away—all except for Grandfather Nathaniel.

Just as his own father had done, Nathaniel adamantly refused to leave his home and remained there even as British troops took up position all around. In fact, it is recorded that Major General Thomas Sydney Beckwith temporarily moved into the same house with Nathaniel still there!

Many SR members know that the War of Independence was filled with assorted flukes; the War of 1812 has its own fair share of incredible stories as well. Perhaps the grandest fluke of all was the outcome of the Battle of Plattsburgh. Many times during the course of the two wars the British outnumbered and out-powered the Patriots at the moment of battle, only to buckle and fold.

This time, Commanding General Sir George Prévost had victory in his hands, having organized his troops into an 11,000-man division under Major

General Sir Francis de Rottenburg, the Lieutenant Governor of Lower Canada. Both by land and water, the Red Coats should have won. Yet partly because of the lack of intelligence on local geography, which Gen. Beckwith could not provide, and partly due to Gen. Prévost’s overall hesitancy to fully engage his enemy, the Patriots scored an incredible upset when the British naval forces were heartily beaten. As the naval battle concluded, the entire British army retreated and went back to Canada.



As such, Capt. Nathaniel Platt lived on to witness a Patriot victory in the second Revolutionary War. In just two more years, by 1816, the year Indiana was admitted to

the growing Union of States, Nathaniel Platt died. He and several other Platts, significant players in the family’s history, are buried in Plattsburgh’s Riverside Cemetery.



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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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Sons of the Revolution

GSSR Awards Annapolis Cup

The 2011 Annapolis Cup went to Midshipman First Class Christopher Thomas Ihlan of Bellingham, Washington.

Christopher graduated with honors in Systems Engineering. He is to begin his military career as a Navy pilot at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida, immediately following graduation.

The GSSR Annapolis Cup is awarded to the Naval Academy Midshipman with the highest achievement in Naval Weaponry and Systems Engineering. ■



Presenting the award on behalf of the General Society were General President Terry Davenport; General President Emeritus BGen M. Hall Worthington (Ret.); and Joseph Frantz, Regent of the Lancaster Pennsylvania Chapter, PSSR.

234th Annual Flag Day Parade

Photographs by Anthony Wellman

On June 14, 2011, Americans celebrated the 234th anniversary of the adoption of the “Stars & Stripes” by the Continental Congress in 1777. As is customary, the Sons of the Revolution of the State of New York held its Flag Day Parade in the heart of Manhattan to commemorate the occasion.

The parade began by departing from the south end of City Hall Park at 12 noon and proceeding south on Broadway toward the historic Fraunces Tavern. Color Guards from each branch of the armed forces were featured, as well as contingents from the New York City Fire and Sanitation Departments. Many of the city’s oldest historical and patriotic societies also participated, including the SRNY Color Guard which paraded many Revolutionary War flags from its collection.

Just outside the Fraunces Tavern, SRNY President Donald Westervelt served as emcee while proclamations were read, select students read their essays, and schoolchildren sang patriotic songs. The SRNY has organized this event annually since 1916, when President Woodrow Wilson established Flag Day.

General President Terry Davenport said afterward: “There’s no better place than 54 Pearl Street in New York City to celebrate Flag Day! Once again, the New York Society held a fantastic event to celebrate our nation’s flag—which is known all over the world as the singular symbol of hope and freedom.” ■

Parade Photos, Page 4 >>>



l-r: Nicholas Trusnovec, Jonathan Ridgeway (SRNY Color Guard Chairman) and Steve Trusnovec (Flag Day Chairman) in the Flag Gallery at the Fraunces Tavern Museum



l-r: TN Society Past President and GSSR Representative Dr. William Acuff, TD; SRNY President Donald Westervelt; Assistant General Secretary Dr. Lawrence Simpson; FTM Curator Jessica Baldwin; General Treasurer Phillip Comb III; and General President Terry Davenport