



The  
**SONS**  
DRUMBEAT

Volume 38

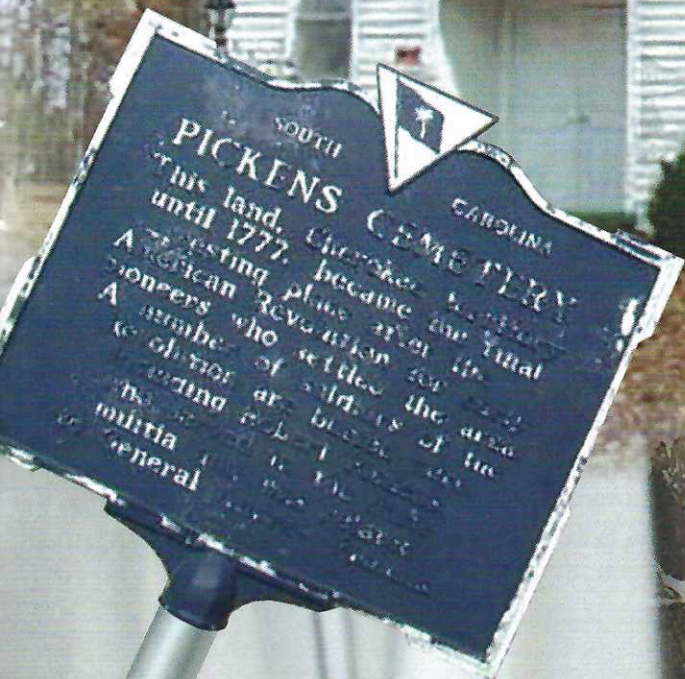
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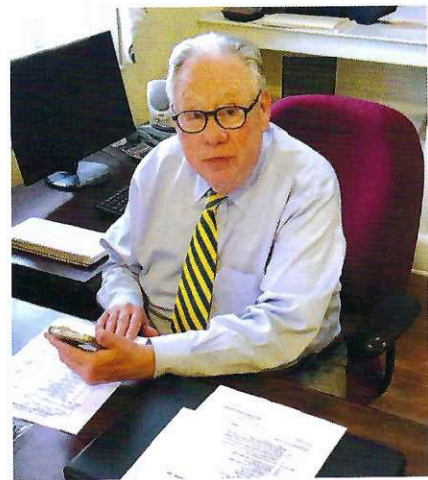


# 2020 GSSR Annual Meeting

## Third Time's the Charm

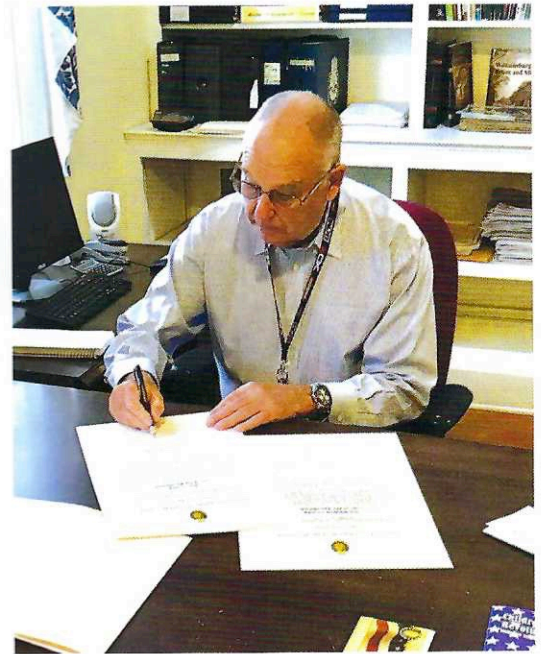
It took three attempts to successfully pull off the 2020 GSSR Board of Managers Annual Meeting. The initial plans to hold the meeting at Disney World were quashed by the arrival of the pandemic. The second attempt ran afoul due to limited bandwidth issues on Zoom. The third attempt on November 12th, which was the second attempt via Zoom, was successful.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call, and invocation by General Chaplain Rev. G. Clayton Ames, the meeting was called to order by General President Dr. Laurence S. Simpson. Among the first items discussed were the dissolution of the GSSR Headquarters Committee, the rescheduling of the Disney World venue, and a vote on the preferred medium in which to publish the *SONS Drumbeat*.



Assistant to the General President, C.L. Sigmon. Mr. Sigmon mans the headquarters office.

General President Simpson informed the group that the Headquarters Committee was no longer needed, but that General Secretary Russell Rich and C. L. Sigmon, assistant to the General President, will continue to look for possible future office space. The lease on the Colonial Williamsburg space expires in August 2021.



General President Laurence S. Simpson, DDS, at Williamsburg

## The Boston Triennial

Shervin Hawley, president of the Massachusetts Society, discussed plans for the Triennial, scheduled for September 30 - October 3, 2021. The venue for the meeting will be the luxurious Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, a sister hotel to The Plaza Hotel of New York City. The Fairmont Copley Plaza is a downtown Boston landmark, located in historic Back Bay. It is adjacent the Boston Public Library, Newbury Street, and the Freedom Trail.

Room rates have been discounted to \$299/night. Thursday evening will feature a reception in the Venetian Room hosted by the Pennsylvania Color Guard. Friday evening will include a tour and dinner at Longfellow's Wayside Inn, in Sudbury, Middlesex County (MetroWest), with the presence of historical re-enactors. Established in 1716, the Wayside Inn once hosted George Washington and Lafayette. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" while staying at the fabled inn.

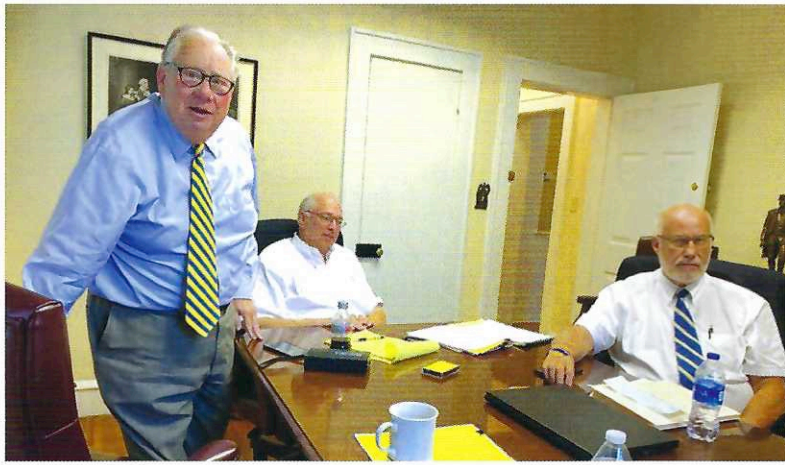
Saturday brings a scavenger hunt of many historic venues, while Saturday evening's gala will be in the hotel's Grand Ballroom. Sunday will feature a church service at the Trinity Church, which is within walking distance on the Copley Square.

## New State Societies

Members approved and welcomed the addition of the Ohio Society and the Washington (State) Society into the fold. Furthermore, the General Society is now looking into chartering State Societies in New Hampshire and Mississippi, and helping Alabama and Connecticut, which have fallen quiet.

Region 1 General VP Hans Jackson and General President Larry Simpson are working on New Hampshire and Connecticut, and Region 3 General VP Ivan Bennett and General President Emeritus Terry Davenport are working on Mississippi and Alabama. Hopefully New Hampshire and Mississippi will be ready to enter the General Society by the Triennial.

Meanwhile, Region 6 General VP Doug Boyd, Sr., reported that efforts in Washington State resulted positively, but efforts to bring Nevada and Colorado onboard did not bear any fruit.



L-R: C. L. Sigmon, General Secretary Russell Rich, and Region 3 General VP Ivan Bennett in Williamsburg.

## General Society Finances

General Treasurer Buzz Carmichael reported that our investments have done well and there are no risks at present. The Finance Committee proposed that members accept a revised budget showing a \$25,000 deficit, reduced from a \$68,000 deficit presented earlier.

He reported the General Society received a \$3,000 grant from the federal government as well as a \$20,200 SBA loan due to the Pandemic. The life of the loan is for thirty years, with an annual interest rate of 3%. Robert Van Gulick, Asst. General Treasurer, is investigating the possibility of converting the loan into a grant.

In other financial matters, the GSSR will pay \$10,000 to reserve the bloc of rooms at the Fairmont

Copley Plaza Hotel, which will be covered by a \$12,000 credit coming from Walt Disney World. The General Society's endowment presently exceeds \$900,000. Buzz reported that most non-profits use about 5% of their endowments on an annual basis. Cash on Hand as of November 12th stood at \$38,000. Delegates voted unanimously to approve the budget.

In an effort to save costs in 2020, the *Drumbeat* was reduced to a trimestral production schedule, and the printing of two issues during the year was suspended. Although printing and shipping represents about \$6,000 each cycle, nineteen delegates voted to maintain the *Drumbeat* as a printed publication and to return it to the traditional quarterly publishing cycle in 2021. Five voted to print the *Drumbeat* twice per year and distribute the other two electronically. One voted to cease printing completely, converting all four issues to digital format.

In other business, due to the disruption of live meetings which the pandemic caused, the GSSR has rescheduled its planned meeting at Disney World to take place the last weekend in September of 2022. The same venue and price as arranged earlier will be honored. "The Disney meeting has been moved out two years to allow us to hold our Triennial in Boston (in 2021)," Dr. Simpson said.

## Other Developments

Talk of the General Society's new website came up. C.L. Sigmon stated that the GSSR By-laws are already on the website and that web designer John Miller is working to present the Blue Book (the GSSR Protocol and How-To Manual) online in smaller, more manageable, indexed sections. A prototype of the new website is streamlined at SR1776.us. In concurrence with the new website, General Registrar Jefferson Moak reported that a new online membership application with electronic fill-in capability would soon be available for all State Societies to use.

Executive Secretary Sharon Toms and Dr. Simpson spoke about the ongoing project of scanning the membership applications that have been kept in storage for years. She showed a sample of how the paper-based applications are wired together in bundles of one hundred. She unbundles each set and begins each by comparing the data on the written application to the corresponding data in the General Registrar's comprehensive database. Corrections, if needed, are then made to the database.

Next, a cover sheet for each application is created showing the member's General Society number and State Society number for search/retrieval purposes. Once that is done, the application is then scanned with its cover sheet, and a pdf of it is saved. As Dr. Simpson mentions in his President's Message (see page 3), the completion of this project is allowing for the improvement of the data in the membership database and will make future recruitment easier and more efficient.

General President Emeritus Curtis P. Cheyney, III, offered his congratulations to everyone and stressed the importance of Development and Long-Range planning as an essential asset for the organization. He recommended that the Development Committee prepare a long-range plan for the Society to be considered at the Boston Triennial. Mr. Cheyney also stated that George Washington is under attack, and we should put a statement on our website condemning those attacks and informing the public about his many achievements and steadfast leadership.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.—Text by Editor, Reporting of proceedings by Executive Secretary Sharon Toms.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Adiós, 2020!



*Dr. Laurence S. Simpson*

I hope all is well with you. If you are like me, you have no problem saying goodbye to the year 2020. Between the Covid-19 virus, the Presidential election, Antifa, moves to defund police departments, Marxist insurgents, and the counter culture and anti-history agenda that is now found in parts of our population, I say goodbye and good riddance to 2020.

As your General President, I am most saddened by the fact that I have not been able to come out and personally visit and interact with our membership due to the restrictions and quarantines related to the pandemic. That doesn't mean we haven't been busy servicing the membership and planning, in spite of not being able to physically interact. The headquarters has been quite active with potential members and directing their attention toward documenting their genealogy. Hopefully that effort will bear fruit next year. New members are our future.

As we ponder 2021, which hopefully will see an early end to the virus pandemic, I would ask all of us to reflect on some the following questions:

- Has my State Society been increasing its membership in 2020? The states of NY, PA, VA, and KY have been exemplary in this regard. Some states have not. Is there a problem with that? Sure is! To keep this Society going, new membership everywhere is imperative.
- Has my State Society been active to our members' needs and provided its membership with interesting patriotic activities and publications? If we don't work now to put forward an active agenda, who will?
- Our patron saint is George Washington. Does your State Society have any activity(s) on or about Washington's Birthday to honor him? If so, what are they? If not, why not?
- Part of our existence and mission is to make the public aware of the various facets of the American Revolution. Has your Society done anything in this regard? If so, what has it done? If not, why not?
- Have you supported the work of the General Society with participation in its activities, or by volunteering to be a general officer or GSSR committee member? Your input and involvement count. Taking your interest in the Sons a step further could result in positive experiences you didn't necessarily expect to happen.
- Have you contributed to the Society of '83 to further its goals? Doesn't have to be a significant amount. We do encourage and gratefully accept any level of donation.

## Reliance on Donations

Our General Society dues do not adequately fund all of our costs, and we rely on member donations to fund special activities, such as the ongoing scanning of all of our membership applications, which began with member #1, John Austin Stevens. Through the diligent work of our contractor Sharon Toms, many mistakes, omissions, misinformation, etc., have been discovered and corrected in our database. This money is well spent because the resulting improvements should aid us in future recruitment efforts, increased membership, and fewer returned *Drumbeats*.

There are other projects large and small which we could not accomplish without the Society of '83. We heartily thank those members who have given to our fundraising efforts through the Society of '83. We plan to honor those men at our October 2021 Triennial in Boston, Massachusetts. Whether you want to believe it or not, you truly are the wheel within the wheel of this organization. Until I can personally meet and interact with you at the Boston Triennial, have a good, safe, happy, and healthy New Year.

Dr. Laurence Simpson  
*General President, GSSR*

# The GSSR Triennial Meeting for 2021:



## *Boston, Massachusetts*

The Seed of the American Revolution

### Selected Venue:

#### Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel

Sons Discounted Rate:  
\$299/Night, Double Occupancy  
Reservation Information to come.

### Selected Tour:

#### Longfellow's Wayside Inn

### See Many Fascinating Sites:

- The Boston Common
- Old State House
- Granary Burying Ground
- Bunker Hill/Breed's Hill
- Paul Revere House
- Old North Church
- Dorchester Heights
- USS Constitution

### PHOTOS:

*Boston Common (background)*  
Credit Wikipedia.org

*Fairmont Copley Plaza Exterior*  
Credit Booking.com

*Fairmont Copley Plaza Interior*  
Credit Wikipedia.org

*Longfellow's Wayside Inn*  
Credit BostonGlobe.com



# THE "SOCIETY OF '83" 2018-20 DONORS



<i>Charles D. Carroll</i>	<i>EU</i>	<i>\$29,000</i>
<i>Ivan Bennett</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>\$3,000</i>
<i>John M. Daniel</i>	<i>VA</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>
<i>Lanny R. Patten</i>	<i>PA</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>
<i>Allen James</i>	<i>NC</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>
<i>Peter J. Gulden, III, Esq</i>	<i>FL</i>	<i>\$1,150</i>
<i>Charles J. Scammell</i>	<i>NJ</i>	<i>\$1,100</i>
<i>T. Jeffery Clarke</i>	<i>NJ</i>	<i>\$1,020</i>
<i>Mitchell Bush</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>Roger Coursey</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>David Dickey, Esq</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>James F. Foster</i>	<i>MN</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>Mark Jacobowski</i>	<i>VA</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>Larry Leslie, Sr, MD</i>	<i>KY</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>J. Robert Lunney</i>	<i>NY</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>Bev Mauck</i>	<i>VA</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>William D. Parmalee</i>	<i>FL</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>Laurence S. Simpson, DDS</i>	<i>NY</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>Jimmy Smith</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>

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***Total Gifts Since Inception  
(as of 12-01-2020)***

***\$52,270.00***

# State Reports



## 144<sup>TH</sup> George Washington BIRTHDAY BALL

### 2021 George Washington Birthday Ball

As COVID-19 continues to impact all of us, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York announces that its upcoming George Washington Birthday Ball will be a virtual event. Scheduled for February 19, 2021, it will be the first time persons removed from New York will have a chance to actively participate. We look forward to having those from near and far join us, thanks to the technological advantages of this format.

The George Washington Birthday Ball, one of our Society's keystone activities, is held each year to honor George Washington and to benefit Fraunces Tavern® Museum. As part of the 2021 evening ceremony, author Rick Atkinson will be accepting both the Distinguished Patriot Award and the 2020 Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award for his book, *The British Are Coming: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777*.

More information will be forthcoming as the date approaches.

### Washington's Emotional Farewell

On Friday, Dec 4, 2020, Fraunces Tavern Museum via Zoom successfully hosted an exclusive showing of a short

film entitled, *Washington's Farewell*. The film was based on the December 4, 1783, historical event in which Washington's bid his army officers a tearful farewell from the Long Room of the Fraunces Tavern.

The film recaptured the commander's emotional goodbye. Produced in part with funding from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council, the work featured actors Michael Funk, Beau Robins, and Dan Shippey. In 2020, Mr. Shippey was cast as the official George Washington reenactor at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Following the presentation of the film, participants via Zoom were able to ask questions of the actors involved.

The historical occasion took place nine days after the last British soldiers left American soil. Washington himself ordered his officers to the Tavern to inform them that he was taking leave to resign his commission and head back home to Mount Vernon, to live out his days in retirement. He thanked them for their long service during the war and personally bid each of them farewell.



*The short film, Washington's Farewell, was shot at Fraunces Tavern and debuted via Zoom. Left to right, Dan Shippey, Michael Funk, and Beau Robins star in the film.*

"With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you," he said. "I most devoutly wish that your latter days

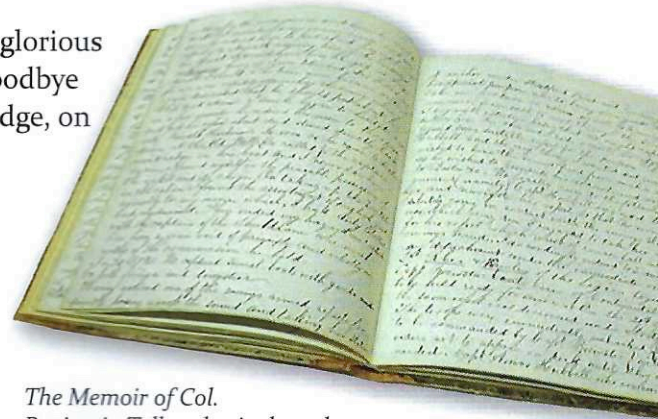
may be as happy and prosperous as your former ones have been glorious and honorable." The only first-hand account of his emotional goodbye comes from the hand-written memoirs of Col. Benjamin Tallmadge, on display at Fraunces Tavern Museum.

As we all know, Washington's retirement did not last.

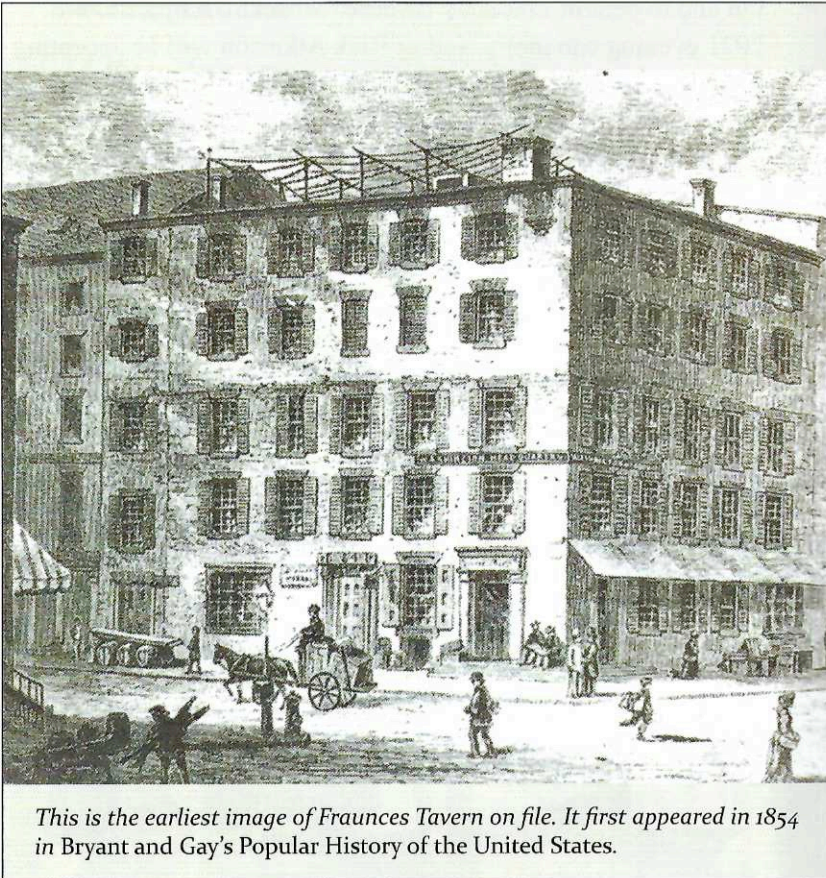
## Evacuation Day Virtual Event

On Monday, Nov. 23, 2020, the SRNY hosted its first virtual event of the year via Zoom. Over 170 persons attended by logging on. A presentation on the history of Evacuation Day was given by SRNY Past President and current President of the Lower Manhattan Historical Association Ambrose M. Richardson, III. November 25, 1783, marked the British evacuation from New York City (the final point of evacuation in the United States) after a long seven years of occupation.

In the evening of that historic day, the first American-born Governor of New York, George Clinton, honored George Washington, the Commander-in-Chief, with a banquet held in Fraunces Tavern. At that dinner, thirteen toasts were raised, including (to):



*The Memoir of Col. Benjamin Tallmadge is the only source to describe Washington's farewell to his officers after the war. It belongs to the Fraunces Tavern Museum Collection.*



*This is the earliest image of Fraunces Tavern on file. It first appeared in 1854 in Bryant and Gay's Popular History of the United States.*

1. The United States of America
2. His Most Christian Majesty
3. The United Netherlands
4. The King of Sweden
5. The American Army
6. The Fleet and Armies of France, which have served in America
7. The memory of those Heroes who have fallen for our freedom
8. May our county be grateful to her Military children
9. May justice support what courage has gained
10. The Vindicators of the rights of mankind in every quarter of the globe
11. May America be an asylum to the persecuted of the earth
12. May a close union of the States guard the Temple they have erected to liberty
13. May the remembrance of this Day be a lesson to Princes

These thirteen toasts are repeated each year at the Evacuation Day Anniversary Dinner. At the 2020 event, we had a wonderful selection of officers and members of various historic and patriotic societies from New York City pledging toasts. They were each followed by a hearty, interactive "Huzzah!" Evacuation Day remained a city holiday into the 1930s and the occasion was often marked by colorful ceremony.

## Nathan Hale Day Commemoration

Each year, the New York Society hosts a Nathan Hale Day Commemoration at the foot of the SRNY-commissioned bronze likeness of Hale standing in City Hall Park. We regret that in 2020 we were unable to meet in person to honor him on the anniversary of his death, September 22. In lieu of the usual gathering, the Society produced a video commemora





*The SRNY-commissioned statue of Nathan Hale, City Hall Park.*

The week also included a virtual lecture entitled, “America Walks into a Bar,” as well as the posting of an exclusive video by Fraunces Tavern Restaurant Beverage Manager Barry Smyth showing how to make Presidential Punch and a Cucumber Gimlet from home. To view any or all of the described selections, please visit <https://www.frauncestavernmuseum.org/tavern-week>.

Apart from the week of activities, a new ongoing podcast series was launched at the same time entitled “Tavern Talks.” Hosted by Allie Delyanis and Mary Tsaltas-Ottomanelli, each podcast features little known facts about Fraunces Tavern Museum and its collection, as well as about other historical taverns in New York, such as Neirs Tavern of Queens. To learn more about the podcast series, visit <https://www.frauncestavernmuseum.org/podcast>. – *Text and photos submitted by SRNY Events & Membership Manager Colyn C. Hunt.*

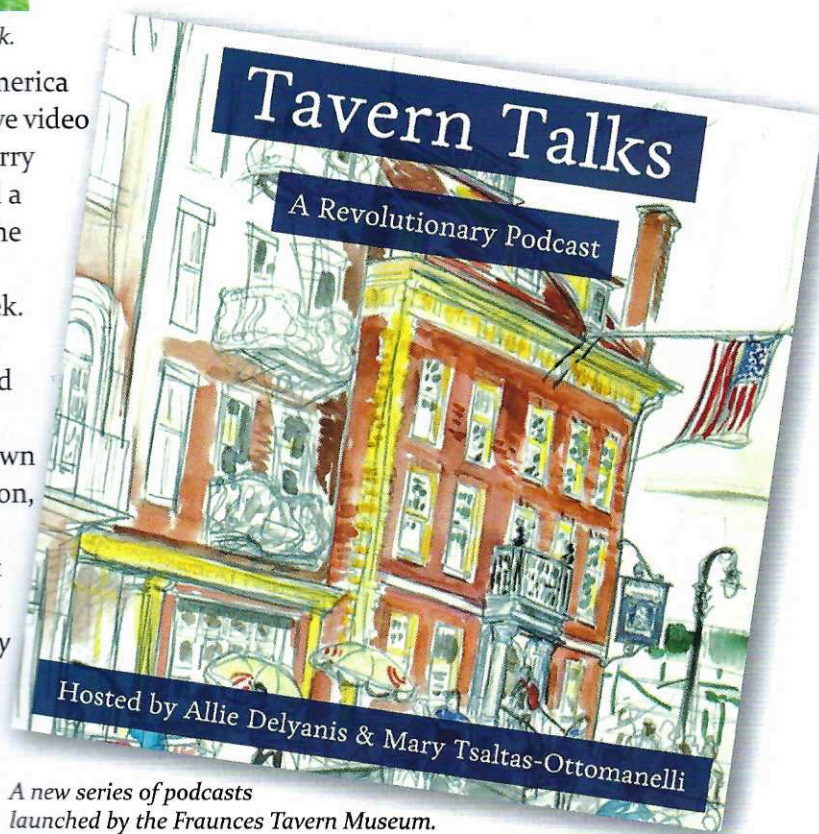
tion to honor the sacrifice which the young teacher willingly made for his burgeoning country. The virtual commemoration features Nathan Hale Day Chairman Michael Coneys, SRNY President Peter C. Hein, Yale Club President Neil Hohmann, and Borough of Manhattan Parks Commissioner William Castro. Each of them spoke on the significance which Nathan Hale represents for their respective organizations.

As a volunteer spy for Washington, the former school teacher and Connecticut militia captain infiltrated occupied New York to report on British movements. He was caught on September 21, 1776, with evidence on his person and hung the next day outside Dove Tavern, which today would be at 66th Street and Third Ave. “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country,” he stoically said from the gallows.

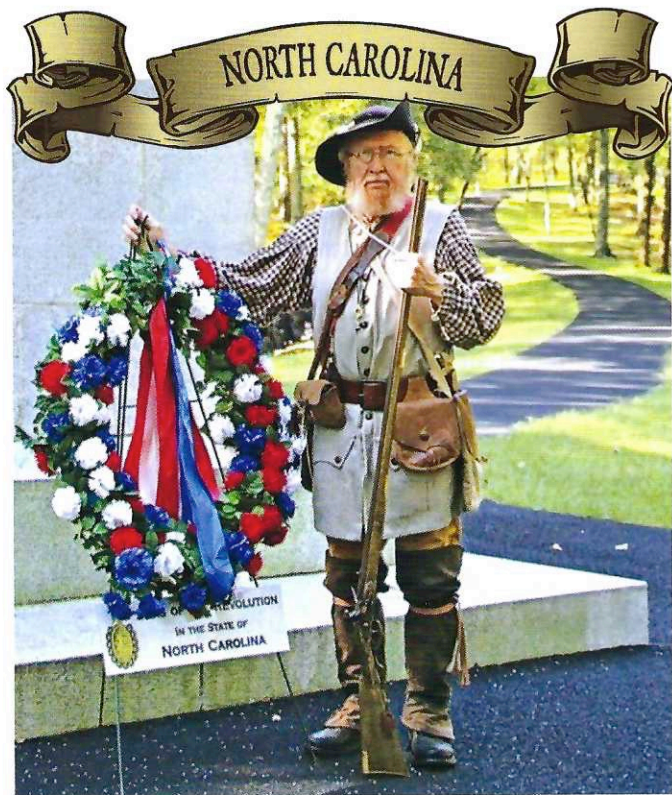
The SRNY presentation can be seen by visiting: [sonsoftherevolution.org/2020/09/22/nathan-hale-day-commemoration-september-22-2020/](https://sonsoftherevolution.org/2020/09/22/nathan-hale-day-commemoration-september-22-2020/)

## Tavern Week & Tavern Talk

During the week of September 13, 2020, the Fraunces Tavern Museum reopened to the public and hosted its First Annual Tavern Week, a week-long celebration of America’s historic taverns. In the pandemic environment, the FTM put on a cornucopia of virtual offerings, including the featuring of other tavern-museums (Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, Tavern Museum, and Golden Ball Museum) on its social media sites and a history of the Lovelace Tavern published on its blog.



*A new series of podcasts launched by the Fraunces Tavern Museum.*



*SRNC Past President Dan Hopping, donning Color Guard regalia, at Kings Mountain National Military Park.*

Members of our Color Guard were “re-certified” by the NPS to be allowed to fire volleys at venues such as Kings Mountain and Cowpens. Oftentimes, the Color Guard is the “face” of the Sons of the Revolution in North Carolina.

Every year, the Kings Mountain battle anniversary caps a 330-mile hike which the OVTA organizes during the preceding weeks. The march starts out in Abington, Virginia and finishes at Kings Mountain National Military Park. It symbolizes the historic march over the Blue Ridge that Patriot militia undertook to confront British Major Patrick Ferguson and his men.

Under normal conditions, about 18,000 school children living along the trail take part in the event as it passes through their area. This year, with the pandemic restrictions, significantly fewer school kids participated. Nevertheless, we still marched the trail and provided outdoor events.

## 2020 Annual Meeting by Zoom

Despite the onslaught of Covid-19, the North Carolina Society (SRNC) held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 14, via Zoom. A quorum of officers and members of the Board of Directors participated. The Board approved the Society’s 2020-21 budget and received the Nominating Committee report. Additionally, four new members were welcomed into the Society, including Thomas Joseph Davis, William George Tubbs, Donald Claude McLeod, and John Wharton Grimes, Jr.

Officers serving the Society for 2020-21 are: Augustus E. Succop III, President; Randall E. Sprinkle, VP; Gary L. Hall, Secretary; Charles R. Odom, Treasurer; Carlton M. Mansfield, Chancellor; J. Robert Boykin, Chaplain; John F. Ledbetter, Captain of the Color Guard; W. Daniel Pate, Historian; and John R. Harman, Jr., Registrar. David L. Gellatly, W. Timothy Lattimore, and Ronald W. Steele are serving a three-year term as Directors.

## 240th Kings Mountain Anniversary

Members of the SRNC on October 8th participated with the Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA) and the National Park Service (NPS) in commemorating the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain. This year, mem-



*The OVTA and SRNC Color Guard volley at the house of Colonel Joseph “Pleasant Gardens” McDowell, the founder and namesake of McDowell County. The home is a stop along the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.*



*The baseline of the rediscovered site of Hunter’s Tavern.*

## Hunter’s Tavern Archeology

The SRNC in partnership with the Wake County Historical Society (WCHS) has been participating in the archeological survey and recovery efforts of the remains of the 1762 Isaac Hunter Tavern. The tavern was located at a busy crossroads in eastern North Carolina, and it was a popular place in its own right. Hunter’s Tavern was so well known that, in 1788, the Constitutional Convention met in the restaurant and mandated that a new, permanent state capital be built no more than ten miles from that spot.

Over time, the building changed hands and was converted to other uses. Later it was moved off its original site, and from then on its structure fell into oblivion. In more recent years, amateur archaeologists encountered what they thought were the last remains of the tavern near I-440 and Wake Forest Rd. In 2019, the WCHS with real

estate developer Dewitt Carolinas confirmed the old tavern structure was located within a 40-acre zone of undeveloped property across from Duke Raleigh Hospital.

An uneven stone foundation covered with boards containing square-head nails dated the structure to the 1700s. Archaeologists for the WCHS, including members of the Sons of the Revolution, have determined the tavern's foundation footings and have uncovered an old chimney and firebox as well as dozens of antique, hand-made nails.



*Antique hand-made nails recovered from site of Hunter's Tavern.*



*Raleigh Chapter President Allen James at the Hunter's Tavern site with trowel and brush.*

According to a company spokesperson, DeWitt wants to excavate the tavern's remnants and conserve them for future exhibit before breaking ground on a billion-dollar, mixed-use development project slated for that locale.

## Moore's Creek 244th Anniversary

In February 2020, SRNC President Gus Succop and Past President Dan Hopping attended the 244th Anniversary of the Battle of Moore's Creek, in Currie, N.C. Fought on Feb. 27, 1776, the battle was the first engagement of the Revolutionary War fought in North Carolina. It was also atypical of the war in the South: a skirmish between the colony's Patriot and Loyalist militia forces, e.g., civil war.

The Loyalists had intended to take a road to Wilmington to unite with British Regulars landing in North Carolina in order to "foil the rebellion." Many of the Loyalists were Scottish Highlanders wielding broadswords—because those were the only weapons they had. The Patriots had rifles and artillery, which made all the difference.

The Patriots took control of the bridge over Moore's Creek and dismantled the planks. They then greased the girders, and withdrew to ambush the coming Loyalists. They were fortified by a 2-pounder gun named Mother Covington and a swivel gun named Mother Covington's Daughter. The battle was over in a matter of minutes. About seventy Highlanders were killed or wounded as they tried to cross the skeletal bridge, and as many as 850 men were taken prisoner.



*SRNC members John Misenheimer, President Gus Succop, and Past President Dan Hopping at Moore's Creek Bridge, Currie, N.C.*

The battle came to be known as the "Lexington and Concord of the South." The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge was significant for several reasons. The Encyclopedia of North Carolina says it marked the permanent end of royal authority in North Carolina; convinced the colony's Provincial Congress to instruct North Carolina's delegates of the Continental Congress to vote for independence; and it prevented the British from seizing control of the South at the onset of the war.

The site of the battle, including the reconstructed bridge, has been preserved within Moore's Creek National Military Park. The SRNC in recent years gifted the park with a half-pound swivel canon which was named "Mother Covington's Daughter."—text and photos submitted by Past President Daniel L. Hopping & President Augustus E. Succop III.



## Wreaths Laid & Memorial Planned at Pickens Chapel Cemetery

On December 19th, Wreaths Across America Day, the South Carolina Society of Sons of the Revolution paid homage to Revolutionary War veterans. In cooperation with the SCSR Greenville Chapter, the GSSR, the DAR, the South Carolina Society of the Colonial Dames XVII Century, and Southern Wesleyan University (SWU), Society members met on the historic grounds of the Pickens Chapel Cemetery near Central, S.C, to lay fifty wreaths on the gravesites of veterans buried there.

The ceremony was hosted by Caleb W. Southern, Asst. Director of Admission, SWU. Albert Futrell, President of the SCSR Greenville Chapter, addressed the attendees before the wreaths were distributed. About half of the wreaths were laid on the gravesites of S.C. Militiamen who fought under General Andrew Pickens during the Revolutionary War. Indeed,



Pickens Chapel, Center, S.C.

The total cost of the memorial is \$3,200—of which we have collected \$1,350 as of December 7, 2020. The State Society of Colonial Dames XVII Century has applied for funding for this project. Their success in receiving the funding is crucial to the project's success. When the funding is completed, we will be ready to move forward quickly with installation (see diagram).

### About Pickens Cemetery

Pickens Cemetery is located in a heavily wooded area along the Three and Twenty Creek, about one-half mile behind Pickens Chapel. The Chapel faces State Highway 485. Among the Revolutionary War veterans at rest there is Andrew Pickens' cousin, Robert Pickens, for whom the chapel and cemetery were named. In fact, the surrounding

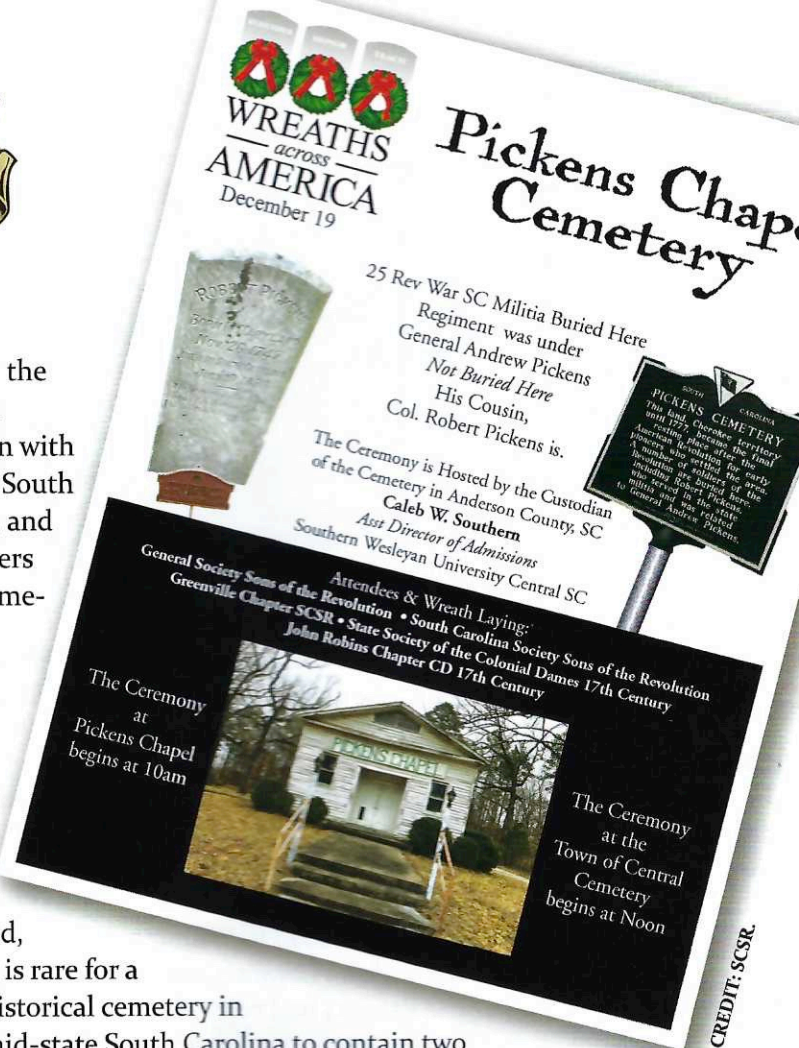
it is rare for a historical cemetery in mid-state South Carolina to contain two score or more Revolutionary War veterans.

The impetus for the project came from Region 3 General Vice President Ivan Bennett and his wife, Susan. The Bennetts encountered the Pickens Chapel and Cemetery on a leisurely drive through the area in January 2020.

The SCSR later invited the Colonial Dames XVII Century to co-sponsor the installment of a plaque at the cemetery site as that group had erected in 1980 a roadside marker about the cemetery along State Highway 485. They also turned to the history department of SWU to join in support of this cause, as the university is located nearby in Central, S.C.



Pickens Chapel Cemetery, Center, S.C.



CREDIT: SCSR

CREDIT: HMDB.ORG/BRIAN SCOTT

# PICKENS CHAPEL CEMETERY PATRIOTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF THOSE PATRIOTS BURIED HERE  
WHO SERVED IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

THOSE WHO WON OUR INDEPENDENCE BELIEVED LIBERTY TO BE THE  
SECRET OF HAPPINESS AND COURAGE TO BE THE SECRET OF LIBERTY

LOUIS D. BRANDEIS

OUR CAUSE IS NOBLE, IT IS THE CAUSE OF MANKIND  
GEORGE WASHINGTON

SPONSORED BY:

SOUTH CAROLINA COLONIAL DAMES 17TH CENTURY  
COL. JOHN ROBINS CHAPTER OF PICKENS  
SOUTH CAROLINA SONS OF THE REVOLUTION GREENVILLE CHAPTER  
GENERAL SOCIETY REGION 3 SONS OF THE REVOLUTION  
SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, CENTRAL, S.C.

*The Society hopes to install this plaque at Pickens Cemetery.*

land was part of Robert Pickens' farm, which he obtained by a land grant for his service in the war.

In 1784, one year after the Treaty of Paris was signed, Robert Pickens was granted his land. Moving from the Long Canes settlement in Abbeville County, Pickens relocated his family, including his aged father, Robert Pike Pickens (1697-1793). The elder Pickens was a native of Northern Ireland and the son of William Pickens. He died at the age of ninety-six and became the first settler buried in the Pickens Chapel Cemetery. Prior to 1777, the vicinity had been part of the Cherokee tribal lands. Upon the territory's transfer to the US government, it was known as the Pendleton District.

Robert Pickens was a captain in Andrew Pickens' militia. As for the famous general, he was buried about five to six miles to the southwest of Pickens Chapel Cemetery, at a meetinghouse known as the Old Stone Church, where he was a deacon for many years.

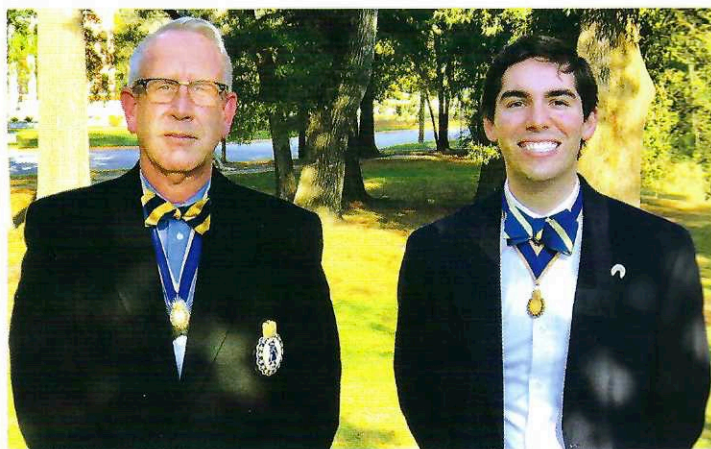
## New Society Officers Elected

The SCSR held its Annual Membership Meeting in Camden, S.C., on Saturday, November 14th at the Camden Archives & Museum. In addition to hearing the various officer reports, those in attendance saw William and Benjamin Suggs receive special recognition as Junior Patriots.

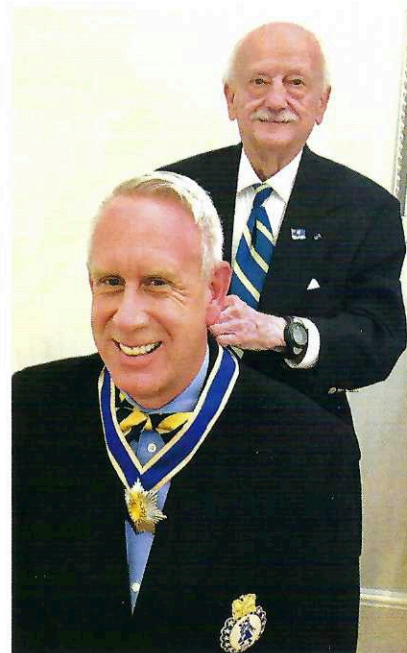
Outgoing SCSR President Tom Weidner was congratulated on a job well done. In the past two years, President Weidner oversaw the creation of supplemental applications for Society members; the establishment of the ROTC award and scholarship program for high school cadets; and the organization of three new memorial events, including Fort Lindley, Fort Gramby, and Hayes Station.

Other feats were the successful chartering of the Greenville Chapter, with Albert Futrell as President; the holding of the Third Annual Fort Thicketty memorial event in July; and the initiation of a funding drive for the Pickens Chapel Cemetery plaque. Meanwhile, incoming SCSR President Jeff Murrie has announced the following goals:

1. Recruit new members.
2. Increase our presence on social media.
3. Plan for an annual social event. Suggestion are a dinner and/or a skeet shoot.
4. Create an online portal for the purchasing of merchandise.
5. Maintain an open dialogue with the General Society.
6. Support other organizations with a shared interest in the American Revolution.
7. Begin planning for the Sestercentennial in South Carolina.



*SCSR President Jeff Murrie, left, and SCSR VP Matthew Breen.*



*Tom Weidner ties the Presidential Star on Jeff Murrie.*

Joining President Murrie in the lineup of 2021-2023 SCSR Officers are: Tom Weidner, President Emeritus & Historian; Matthew Breen, Esq., VP & Solicitor; Steve Swoope, Secretary; Ivan Bennett, Treasurer; Charles Swoope, Registrar; Tom Hanson, Chaplain; and William Suggs, Color Guard Captain.



## Eutaw Springs/Fort Lindley

In September and October, respectively, Society members attended battle anniversary ceremonies at Eutaw Springs and Fort Lindley. On October 17th, Outgoing President Tom Weidner and others gathered at Lindley's Fort Site, a historical archaeological site located near Madens, in Laurens County. President Weidner gave an inspirational message on the importance of remembering those who sacrificed their lives at the fort. After Tom's message, guest speaker John Durant Ashmore, III spoke on the significance of the site. Mr. Ashmore is a recognized battlefield preservationist and Revolutionary War historian.

Prior to the October event, members convened for the 239th anniversary of the Battle of Eutaw Springs near present-day Eutawville in Orangeburg County. Incoming SCSR President Jeff Murrie reports this battle was the last major battle fought in South Carolina before British Gen. Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown. The battle was technically a British victory, although the Patriots (led by Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene) decimated British ranks and afterwards forced them to retreat back to Charleston.

Due to the strength of the Patriot stance at Eutaw Springs, the Brits no longer rampaged through the upstate. After retreating to Charleston, they remained holed up there until Cornwallis' surrender just over a month later.—*compiled by Editor from reports.*

*This is a new SR window decal created by the SCSR. To order yours, contact SCSR President Murrie at [JeffreyMurrie@gmail.com](mailto:JeffreyMurrie@gmail.com).*





CREDIT: WIKIPEDIA.ORG



*Fort Mifflin, from the air, is a mid-nineteenth century star fort.*

tion of Captain Eric E.L. Guenther, Jr., ensued and the meeting was then called to order at 5:00 pm by PSSR President Ben Ramsay Wolf, Sr.

Society Chaplain Reverend G. Clayton Ames III gave the invocation prior to the Pledge of Allegiance, and President Wolf appointed a Parliamentarian for the proceedings before asking Secretary Kenneth W. MacNeal to read the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting. The minutes had been previously circulated to the membership and were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Richard F. Pagano provided his report, citing the excellent state of the organization's financial health. Color Guard Captain Eric E.L. Guenther then provided his report on Color Guard activities and financial contributions for the past year. Lancaster County Chapter Regent David C. H. Byrne presented his report on the activities and items of interest for their chapter since the last Annual Meeting.

## President's Report

President Wolf began by welcoming past PSSR Presidents in attendance, including General President Emeritus Curtis P. Cheyney, III, Esq., Ronald W. Fenstermacher, Jr., Esq., and William Murray Gordon, and he thanked them for their past service, expertise, and energies. President Wolf then spoke on the state of the organization and the changes made over the past year to improve efficiency and reduce operating costs. He confirmed the Society's good financial health and cited the importance of recruiting Junior Members as the future of the PSSR.

Fifteen-year-old William Gresh was then invited to speak about what being a Junior Member means to him. Following William's address, President Wolf recounted the challenges of the year as a result of COVID-19 and announced plans for the Society to return to normal in 2021 with planned dates for activities and functions.

Of particular note was the return of the Society's Christian Oerter Rifle in 2019 and the General Assembly's authorization in mid-2020 of the commemorative Let Freedom Ring license plate. Wayne R. Strasbaugh and Curtis P. Cheyney, III, were recognized for their diligence in navigating challenges presented by the FBI and the insurance carrier in arduously securing the return of the Oerter rifle back to the PSSR. It is now on display at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

State Representative Tim F. Hennessey, who is the Pennsylvania House Transportation Chairman and father of PSSR Registrar Tim B. Hennessey, was likewise recognized and thanked for his sponsorship of the legislation creating the commemorative license plate and for his shepherding of the bill through both houses of the General Assembly.

## 132nd Annual Meeting of the PSSR

On Wednesday, October 8th, the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the Revolution held its 132nd Annual Meeting. Following PSSR tradition, the event was no charge and drew over 100 attendees. Normally held in April of each year at the 23rd Street Armory of the First Troop City Calvary, the 2020 Annual Meeting was purposefully delayed and held in a COVID-19 compliant outdoor setting.

A perfect outdoor venue was chosen to hold the event: Historic Fort Mifflin on the banks of the Delaware River south of the city. Fort Mifflin was originally a British fort, and later played a pivotal role for the Patriot cause in the Revolutionary War as it hampered the passage of British supply ships into Philadelphia.

At the start of the proceedings, Fort Mifflin volunteers fired cannon to signal the PSSR Color Guard's entrance. The presentation of the colors by the PSSR Color Guard under the direction of Captain Eric E.L. Guenther, Jr.,



*A Fort Mifflin volunteer fires a cannon.*

## Membership Notations

President Wolf and Secretary MacNeal then recognized and presented Society rosettes to twenty-five new members and five new junior members. Also, eleven members were recognized for their 50-year milestone. Society Registrar Jefferson M. Moak II provided a necrology of seventeen members who had passed away since the previous Annual Meeting, and Society Chaplain G. Clayton Ames III followed with a prayer for the departed.

The meeting floor was then turned over to Nominations Chairman and Society President Emeritus W. Murray Gordon, who presented the slate of nominees for officers and managers which had been circulated to the members two weeks prior to the meeting. A motion was made to approve the nominees followed by their unanimous approval. President Wolf then extended his thanks and gratitude to six retiring officers and managers for their service.

As there was no further business to conduct, President Wolf called for adjournment of the meeting. Chaplain Ames delivered a prayer for the continued good health of all during this pandemic. Attendees were then treated to a sumptuous catered gourmet meal with food stations of many varieties as well as refreshments. As an added feature, the docents of Fort Mifflin provided attendees with tours of the facility. Nighttime cannon firings also provided a new dimension of excitement and interest.—text and photos submitted by Vice President Michael Whelan.

*At right, President Wolf addresses the PSSR Annual Meeting*

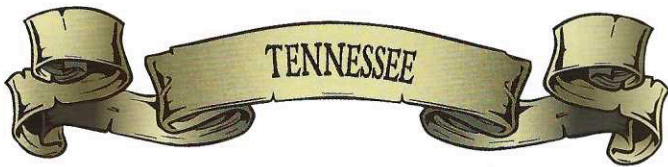


*PSSR Color Guard under the direction of Captain Eric E.L. Guenther, Jr.*



*New Members and Junior Members are introduced.*





## Rifleman Celebrates 60 Years

The newsletter of the State Society of Tennessee, the *Tennessee Rifleman*, is celebrating its sixtieth anniversary this year. The current editor, Dennis Eggert, provided some telling statistics

about the year it was founded. "In 1960, TNSSOR dues were \$3.00 a month. The average car cost \$2,752 and gas was 31 cents a gallon. The average salary of a worker was just under \$4,000.00 a year."

The inaugural issue, produced on a typewriter and mimeographed, asked its readers: "WHAT'S IN A NAME? - From Bible writers to our Hollywood personalities of to-day, all have recognized the importance of a good name. Names for novels and railroad cars are picked with great care, and the meticulous playwright expends a great amount of time and thought before he finally decides on the name of a character. Now, do you like the name we have tentatively adopted for this publication, THE TENNESSEE RIFLEMAN? Some writers of history have referred to our ancestors at Kings Mountain as a band of Tennessee riflemen or about 900 backwoodsmen who routed the British. Let us know if you have any suggestions about the name we have used."

Sixty years onward, it seems *Rifleman* is the perfect name for the publication of a patriotic Revolutionary War lineage society from the Volunteer State. That one word encapsulates many nuances of Tennessee history and heritage. Congratulations to the TSSOR for having sustained the publication throughout six decades. —Editor

## The Tennessee Rifleman

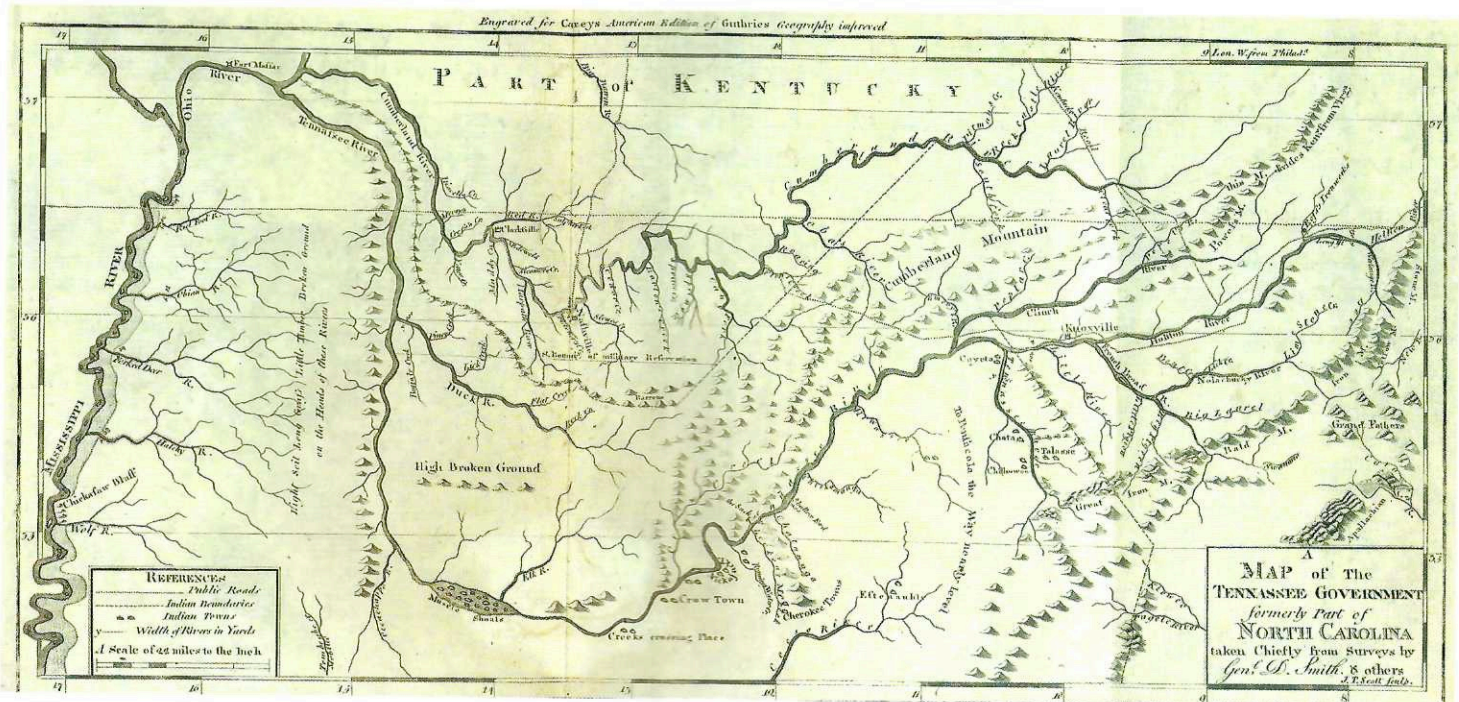


The Tennessee Rifleman newsletter masthead

## Honoring Senior Members

Society member James Stewart, Jr. was recently honored with a plaque from the Tennessee Society for fifty years of membership and dedicated service. James is a Past President of the Chattanooga Chapter and served in that capacity for three years. The TSSOR congratulates James and thanks him for his dedication to the Society.

In a similar manner, the TNSSOR has this year recognized thirty-five members as "Senior Members." These are men who are at least seventy-five years old and have maintained their membership in good standing for twenty-five years or more. To honor these dedicated patriots, the TNSSOR permanently waives their yearly dues. Once named a Senior Member, a person's standing is considered good for the rest of his life. — from *Tennessee Rifleman*, Vol. 61, Nos. 1 & 3.



1795 state map of Tennessee government formerly part of North Carolina taken chiefly from surveys



*VSSR members and guests met in late September for an outdoor reception at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond.*



*VSSR President Dr. John Daniel, III, addresses the gathering*

Members convened at the Commonwealth Club for a reception for prospective members to meet the Board of Managers and VSSR President John Daniel III, M.D. During the reception, Dr. Daniel made remarks and answered questions about the Sons of the Revolution.

By November, with COVID-19 infections on the rise again, we had to cancel our annual Oyster Roast at Tuckahoe Plantation in Goochland, Virginia. This was after we had received 225 RSVP's. The Society will issue refunds for that cancelled event. The VSSR is proceeding into the New Year with plans for a closed January Board of Managers Meeting and, thus far, only a save-the-date notation for the next George Washington Birthday Dinner. Members will be given additional information on the 2021 Washington Birthday Dinner event as it becomes available. —Text by C.L. Sigmon; photos by Scott Bussell

## Peter Francisco's Fight Memorialized

In late summer, the town of Crewe, Virginia, notified the GSSR headquarters in Williamsburg with the news that four new interpretive markers had been recently installed there telling the story of Peter Francisco. This development does not pertain to a VSSR project or activity, but nevertheless it relates to preserving Revolutionary War history in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

According to VisitYorktown.org, Peter Francisco was abandoned on the docks of Hopewell, Virginia in 1765, when he was a five-year-old boy. He is believed to have been Portuguese and born in the Azores before he was abandoned in Virginia by two sailors. He came under the care of Judge Anthony Winston of Buckingham County, Virginia. It is unknown whether Judge Winston (a cousin of Patrick Henry) treated Francisco as an



*Incident at Ward's Tavern involving Peter Francisco*

## 2020 in Review

Activities of the Virginia Society Sons of the Revolution started with a bang in 2020. Some 220 members and guests were present for the George Washington Birthday Dinner held on February 22nd at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond. A month later, things had come to a halt. Our Society's Annual Meeting and Garden Party scheduled for May 4 at the Tuckahoe Woman's Club in Richmond was cancelled, and the concurrent Board of Managers meeting had to be a closed meeting conducted

virtually due to the Governor's Phase 1 restriction in place, which barred all gatherings.

By September 14th, the VSSR Board of Managers were able to meet in a large room at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond, although the function was still closed. By then the Governor had moved Virginia to Phase 2, which allowed twenty-five people to safely gather indoors. In late September, the Commonwealth was shifted to Phase 3 and we were able to hold a larger gathering outside.



Issued in 1975 to celebrate the US Bicentennial.

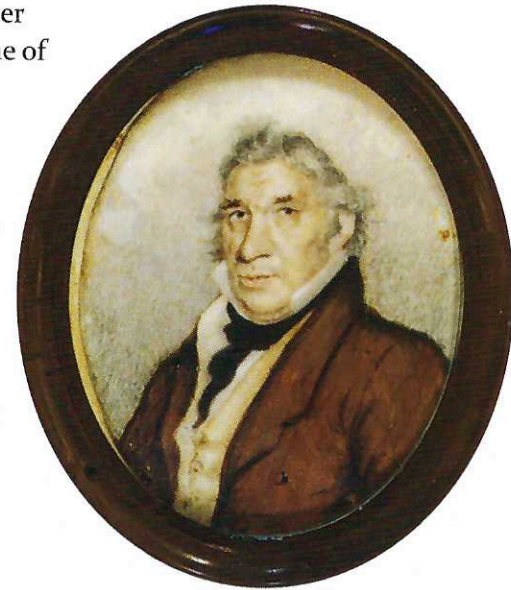
indentured servant, giving him shelter and a minimal education, or owned him as a slave.

By the time he was a young teenager, he was fighting for the Patriot cause. His intimidating size struck fear in people and belied his youthfulness. Over the course of the war, he became a legend in his own time. In 1779, at fourteen years of age, Francisco stood well over six feet tall and weighed 250 pounds or more.

The lad was one of twenty volunteers who formed Gen. Anthony Wayne's "Forlorn Hope" vanguard at the attack on Stony Point. After

chopping his way through the abatis, Francisco was one of the first over the walls of the fortress. Despite receiving a nine-inch laceration across his stomach in that assault, he continued fighting and captured the British flag.

He distinguished himself again and again throughout the war. In recognition of his contribution, in the spring of 1781 George Washington sent him a six-foot-long broadsword that he had specially procured. It was delivered on March 13, 1781, just two days before the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Despite being injured (again) in that battle, he slayed eleven British soldiers with his new sword. Following the battle, he was allowed to go home to recuperate.



Peter Francisco in older age

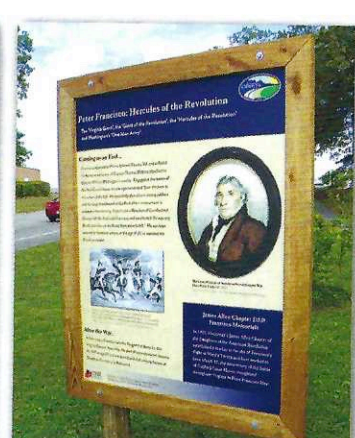
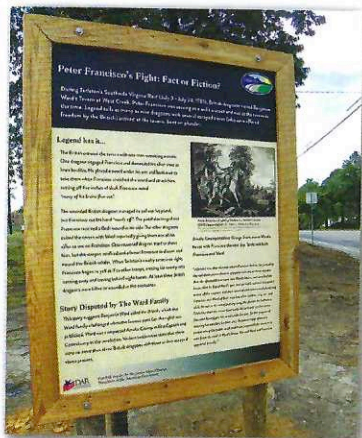
The town of Crewe is located on the path Francisco took home. As he left the Patriot camp, he agreed to keep any eye out for Banastre Tarleton and his men, who were targeting military stores in southern Virginia. Southwest of Richmond, Francisco made a stop at Benjamin Ward's tavern in Amelia County. Inside that tavern, he encountered eleven of Tarleton's men.



Leut. Col. Banastre Tarleton

Although the men tried to detain him, legend has it that Francisco killed three of them on the spot. He then exited the tavern and got involved in a violent fight. He subdued at least two more Redcoats and captured a number of their horses before they dispersed. All of this he did while wounded. After recovering at home, he later joined Washington's Army at the Yorktown surrender.

After the war, and toward the end of his life, he settled near Richmond and served the Virginia House of Delegates as Sergeant-at-Arms for about ten years. In 1831, he died of appendicitis and was buried with full military honors in Richmond's Shockoe Hill Cemetery. —Text by Editor; photos submitted by C.L. Sigmon



In Crewe, two of the new signs tell the life story of Peter Francisco while the other two place the Ward's Tavern incident in historical context.

## Bombardment of Falmouth, Maine, October 18, 1775

By Sumner Hunnewell  
MOSR President



*Admiral Samuel Graves*

Little did the residents of Falmouth, Maine, know as they watched four British warships anchored off of its coast on Tuesday, October 16, 1775, that two days later most of the town would be in ashes. Many of Falmouth and the District of Maine were firmly for the Revolution, but nevertheless they certainly did not expect the announcement made by the British officer who had come ashore on the 17th. He had orders "to Execute a just Punishment on the Town of Falmouth," giving its 2,000 inhabitants two hours to remove themselves to safety before bombardment would begin.

What led to such an indiscriminate declaration of destruction against a civilian population? For ten years, Falmouth and the surrounding area were known for thumbing their noses at British sanctions by outright mob action or sanction from patriotic town committees. For example, though Falmouth merchants were prohibited from supplying beleaguered Boston, that did not stop them from shipping supplies to Newburyport (thirty-five miles up the coast) and thence overland towards Boston.

Lieutenant Mowat, who commanded the flotilla anchored off the coast, had been in Falmouth that Spring. He had been

captured and held by men of the outlying town of Brunswick, an action which was not sanctioned by the Falmouth Committee. This bold move led the flotilla's second-in-command to threaten Falmouth with cannon fire unless Mowat was released. The townspeople gained his release, but his captors demanded he not be returned until the next morning, which was ignored. Later that day, some of the town militia broke into a Tory's house and found (and readily consumed) his rum. That led one of them to go to a wharf and shoot his musket at Mowat's ship. Again, the British threatened to bombard the town, which caused general turmoil. Nothing came of the incident, though Mowat was angered by his having been held.



*Lieutenant Henry Mowat*

### FALMOUTH, MAINE

The area of Falmouth, Maine, was originally settled by George Cleeve and Richard Tucker. Through various overlapping patents, Cleeve took advantage of the situation and the English Civil War to become Governor of the area down the coast to Cape Porpoise.

Massachusetts in the ascendancy in the 1650s required the people of the area to submit to their government and set the bounds of the town in 1658.

In 1786, after the town was rebuilt, it was renamed Portland.

Another factor in the coming destruction of Falmouth was the ineffectiveness of Admiral Samuel Graves, who was Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Navy's North American Squadron. Realizing that something must be done after various outrages against British land and sea forces, he determined to destroy sea port towns and harbored ships, excepting those that might house British government goods. He chose as his targets Massachusetts' Marblehead, Salem, Newburyport, Cape Ann, and Ipswich, New Hampshire's Portsmouth, and the District of Maine's Saco, Falmouth, and Machias. Feeling that this retribution would destroy support for the rebellion, he put his plan into action.

## TORIES IN FALMOUTH

The Tories in Falmouth were terribly outnumbered. Trying to maintain some law and order must have been an absolute miserable exercise against the mobs. On May 2, 1775, they wrote to Mowat, who was aboard the *Canceau*, pleading for him to stay.

"The Memorial of Us the Subscribers, for themselves and many other faithful Subjects in the County of Cumberland Sheweth That since the Arrival of His Majesty's Ship under your Command, we have been relieved by your Spirited Conduct from those Anxieties natural to Persons who are abnoxious [sic] to the Enemies of our happy Constitution; and by your courteous and kind behavior to all the Friends of Government, flattered Ourselves with the pleasing Prospect of a continuance of your Protection; but those agreeable Sensations are entirely vanished, and we are reduced to the last degree of despair, by your information, that when Captain Coulsin's Ship will be ready for Sea, You are immediately to leave this place — and consequently Us, a prey to the Sons of rapine and lawless Violence. We therefore intreat that in your goodness You will remain with us till we can make known our deplorable Situation to General Gage, which we shall do without delay."

Mowat was captured a week later.

Graves made it absolutely clear to his forces that any looting would not be tolerated in the wake of these attacks.

Four ships and 100 Royal Marines left Nantasket, Massachusetts, on October 8. Throughout the operation, they fought the winds but came off the coast of Cape Ann three days later. Since the buildings at Cape Ann were too spaced out and the flotilla had a limited number of incendiary bombs, it was not a good prospect and was thus spared. The wind pushed them past other targets and they sheltered in Boothbay harbor off the coast of Maine for three days. However, they retraced their steps until they lay before Falmouth.

The townspeople were not worried when they saw that Mowat was in charge. After all, did not Falmouth obtain Mowat's freedom just months before? But warships do not weigh anchor in harbors for no reason, so many men of the militia left the mainland and deployed to the islands in the bay, believing that Mowat was on a foraging mission as there were animals and stores on the islands.

Once in the harbor, it took a day to line the ships up against the coastline opposite the most densely populated part of the town. And unexpectedly, on the 17th of October, the town was threatened with destruction. Immediately, a delegation from the town was sent to the *Canceau* to treat with Mowat in order to avoid this horrific threat. Mowat told them his own commission was at risk for giving them any warning at all, but if they would give up their arms, ammunition, and cannon known to be there, he would send an express to Boston to see if the impending tragedy could be avoided. The townsmen felt that the demand would be rejected, but would offer it to the people. The delegation and Mowat agreed that at 8 p.m. that night, as a sign of good faith, eight arms were to be delivered to the ship. This came with the assurance that Mowat would receive a response from the delegation at 8 a.m.

Meanwhile, it is easy to imagine how the town was in an utter panic. There was no time to procure transport for household goods, so townspeople carried their belongings as far away as could be managed, leaving everything out in the open. Some families sent their infirmed or young further into the country. The militia, under no strict rule, were looking to their own households and saved what they could.



1791 etching of the burning of Falmouth

The townspeople assembled in the morning and, unsurprisingly, refused to give up their arms, ammunition, and cannon. Their delegation went aboard the *Canceau* at 8 a.m. with their answer but attempted to stall Mowat in order that more of the towns' moveables might be saved. Mowat ordered them off at half-past the hour, telling them that they had half an hour themselves to leave the town before bombardment would begin. True to his word, soon after 9 a.m., a flag went up on the the topgallant sail of the *Canceau* and all four ships unloaded their guns on the town. —Ed. Note: This article will conclude with a second installment in the next issue of *SONS Drumbeat*.

# Vaccinating an Army

George Washington's Last Shot  
to Save His Troops from Smallpox

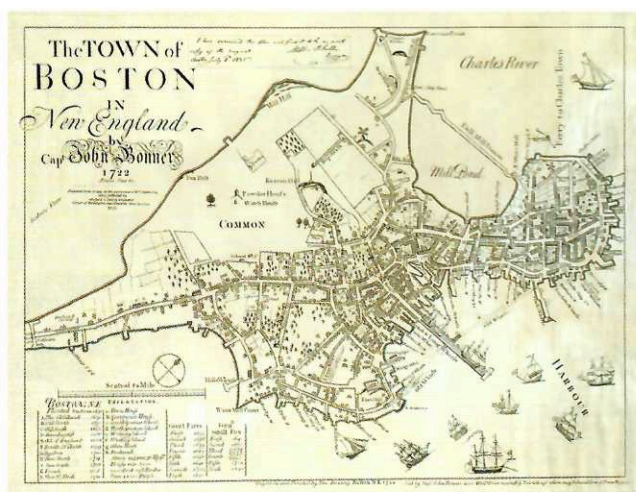
by Gabriella Ramsey



During the Revolutionary War, George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, faces one of the greatest threats to his army. The threat is not bullets or bayonets, but smallpox. In 1775, Washington's Continental Army first encounters smallpox during the Siege of Boston. Smallpox is a virus that kills one out of every three people who get infected, and people in the Thirteen Colonies greatly fear the disease. Washington has to make a strategic decision whether to inoculate his troops or not. The decision has both pros and cons. After weighing the factors, George Washington pushes for his soldiers to be exposed to a mild form of smallpox, a very revolutionary



Drawing by Edward Jenner, 1796. National Library of Medicine.



Map by Capt. John Bonner; engraved by Francis Dewing, 1835.

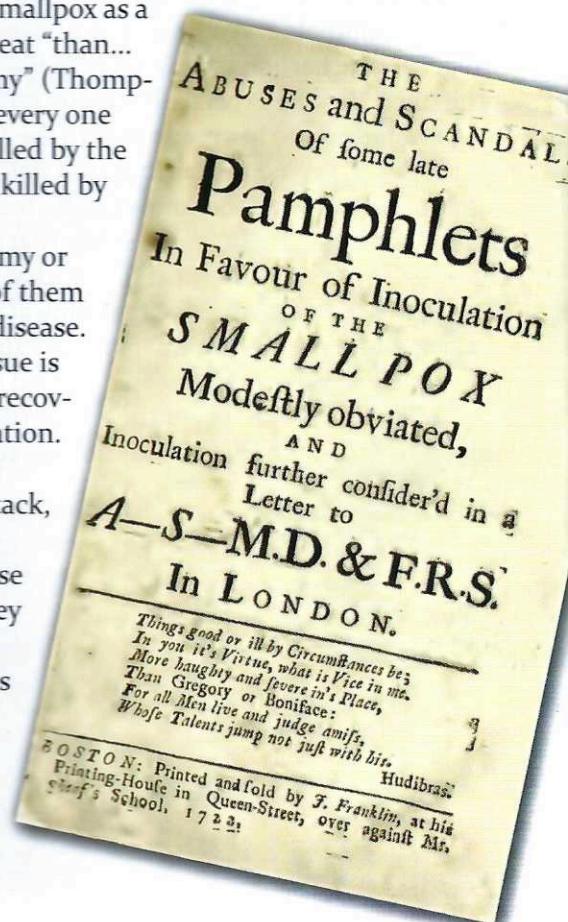
decision. His decision to inoculate the entire Continental Army against smallpox is one of his greatest accomplishments, though it is much less known than his other accomplishments such as beating the British and becoming the first president of the United States.

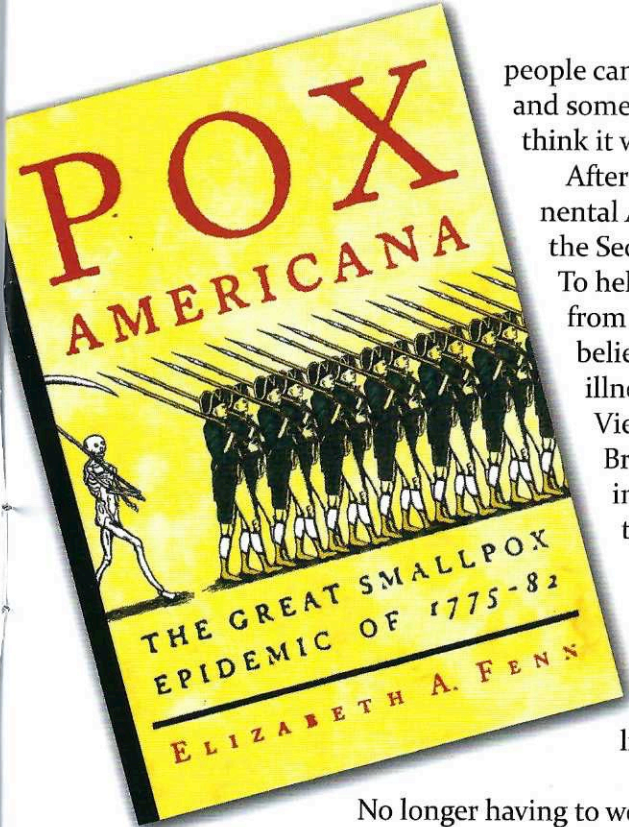
When an outbreak of smallpox ravages Boston in 1775, Washington understands that smallpox is a real problem for his army. Rumors also spread that the British are purposefully spreading the disease. George Washington survived smallpox when he was younger and he knows how horrible the disease can be. He describes smallpox as a potentially greater threat "than... the Sword of the Enemy" (Thompson, "Smallpox"). For every one Continental soldier killed by the British, ten others are killed by

disease, according to one study (Thacker).

Washington now faces the difficult decision of whether to inoculate his army or not. Soldiers who get inoculated develop a mild case of smallpox, but most of them will survive. After being inoculated, people have a lifelong immunity to the disease. However, there are three problems with inoculating the soldiers. The first issue is that inoculated soldiers can actually spread the disease before they are fully recovered. Second, soldiers cannot fight until they fully recover from their inoculation. Third, it is estimated as many as two percent of the soldiers can die from the inoculation. If too many soldiers die or are unable to fight and the British attack, Washington's Continental Army can lose. Then, there is also the problem of soldiers sneaking off and getting inoculated. Some fear getting the full disease so much that they inoculate themselves. These soldiers get the immunity they want, but they risk infecting their peers. Washington's other option is to do nothing except isolate sick soldiers and hope a major smallpox outbreak does not happen.

While inoculation will protect the troops, it is not a well-supported solution (Thacker). At the time, throughout America, there is concern over inoculation. People fear the infecting of their bodies with a disease. They know some people die after getting inoculated. Additionally, infected





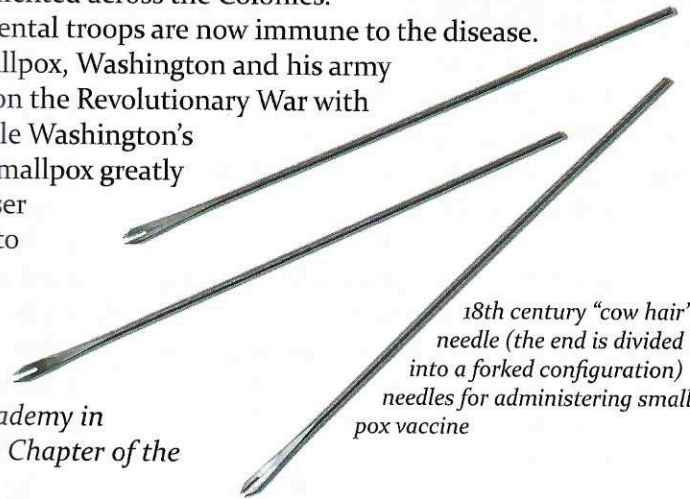
people can cause an accidental outbreak of the disease. The Continental Congress and some colonial legislatures have actually made it illegal to be inoculated. They think it will just spread the disease more.

After much deliberation, Washington decides to inoculate the entire Continental Army on February 5, 1777. He sends a letter to John Hancock, president of the Second Continental Congress, with his order to have all soldiers inoculated. To help make this decision, he reflects on his own experience. He had recovered from smallpox and went on to have an active life in the military. He also believes it is better to “use preventatives, than alternatives,” believing that illnesses are “easier prevented than cured” (Thompson, “Washington’s Views”). With speed and secrecy, because Washington does not want the British to learn of his plan, the Continental Army soldiers receive the inoculation. New soldiers are inoculated and quarantined before joining the army. Washington also orders the civilian population of Philadelphia to be inoculated.

In the end, Washington’s decision pays off. Less than one percent of the Continental Army died from inoculation. Washington makes good on his promise that he will “continue his utmost Vigilance against this most dangerous enemy” (Thompson, “Smallpox”). Inoculation is likewise implemented across the Colonies.

All Continental troops are now immune to the disease.

No longer having to worry about smallpox, Washington and his army concentrate on defeating the British. America won the Revolutionary War with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783. While Washington’s decision to inoculate the entire Continental Army against smallpox greatly influences the outcome of the war, it remains one of his lesser known accomplishments. Without Washington’s decision to inoculate, American Independence may never have been achieved.



18th century “cow hair” needle (the end is divided into a forked configuration) needles for administering smallpox vaccine

*Ed. Note: This essay by Gabriela Ramsey of the Oxbridge Academy in West Palm Beach earned a scholarship from the Palm Beach Chapter of the Florida Society, presented February 22, 2020.*

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# The Glories & Tragedies of Sgt. John Shepherd

By Charles Phebus



Composite image of John Shepherd, based on photos of descendants. Courtesy Charles Phebus.

*Ed. Note—Ten years ago, this publication ran a one-page biography of Revolutionary War veteran John Shepherd in recognition of his very long life and to announce a commemoration ceremony being organized at Shepherd's gravesite by his four times great-grandson Charles Phebus. In the article below, Mr. Phebus details much more about the veteran's life during and following his service in the Army.*

The most remarkable fact about John Shepherd is that he lived so long—117 years, nine months, and eighteen days. A native of central Pennsylvania, he was born in 1729 and died in 1847. As a young man in his twenties, he participated on the British side of the French & Indian War. The *Cleveland Leader* in 1913 reported that "John Shepherd was undoubtedly the last survivor of the troops present at Braddock's Defeat." In his late forties, he fought

in the Revolutionary War with the rank of sergeant.

We don't have a surviving official record of his service during the French & Indian War, but family history indicates he was a soldier and a drummer. A book entitled *History and Genealogy of the John Shepherd Family*, by R. N. Hodgman, states he was with Washington's troops at the Battle of Monongahela in 1755. One envisions him marching over the remains of Maj. Gen. Edward Braddock during the retreat from that slaughter. (Washington had recommended the general be buried deep the same under the road the army would later use in the retreat, so as to prevent marauding Indians from noticing his gravesite and further molesting his remains.)

After "the Old French War," as later Pennsylvanians called the conflict, Shepherd returned home, got married, and went back to farming. As a young man, he had witnessed from time to time the savagery of Indians scalping their victims at random. It must have made a deep impression, because, as a farmer, he found that harvesting corn was best done by grabbing a handful of stalks, pulling them back, and chopping them off at the base with a sharp machete.

## Revolutionary War

When Americans took up arms against the British, Shepherd again stepped up. He was by then in middle-age, an "old man," as younger recruits might have thought. Of course, he would outlive many of those whipper-snappers. At the time of his enlistment, he was a widower and had a little girl to tend to. Before enlisting, he arranged to leave the small one under the care of some kindly neighbors and hoped to return within a few months.

National Archives records indicate he was a sergeant in Stephen Bayard's company of the Second Pennsylvania Battalion. The battalion was assigned on July 20, 1776, to St. Clair's Brigade, an element of the Northern Department. St. Clair's men took part in the crossing of the Delaware River on the night of December 25–26 and in the subsequent battles in Trenton and Princeton. Just before the taking of Princeton, the unit was reorganized into the Third Pennsylvania Regiment.

In late January 1777, the unit was assigned to Washington's command, and the men wintered at Morristown, N.J. In the spring, the battalion fell under a new commander, Col. Thomas Craig, who led them in the battles of Brandywine, Paoli, Germantown, and White Marsh. Just before going to Valley Forge, Shepherd and a few others were captured during the Battle of White Marsh and held in White Church. "They escaped through the efforts of a party of American troops who made an attack on the church at night," writes Hodgman.

Shepherd's last major battle was at Monmouth Courthouse. There, Craig's regiment "greatly distinguished itself,





## For the Herald.

### MR. JOHN SHEPHARD - THE LAST SURVIVOR OF BRADDOCK'S DEFEAT.

Mr. Harris: The notice of the death of Mr. Shephard, copied into your paper from the Akron Beacon, contained some inaccuracies; and I have thought that a few facts relative to the life of this venerable man, would not be uninteresting to the public.

Mr. Shephard was born on Chestnut Ridge, about ten miles from the city of Philadelphia, on the Lancaster road, on the 16th day of March, A.D. 1728. He died at the residence of his son-in-law in Royalton, Mr. Robert Engle, on the 3rd day of January, 1847, aged 118 years, 9 months and 18 days.

He enlisted as a Soldier in the Old French War, and was a member of Col. Washington's Company at Braddock's Defeat on the 8th say of July, 1755. He was undoubtedly the last survivor of that memorable defeat. Many a long winter evening has the writer of this article listened, with all the eager anxiety of a boy, to the stories of the French War, and to circumstances connected with the defeat of Gen. Braddock.

In the year 1776 he enlisted in the town of Newport, Newcastle co., Delaware, as a soldier on the War of the Revolution, and served 3 years and 9 months in the Army. At the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, he was at Fort Ticonderoga: and he has frequently told with what lively demonstrations of joy the Declaration was there received. During the time that he was in the Army, he fought in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown Flats. In the former battle he was wounded by the discharge of his own gun, while loading it. He was once taken prisoner in company with six others while on a scouting party, and was confined in the White Church, Philadelphia, and escaped by reason of a party of Americans making an attack upon the church in the night. On their way to the American camp, they met Cornwallis, and asked for a "pass." He gave them as a reply, "You may pass to h-l"

being in the thickest part of the engagement," as one biographer put it. But by 1778, his health was compromised by a severe bout of rheumatoid arthritis. He was admitted into the Philadelphia Hospital, became acquainted with Dr. Benjamin Rush, and was later discharged from the Army by Benedict Arnold.

## Post-War Hardships

Upon leaving the hospital and the Army, he quickly returned to his home in Lycoming County, where he sought to reconnect with his daughter. To his great despair, the neighbor had moved away and left no word about his daughter's whereabouts. Shepherd never again heard from that child, which must have been a shot unlike any other that had ever neared him.

Following that heartbreak, he eventually remarried to a young woman named Elizabeth Gould, and they lived in Williamsport, Northumberland County. Shepherd was quite a bit older than his second wife; nevertheless, they built a home and raised a family of eight children. They lived in mid-northern Pennsylvania until 1805, when another hardship came along: A fire destroyed their home and consumed the veteran's discharge records. This would be a problem for him when it came time to apply for a pension.

After that tragedy, they moved to Canandaigua, N.Y., where more hardship followed. Upon relocating to Canandaigua, another child was born to them, but it would be the couple's last. Not long after the birth of Sarah, their last child, Elizabeth died. John Sr. was again left as a single father of a very young girl, in addition to the other kids.

Meanwhile, his oldest son, John Shepherd, Jr., enlisted in a N.Y. regiment to serve in the War of 1812. After he left home, he was never heard from again, even after the close of the war. It was another gut-wrenching loss for the older war veteran.

## Moving to Ohio

By 1816, Shepherd emigrated from New York to Ohio with the family of his second-born child and first daughter, Mrs. Margaret (Shepherd) Engle. At eighty-eight years of age, this man drove the first team of oxen into what later became the township of Royalton, Ohio (later renamed North Royalton), about twenty miles south of Cleveland. In that time, the forests were thick and the wolves, bears, and Indians were too numerous to count. The Engle family took its place among the founders of Royalton township.

In 1826 his second daughter, Mrs. Jane (Shepherd) Beels, with her family, settled a few miles north of Margaret and her family. As Hodgman writes, "From this time until the close of his earthly life, [Shepherd] made his home with his daughters, Mrs. Engle and Mrs. Beels." Even into his nineties, the veteran occupied himself by cultivating the gardens of the two families.

Olonzo Engle, Margaret's son, left a telling description of his grandfather: "There is one incident in my Grandfather Shepherd's life which I recollect distinctly. One morning at the breakfast table, father said to brother William and me to hurry and finish sowing the wheat, as our corn was ready to cut. I was 16 years of age at the time, and grandfather was 112 years old.

"When we finished breakfast, grandfather got a long butcher knife and took his chair and went to the cornfield. He worked



Margaret Shepherd Engle

until the horn blew to call us to dinner. After eating his dinner, he rested half an hour then returned to the cornfield and worked until night. The next morning William and a man named Porter went to the cornfield. They found that grandfather had cut two acres of corn in one day."

### His Pension Application

In early 1832, when he was 102 years of age, Sgt. John Shepherd applied for a federal pension in support of his army service, and he was promptly denied. Not only did he not have any proofs of his claims (which had been consumed in the house fire), but his strong signature on the application was immediately suspect for a man of his age. Furthermore, the application was made before a Justice of the Peace, not in an open court.

These reasons were detailed in an 1845 letter apparently intended for the family and written by Edward Oviatt, Esq., of Somerset County. Interestingly enough, Shepherd's application included a witness statement from Sam Starkweather. At the time of the filing, Starkweather was a collector for the Ports of Cleveland. Years later, he was elected Mayor of Cleveland for two separate terms.

Starkweather's statement says, "This may certify that for several years past I have been personally and familiarly acquainted with the above named John Shepherd, and take pleasure in stating, that his character for truth and veracity for industry and good habits is irreproachable, that by the community, in which he lives, he is held in veneration, for his surprising age, and reputed Revolutionary services, of which no doubt are entertained.

"That being as he is now entirely destitute of the means of support and in a state of extreme poverty, much public feeling exists in favor of his application to be placed on the pension list.

Sam Starkweather—Cleveland, Ohio, Feb 24 1832."

A good genealogist never gives up. It took me a number of years to locate the pension application. I finally found it in the archives of the U.S. House of Representatives.

### North Royalton Cemetery

By 2009, I had tracked down the gravesite of my renowned ancestor. He is buried in the North Royal-

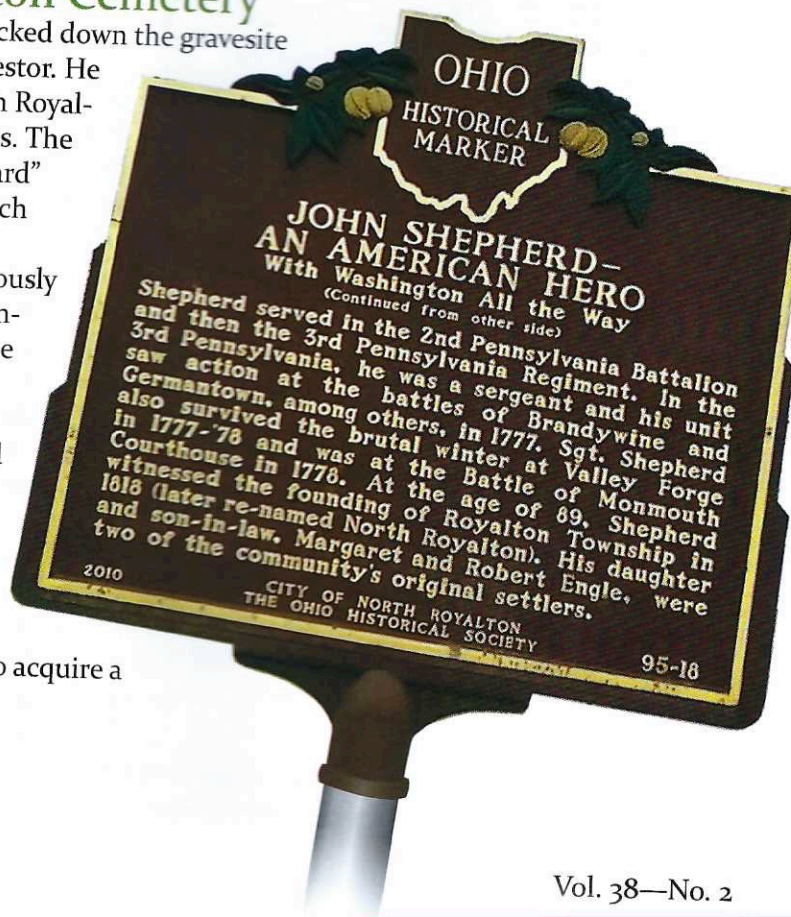


Jane Shepherd Beels

ton Cemetery. The headstone itself contains inaccuracies. The engraver of the stone misspelled the last name as "Shepard" and did not account for the calendar change of 1752, which threw off the accuracy of his lifespan.

Because of John Shepherd's remarkable life, and obviously his strong patriotism, I organized in 2010 a graveside commemoration that involved a community breakfast and the presence of many hereditary societies, an Armed Forces Color Guard, and a replica Liberty Bell. In my opinion, it was high-time that his service be publicly recognized and his name appropriately honored.

After the commemoration took place, we started an annual scholarship fund at the North Royalton Middle School across from the cemetery. The winner of the Annual John Shepherd Essay Contest is given a trip to Washington, D.C., to see the various historical sites and to acquire a greater appreciation for the country in which we live.



# Three Medals for an American Hero & Founding Father

*The article below continues our series on the Comitia Americana medals and others closely related. In this issue, we divert our focus away from Revolutionary War generals to a Founding Father, Benjamin Franklin. The 2007 book Comitia Americana and Related Medals: Underappreciated Monuments to Our Heritage by John W. Adams and Anne E.*

*Bentley includes three medals that pay homage to the American thinker-printer-scientist-diplomat that Franklin was.*

*Although too aged to fight in the Revolutionary War, Franklin's influence upon the Colonies, our independence, and our early republic was every bit as great as any war hero. The article liberally highlights excerpts from the Adams-Bentley text, with permission from their publisher, George Frederick Kolbe of Crestline, California.*

*By James Rhodes, SRNY Member*

Benjamin Franklin was an American original and continues to be an icon of what is best about America to many: simple tastes, common sense, industry, and scientific discovery. As famous for his witty expressions as he was for his experiments with electricity, he began his life as a printer and never abandoned the profession. However, it was his experiments with electricity that initially brought him notoriety among the European intelligentsia, who were fascinated by his rustic genius.

*Benjamin Franklin - Franklin Institute*

when an English friend of his, Peter Collinson, presented a paper of his on electricity to the Royal Society in London (1750). Our famous thinker/printer/scientist/diplomat had not “discovered” electricity, but had proved that lightning was an electrical discharge which metal conductors (lightning rods) could safely channel into the ground.

“Franklin became the first non-Briton to receive the Royal Society’s Copley Medal. His writings on the subject of electricity were translated into French, German, and Italian, where they were read and quoted by the learned and the royal.

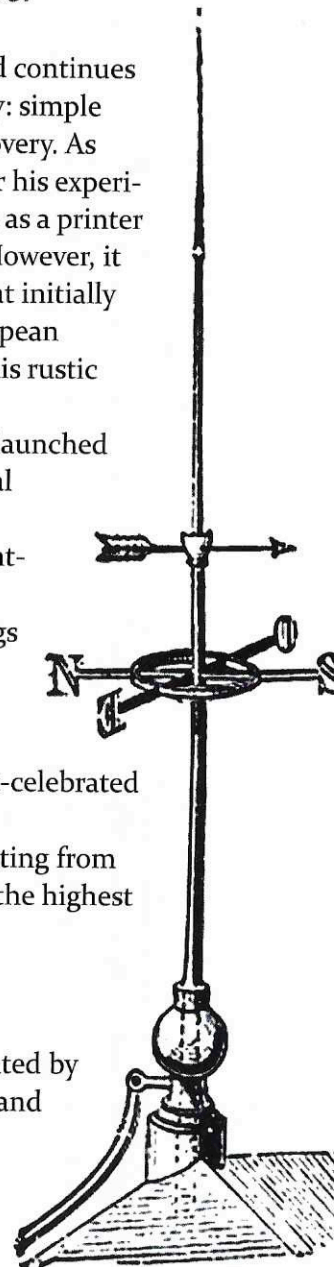
“Between his work on lightning rods and additional studies in the field, Franklin left a mark worthy of even the most highly educated practitioners. In the words of Carl Van Doren, his most-celebrated biographer, ‘He found electricity a curiosity and left it a science.’”

The famous kite experiment in 1752 proved to the world that the risk of structural fires emanating from lightning strikes could be eliminated. All that needed to be done was to install lightning rods at the highest points on a building or house and run the conductor(s) into the ground.

## From Science to Diplomacy

From his reception in Europe as a scientist and theorist, he made friends and was later appointed by the Continental Congress to be a diplomat of the Colonies. “Franklin’s first extended trip to England was the five years 1757 through 1762. His mission was to represent the Pennsylvania Assembly, which was struggling for political power against the Proprietors (the Penn family) and the governors they appointed.”

“Franklin did not acquit himself well in this assignment, misjudging the British power





*This newspaper printed damning revelations of Franklin's role in making the Thomas Hutchinson letters public.*

colonial legislatures. "It was in this capacity that he lobbied to alter or repeal the infamous Stamp Act of 1765 and the Townshend duties of 1767."

## In Hot Water

In early 1774, the *London Chronicle* published a series of letters that had originally been directed to Lord North from Massachusetts Governor Thomas Hutchinson, urging the British government to send more troops across the Atlantic to suppress the rebels. It created a scandal. Before others could be blamed, Franklin confessed that he himself was indirectly responsible for their publication, having shared copies privately with key Americans. In fact, it was John Adams who first published them for public consumption.

For as lofty as his initial reception had been in the Mother Country, Franklin's popularity among certain circles in England suffered in the wake of this scandal. North's government denounced him publicly and relieved him of his duties as Deputy Postmaster. Before the Privy Council, Solicitor General Alexander Wedderburn accused Franklin of having stolen the Hutchinson letters (which wasn't true).

The representative of America's rebels in London was excoriated and denounced as a thief. Although the things said against him were exaggerations, Franklin refused to respond to Wedderburn's accusations. By the time his

structure and completely misjudging how those in power viewed America. Nonetheless, given his achievements in the fields of science and writing, he... received honorary doctorates both from St. Andrews and Oxford.

"The famed philosopher David Hume offered Franklin this extraordinary compliment: 'America has sent us many good things, gold, silver, sugar, tobacco, indigo, but you are the first philosopher, and indeed the first great man of letters, for whom we are beholden to her.'"

In 1765, he began a second trip to England, where he would spend the next ten years of his life. This second trip ended in tumultuous fashion. Franklin served as a Deputy Postmaster General of the Parliamentary Post and moonlighted as a political representative for several



*Franklin appears before the Privy Council of Britain in 1774. Alexander Wedderburn calls him a "true incendiary."*



second appointment in Britain concluded, Franklin was convinced the two sides would never come to any agreement.

After arriving back to America in May of 1775, he was elected a delegate of Pennsylvania to the Continental Congress. "Long a monarchist, Franklin was now convinced that America could achieve no satisfactory partnership with London. He joined the [Congress] with a clearly formed view that independence, however painful it would be to achieve, was the only viable solution to the political confrontation. This body was thus treated to an unusual situation wherein its oldest member was also one of its most radical. Franklin did not speak often, but his membership on all the important committees reflected the universal esteem in which he was held."

### From England to France

"As the year 1776 drew to a close, Franklin was given yet another critical assignment: he and two other commissioners were sent to Paris to negotiate an alliance with the French, an improbable assignment given the regular losses that the Americans [had been] sustaining in the battlefield. Fortunately, the news changed for the better on October 17, 1777..."

After the British surrender following the Battle of Saratoga, Franklin negotiated with the French for recognition of the United Colonies and for a military alliance in the ongoing hostilities with Britain. He also politely listened to "new British proposals offering almost everything except independence." In December 1777, the French agreed to ally with the Colonies and formalized the arrangement early the following year.

"The next seven years brought a series of diplomatic and social triumphs for the aging ambassador. In a society that prided itself on luxurious trappings, Franklin dressed and lived simply. He became the very symbol of the natural man untainted by the sophistication of a decaying aristocracy." While he was in France, Benjamin Franklin became an ardent Francophile and the French returned their love to him.

"... [It] is clear that Franklin concluded his ministry in France in triumphant fashion, leaving behind a large chorus of ardent followers. They owed him nothing, but they gave him their highest tribute freely."

In an ostentatious French society, Franklin's straightforward manner and uncomplicated dress impressed. The symbolism of the natural man among a decaying aristocracy was a powerful visual for anyone. "His appearance - fur hat, spectacles, and all - gave America an image of sober industry that brought respectability to a land that was but poorly understood, and whose government was in such sharp contrast to the monarchies of Europe."



At left, Franklin's residence in London, 36 Craven Street, near Trafalgar Square.

A street sign in Paris indicating "Benjamin Franklin Avenue."



English medal obverse



English medal reverse

## The English Medal

The medals under consideration were struck in the years 1777, 1784, and 1786. The sponsorship of all three medals is a mystery, but the authors (Adams being a world-renowned numismatist) believe the first came from amateurs in England, dear friends most likely, who conceived the project in secret and worked with a lesser known mint to bring it to fruition. Neither the Royal Mint in London nor the Birmingham Mint would have taken on the project, since by then Franklin was persona non grata with Lord North's government.

The portrait on the obverse side is the work of a highly skilled artist, though there is no surviving indication that Franklin ever wore such an informal costume. Nonetheless, the combination of a youthful, carefree attire with the facial features of an older man conveys both vitality and experience, wisdom and robustness.

The reverse side displays lightning striking a stout oak tree, with no apparent effect. Around the periphery: NON IRRITA FULMINA CURAT (He is not perturbed by the futile lightning bolts.) This side obviously salutes his work with lightning and, by way of the undamaged tree, is an allegory to Franklin's composure before the Privy Council. For as good as the design is, the medal's production was less than professional. Substitutions in the lettering, including the year it was produced, suggest that the mint did not even have a complete set of punches.

Its imperfections aside, the medal's sponsors could have come from a legion of admirers that Franklin still had in England, though many of them muted. "Whether from the world of science (e.g., Joseph Priestley), the world of letters (e.g., David Hume), or the world of politics (e.g., the Earl of Chatham), the medal was at once a pæan of praise and an expression of sentiment against the war."

The authors point out that even though North's government considered Franklin to be the embodiment of the enemy, there were members of Parliament that were still endeared to him. In 1778, David Hartley wrote Franklin a letter which stated, "Many Friends have desire to be kindly remembered to you." Hartley the younger (1732 – 1813) was a statesman, a scientific inventor, and the son of the philosopher David Hartley. He was Member of Parliament for Kingston upon Hull. Perhaps Hartley was involved in finding the means to honor his disgraced comrade.

## Two French Medals

The French so esteemed Franklin that they awarded him two medals, one unofficial, the other official. The obverse side on both features a left-facing profile of Franklin during his older years. "The portrait appears to have been engraved from the bust made by Houdon in 1778. With high forehead over an aquiline nose, it suggests the intellectual and moral strength of the subject. With ample folds of skin under the chin, the artist simultaneously shows an aging man. This combination of force and age does an effective job of capturing the simple man celebrated throughout all France." In Latin, the lettering states, "Benj. Franklin born in Boston January 17, 1706."



Benjamin Franklin, French medal of 1786—Obverse die



PHOTOS FROM NEW ENGLAND COLLECTION



Obverse



Reverse #1



Reverse #2

It was on the reverse side of the 1784 medal that Dupré showed off his talents. “He executed a series of sketches for the reverse: one depicting Minerva pointing to a temple; another featuring Hercules astride a beaten enemy, reaching with his left hand for a thunderbolt; still another that has Fame hovering over a winged genius working on a tablet; and still others with a winged genius in various solo compositions...”

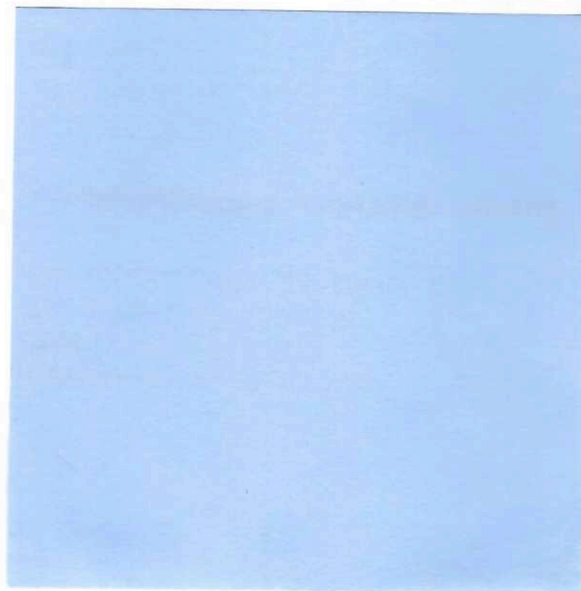
“The adopted reverse includes many of the best ideas from the earlier sketches, making a statement that is at once simple, uncluttered, and elegant.” The chosen design features a winged genius (representing Franklin) pointing with an outstretched right arm to a lightning bolt in the background that is striking a temple protected by a lightning rod. With his left hand, arm relaxed, Franklin points to a crown and scepter dashed in the foreground. Around the periphery is lettering in Latin that reads, “He snatched lightning from the heavens and the scepter from tyrants,” a phrase said to be taken from Turgot.

Adams and Bentley believe Louis XVI came along two years later and followed up the first design with a more sedate reverse featuring the same lettering enclosed within a plain laurel wreath. The second version (1786) is quite common, as eighteenth century medals go, indicating the French Mint produced an abundant number at one time. Examples of the first issue, however, are not as abundant. The second is featured in the early official gifts of the Comitia Americana set.

A final thought from the authors stands out on Benjamin Franklin: “It is Congress that should have voted a medal to Franklin, but instead this medal was awarded by others...”



Benjamin Franklin medal of 1786 Silver medal, obverse and reverse  
Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna



## SUBMISSION DEADLINE DATES

Issue	Deadline Date	Issue Mailed
No. 1	April 1	April 30
No. 2	Aug 1	Aug 31
No. 3	Dec 1	Dec 31

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