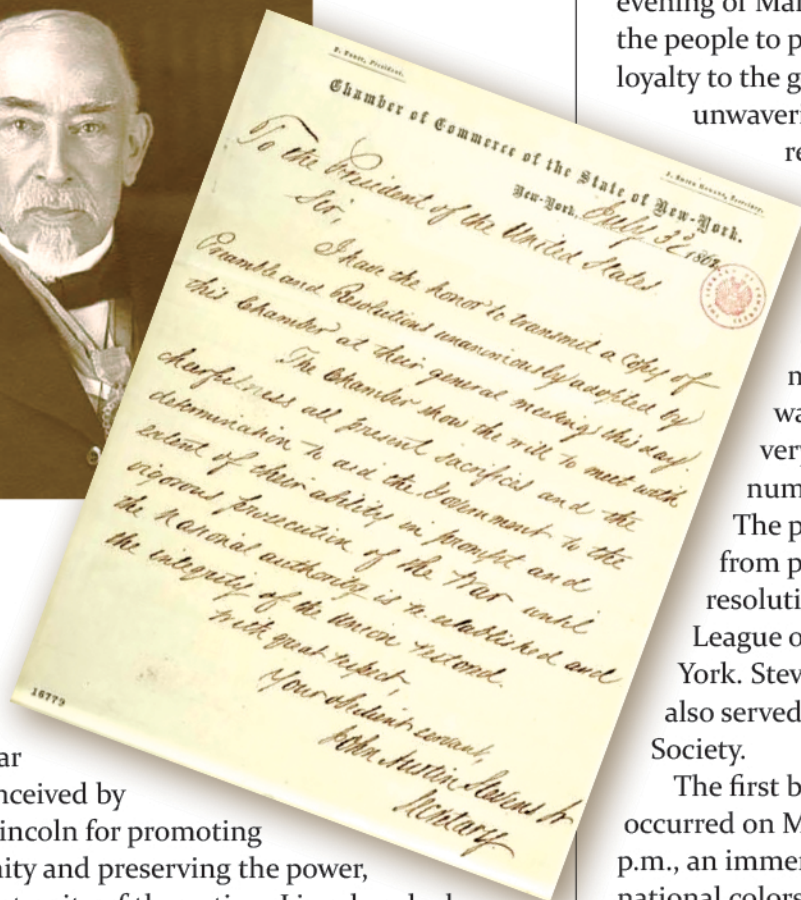
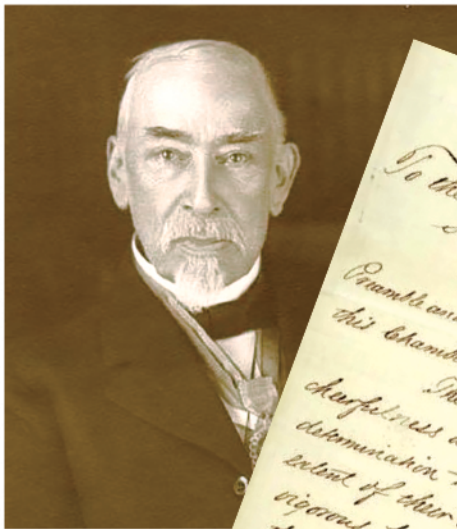


The Three Societies Formed by John Austin Stevens

By Laurence S. Simpson, DDS
General President

John Austin Stevens organized three public societies in his lifetime. We have already touched upon two of them: a) our beloved Sons of the Revolution, and b) the Society of '83. The third society, which chronologically was the first, was named the Loyal National League, a.k.a., the Loyal League of Union Citizens.

The League, created in 1863, was a Northern effort



during the Civil War and was conceived by President Lincoln for promoting patriotic unity and preserving the power, glory, and integrity of the nation. Lincoln asked Lieut. Gen. Winfield Scott to serve as its symbolic head, and he appointed Stevens to get it up and running.

The President had already been familiar with Stevens in his role as Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York. In that position, Stevens sent Lincoln regular correspondence about the Chamber's proactive initiatives concerning the speedy prosecution of the war.

Stevens plastered an announcement and petition concerning the formation of the Loyal League of

“We are purely an American Society, not a social club.”

Union Citizens on newspaper buildings across New York City, inviting interested parties to sign their names and convene at the Cooper Institute on the evening of March 6. The announcement called upon the people to pledge themselves to unconditional loyalty to the government of the United States, to an unwavering support of its efforts to suppress the rebellion, and to spare no endeavor to maintain unimpaired the national unity, both in principle and territory.

The turnout on March 6 filled the cavernous venue. A report of the meeting stated, “To say that the building was crowded to repletion is to convey a very inadequate idea of the countless numbers that were packed within its walls.” The people that night heard long speeches from prominent men, and they approved resolutions including the creation of the Loyal League of Union Citizens of the State of New York. Stevens was voted in as a Vice President. He also served as Secretary of the Loyal Publications Society.

The first business meeting of the League occurred on March 20, again at Cooper Institute. At 8 p.m., an immense roll handsomely mounted with the national colors and containing over 5,000 signatures was rolled in, placed upon the desk in front of the audience, and greeted with great applause. The *Proceedings at the Organization of the Loyal National*

League states, "Probably no man of his age did more to bring about compact and efficient organization among men of the North than young Mr. Stevens."

Next, Stevens and others organized a massive meeting at Union Square. The date was set for April 20—an approximation of the second anniversary of the shots fired on Fort Sumter (April 12). When that day came, 50,000 people filled Union Square to hear a multitude of speakers. *The New York Times* called it "the greatest and most enthusiastic gathering ever held [to date] in New York. MUSIC, CANNONS, FLAGS AND CHEERS."

In between the various speeches and celebratory acts, a Council of Twenty-Five was chosen to organize a State Convention in Utica the following month. Stevens served as emcee at the convention and moved to elect Gen. John Cochrane as Chairman of the Loyal League in the State of New York, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

A quick perusal of the members of the League's Council of Twenty Five and Executive Committee is a list of the wealthy and connected individuals of the era. Some of those individuals became founding members of the Sons of the Revolution.

At the conclusion of the drawn-out war, the Union League's mission was over. It was later combined with a similar group to form the Union League Club, a private, benevolent organization which still exists today in New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago.

Stevens' enthusiasm for organizing patriotic societies and events continued. On the morning of April 14, 1865, he and others of a delegation met with President Lincoln in Washington, D.C., to suggest that the President name a day of national rejoicing over the peace. Lincoln liked the idea, but it never came to pass. That very evening, he was assassinated at Ford's Theater.



History of the Turtle Feast's Thirteen Toasts

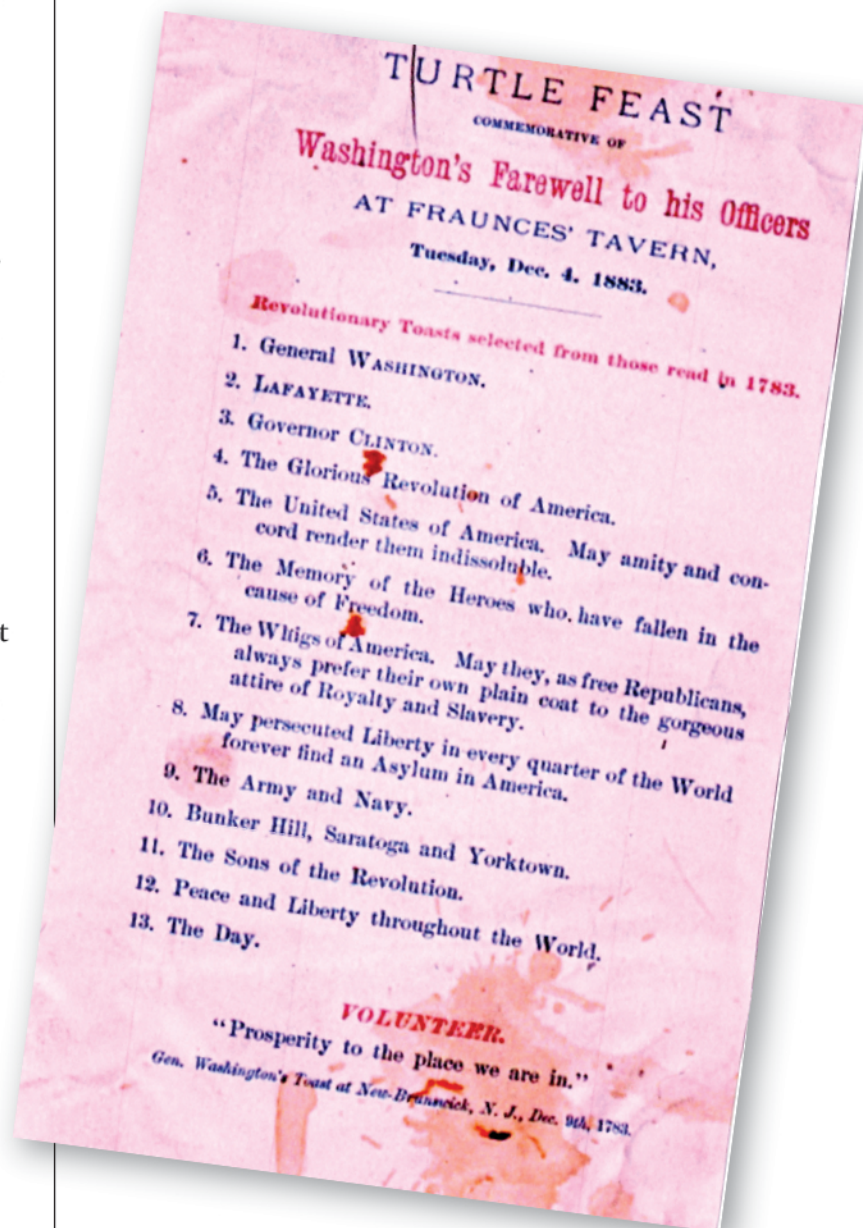
The traditional Thirteen Toasts of the Sons of the Revolution did not originate at the 1783 officers farewell to George Washington, which took place in

the Long Room of the Fraunces Tavern. Toasts were a means of celebration, and the farewell dinner was a somber occasion during which there was no celebrating.

These famous toasts were devised by our founder, John Austin Stevens, with assistance from William Kelby, the librarian of the N-Y Historical Society, for use at our Founding Dinner, the first Turtle Feast of the SR, held at Fraunces Tavern in 1883.

They should be repeated as a celebration of the founding of the SR at select State Society and General Society events. Try to make them a part of your own State Society's traditions.

Here is a copy of an original toast sheet from that auspicious event, and from the amounts of stains on it, one can conclude that much jollification, camaraderie, and friendship were enjoyed by all.





Board of Managers Meeting October 4th-6th, 2019



**The Westin Richmond
6631 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 282-8444 - (888) 627-7786**

Room Rates: Standard King \$145/night

Friday Oct. 4th:

**Check-In
Registration 4:00pm - 6:00pm
Cocktail Reception**

Saturday Oct. 5th:

**Registration 8:00am - 9:00am
Continental Breakfast 8:00am - 9:00am
Meeting 9:00am - 3:00pm
Lunch Provided
Buckhead's Coat & Tie Dinner 6:00pm
Sat. Activity for Wives & Guests TBA**

Sunday Oct. 6th:

Church Service followed by Sherry 8:30am

General Society Sons of the Revolution

Board of Managers Meeting Registration Form 10/4 -10/6/2019

Name _____ Wife/Guest _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone Number _____ E-mail _____
 State Society _____ Position held _____

**Registration Fee for a delegate is \$300, and for a Ladies tour participant is \$285
 (Includes Saturday Continental Breakfast, lunch, and Buckhead's dinner for both)**

Friday:	Yes	No
Transport to VASR reception at member's home	_____	_____
Evening VASR reception with refreshments and heavy hors d'oeuvres	_____	_____
Return transport from reception to host hotel	_____	_____
 Saturday:		
Attending delegate activities Saturday AM and afternoon	_____	_____
Attending ladies tour activities Saturday AM and early afternoon	_____	_____
Transportation to Evening event at Buckhead's Restaurant	_____	_____
Evening event at Buckhead's Restaurant	_____	_____
 Sunday:		
Morning service at host hotel	_____	_____
Farewell Sherry at host hotel	_____	_____

Make out your registration fee check to The General Society of the Sons of the Revolution and mail to:

General Society of the Sons of the Revolution
 Board of Managers Meeting Registration
 412 Francis Street West
 Williamsburg, VA 23185

The Host Hotel is The Westin Richmond at 6631 West Broad Street, Richmond VA 23230
 (804) 282-8444 or (888) 627-7786

The Room rate for a standard King is \$145/per night with a cutoff date of September 10th, 2019 to receive the special rate. Mention General Society of the Sons of the Revolution to get the rate.



Richmond, Virginia – A Cradle of American History

Not all of the country's early history took place in New England and/or the mid-Atlantic. The South also includes spots of significant interest in the story of our nation. As this year's BOM Meeting is being held in Richmond (it's not too late to register), here are some of the capital city's most notable attractions:

Virginia Museum of History and Culture



permanent and temporary exhibits, browse through the extensive research library, and enjoy a full agenda of ongoing events. The Museum houses stories of both Richmond and the Commonwealth of Virginia during all time periods: Colonial times, Revolutionary War, Civil War, and the twentieth century. The VSSR houses its very impressive flag collection in this museum.

Richmond Historic Landmark Trolley Tour



riverfront, architecture and history. The driver and guide combine the history of Richmond and Virginia with great stories, humor, and wit. Some of the sites you will see and hear about are the State Capitol, Monument Avenue, St. John's Church, Libby Hill, the Valentine, the White House and Museum of the Confederacy, and the museum district.

Canal Walk/Canal Cruise

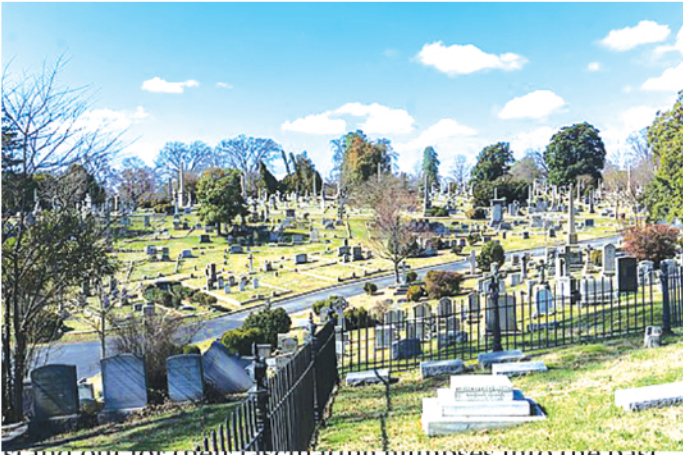


coast harbors to western markets. One of the results was the James River-Kanawha Canal. The city features a Riverfront Canal Walk along 1.25 miles of paved promenades that are interspersed with historic sights, statues, and markers telling Richmond's four-century story. Nearby Brown's Island features an outdoor concert venue and the American Civil War Center at

the former Tredegar ironworks.

The Riverfront Canal Cruise takes visitors on forty-minute historical tours, which depart every hour from the Turning Basin and follow the route of the Canal Walk. From the vantage point of the Canal, visitors will see the unique railroad Triple Crossing, old tobacco warehouses that are now trendy lofts, the Virginia Capital Trail, the Low Line gardens and James River wildlife.

Hollywood Cemetery/Shockoe Cemetery



stand out for their fascinating glimpses into the past. The beautiful and iconic Hollywood Cemetery, established in 1847, contains the remains of President James Monroe, President John Tyler, and Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Other notables buried there include Virginia governors, Congressmen, Confederate generals, inventors, educators, writers, and numerous other celebrated individuals.

Shockoe Hill Cemetery was established in 1822 and was the city's first publicly funded, secular cemetery. The cemetery is the final resting place of Civil War soldiers from both the North and South. Revolutionary war hero Peter Francisco and U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Marshall are here, too, as well as Edgar Allan Poe's foster parents, John and Frances V. Allan.

John Marshall House

John Marshall House was the home of the distinguished judge and is one of the few remaining Federal-style homes in the area. The fourth Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Marshall served from 1801 to 1835, and his court opinions established several crucial concepts of constitutional government. Most important of these was making of the judicial branch of government equal to the legislative branch and

executive branch. In one of his most famous decisions, Marshall ruled that former Vice President Aaron Burr could not be found guilty of treason (1807). Marshall said treason must be proven by acts. Since Burr had not committed any proven treasonous acts against the U.S., he could not be convicted.

Virginia State Capitol



1788 to the design of Thomas Jefferson, who modeled it after a Roman temple in Nimes, France. Several major events in Confederate history took place here, including the ratification of Virginia's secession from the Union and Robert E. Lee's appointment as commander of the Southern army. The capitol sits in a spacious park known as Capitol Square, from where the Governor's Mansion can also be seen.

Virginia War Memorial



The Virginia War Memorial is the Commonwealth of Virginia's premier monument, museum, and educational center honoring the memory of all Virginians who fought to defend the United States from the Revolutionary War through today. The center features educational outreach, exhibits, documentary films, and patriotic programming.

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

"It should be the highest ambition of every American to extend his views beyond himself, and to bear in mind that his conduct will not only affect himself, his country, and his immediate posterity; but that its influence may be co-extensive with the world, and stamp political happiness or misery on ages yet unborn."

—George Washington, to the Pennsylvania Legislature 12 September 1789

THE GENERAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE REVOLUTION INTRODUCES:

THE "SOCIETY OF '83"

How do you become a member of the Society of '83?

By giving \$1,000, \$10,000 or \$20,000



\$1,000 - \$9,999*

Membership in the Society of '83 signified by a buff-colored rosette jacket to be worn around your Society rosette.



\$10,000 - \$19,999 (Captain Level)*

Membership in the Society of '83 signified by a blue rosette jacket.



\$20,000 or more (General Level)*

Membership in the Society of '83 signified by a gold rosette jacket. You will also be recognized in the Drumbeat.

What will your gift accomplish?

Aside from helping meet the day-to-day operating costs of the General Society, your gift could be used to fund one or more of the following projects::

- Creation of a Revolutionary War media app intended for school students.
- Creation and distribution of Revolutionary War educational programs to schools.
 - Promotion of scholarship through speakers, publications and awards.
- Implementation of a more active website with regular updates of content, links to important events, a Revolutionary War calendar, a members-only section, etc.
 - Acquisition and preservation of artifacts concerning the Revolution and our own history.
 - Provision of funds to assist State Societies with recruiting new members.
 - Provision of funds to start new State Societies where we are not currently represented.
- Provision of funds for GSSR Society Regional Vice Presidents and other GSSR Society General Officers to travel to the various State Societies to bring all of our members closer and encourage them to be more involved.

What sort of gifts can you make? The General Society can accept gifts in any number of forms, including:

**Cash/checks • Appreciated securities • Life insurance
Real estate • Distributions from IRAs and other retirement accounts**

**The amounts do not have to be given in one year to qualify you for the Society of '83. They may be given over a period of up to ten years. For example, if you pledge to give \$1,000 to the Society each year for the next ten years (a total gift of \$10,000), you would qualify for the Captain level and would receive the blue rosette jacket.*

To recognize recent generous gifts, membership in the Society of '83 will be recognized retroactively. All of your donations to the annual campaign since July 1, 2015, will count towards your total donations to determine your gifting level.

Please do not forget to inquire whether your employer matches charitable gifts. The General Society qualifies for support from most companies. The General Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts to the General Society are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

THE “SOCIETY OF ‘83” 2018 DONORS



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<i>Jimmy Smith</i>	<i>GA</i>
<i>Larry Leslie, Sr, MD</i>	<i>KY</i>
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