

★ SR GAZETTE ★

AN ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE GENERAL SOCIETY

Upcoming BOM Meeting: Disney World Sept 25-27, 2020



Disney properties/artwork:
© Disney

In an effort to appeal to SR families, of all ages, the General Society announces that its next Annual Meeting will be held at *Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resort* in the heart of *Walt Disney World Resort*®, Lake Buena Vista, Florida (Orlando area). The negotiated price per room includes a fabulous list of amenities, services, and special discounts that make this a wonderful vacation opportunity for the entire family. Much more information and registration details will follow in the next *Drumbeat*, to be distributed after the New Year.



Disney properties/artwork: © Disney

Solid Turnout in Richmond, Virginia

The 2019 GSSR Board of Managers' Meeting held October 4-6, 2019 in Richmond was a great success. The General Society extends its thanks and appreciation to the Virginia Society for hosting the event. Twenty-eight delegates attended the weekend meeting, which was staged at the Westin Richmond Hotel.

VSSR Past President Bev Mauck worked tirelessly with the GSSR in the planning and logistics. VSSR President Dr. John M. Daniel III and his wife, Princess, opened their home to Society members on Friday evening and entertained the group with backyard hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Several VSSR members graciously transported out-of-town guests to the Daniels' home and back to the hotel.

On Saturday evening forty-seven persons, including members and guests, convened at Buckhead's Chop House for a delicious meal.



Business Highlights

A roundup of business meeting highlights includes the following:

1) The GSSR made handsome returns on its investment account for the first 9 months of 2019. Ending total value was \$834,219, representing a return (net of fees) of 12.9 percent. The beginning total value was \$784,189.

2) The physical GSSR Grave markers debuted through the North Carolina Society's assistance and coordination. Nearly two dozen markers were sold to interested members. (The mold pattern was taken from an antique marker owned by the SRNY that features the GSSR seal.)



Close-up of the grave marker medallion.



Sharon Toms, left, and Leslie Bush, right. Leslie bought the first grave marker medallion through the NCSR to honor her father, Edgar M. Burkett, a member who passed away in mid-July 2019.



Edgar M. Burkett

3) Delegates unanimously passed three proposed amendments that will save costs for State Societies:

- State Societies will be issued at no cost application blanks for membership and other paraphernalia (Article III, Section 13, Assistant General Secretary).
- Copies of the GSSR insignia will be issued at no cost to any member who formally requests such through his State Society Secretary (Article VII, Section 1, GSSR Insignia).
- GSSR certificates of membership of dignified character will be issued at no cost to any member who formally requests such through his State Society Secretary and provided a duplicate membership application is on file with the General Registrar (Article VIII, Section 1, Membership Certificates).

4) The 2019 Technology Committee, appointed by General President Laurence S. Simpson, has recommended the selection and implementation of technological devices, products and services to

improve and expand the day-to-day operations of the Society and its contact with members, as well as the public at large. It recommends the following points to make recruitment on the State Society level easier:

- Digitalization, storage and accessibility of GSSR membership applications and master database;
- Creation of a members' Patriot-Anccestor database;
- Technological upgrades including a change in the hosting site of the GSSR web presence and implementation of: a better catalog of GSSR merchandise with online payment capabilities, expansion of pages and photos, the addition of State Society pages, inclusion of governance files needed for a 501(c)(3), and the important organizational information traditionally found in the "Blue Book."



GSSR Presidential Project

By Laurence S. Simpson, DDS
General President

Following the recommendations made to me by the 2019 Technology Committee (see story above, under #4), I have taken on as a Presidential Project the complete digitalization of ALL our membership applications. Part of the funds for this project are coming from the Society of '83 contributions. Earlier this year, we contracted Sharon Toms of Kansas City, Missouri to scan applications that have been held in long-term storage in Kansas City.

Sharon started the scanning in September 2019. The total number of boxes to be scanned is 89, comprising some 51,000 applications dating back to 1894. After they are all digitized and added to the existing database, the originals will then be sent to Virginia for storage near our present headquarters in Williamsburg.

The second half of this project includes making the database accessible online to the Executive Director (Jeff Lambert), Executive Secretary (Sharon), and the General Registrar (Jefferson Moak.). Later, at a date to be determined, the database will be made accessible to all State Society Registrars.

Women's Outing in Richmond

By Susan Bennett

The many wives who accompanied their husbands to the GSSR BOM meeting in Richmond, Virginia, were treated with a special outing on Saturday. Usually, while the men are in the business meetings, their wives are left to fend for themselves. However, the VSSR had a surprise for the ladies. Members planned a field trip to the Virginia



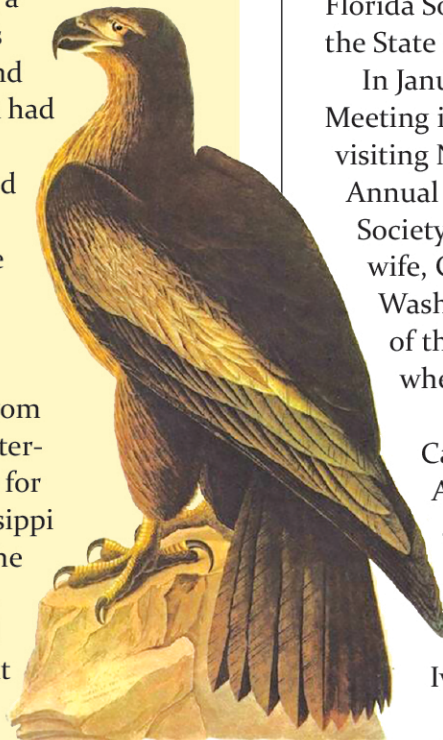
Museum of Fine Arts for any and all ladies interested. They provided transportation and lunch for us.

Thirteen wives, including myself, participated and had a wonderful time exploring the museum, shopping in the gift shop, enjoying a delicious lunch, and

getting to know each other. VMFA had a wonderful collection of Faberge eggs and jewelry, Tiffany lamps and windows, Frank Lloyd Wright furniture, and art from around the world through the centuries.

Something that caught my attention was the engraving of a Great American Sea Eagle taken from John James Audubon's original watercolor drawing. He saw this species for the first time on the Upper Mississippi in 1814 and named the species, "The Bird of Washington." As Audubon later explained, "As the new world gave me birth and liberty, the great man who ensured its independence is next to my heart... He had a nobility of mind... He was brave, so is the Eagle; like it, too, he was the terror of his foes; and his fame, extending from pole to pole, resembles [this Eagle's] majestic soarings."

After touring the museum, we even got tours of Richmond by our drivers. Thanks to all who organized and participated in this outing.



President's Travel Report: 2019

By Laurence S. Simpson, DDS
General President

My first year as your General President has been both rewarding and challenging. To recap my 2019 travels for the GSSR, I have been warmly met with open arms in every location I have visited. A month before my election, in September 2018, I attended a white-tie dinner in Boston, hosted by the revived MASR Society. Kudos go to Society President Shervin Hawley for his tireless work in reigniting that important State Society.

In the fall, I made several visits to the SRNY to attend various functions at the Fraunces Tavern for the purpose of increasing general awareness of the GSSR. After the Franklin (TN) Triennial and start of 2019, I turned my attention toward the South. During my winter seasonal residence in Florida, I attended several meetings of the Palm Beach Chapter of the Florida Society and expressed good will to meet with the State Society officers, which later occurred.

In January, I hosted an Executive Committee Meeting in Williamsburg and followed that up by visiting New Orleans for the Louisiana Society's Annual Meeting. It was held at the lovely home of Society President Edward Church Bush and his wife, Cindy. That trip was followed by a visit to Washington, D.C., to attend the Annual Meeting of the D.C. Society at the Chevy Chase Club, where I gave a talk on early SR history.

As spring approached, I visited North Carolina in March to attend that Society's Annual Meeting in the Winston-Salem area and meet Society President Gus Succop. In May, with the weather turning nicer, I stopped off at Hilton Head, S.C. for an extensive visit with Region 3 General VP Ivan Bennett to discuss regional issues.

In early June, the two of us traveled to Fort Lauderdale to attend the Florida Society's Annual Meeting there. We brought greetings from the General Society and exchanged mutual desires with Society officers concerning development and increasing membership there. My thanks to Ted Duay and Joe McChristian, and I extend my well wishes to Society President Jonathan Jensen, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Finally, over the summer, I took a ten-day trip to the Midwest. Buzz Carmichael, the General Treasurer and President of the KYSR, made arrangements for several meetings in Lexington and nearby areas. As reported in the last *Drumbeat*, we jointly attended a “meet and greet” gathering at the University Club in Cincinnati, which appears to be bearing fruit.

I then continued on to Indianapolis, to meet with Region 5 General Vice President Bob Rati, who hosted a lecture meeting at a country club in Indianapolis. State Society Presidents from Illinois (Dr. Donald Gradeless), Michigan (Geoffrey Hickok), and Wisconsin (Richard Krueger) were in attendance. Several members of the Indiana Society attended as well. Consideration was given to increasing membership, activities, and participation in the states of IN, IL, KY, MI, and OH.



New Jersey Society Photo Opps

Earlier in the summer, as reported in the *Drumbeat*, the New Jersey Society was active in fun-spirited

events that included the Color Guard presenting colors at an Atlantic League Baseball Game in Bridgewater, and helping sponsor children attending the Summer Day Camps at the Old Barracks in Trenton. The photos presented here were not included in the previous *Drumbeat*.



George Washington appeared with the Sons for "Revolutionary Spirit Night" at TD Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater.



SRNJ President Michael Bates with kids during Summer Day Camp at the Old Barracks, Trenton.



Formation of the General Society

By John Dwight Kilbourne

** This article is taken from the author's book Sons of the Revolution, A History 1875-2001, published by the GSSR in 2002.*

Early in 1890 the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the Revolution had "about 200 members." In May of that year, the District of Columbia Society reported forty-six members. The membership of the New York Society had progressed rapidly, making a total of about 1,000 gentlemen in the three organized societies of the Sons of the Revolution.

By contrast, the Sons of the American Revolution, largely through Mr. McDowell's methods, grew exponentially. At their "First Congress," in Louisville, Kentucky in April 1890, it was reported that the society had 2,500 members.

The unfortunate lack of harmony between the two societies was, perhaps, enough to convince the three State Societies of the Sons of the Revolution that they now should be united. A call was issued for New York, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia to meet together in Philadelphia on February 12, 1890.

Present were: Herman Burgin, Richard McCall Cadwalader, James Edward Carpenter, Josiah Granville Leach and Clifford Stanley Sims of Pennsylvania; John Gelston Floyd, George Clinton Genet, John Jackson Riker, Alexander Ramsay Thompson Jr. and Charles Hornblower Woodruff of New York; and Arthur H. Dutton of the District of Columbia. A document resulted which initially was called a "Compact." In fact, it was a Constitution. It was immediately approved by Pennsylvania. New York approved it on March 3, 1890 and the District of Columbia did so on April 3, 1890. Delegates from each of the three State Societies met in Washington on April 19, 1890 and mutually approved this Constitution as governing them all and officially forming the General Society.

Also at that organizational meeting were Frederick Meade Bissell, John Lee Carroll, Timothy Matlack Cheesman, Samuel R. Franklin, William Gaston Hamilton, John Allsop King, T.B.M. Mason, James Mortimer Montgomery, William B. Rochester, Frederick S. Tallmadge, Daniel M. Taylor, John Canfield Tomlinson, William Wayne, Daniel Cony Weston and Charles Worthington.

The meeting was held at Chamberlin's Hotel, located at 823 15th Street, North West (the southeast

corner of 15th and H Streets) in Washington, DC. Chamberlin's was a frequent meeting place of the District of Columbia Society. It was a converted town house and more like an old-fashioned inn or British pub than like the large Washington hotels of current vintage.

While the Sons of the Revolution dates from a formative meeting in 1875 leading to the formation of the New York Society in 1876, the "General Society" of the Sons of the Revolution came officially into existence on April 19, 1890. The Constitution of 1890, as amended, still governs the Society.

The document contained no "articles." Instead, it consisted of eighteen unnumbered paragraphs. The word "Constitution" does not appear until paragraph five. The document was and remains conservative and oriented toward states' rights. Paragraph two states in part that "The General Society shall be divided into State Societies" and paragraph five, that "... the State Societies shall regulate all matters respecting their own affairs."

The whole tenor of the Constitution of 1890 is reminiscent of that of the Society of the Cincinnati.

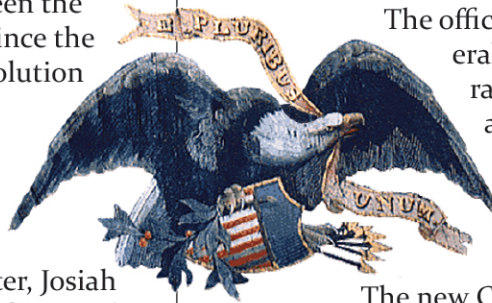
The officers, however, were called "General President," "General Secretary," rather than "President-General" and so forth, as in the Cincinnati. The seal and insignia of the Society remained as they had been defined in the New York Constitution of December 1889.

The new Constitution of the General Society, like that of the Cincinnati, had a major flaw: it contained no amending clause.

The earliest organizational efforts were all at the state level. The General Society's Constitution of 1890 envisioned a central governing authority that was to be created by the constituent State Societies. Debates at later General Society Triennials or interim annual meetings showed that there was some confusion about how much autonomy the State Societies could exercise.

The majority view held that the General Society was a loose confederation of individual societies following mutually-agreed-upon procedures calculated to preserve their unity. The precedent was the Revolutionary-era "out of many, one," or E Pluribus Unum. This concept is important for understanding not only the development of the United States, but of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution, as well.

In this organization ideas formulated by State Societies are brought to



the Triennial or interim Board of Managers Meeting, debated, sometimes transformed, and often adopted as General Society policy. The reverse order may apply as well. Policies and procedures developed in the General Society are discussed in the Triennial or interim Board of Managers Meetings and are brought to the State Societies for adoption or not, as the case may be.

This is not the process of a "federation," but of a "confederation," preserving the individualism of the respective societies. The end result has been that the implementation of the philosophies of the Sons of the Revolution resides with the State Societies.

The insignia and seal which originated with the New York Society. The motto, Exegi monumentum aere perennius ("I have reared a monument more lasting than bronze"), was taken from Ode XXX by the Latin poet Horace (Quintus Horatius Flaccus 65 B.C.-8 B.C.). All of these were adopted by the General Society and first appeared on the published report of its meeting of April 19, 1895 in Boston.

The first General Society officers elected in 1890 were:

- General President: John Lee Carroll,
Maryland
- General Vice-President: William Wayne,
Pennsylvania
- General Secretary: James Mortimer
Montgomery, New York
- Assistant General
Secretary: Timothy Matlack Cheesman,
New Jersey
- General Treasurer: Richard McCall
Cadwalader,
Pennsylvania
- Assistant
General Treasurer: Arthur H. Dutton,
District of Columbia
- General Chaplain: Rev. Daniel Cony Weston,
New York.

For a number of years the annual meetings were mandated to be held in Washington, DC on April 19, the anniversary of the battles of Lexington and Concord, marking the start of the Revolutionary War. In the early years, the April 19 meetings were adjourned to a summer date when a quorum was certain to be present.

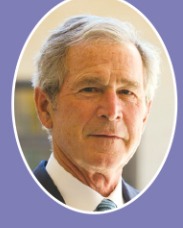
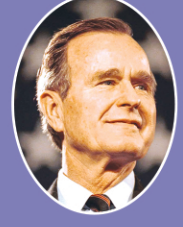
Early on the General Society decided not to grant honorary memberships in the Sons of the Revolution to the President and Vice President of the United States or to the Ambassador of France, as had been

proposed, because doing so would create a dangerous precedent to permit memberships independent of descent from qualified ancestors. That notwithstanding, at the 1934 Triennial, after placing a wreath at his monument on Flag Day, General President John Vernou Bouvier announced that the Unknown Soldier of World War I buried in Arlington National Cemetery was an honorary member of the Sons of the Revolution.

Several Presidents of the United States have become members of the Sons through regular application procedures. Former President Benjamin Harrison, great-grandson and namesake of the Signer of the Declaration of Independence, was a member of the Indiana Society prior to his death in 1901. Theodore Roosevelt, a descendant of Archibald Bulloch, first President of the Provincial Congress and Commander-in-Chief of Georgia, joined the Georgia Society in 1891.

Herbert Clark Hoover joined the California Society in 1929 while he was in office as President, and Harry S. Truman became a member of the Missouri Society in 1946, also while in office as President. Dwight David Eisenhower was a member of the Pennsylvania Society from 1963 as a descendant of John Matter, a private in the Lancaster County, Pennsylvania militia.

Gerald Rudolph Ford, a descendant of Ezra Chase, a private in Captain Ebenezer Colby's Company of Minutemen who marched on the alarm April 19, 1775 to Cambridge, Massachusetts, was a member of the California Society beginning in 1994. George Herbert Walker Bush and George Walker Bush were and are, respectively, life members of the Tennessee Society through their ancestor Jonathan Weir, who lived in Blount County, Tennessee and fought in the 1780 Battle of Kings Mountain.



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" 2018-19 DONORS



<i>Ivan Bennett</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>
<i>Charles Carroll</i>	<i>EU</i>	<i>\$28,000</i>
<i>Jeffrey T. Clark</i>	<i>NJ</i>	<i>\$1,020</i>
<i>Roger Coursey, Capt.</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>John M. Daniel, M.D.</i>	<i>VA</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>
<i>David H. Dickey, Esq.</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>Mark Jacobowski</i>	<i>VA</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>Allen James</i>	<i>NC</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>Larry Leslie, Sr., M.D.</i>	<i>KY</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
<i>J. Robert Lunney, Esq.</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>Lanny R. Patten</i>	<i>PA</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>
<i>Charles J. Scammell</i>	<i>NJ</i>	<i>\$1,100</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>

TO-DATE TOTAL: *\$46,120*