



DRUMBEAT

Sons of the Revolution The General Society



Reports from General Society Headquarters — Independence, Missouri

NUMBER 42

WINTER 2004

Board of Managers Convenes in Kansas City *Delegates treated hospitably*

The General Society met for its annual Board of Managers Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri on October 15th, 2004, bringing together delegates from accross the country.

In the comfortable and conducive environment of the Westin hotel at Crown Center, all present were treated to the hospitality of the Missouri Society, and a series of events in Kansas City and Independence.

On Friday morning, a majority of delegates participated in a forum on membership recruitment and retention. Publications Committee Chairman William S. Christenberry, then conducted a short session to discuss a proposed merger of the Society's publications.

After lunch, a bus was provided to take the delegates to the new headquarters in Independence.

The number of delegates being too great to comfortably tour the facilities, provisions had been made to accomodate them in two groups and, while one group visited headquarters, the other enjoyed good wine and some singularly well prepared delicacies at an Italian restaurant accross the street.

Once all had had an opportunity to view the offices and storage facility, the group proceeded to the Truman Library nearby and after a suitable time there, returned to the

hotel for dinner, where they were joined by Thomas Jefferson, courtesy of Mr. Tom Pitz of Orange, VA, who has been impersonating Mr. Jefferson for over fourteen years. Mr. Pitz offered a scholarly and entertaining portrayal of Jefferson, and was especially adept at handling questions from the audience.



Photo by William S. Christenberry
Past General President Thomas C. Etter, Jr., Dr. Niel Johnson as Harry Truman and General President M. Hall Worthington, during the Saturday reception.

At 09:00 AM on Saturday, immediately after a hearty breakfast hosted by the Missouri Society, the BOM convened and its session continued until late afternoon. Included in the business transacted during the session, Dr. Michael Kelly, President of the Illinois Society, made a presentation of the plans under way for the 2005 Annual Meeting in Chicago. Dr. Kelly stated that it will take place at the Adam's Mark Hotel (soon to change become

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2004 Annual Meeting

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Marriott or Hyatt), at a cost of \$79 per night. He recommended those attending to fly into O'Hare because the hotel is just north of that airport. A stretch limousine will take the ladies to Michigan Avenue for a tour of the Chicago Art Institute and lunch at the Union League Club as the guests of Dr. and Mrs. Michael Kelly. The ladies will then continue on to shopping at the Magnificent Mile, returning to the hotel as the Board of Managers session adjourns. Additional information on the Board of Managers meeting in Chicago will be published in the June issue of the Drumbeat.

Other locations were discussed for upcoming Annuals and Triennials, with the following tentative schedule adopted:

2005 Board of Managers, Chicago, IL
(October 21, 22, and 23)

2006 Triennial, Knoxville, TN
(October 6, 7 and 8)

2007 Board of Managers, Mobile, AL

2008 Board of Managers, Kentucky

2009 Triennial, Florida

2010 Board of Managers, Arizona

The Board approved a request to refund the Pennsylvania Society certain expenses related to the 2003 Triennial, approved a proposal to consolidate the Society's publications, and rejected a proposal to change the by-laws regarding membership fees while recom-

mending that the 2005 Board of Managers in Chicago modify the same to allow the Board of Managers the ability to set fees from time to time as necessity may require. The Board also



Photo by William S. Christenberry
Mrs. Berta Foresee conducted a detailed tour of the Society's headquarters in Independence and was always on hand to assist delegates and their wives in a manner as unassuming as it was effective.

allowed to stand a resolution of the Executive Committee to include Fraunces Tavern among the funds which can receive donations in the Annual Campaign.

Charles D. Carroll was appointed Vice President *pro tempore* of Region 7, created *ad hoc* to encompass foreign societies. The appointment carries no voting rights, and the Tennessee Society will present a proposal to the next Board of Managers to amend the Constitution so that said Region 7 can be created on an equal footing with the other six.

The delegates proceeded to a reception followed by a banquet masterly entertained by Dr. Niel Johnson as Harry Truman. Dr. Johnson, a historian and former Truman Library archivist, made an erudite and most entertaining presentation, with many being unable to separate the character from the man and all enjoying the humoured reenactment.

On Sunday morning, the delegates met for a traditional sherry, religious services having been suspended due to an unexpected scheduling problem.



Photo by William S. Christenberry
Mr. Thomas Pitz, portraying Thomas Jefferson during Friday's dinner. Here, Mr. Jefferson shares with the audience his dreams of extending our nation West.

AMERICAN HERITAGE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT, 15 OCTOBER 2004

RADM J. Robert Lunney, NYNM (Ret.), Chairman

General President Emeritus

In 1993 General Pete Cox, then General President of the General Society, requested that I undertake a column, in *Drumbeat*, describing the nation's military preparedness. He specifically charged that I comment on changes in our capabilities to wage war and to keep the members of the Sons advised of the nature, capabilities and like factors of these threats. Current topics of the day were to be covered. He noted that such a column would not only commemorate the actions of our ancestors, but also make us aware of what is necessary to preserve the freedom, which they won for us.

Over the past twelve years, I have written about our military requirements, emphasizing the need for the U. S. military to be adequately funded in order to prevail in any conflict. Congress and the President have always been urged to carefully address our national security. The need for the Strategic Defense Initiative called for by President Reagan because of vulnerability to ballistic missile attack was discussed. Concerns over the use of U. S. troops in so-called "nation building" missions and "Mission Creep" have been discussed. An "exit strategy" from Bosnia was emphasized. China and missile proliferation was discussed in several columns. A column on the twenty-fifth anniversary, remembered the murderous explosion at Fraunces Tavern and Clinton's offer of clemency to the terrorist group responsible.

The turnover of the Panama Canal and the need in the 21st century of a strong national defense program, including a close look at quality of life issues for our troops, were covered in columns during 2000. I have also written about our noble task to articulate a national defense in the face of steady incursions against traditional political, social, and moral values.

Assaults on constitutional order by judicial activism have been considered. During 2001 concerns were expressed about the need for important changes to revive trust and con-

fidence, in order to improve recruitment and retention rates in our armed forces. I have also written about the need to be vigilant about our freedoms, including religious freedom, as America continues its war on terrorism. Creation of the Department of Homeland Security was supported to enable the government to have the capability to identify threats and take prompt actions to secure the homeland. Eternal vigilance to preserve our liberty has always been emphasized.

In writing about continuing concerns to America's national security mention has been made of critics seeing a contradiction between the government's reaction to North Korea's admission that it is manufacturing nuclear weapons, to its yet unproven claim of Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction.

The cause of freedom and high risks in the Middle East have been mentioned, noting that America is fighting a "war after the war", in Iraq. The alarming state of affairs in Israel, Palestine, and Afghanistan has been at the forefront of public debate. A recent column noted that with disciplined leadership, the military and economic superpower of the United States presents an unprecedented opportunity to lead the world toward universal democracy.

These columns have fulfilled General Pete Cox's charge to keep the Society advised of changes in our capabilities to wage war and to keep the members of the Sons advised on the nature and capabilities of these threats.

Note:

RADM Lunney's Naval and Merchant Marine service of 43 years for our nation included overseas service in World War II and the Korean War. He has served with the Naval Amphibious Forces, Naval Intelligence, and the Judge Advocate General's Corps. He holds a Doctor of Law degree from Cornell University. Pursuant to Defense Department direction, he has been to North Korea on two occasions, to confer with its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in reference to POW/MIA affairs and to monitor joint

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THE 2004 GIVING PROGRAM

through November 7th, 2004

Each year, many members make a personal contribution for the benefit of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution. These monies are very important to the General Society not only for their monetary amounts or value but also for the vote of support they represent. The General Society is yours and the donations received are an indication of the support of many individuals for the purposes and objectives of our organization. Gifts also continue to move the Society to a better financial position ensuring its longevity, and its ability to carry out the stated purposes.

The total contribution amount to date is \$21,451.00. It is especially heartwarming to note that two individuals gave a total of \$8,500.00, therefore accounting for 39% of the total and voicing an extremely strong vote for the Society and approval of its purposes. The individuals who donate are dedicated to SR, its purposes, and its future.

I extend a genuine "thank you" to those who have contributed to this year's annual campaign.

*Richard Joseph Carroll, Sr.
Chairman*

BENEFACTORS—\$10,000+

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CONTRIBUTORS—\$100-\$199

William C. Anthony *RI*

Members will receive information about the 2005 Giving Program by separate mail.

GENERAL SECRETARY REPORT

by Paul F. Davis

I am very pleased to report that the General Society Headquarters is fully operational in Independence, Missouri and the staff is available on a daily basis.

In the year since the 2003 Triennial, much progress has been made and several important operating improvements have been implemented. Among them, a dramatically improved computer hardware and software that allows us to create up-to-date listings of State Society members as well as other important records. Addresses and General Society member numbers as well as mailing lists for publications are now current. The database has been expanded by the software coordinator to create a General Society Roster and individual or group mailing labels, consolidated billing in Quicken and Removal of non active and deceased members from the active files.

Headquarters staff is also developing an expanded web site with the potential for on-line discussion and real time input from members. In addition, we are evaluating a proposal for an on-line shop with an expanded line of SR merchandise.

As to the General Society publications, *Flintlock & Powderhorn* and *Drumbeat*, two important actions have been taken that will significantly affect them: A new Managing Editor was selected from the applicants that submitted resumes to the General Society. Through Committee action a new format and look for our member publications and a proposal for more frequent communications of Society information will be presented shortly. It is felt that significant improvements in this area will be achieved in both costs and communication effectiveness.

Again, I am extremely impressed and excited with the effort and achievements of everyone who has been associated and involved with the establishment and operation of our new General Society Headquarters, especially our Executive Secretary Berta Foresee, Assistant Secretary Sharon Toms, and the leadership and involvement of our Assistant General Secretary Gary Toms and Chairman of the Headquarters Committee William Gann.

TO YOUR HEALTH Smallpox, Then and Now (Part One of Two)

General Surgeon William J. Acuff, MD

Smallpox is a very serious acute febrile viral illness, which has plagued humans for thousands of years. This disease is characterized by high fever, prostration, and large skin lesions, which start out as blisters and end up as pustules with resultant deep scarring in many who survive. It is spread by direct contact with infected individuals. The Variola virus is the causative agent and the mortality remains about 30% because there is no treatment for this disease except supportive measures. The best treatment is prevention by vaccination.

Several authorities list smallpox as the principle disease of the 18th century. In North America large outbreaks of smallpox coincided almost perfectly with the beginning and ending of the American Revolution 1775-82.

General George Washington personally knew about smallpox because he was a victim. When he was 19 years old, he accompanied his older half brother, Lawrence, to the island of Barbados because Lawrence had consumption (tuberculosis). At that time it was thought that a change in climate would speed recovery from his tubercular disease. Young George contracted smallpox shortly after arrival in Barbados and he was seriously ill for several weeks but survived with pox facial scarring, which remained with him throughout his lifetime.

Washington's army was riddled with outbreaks of smallpox and the only treatment known at that time was to isolate the soldier and the ones physically close to him. These outbreaks completely stymied most battle plans, so General Washington's only alternative was to "pox-proof" his troops. Pox material was then introduced into the arm with a puncture wound or deep scratch. This resulted in a very mild case of smallpox and the mortality was acceptable at approximately one in one thousand persons inoculated. The British started using "inoculation" for prevention of smallpox near the beginning of the 18th century and General Washington's regimental surgeons were well acquainted with this procedure. Martha Washington was one of the first to be "pox-proofed" using the technique of inoculation because she often visited General Washington at his encampment sites.

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REPORTS FROM STATE SOCIETIES

EUROPE

A new chapter in the history of the General Society

The support of France in June 1776, quickly and almost unconditionally offered when the colonists determined to break apart from England, was an important factor in the success of the American Revolution. France and the United States have since enjoyed a special relationship, tracing its roots to France's early support which gave a stamp of legitimacy for the patriots' cause of the American Revolution. It was therefore appropriate that

Charles D. Carroll in 2000. Charles, at that time a resident of Ireland, wanted to share the objectives and fellowship of SR with others living in Europe, especially American ex-patriots. Richard J. Carroll, Sr. heartily embraced the project. They also discussed the fact that there are descendants of citizens of France, Poland, Germany and Spain who fought in the American Revolution, who would qualify for membership as well.

Over the next several years, discussion continued while leads were gathered for potential members. In 2002, during the term of General President J. Robert Lunney, enough support and encouragement were found to proceed. With the cooperation of the Tennessee State Society of which both Carroll brothers were members, the process was launched to form the European Society. Potential members living abroad were contacted, as were a small group of eager supporters in the US. Enough potential members willing to join and to support the effort were identified by early 2003 to meet the requirements to form a new Society. The initial meeting to form this new Society took place in Paris, 12 de Regard, in the fall of 2002.



Members of several American Societies toast the European Society in which they hold dual membership. From the left: David Rutherford, TN; J. Robert Lunney, NY; Charles A. Carroll, TN; Richard J. Carroll, Jr., TN; Sam Maner, TN; Dr. Michael T. Frost, MO; M. Hall Worthington, MD; James Thorington, II, MD and PA.

France be the site of the founding of the European Society of the Sons of the Revolution.

The idea perhaps may have been voiced previously over the years, but no record has been found. If voiced, undoubtedly it did not progress beyond the idea stage. It should be noted that both the Society of the Cincinnati and the Sons of the American Revolution are represented by active organizations in France.

The origins of the newly chartered European Society SR can be traced to a concept first discussed by brothers Richard J. and

An organizational meeting occurred in September 2003 in a beautiful setting, the historic Chateau de Remaisnil near Doullens, France, and was attended by a number of officers of the General Society. Also present at this meeting was Past General President James Thorington, II who took a special interest in the project. President Lunney at the Triennial in Philadelphia reported it to the General Society membership in October 2003.

The Tennessee State Society assisted in preparation of applications for membership. Enough memberships had been approved by

March 2004 to meet the requirements to charter a new Society. The Executive Committee of the General Society approved the charter in that month. The charter signing ceremony took place on September 9, 2004, at the Chateau de Remainnil, built in 1760 and now the residence of Charles and Teresa Carroll.

This historic meeting included many of the Charter members. General President M. Hall Worthington signed and presented the charter to European Society President Charles Duane Carroll in the presence of members and their spouses. Each of the Charter members pre-

memorials in the vicinity. Past General President Lunney provided interpretative and enlightening comments at some of these sites.

The officers elected at this meeting were:

- President, Charles D. Carroll;
- Vice President, Richard J. Carroll, Sr.;
- Second VP, Louis E. Hess;
- Secretary, Charles A. Carroll;
- Asst. Sec., David L. Rutherford;
- Treasurer; Dexter A. Christenberry, Sr.;
- Historian, John Bell Moran III;
- Registrar, Samuel A. Maner, Jr.;
- Rep. to GS, Charles D. Carroll.



A candlelit dinner hosted by Charles and Teresa Carroll (seated at right) offered excellent opportunities for conversation and fellowship,

sent was then presented with his individual membership certificate and a commemorative medal. European Society President Charles D. Carroll, assisted by Registrar Samuel A. Maner, Jr., and General Society President M. Hall Worthington, conducted the presentation. Afterwards each member signed the Charter. Following the ceremony, members enjoyed a wonderful candlelit dinner hosted by the Carrolls.

This gathering was the conclusion of three days of activities for the members. An important activity during the time spent together by these charter members was the first annual business meeting of the European Society. The members' visit also included a walking tour of the chateau and grounds and adjacent village. The group visited the nearby town of Doullens to see the chambers where Marshall Ferdinand Foch was selected as the Supreme Allied Commander in WWI. On another day, members toured several WWI battlefields and

List of those in attendance: Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Carroll, Richard J. Carroll, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Michael D. Frost, William R. Gann, Mr. and Mrs. J. Robert Lunney, Samuel A. Maner, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. David L. Rutherford, Mr. and Mrs. James Thorington, II, Gary R. Toms, Mr. and Mrs. M. Hall Worthington

Other charter members not in attendance: William J. Acuff, MD; Victor Ashe, Ambassador to Poland; Gary L. Boshears; Richard J. Carroll, Sr.; Charles A. Carroll; Dexter A. Christenberry, Sr.; William S. Christenberry, PhD; James B. Ebert, Sr.; James B. Ebert, Jr., MD; Thomas C. Etter, Jr.; Alexander E. Hess (junior member); Louis E. Hess; Charles E. Higdon; Levi B. Johnson, USMC; Alexander Lunney; John B. Moran, III; Robert E. Sprinkle, Jr., DPM.

Submitted by Gary R. Toms and William R. Gann, with assistance of other members of the European Society

NEW YORK

Annual Report of Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York

July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York held the following events since July 2003:

September 22, 2003 - The Nathan Hale Commemoration ceremony was held at the Statue of Nathan Hale in City Hall. Park. The ceremony is co-sponsored each year by the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Color Guards of the Sons of the Revolution and the Veteran Corps of Artillery participated.

November 24, 2003 - Evacuation Day - A dinner was held in Fraunces Tavern Restaurant commemorating the day the British Army left New York City, November 15, 1783, after occupying the city for seven years. That night the Governor of New York, George Clinton, honored George Washington with a banquet in Fraunces Tavern. At that banquet 13 toasts were offered beginning with "The United States of America" and ending with "May the Remembrances of this Day be a lesson to Princes". Those thirteen toasts were offered at the dinner on November 25th. Lieutenant Matheu Petitjean, President of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français represented the French Consulate at the dinner; 77 guests attended.

December 4, 2003 - Annual Meeting of the Society was held in Fraunces Tavern Restaurant. The Election of Officers and Board Members took place; 36 guests attended.

January 26, 2004 - Tallmadge Day Stated Meeting was held in Fraunces Tavern Restaurant. The guest speaker was Timothy Field Beard, noted genealogist and member of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York; 34 guests attended.

February 20, 2004 - George Washington's Birthday Ball was held at The St. Regis Hotel in New York City. Vice Admiral Joseph D. Stewart, Superintendent, United States Merchant Marine Academy, was the guest speaker and recipient of the Distinguished Patriot Award for 2004; 125 guests attended.

February 22, 2004 - Annual Church Service, commemorating the birth of George Washington and in memory of our members who died during the year, was held at St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery in New York

City. Colors were displayed by the Sons of the Revolution, Veteran Corps of Artillery, the US. Navy and the US. Marines.

April 26, 2004 - Family Night Stated Meeting commemorates the Anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord. This year marked the 228th Anniversary of those battles. The dinner meeting was held in Fraunces Tavern, and the guest speaker was Professor Richard Bernstein. The Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award is presented at this event each year and this year was presented to *A Leap in the Dark: The Struggle to Create the American Republic*, by Professor John Ferling. Three books were chosen to receive Honorable Mention Awards: *Benjamin Franklin; An American Life* by Walter Isaacson; *Gouverneur Morris: An Independent Life* by William Howard Adams and *Thomas Jefferson* by Richard B. Bernstein; 26 guests attended.

May 28, 2004 - Knox Trophy was presented by President Kevin F. Hansley to Cadet Joseph Z. Wells at the Awards Convocation Ceremony at the US. Military Academy at West Point, NY.

June 18, 2004 - Captain Gustavus Conygham Award was presented by President Kevin F. Hansley to Cadet John Alden Mengloi Hobson at the Awards Convocation at the US. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY.

June 14, 2004 - Flag Day Parade was held in downtown lower Manhattan. The parade began at City Hall Park and concluded with a ceremony outside of Fraunces Tavern.

Winners of the Flag Day Essay Contest "*What the American Flag Means to Me*" were Giner Paulino of P.S. 30, Bronx, NY and Primavera Vasquez of St. Thomas Aquinas, Bronx, NY. The children read their essays at the ceremony and were each presented with a plaque and a US. Savings Bond. Their schools were presented with a plaque and a check.

Fraunces Tavern Museum - The current exhibition, which opened in June 2004, is Downtown New York, Where the Streets are Paved with History, will run through January 8, 2005. This exhibit surveys the names of New York's Streets as a reflection of the city's rich history. Images, documents, and objects illustrate the stories behind street names as well as the people, places, and events that called those streets home. The current exhibit in the Loeb Gallery is entitled *Heroes*. It looks at just a few of the many people from diverse backgrounds who joined together to win America's

independence. A permanent exhibition on the Sons of the Revolution is on display in the Museum Gallery. Visitation to the museum has been increasing, including the number of school tours scheduled. The Museum Staff will be presenting a new school program to the visiting classes this year. The program focuses heavily on the American Revolution and the Sons of Liberty, and encourages children to consider the difficult choices New Yorkers from all backgrounds made during our struggle for freedom. Students will learn of some of the lesser-known heroes of the Revolution, and consider what they would have done if they had lived 225 years ago.

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York note with sorrow the death of Philip Coombe, a life member of this Society. Mr. Coombe was a member since 1946 and served with devotion on the Board and held many other vital committee positions. Our heartfelt condolences to his wife Ethel and his entire family.

ARIZONA

It is with great sorrow we must report the passing of one of our Arizona Society founding members and long time member of the General Society, James Duvall Trabue, GSSR 021065, SRAZ 002. James was the Arizona State SR President (1997/98) as well as being actively involved with many other hereditary organizations, including The Society of the Cincinnati, The Huguenot Society of America and The General Society of Mayflower Descendants. James had been in cancer treatment for some time. August 2004 services were private.

Our current Arizona Society President, William Steese, is a long time member of the General Society, GSSR # 07920, and a founding member of our Arizona Society, SRAZ # 001. We are very fortunate to have his leadership. Paul F. Davis AZSR Secretary.

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Please submit articles and news as you wish them to appear in the Drumbeat, and provide captions for all graphic material. Electronic submissions are preferred. Typed, double spaced articles ready for publication are greatly appreciated.

FLORIDA

The Florida Society is approaching the end of a very successful year, having noticeably increased its recruitment of new members, and re-established a quarterly schedule of meetings. In October, the Society played host to the 4th Gathering of Hereditary Societies in Florida. The event took place in Orlando, with seventy-three guests attending representing nine societies.

The Councilor of the Florida Society, David B. Mitchell, Esq., delivered a most interesting lecture on the Magna Charta roots of the American Constitution at the event.

Florida Joins Let Freedom Ring Campaign



Photo by Alexandra Montes-Bradley
 President Montes-Bradley inducts Walter Stock at the Society's Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, on 12 May

In July, members of the Society organized three events for participation in the Let Freedom Ring campaign. Of these, special note is reserved for Walter Stock of Parrish, FL, (pictured above) who first learned of the program when he was inducted as a new member in April. He immediately set to work on the project and successfully organized, by July, a Bell Ringing event in his community that involved 250 participants.

Miss Elizabeth Davis of Parrish, Florida, taps a replica of the Liberty Bell during her community's Let Freedom Ring ceremony on July 4th.



Photo courtesy of Walter Stock

Message from the President

The Tennessee Society's office has been located in the East Tennessee Historical Center on Clinch Avenue in downtown Knoxville, Tennessee since 1982. The building was formerly known as the Customs House and the Tennessee Society financially assisted Knoxville in acquiring this historic property. The Knox County Commissioners recently voted to renovate and expand the size of the Historical Center building, this necessitated, a year ago, temporarily moving the Sons office to an office across the street in the old Hamilton Bank building while the last phase of the renovation was completed. Construction is finished so the time for moving back to a new office, room 232, of the Historical Center is probably during the month of January. Please come by and visit after our move.

The annual Tennessee Society Golf Tournament was held at Whittle Springs Golf Course on Monday October 25th with proceeds earmarked for gifts to veterans in Tennessee Veterans hospitals and to high school student college scholarships.

One of the most exciting pending acquisitions, by the General John Sevier Chapter, is the original Henry's Station (Fort), site of the signing of the Treaty of Dumplin Creek on June 10, 1785. The Fort is located near Kodak in Sevier County. The Treaty was between the Cherokee Nation and John Sevier, representing the state of Franklin, and opened Indian lands for settlement in a large area south of the French Broad and Holston Rivers. Several of the original corner posts, hewed poplar logs and the Block House steps, from the original Fort have survived and will be used in the reconstruction.

US Senator Lamar Alexander is Welcomed to Membership in the Tennessee Society

United States Senator Lamar Alexander is one of the most recent members to join the Tennessee Society, Sons of the Revolution. He has served the state of Tennessee with the highest of honor both as a two term Governor and also as a distinguished President of the University of Tennessee. He also served in President George H. W. Bush's Cabinet as Secretary of Education, and in this capacity was responsible for making many positive,

forward thinking needed changes in the Department. He was elected to the Senate when Senator Fred Thompson retired his seat.

Tennessee Society President William J. Acuff presented Senator Alexander with his



Senator Lamar Alexander (R) Tennessee, new member of the Tennessee Society.

certificate of membership in the Tennessee Society at his Senate office in Washington, DC on Friday November 19, 2004. He comes into membership as a direct descendant of John Alexander and Captain Thomas Rankin, both Patriots who fought with valor as "Over Mountain Men" at the Battle of Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780.

Shortly after his election to the Senate seat, Senator Alexander asked his friend John Rice Irwin, CEO and Founder of the Museum of Appalachia in Norris, Tennessee to make a wall covering of aged sawed lumber to fit on one wall in his new Senate office suite.

John Rice, who is a member of the Tennessee Society, decided to include several different and distinct artifacts of Southern Appalachia attached to the wall covering, some dating back to the time of the American Revolutionary War period. The wall, with the attachments, was trucked to Senator Alexander's office.

John Rice, unable to attend when the installed wall was unveiled several months before, and wanting to see his contribution, decided to visit Washington, DC. John and his wife, Elizabeth, and their daughter, Elaine Irwin Myer, accompanied by President Acuff and his wife, Sandra, flew to Washington, DC on the morning of November 19th, taking advantage of the visit to present Senator Alexander his two certificates of membership in the Tennessee Society. This group, after touring his spacious office, ate lunch with Senator Alexander and Representative Wamp in the Senate Dining Room. Representative Wamp took the group on a tour of the Capitol including his office in the Rayburn Building. After leaving the Capitol the group did some

sightseeing around Washington including the new World War II Monument before flying back to Knoxville

This was a good day for the Tennessee Society.

Submitted by by William J. Acuff, MD, President of the Tennessee Society SR

TEXAS

The Annual Meeting of the Texas Society was held at the Fort Worth Club on October 23rd. The business meeting was held in the Governor's Room with 36 members present. General President M. Hall Worthington described the new Headquarters building in Independence, Missouri and the good staff that is handling the organization's business there.

For the past three years the Society has held separate business meetings along with the Texas Society of Colonial Wars and the Texas Society of The Order of Founders and Patriots in America in the Fort Worth Club and then enjoyed a joint Reception and Dinner. This year several other organizations were added to the groups holding concurrent meetings. These were the Society of the War of 1812, the newly formed Texas Branch of The Royal Society of St. George and the Holland Society of New York. For this evening the Hon. William Van Winkle, National President of the Holland Society, made the dinner address.

During the evening's festivities the Sons' General President M. Hall Worthington installed the Society's Officers for the next term.



From the left: Paul W. Adams, incoming President of the Texas Society, General President M. Hall Worthington, and Col. Lawrence K. Casey, outgoing President of the Texas Society.

NORTH CAROLINA



SR General President M. Hall Worthington, NCSR President Robert L. Sprinkle, II, and General Vice-President, Region 3, James B. Ebert, Sr. at the Fall meeting of the North Carolina Society at the University Club in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Three generations of SR members were present at this meeting, as President Sprinkle was joined by his son, Robert L. Sprinkle, III and grandchildren John Bascomb Sprinkle (left below) and Robert L. Sprinkle, IV.



RHODE ISLAND

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of Rhode Island held its 108th Annual Meeting on August 29, 2004 at Canfield House on Memorial Boulevard in Newport. The event commemorated the Battle of Rhode Island.

PENNSYLVANIA

Let Freedom Ring Continues to Grow Nationally

The National Bell Recruiting Committee headed up by Lanny Ray Patten had a successful year in 2004. A Google search turned up more than 100 newspaper articles covering local ceremonies around the country, up substantially from 2003. Likewise, our video clipping service, NewsWatch which covers about half of the markets in the USA, found more than 50 TV stations which picked up the host ceremony here in Philadelphia or local satellite ceremonies.

A number of important new sites joined us this year including the UAL Flight 519 Memorial Chapel in Shanksville, PA, Princeton University, the Washington Crossing State Park and the USS Yorktown Museum—the home of the Medal of Honor Society. In recognition of the support of Governor Edward G. Rendell and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the committee made an increased effort to recruit in Pennsylvania. Thomas Boaz and Richard R. P. Di Stefano recruited or reinstated 25 churches in the Philadelphia area. The committee also succeeded in increasing the number of satellite ceremonies, including the Battleship New Jersey, the Borough of Sellersville at



General Society President M. Hal Worthington (left) recites Red Skelton's version of the Pledge of Allegiance with Master of Ceremonies Rob Van Gulick on the stage in front of Independence Hall during the celebrations of the 4th of July.

Schulmerich Carillons, Fort Mifflin, and the City of Wilmington, DE, which used the Providence Group's Liberty Bell replica. The Borough of Malvern and the Paoli Battlefield



Let Freedom Ring Ceremony in Cerritos, CA

Preservation Fund conducted a ceremony at the Paoli Battlefield highlighted by the bell being rung by two first graders of the Great Valley School District who had raised \$837 to buy a memorial tree. At the Betsy Ross House the Flag House Chapter and the Department of Homeland Security combined to conduct a naturalization ceremony for 13 children. After they were sworn in each young new citizen, together with a member of the Children of the American Revolution tolled the bell.

Interesting stories have been pouring into our office. In Hawaii 200 people attended the ceremony at 8 in the morning at the USS Arizona Memorial, while across the Harbor the USS Missouri bell ringing ceremony was the venue for a re-enlistment ceremony for US Navy sailors.

In California 8,000 to 10,000 people attended the City of Cerritos 31st Let Freedom Ring ceremony where Congresswoman Linda Sanchez was both a speaker and bell ringer. At the Crystal Cathedral in Orange County the Sunday morning service began with the bell ringing followed by a sermon on the theme of "Let Freedom Ring" by the Reverend Shuller.

Down south the grand opening of the new National Museum of Patriotism in Atlanta began with a Let Freedom Ring bell ringing ceremony picked up by dozens of TV stations around the country. Near Norris, TN, the Museum of Appalachia had a Let Freedom Ring bell ringing ceremony between rounds of their annual Anvil Shooting contest. The local SR chapter ran the ceremony at which the son of World War I hero, Alvin York, rang the bell.

The Descendants of Signers of the Declaration were involved with a number of bell ringing ceremonies including with the Boy Scouts of America in Charlottesville, VA, at the state capitol in Nashville, TN, and at Perth Amboy, NJ.

The guided missile destroyer USS Laboon (DDG 58) passes the battleship USS New Jersey Museum as she pulls into Penn's Landing pier in Philadelphia on the Delaware River. Laboon took part in the city's "Let Freedom Ring" Fourth of July celebration. The celebration included free concerts, fireworks and a ceremony honoring Afghanistan leader Hamid Karzai. Laboon hosted visitors for two

days of tours, while Philadelphia recruiters were on hand to explain Navy opportunities to interested visitors.

Let Freedom Ring continues to be the largest and most important patriotic ceremony conducted by any Revolutionary War lineage society. It has the potential to be the largest and most important Independence Day commemoration. Work is well underway to make the 37th Let Freedom Ring commemoration in 2005 even better and more successful.

MISSOURI

Missouri Society Annual Meeting 2004

At the 2003 annual meeting in St. Louis, members voted to defer the 2004 meeting to October, to coincide with the General Society Board of Managers meeting. Accordingly, the meeting was held the evening of Thursday, October 14, 2004. This allowed members to attend the Board of Managers meeting of their choosing.

The Missouri Society Annual Dinner was held at the home of Michael and Ginger Frost in Mission Hills, Kansas. The General Society Executive Committee invited to join the group for cocktails and dinner. This freed the Missouri members to attend the General Society meeting the next day.

Kansas City Chapter

The Kansas City Chapter, celebrated Independence Day with a picnic dinner on Sunday, July 11th. The location, at Michael and Ginger Frost's country property in southern Johnson County, provided for a relaxing evening. A brief business session was held after dinner. Chapter President Frost spoke of the recent loss of member Dr. John Beeks who is greatly missed. A period of silence was held in his honor after which Dr. Frost offered a prayer.

Of particular note were the guests, who included prospective members Ron Cooper, John Bragg, Chip Taggart and Wright Summers. All have indicated a strong interest and have undertaken the application process. A horse-drawn hay ride around the property provided a fun ending to the meeting, especially for younger family members.



U.S. Navy photo by Chief Journalist Monica Hallman
USS Laboon enters the Port of Philadelphia to participate in the city's celebration of Independence Day.

MARYLAND

MD SR at the Walters

Wine, cheese, camaraderie, and the opportunity to participate in a private viewing of rare Revolutionary-era documents proved a winning combination for about 45 Sons and guests one fine afternoon in June. The event was timed to coincide with a special exhibition then on view at the Walters Art Museum.

After a convivial wine and cheese reception in one of the museum's upper foyers, everyone stepped into an adjoining gallery to view the actual exhibit. But they didn't merely view it; they heard about it as well, because arrangements had been made for Manuscripts Curator William Noel and Senior Paper Conservator Elissa O'Loughlin to give an overview of the collection and then mingle with the members to answer individual questions.

Among the highlights were: the Stone facsimile of the Declaration of Independence, copies of the Declaration printed in various of the new states shortly after July 4, and one of Paul Revere's famous "Boston Massacre" lithographs.

The outing, which marked the premiere of Randall Beirne's Lecture Series Committee, was deemed an all around success by everyone who attended.

The Mint Julep Party

Ted Stick's historic "Eagle's Nest" was the setting for this year's spring-tide Mint Julep Party. The impressive yet picturesque homestead was an ideal choice for an SR festivity--not only because of its inherent architectural interest, but also because of an historic association: it was once the residence of Captain Joshua Marsh, a Maryland planter and a veteran of the Revolutionary War. "So it provides a tangible connection with the Revolution," Ted told his most appreciative guests.

The earliest part of the house, a one-and-a-half story stone structure, dates from the 1690's, when it was built on lands owned by the Dulaney family, a Loyalist family, whose property was confiscated after the Revolution.

It was then that "Eagle's Nest" was acquired by Captain Marsh's father, who had been the overseer of the property. It remained in his descendants' possession from 1783 until 1964, according to Ted, who purchased it 3 years ago. Over the decades, the little 17th century nucleus acquired several additions, including a gracious Georgian main house

which Ted is in the arduous process of restoring.

Although the home's exterior is generally untouchable because of the building's status as a registered national, state, and Baltimore County historic landmark, Ted says he is determined to "undo unsympathetic, inappropriate accretions." (Linoleum flooring and a hot tub were two of the first items to go.) He also hopes eventually to recreate the estate's boxwood gardens and possibly conduct a limited archaeological dig. During his own work on the grounds he has unearthed pottery shards and an 18th century button.

If he follows through with his current intent to host the Mint Julep party in '05, perhaps he should provide each guest with a trowel and dusting brush! In the meantime, MDSSR can thank him and the Social Committee (under the chairmanship of Jay Ridgely) for a splendid event.

The President's Podium

Greetings and best wishes to each member of the Society. Congratulations to Editor Jim Waesche and the Publication Committee, as they have produced the first issue of our own newspaper, which helps make this a very exciting time for our Society.

During the annual meeting this past March, I announced that we had established a theme for the year: "honoring the past and building for the future." The individual goals would be to improve communications, to enhance our Revolution educational programs, and to increase membership.

New committees have been established to accomplish these goals. Every member of the Board of Managers has been invited to serve on at least one of these groups. Meetings have been held in homes and restaurants, and great things have been happening. You will read about these in our newsletters.

One of the most challenging tasks for this administration is to increase our membership. Attrition has outpaced new membership gain during the past several years. The Membership Committee, under the leadership of Will Somerville, is working very hard to change this trend, but it is not only his committee's responsibility to seek out new members. It is the responsibility of each member of our Society to help.

Please remember that the rich reward of liberty was all too bitter won; revere and guard that precious trust and pass it on to your son and grandson.

MASSACHUSETTS

Father and Son Receive Certificate at October Luncheon



President Andre R. Sigourney (left) and Treasurer Harold F. Ordway, Jr., General Vice President for Region 1 (right), who served as Luncheon Presiding Officer, present the magnificent General Society membership certificate to Lieutenant Colonel Brian L. Baker, P.E., Professor of Military Science, Army ROTC, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Life Member of the Massachusetts Society.

Lieutenant Colonel Baker purchased two certificates and arranged for their framing. The second certificate was presented to his father, Edward T. Baker, also a Life Member of the Massachusetts Society.

The Youngest Ever to Attend a Meeting of the MASR

Prospective member John Lincoln Fearing and his wife, Natalie, proudly introduced their first child, Julia Lincoln Fearing, born May 3, 2004.



Proud Uncle Welcomes New Member to Massachusetts Society



Treasurer Harold F. Ordway Jr. (left), who also serves as Vice President of Region 1, welcomes to membership his nephew, Stephen Davis Caisse, Jr., who was proposed by Harold and elected a member of the Massachusetts Society at the Business Meeting immediately prior to lunch on October 20th, 2004

AMERICAN HERITAGE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(Continues from page 3)

recovery operations of American war casualties. His awards include the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, Gallant Ship Citation, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, etc. His Gallant Ship Citation commends his courage and resourcefulness in participating in "the greatest rescue by a single ship in the history of the world" in North Korea during the Chosin Reservoir Campaign. He has been decorated with the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award, the Navy's highest form of public service recognition for his distinguished service for over four decades and especially for his dedication and leadership in improving the strength and readiness of the Navy and, in turn, the capabilities of the Department of Defense to carry out essential wartime missions.

TO YOUR HEALTH Smallpox, Then and Now (Part One of Two)

(continued from page 5)

In 1796 British physician and researcher Dr. Edward Jenner perfected smallpox vaccination by using the cowpox virus that emits cross immunity to the Variola virus. The mortality using the cowpox immunization was approximately one death per one million inoculations. This is the smallpox immunization that most of us received prior to starting grade school.

(continues next issue)

The Last Revolutionary Veteran

How long after the Revolutionary War, which ended in 1783, do you think that the last veteran survived? Would it seem credible that he died four years *after* the Civil War? He was Daniel Frederick Bakeman, a native of New Jersey, who saw service against the Indians in New York and later served as a teamster in hauling supplies for Washington's army. Mr. Bakeman died, appropriately, in a town called Freedom in Cattaraugus County, NY, on April 5, 1869.

The last son of a Revolutionary War veteran was William Constant Wheeler who was born in 1847 in East Woodbury, VT. His father, Comfort Wheeler, was an orderly for Gen. Nathaniel Greene and 81 years old and married to his third wife when William was born. William was 10 when his father died. William C. Wheeler died Feb 1, 1941. He and his father hold the father-son record of having voted in every US election from George Washington to Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The last daughter of a Revolutionary War veteran was Mrs. Annie Knight Gregory of Williamsport, PA. She was one of 757 real Daughters of the American Revolution. Her father was a drummer boy in the Pennsylvania militia and was 76 years old when she was born. She died December 1, 1943, at the age of 100.

Submitted by Paul F. Davis

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Voice of the Revolution • The General Society

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a not-for-profit corporation instituted in 1890.

Offices of The General Society
are located at
201 West Lexington Ave., Suite 1776
Independence, MO 64050-3718

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