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Pulaski *A Hero's Final Rest*

DRUMBEAT

Inside

Report from the 2005 Board of Managers

General Pulaski's Body

by Edward Pinkowski

Lecture presented at the Pulaski Museum in Warka, Poland in October 1997

If one may want to know exactly where the Polish general of the American War of Independence died and trace his body from then on, one must start by imagining to be on a dirty, smelly, 14-gun privateer, known as the Wasp, owned by Joseph Atkinson, a merchant of Charleston, South Carolina, and privately manned under Captain Samuel Bulfinch, who took up sailing in Boston at an early age. One must also forget most of what was ever said about this ship.

For at least two days the black-painted Wasp, sails furled, was tied up at the wooden pier of the Bonaventure plantation in Georgia, where Vice Admiral Charles-Henri d'Estaing, who commanded a French squadron of forty-three ships and an army of 4,456 men, set up a field hospital and based his artillery in September, 1779. His engineer called the place, separated from old Savannah by a few miles of woods, Thunderbolt Bluff after the river of the same name. Today the river is known as Wilmington. When the Wasp arrived there to load the French artillery guns used in the siege of Savannah and to transport sick and wounded bodies to Charleston, the evacuation of the American and French army camps at Savannah was almost done. There were no doctors left at the Bonaventure pier and "only one lad," as Captain Bulfinch called him, to take care of the sick and wounded on his brigantine. One of the last two hospital cases to reach the Wasp was Pulaski.

By the afternoon of October 15, 1779, Captain Bulfinch had no room to take any more passengers. When another wounded officer, Lt. Cornelius Van Vlieland, who had lost an arm in the siege of Savannah, asked him for passage to Charleston, Bulfinch arranged to send him on another ship. In the sequence of events, it looked as if the visit of Lt. Van Vlieland came before the death of Pulaski, as Pulaski's death certainly created a vacancy aboard. Had the young lieutenant waited, Bulfinch would have had space for him.

Partly because of his occupation with the one-armed officer, Bulfinch was not entirely aware of the preparations on the Wasp to make a coffin out of pine boards either at hand or brought aboard from the plantation for Pulaski's body. From the evidence of their

work, as was seen in 1853 and 1996, the officers and crew prepared to bury Pulaski's body in his military uniform with a flag draped over him.

Then the Polish General fell into a vacuum. Historians didn't pay much attention to Pulaski in America until Jared Sparks, who left the pulpit of a Unitarian church in April, 1823, to edit the North American Review in Boston, received a 38-page pamphlet from Paul Bentalou, a French captain in the Pulaski Legion. After reviewing it, Sparks quoted sections from the pamphlet and tied it with General Lafayette's return to America at that time.¹ For the next two decades, until he completed the biography of Pulaski in 1844, Sparks picked up where Bentalou left off, questioned survivors of the American Revolution, visited Europe on several occasions in search of documents on Pulaski, and repeated Bentalou's false claim that Pulaski was buried at sea.

These claims misled generations of Pulaski's friends and admirers. For more than a century and a half, Bentalou and Sparks were the source from where many writers drew a great deal of their information on Pulaski and the fate of his remains. They also stated that the

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Wasp was a United States warship. Many newspapers, magazines, and books, including speakers at anniversary programs, still perpetuate the falsehood of the "USS Wasp" just as they often repeat the manufactured date of Pulaski's birthday.

After years of nibbling at historical records and not finding a certificate of burial, I turned to a large body of official records, letters, logs, and other material left by the French expedition under Admiral D'Estaing in Georgia. Among the depositories, the Library of Congress in Washington had microfilm records of the expedition.

When I called for part of the French collection, a staff member there told me that someone in the reading room already had loaned it, and I was introduced to a Hungarian expatriate, Mrs. Ellen Szaszi, who offered to help me with the story of a Polish freedom fighter.

As a result of our conversation, she immediately found the owner of the Wasp in a French letter dated September 12, 1779. In it, J. Plombard, the French consul at Charleston, wrote to Count d'Estaing:

M. Atkinson, a businessman of this town and owner of the brigantine Wasp, Captain Bulfinch, leaves this morning to be at the orders of M. le Comte. This brigantine is armed with fourteen cannons and it will help to fulfill the object of M. d'Estaing for some small armed craft.²

The French consul's letter was like a guided missile. Of all the officers and men who served on the Wasp in the fall of 1779, only three have been identified--Captain Samuel Bulfinch, Lt. William Main, and Eleazar Phillips, the purser and steward, who was in peacetime a carpenter and cabinet maker. The first two died within thirteen years of each other, Bulfinch in Philadelphia on Feb. 27, 1813, and Main in Charleston on April 15, 1800, none of them leaving published accounts of their services in the disastrous siege of Savannah. Lt. Main was second in command, a position of such rank and importance that only ships with a fair sized crew were entitled to one. In his two responsibilities, Phillips not only relayed orders to the crew and transmitted signals to other ships but also received money from the Navy Board of South Carolina to provide stores for the captain and officers of the Wasp.

At some point, Bulfinch dispatched an officer to open a recruiting station in Charleston, to enlist a crew. Each one who enlisted to serve on the masted ship at least six months got a bounty of \$100. Slaves were not entitled

to any money. Their owners hired them out to the Wasp and received the pay of forty dollars a month for each slave. Other sailors received forty-five dollars a month. The petty officers, from the boatswain to the gunner, each received sixty dollars a month. The captain was paid four dollars a day and two dollars for his table.³

These crewmembers could hardly imagine that some of them would become pallbearers for General Pulaski. Or were slaves used as pallbearers? No one knows. While slaves were often the pool from which pallbearers and grave diggers were drawn, they were hardly noticed by the purveyors of news.

The more I probed, the harder it became to find Pulaski's Valhalla. If Bentalou was the other officer brought to the Wasp on October 15, 1779, he was unable to follow the body away from the ship. Still, hidden in the dusty files of the National Archives were the papers of Martha Miller, who was married to Eleazar Phillips in 1786. After her husband died in November, 1826, she applied for a government pension, and in her papers I discovered that Eleazar Phillips, the purser of the Wasp, made the coffin for Pulaski's body.⁴

I did not find evidence that Pulaski was not buried at sea until 1971, after years of searching for the Wasp's logs, which I did not find, and other records, I found a letter that Bulfinch wrote by candlelight to General Benjamin Lincoln--commander of American forces in the South--on October 15, 1779, at Thunderbolt Bluff. Lincoln made no fuss over it. He stuck the letter into a leather pouch. If Lincoln tried to hide Pulaski's death from the British, he wasn't successful. Within three days Prevost knew of Pulaski's death and yet Congress did not know of his death until Lt. Col. Charles-Frederic Bedaulx--whom Pulaski appointed second in command of his independent corps on November 13, 1778--mentioned it. Less than two months later, Bedaulx, a tall, blonde, 25-year-old Swiss soldier of fortune, died in a hospital at Charleston of a lingering illness. Still, the legend survived that he had been killed in action helping Pulaski in the siege of Savannah. Unlike Pulaski, however, the register of St. Phillips Church in Charleston shows that Bedaulx was buried in the parish cemetery on December 8, 1779.

When Lincoln left the army in 1781, Bulfinch's letter was stored in his farmhouse at Hingham, Massachusetts. The large bulk of his papers, preserved during his life, and kept out of strange hands for over a century and a

half, were taken out of the Lincoln homestead and deposited in Boston where they were microfilmed in 1963 by the Massachusetts Historical Society. As was his habit, Lincoln kept rough drafts of letters that he wrote to Pulaski and d'Estaing, but none to lesser figures. The day I found Bulfinch's letter to him from Thunderbolt, or "Tunder Bolt" as he spelled it, was especially important. On October 15, 1779, Bulfinch wrote:

Sir,

I beg leave to acquaint you that agreeable to your orders I took on board nine pieces of the artillery which was the most I possibly could take on. Mo'over, I even was obliged to put some of the carriages on board the Schooner that carry the French wounded. I likewise took on board the Americans that was sent down one of which died this day and I have brought him ashore and buried him. They have put only one lad on board to attend the sick. I should be glad your Excellency would order some others on Board to attend them. Capt. Vlyanland (sic) came down this afternoon. There was no place to put him. The Eagle whom he was to have gone on board, went away this morning and left him. I made interest with the French Gentleman who has the directions of putting the wounded on board the other schooners for Charleston and got him on board one of them. I am with the highest esteem,

Sir, your most Re Obdt Sev't
Sam Bulfinch 5

Immediately after the Wasp left Thunderbolt Bluff at high tide the following morning, quite possibly the only remaining people who knew where Pulaski's body was buried were the denizens of Greenwich plantation, across the road from Bonaventure, home to Mrs. Jane Bowen, her four children, her brother, and their servants. At the time Bonaventure was not occupied by the plantation owners. During the British occupation of Savannah, the Tattnalls and the Mulrynes, who owned the plantation, fled to Savannah or one of the British islands in the Atlantic for safety.

Samuel Bowen, who bought Greenwich plan-

tation in 1765, planted soy beans smuggled out of China between marshes and tidal streams, starting a whole new industry in the country. Within a short time he married a member of the Georgian society, Jane Spencer, daughter of Savannah's Collector of Customs, acquired many slaves, and trained them to press oil and vermicelli from soy beans and boil sweet potatoes to make sago powder. He found the Thunderbolt River more pleasant and convenient than the sandy road to Savannah and built a landing dock on the river for his own use. He crossed the Atlantic many times in his own ships to sell his new foodstuffs in England.

After his death in London on December 30, 1777, his wife Jane became involved in running the Greenwich plantation. During the second battle of Savannah, the French used the equally beautiful neighboring plantation, Bonaventure, for a hospital, but Count d'Estaing favored Greenwich and had a large tent pitched in the midst of the surrounding camp for official business. Two of his naval officers boarded with the Bowen family during their

stay in Georgia. Up to December, 1853, Pulaski's body laid in a beautiful setting along the river since that night when slaves held burning torches to shine light on the proceedings. Mrs. Bowen showed her slaves where to bury the body between her mansion and the river, and later her family and servants and those who succeeded them took care of the grave. When Jane Bowen died in 1782, she left her four children twenty-six slaves, fifteen cows, two oxen, pigs, calves, iron boilers and sago machines, sage to make starch and sago powder to make pudding, but nothing more important than memories of General Pulaski and Count d'Estaing to enrich the historical lore of Greenwich. New recitals of the legends continued to grow. Because of Bentalou, Jane Bowen's grandson, Major William P. Bowen, who opened the grave and moved the remains to Savannah, had an increasingly difficult time convincing most Americans that he had rescued Pulaski from oblivion. The reality was, though, that had he



COUNT PULASKI.

C. Pulaski Jr. of Savannah

COURTESY OF POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

and his associates not placed the bones in an iron box, 21 inches by 11 inches in size, and hid them and two cornerstones in a brick vault in Monterey Square, no one would have known he had a better knowledge of Pulaski's first grave than Bentalou.

Shortly after the laying of the cornerstone of the Pulaski Monument, Bowen heard that a 66-year-old Jewish cotton dealer, Jacob Clavius Levy, who had moved from Charleston, to Savannah in 1848, knew a Polish Legionnaire named Boguslawski who had visited the grave in 1803 or 1804. Back then, when Bowen was just a tot, his aunt, Elizabeth Ann Beecroft--an eyewitness to Pulaski's burial--owned Greenwich plantation and always kept flowers on the grave until her death in 1816. The oldest daughter of Samuel and Jane Bowen, she was married to a British army surgeon, Dr. Samuel Beecroft.

Levy spoke in French to Captain Jacob Ferdinard Boguslawski, who posed as General Pulaski's nephew and prior to that time, served in a grenadier company in the French expedition to Haiti.

I remember him well--Levy wrote to Bowen--and we became intimate, as far as a boy of fourteen or fifteen could be with a man past the meridian of life. After some time he took leave of us for the purpose, as he said, of visiting the grave of his uncle. He returned to Charleston and mentioned that he had accomplished the object of his visit.⁶

General Kazimierz Malachowski, who led a demibrigade in the ill-fated French expedition to keep Negro slaves from declaring their independence in Haiti, also wrote about Boguslawski and other Polish legionnaires who visited Savannah. Who told him of Pulaski's grave is still a mystery.

Also, on June 1, 1858, just before he died, Bowen--the father of the Pulaski Monument in Savannah--rode back to Greenwich plantation with a Polish sculptor, Henryk Dmochowski, who had just arrived in Savannah to exhibit his marble bust of Pulaski in the library of the Georgia Historical Society. In the following letter, which I found in an obscure collection in your National Library, Dmochowski pinpointed Pulaski's gravesite.

Yesterday--Dmochowski wrote on June 2, 1859, from Savannah--I went with Major Bowen to the place where Pulaski's grave was. The place is four miles from here on the banks of a little river, which empties into the Savannah (River), where the admiral's headquarters was and where the French landed.

The house is splendid and still kept in good condition. For many years it belonged to Major Bowen's ancestors. At present, Mrs. Gilbert, a widow with tuberculosis, is the owner of the house. A handicapped sister lives with her. Major Bowen showed me the trunk of a palmetto tree and an English holly bush, which were growing close to the grave, and were the markers he used to locate the grave where Pulaski was buried. The place was thick with bulrushes and bushes. It was so beautiful, very close to the river. On all the trees there was hanging moss and different shapes and festoons decorating them. The house was beautifully kept. The maid was polite and gracious. I saw a few big magnolia trees. Major Bowen planted them. I took a few branches from a magnolia tree, leaves from a holly bush and the grave site, other mementos, including bark from a palmetto tree and moss. All this should be sent to Poznan or elsewhere. They are going to be rare souvenirs.⁷

Incidentally, despite the statement in his biography in the *Polski slownik biograficzny* [Polish Biographical dictionary], Dmochowski did not do any of the stone carving on the Pulaski Monument in Savannah.

In the steady flow of articles on Pulaski, certain parts of the story were often overlooked and very few, quite possibly only Major Bowen and his medical friends, mentioned what was transferred from the grave at Greenwich to the brick vault in Monterey Square in Savannah. In fact, when the remains were first dug up, parts of the coffin that Phillips made on the Wasp were not entirely rotted away. Some of the wood and nails he used were found again in the iron box under the Pulaski Monument in 1996.

Souvenir hunters had a field day the first time the body was exhumed. Among items that suddenly disappeared were the metal buttons which indicated that Pulaski was buried in his military uniform. Beads, quite possibly parts of a rosary, and coins of 1779 were stolen.

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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.

The lamented hero of Savannah had a full set of teeth when he died, yet all but a few molars were missing when the iron box was opened last year.

In the first ceremony to honor Pulaski in Savannah in 1825, General Lafayette laid a cornerstone in Chippewa Square. Because it was a solid block of stone, the committee in charge of the affair put coins, paper currency, historical documents and other valuables of that day in a box of some kind. The contents were never transferred to the new tomb in 1854. Only the heavy cornerstone was. No one knows what happened to the other valuables.

Most people, I would guess, would be more interested in the skull and gracile bones than in the pieces of metal, glass, pottery, or whatever, that clung to Pulaski's body. For one thing, on January 13, 1770, when Pulaski was ambushed by Russian forces at Grab along the southern border of Poland, he broke his right hand and couldn't write a letter for weeks. The broken hand was documented in two letters. X-rays of the right hand of the remains in Savannah coincide with this evidence. It also noted that, as is true for every child who ever learned to write in Poland, that he was right-handed.

It was easy to connect the bones in the rusted iron box with Pulaski because, burying his body in a coffin, the spine began to take the same shape as a flat bottom from 1779 to 1853. Nobody that was laid to rest without the benefit of a pine box only a generation before could assume such flatness as one that was in a coffin for 74 years.

The study of other bones, though mostly quietly, suggest, from pure speculation, that Pulaski slept so much on his saddle rather than face ambush in a lonely farmhouse that he developed a crooked neck.

I have asked the caretakers to check red specks I saw on the bones for vestiges of dyed material, and I suppose the color was a sign of an American flag that had rotted away. Under the beads found in 1853 on the body, there were very small bones, quite possibly the ends of fingers, and it is not certain that they were saved. The beads, however, were surely added to a private collection.

Each time the body was exposed the press devoted little attention to it. Right after the iron box was taken out of the brick vault (the press in 1854 called it a metal container), the Savannah Morning News devoted only nine paragraphs to the story, and even less in 1853 when workmen left shovel marks on the bones

at Greenwich plantation. One person in Georgia, and perhaps others, thought it morbid that Zycie Warszawy in its issue of October 13, 1996, showed a photograph of Dr. Karen Burns with part of General Pulaski's leg in her hands and in front of her the skull and other bones on top of a pile of iron-filled rubbish. Naturally the anthropologist didn't like it and the photographer who took the picture and sold it to the Associated Press was virtually ostracized from Savannah.

The remains, however, opened a new challenge to the scientific community, and Dr. Burns drove as often as necessary to Savannah to examine the bones as did others, including doctor, Dr. Charles F. Merbs from Arizona.

While they kept mostly quiet about their work, the press had reports of the search for a female descendant of Pulaski's mother for comparison. The bones of Pulaski's nephew, Jozef Suffczynski, who died of yellow fever, 1803, were reported in Les Cayes, Haiti, and the death of his grandniece, Josephine Jarocka, took place in Brooklyn, New York in 1896. With increasing frequency, the Pulaski family tree is still growing. Let no man think for a moment that Pulaski isn't the most popular Polish name in America. At last count, there were nearly 21,000 telephone listings with Pulaski in them.

Of as much value to Savannah as identifying Pulaski's body was the monument Robert Launitz designed for him in Monterey Square. Had Launitz built it better, it would never have deteriorated as fast as it did. No one knows how many people have visited the Pulaski Monument in Savannah with Lady Liberty on top and never knew the incredible story that Pulaski's body was underneath it.





Presidential Proclamation on the Anniversary of General Pulaski's death

General Pulaski Memorial Day, 2005

A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

America's freedom has been achieved with great sacrifice. In the Revolutionary War, General Casimir Pulaski gave his life for the cause of freedom. Today, we honor his selfless contributions and heroic service.

Born in Poland, Casimir Pulaski fought Russian oppression in his homeland. In 1776, Benjamin Franklin met Pulaski in France and successfully recruited him to join the American fight for liberty. In America, Pulaski distinguished himself at the Battle of Brandywine and was commissioned as a Brigadier General by General George Washington. After raising his own legion, a special infantry and cavalry division that included many foreign-born troops, he helped defend Charleston, South Carolina, before being mortally wounded at the siege of Savannah in 1779.

General Pulaski exemplifies the spirit and determination of Polish immigrants to America, and he embodies our Nation's highest ideals. On this day, we express our gratitude

for all the contributions of Polish Americans to our Nation and for the strong relationship between the United States and Poland. By honoring this lasting friendship and remembering heroes like General Pulaski, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing our country's founding ideals and carry forward our heritage of freedom.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2005, as General Pulaski Memorial Day. I encourage Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate programs and activities honoring Casimir Pulaski and all those who defend freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH
The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
October 7, 2005



DRUMBEAT

Sons of the Revolution The General Society



News and Reports from General and State Societies

Report of the General President

October, 2005

by M. Hall Wordington

It is amazing how fast two years pass. I visited ten State Societies this year, and had the great pleasure to lay a wreath at George Washington's grave in Mount Vernon with the DC Society. I also laid a wreath at the reinterment of Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski in Savannah GA, with James Lynah, President of the Georgia Society, and I also had the pleasure to join with Frank Horton of the North Carolina Society and present wreath in honor of those Patriots that fought at the Battle of Kings Mountain, SC.

I was honored to be present in Atlanta, GA, to Charter and swear in the officers of the new Nathanael Greene Chapter of the Georgia Society. Also, I had the pleasure to be with the presidents of both the Maryland and the New York Societies to present awards to graduates at Annapolis and West Point.

Again, this year I attended the, "Let Freedom Ring" Ceremony in Philadelphia, and was given the opportunity to *ring the Bell*. This is a tremendous Ceremony, not only here but world wide, and I would not miss it. However, I regret that I could not be in Morristown, TN, for the ringing of the exact replica of the Liberty Bell presented to the City by the Tennessee Society of the Sons of the Revolution.

The New Jersey Society invited me to attend the Old Barrack's Ball in Trenton, NJ. It was an outstanding event, which I attended along with the President General of the SAR and the Governor General of the Order of Founders and Patriots.

I was also able to attend the Annual Meeting of the following Societies: DC, KY, MD, NJ, and TX. The National Society of the DAR invited me to their opening ceremony in Washington, DC. I brought greetings from the General Society and our 30 State Societies, and con-

gratulated the Ladies of the DAR for the outstanding example they set for their male counterparts in membership, volunteerism, and fund raising.



I wish to take this time to thank all the members of the Sons of the Revolution for the help and support that they have given to the General Society Headquarters to get things up to date. The outstanding assistance given to our Headquarters by the Missouri Society is beyond belief, and I especially want to mention Michael Frost, Gary Toms, and Bill Gann for their help. Our Headquarters staff, Berta Foresee and Sharon Toms, have done an outstanding job in bringing the General Society into today's world. We were over nine years behind prior to arriving in Independence, and now we are up to the minute.

General President's Upcoming Trip to Poland

Join General President M. Hall Worthington on a trip to Poland in April, 2006, honoring General Pulaski. For pricing information and reservations, please contact Berta Foresee at General Society Headquarters.

Thursday, April 27: Depart John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York, for Gdansk

Friday, April 28 - short tour of Gdansk with an evening welcome meal.

Saturday, April 29: Tour of the old city of Gdansk and Gdynia with a visit to the shipyard where Solidarity began. Overnight in Gdansk.

Sunday, April 30: Early morning breakfast and departure for Malbork, Torun, and Warsaw.

Monday, May 1: Wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw and a visit to the Polish Military Museum. This visit will be an official visit and Plk. Mgr. Jacek Macyszyn, museum director, has been notified. Also a visit with the Polish military ordinaire, Bishop Plonski. Evening meal and a folklore dinner.

Tuesday, May 2: Tour of Warsaw with a visit to the Royal Castle and a luncheon or evening dinner at the castle restaurant, depending on availability.

Wednesday, May 3: After breakfast, departure for Warka for an official visit at the Pulaski Museum. Museum Director, Iwona Stefaniak, has been advised and arrangements for a luncheon at the Warka Brewery have been made. There will be a wreath laying ceremony at the base of the Pulaski Statue on the Museum grounds. Afternoon departure for Krakow.

Thursday, May 4: Official visit to Wawel Royal Castle compound in Krakow with a visit to the Cathedral crypt to honor Polish-American hero Thaddeus Kosciuszko, and a visit to the Kosciuszko mound.

Friday, May 5: Tour of the city of Krakow and free time for shopping on Market Square.

Saturday, May 6: Morning tour of the Wieliczka Salt Mine and afternoon visit to Auschwitz.

Sunday, May 7: Air flight departs from Krakow, connecting in Warsaw to JFK International Airport, New York.

Annual Appeal Progress Report

Middle East Changes

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

Recent developments in Lebanon, Libya, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict lend some proof that the Iraq War and an increased American pressure for democracy have borne some fruit in the region. There is no action that we have undertaken to reduce the terrorism threat that would have a bigger impact than a successful outcome in Iraq. If Iraqis cannot forge a social contract, probably no other Arab country can. However, if Iraqis succeed, it means that democracy is possible elsewhere in the Arab world. Indeed, the Palestinians have had an election and have voted to support a diplomatic approach to resolving political conflicts, resulting in a substantial reduction in suicide bombings.

Even with the best possible outcome, the invasion of Iraq may have been costly. America's alliances, particularly with Europe, have been frayed. It is difficult to imagine a quick exit that would not make things worse. But, at the same time, it is clear that the presence of American troops may not be helping the situation. Under attack from insurgents, the troops are seldom free to provide the humanitarian services that many would like to do. The troops are needed to protect the democratic transformation that President Bush seized upon after claims about weapons

of mass destruction proved unfounded. Some 2,000 American soldiers have already lost their lives fighting a violent insurgency. However, the invasion of Iraq has brought into the Arab heartland a model, albeit fragile and bitterly contested, liberal and democratic society. Overthrowing Saddam Hussein was important; it was a chance to bring freedom and equality to his people suffering under a brutal dictatorship. Hopefully, various factions will put the future of their country ahead of their narrow political agendas.

Iraq's elected leaders must organize a government that Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, and smaller ethnic and religious groups feel has their best interests at heart. Their new government is modestly encouraging and may make America safer.

The Bush administration's war in Iraq is causing reverses in the broader war on terror. This may be solid evidence that it was right to insist that a democratization strategy for the Middle East is a security strategy for the United States. But, America cannot work in isolation from the rest of the world. There are too many problems, which can only be solved if the major powers collaborate. Americans may need the counsel of other world leaders.

REPORTS FROM STATE SOCIETIES

MEXICO

The Mexico Society joined the Guadalajara Chapter, DAR, in celebration of Constitution Day on 26 September, 2006.

The Society also informs that, in conjunction with DAR, the Lake Chapala Society, and the American Legion Post 7, it has completed a re-building of the stone walls within the Chapala Cemetery. The same four organizations are preparing a clean-up program of the cemetery, in association with Mayor Arturo Gutierrez of Chapala and the municipal government who owns the ground on which the cemetery rests. The Chapala cemetery had been neglected for some time, but renewed interest has been instilled into a work force to

improve the resting place of 117 men and women veterans of foreign wars. With forthcoming ceremonies in preparation for November 11, a beautifying committee is working to renew pride and cleanliness on the grounds which will honor those at rest in the only cemetery in Chapala.



PENNSYLVANIA

French to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

based on material submitted by Winchell Carroll

The 229th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the 37th annual nationwide ceremony "Let Freedom Ring" were observed by the Pennsylvania Society with a reception and luncheon at the Sheraton Society Hill hotel in Philadelphia followed by a ceremony at Independence Hall and the ceremonial tapping of Liberty Bell thirteen times, to represent the thirteen original colonies. The bell was tapped by four children descended from signers of the Declaration of Independence.

More than two hundred members and guests gathered to honor their forefathers and also to welcome the commanding officer of the USS Cole, docked at Penn's Landing for the occasion.

This year, as Liberty Bell was tapped at 2:00 PM, the Normandy Liberty Bell, and exact replica cast to identical standards and said to be the only bell to sound like Liberty Bell, pealed outside heralding a chorus of more than 10,000 bells around the world. The Normandy Liberty Bell was cast in Normandy, as its name suggests, and is a gift of the



Photo Courtesy of The Patriot-News

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell (left) joins in singing "God Bless America," led by renowned actor Mickey Rooney and Rooney's wife, Jan, during a Let Freedom Ring Ceremony on Independence Day in Soldier's Grove, behind the Pennsylvania Capitol. Also pictured behind the Rooneys were the Rev. Edward L. Hinton of Harris A.M.E. Zion Church of Harrisburg (center) and Revolutionary War re-enactor Paul H. Ripple, who rung the bell while portraying General Edward Hand.

MASSACHUSETTS

submitted by Miss Joanne Fantucchio

The Society got off to a great start with its "First Luncheon of the New Fall Season" on October 5, 2005, with 40 sitting down to enjoy an early Thanksgiving feast with all the trimmings. Unable to attend but sending best wishes was Robert P. Vivian, a past President of the New Jersey Society, now serving as Governor General of The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America. Also wanting to be remembered to the group were Director Harry L. Walen and his dear wife, Betty. Joining us after too long an absence was Director Charles A. Hubbard, II, through whose auspices we are fortunate to meet at the Union Club of Boston. We were pleased to welcome several first-time visitors: Dr. Myron C. Smith, a Life Member, who came the greatest distance to be with us, all the way from Greeley, Colorado; Gary Boshears, a Life Member of the Tennessee Society, now residing in New Hampshire, and his wife, Fidelia, and Ron Basham and Norm Basham, of Florida, uncles of Life Member Robert M. Basham.



Immediately prior to luncheon the Society held a Business Meeting. Life Member Bernard A. Lange was elected a Director (to 2006), filling the vacancy in that office caused by the death of Lieutenant Colonel Jerome Lyon Spurr, USA (Ret.), who passed away on May 27, 2005. Tribute was paid to Colonel Spurr and Life Member John S. Dumont, who died on May 9, 2005, after which a moment of silence was observed in their memory. The Society also elected to membership prominent Boston attorney, Jacob M. Atwood.

Guest of honor and speaker was Joe McKendry, Illustrator and Painter, who vividly told us about his first book, *Beneath the Streets of Boston: Building America's First Subway*. With his magnificent watercolor illustrations, the book is a concise yet detailed history of this country's oldest underground system. Twenty-three years in the making, Boston's subway system served as a model for the rest of the country. As a memento of his visit Mr. McKendry was presented with a book entitled *Boston, All One Family*, containing 240 handsome photographs of Boston's community leaders.

Members of the Society, who will be joined by The Order of Lafayette, look forward to its Gala Christmas Luncheon on December first, at which the Honorable Francois Gauthier, Consul General of France, will be the principal speaker. His topic will be "The French Presence in New England: a Legacy and a Partnership."

TENNESSEE

Submitted by William J. Acuff, President

Annual Meeting convenes in Northbrook, Illinois

In a meeting marked by the hospitality of the Illinois Society and cool, crisp days of the Windy City's Fall, the delegates to the Board of Managers convened at this peaceable suburb of Chicago, a few minutes away from O'Hare international Airport.

Perhaps the bucolic nature of the surroundings assisted in creating a collegial atmosphere that permeated the proceedings as reports were presented from the various chairs and Societies (some of which are reported fully elsewhere in this issue), and business transacted in an exemplary gentlemanly fashion.

Two changes to the bylaws of the Society were approved as follows:

Article II Section 2: POWERS: Between meetings of the General Board of Managers, to which it shall report its transactions, the Executive Committee may exercise the powers of the General Board of Managers except the powers to amend or repeal any action of the General Board of Managers, to admit new State Societies, or to amend these Bylaws; and

Article IV Section 6 (This is a new section): REGISTRATION FEE: Upon approval of an applicant's application by the State Society and simultaneous with the transmittal of said

application to the General Society for assignment of General Society number by the State Society, the State Society shall submit the registration fee in a sum sufficient to defray the cost of The General Society associated with the new member during the first year and as determined by the Treasurer of the General Society in consultation with President of The General Society, which sum shall not exceed Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00) [The sum suggested was \$11.00 and the date to begin paying registration fees is January 1, 2006].



Society Members Assist with Dunsmore Conservation Efforts at Fraunces Tavern

An appeal to members of the General Society for help in conserving the John Ward Dunsmore

Collection of Revolutionary War paintings at Fraunces Tavern® Museum has already reached half its goal and has produced commitments to restore eleven paintings and their frames, including *The Surrender at Yorktown (Call to Parley)*.

This collection depicts seminal historic events such as Valley Forge and the Battle of Bunker Hill as well as people ranging from the common soldier to heroes such as Molly Pitcher and George Washington. The paintings will be part of a special exhibition including a catalogue and educational programming and displayed during the Museum's Centennial celebration in 2007. Afterwards, the paintings will be loaned out as well as used as important teaching tools for the over 6,000 school children that visit the Museum annually.

Individuals and Societies alike have made donations and the Museum would like to recognize these gifts. The following donors have committed to full sponsorship:

The Bay and Paul Foundations

Color Guard of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution: *Captured Flags from Yorktown; Lafayette and Washington At Valley Forge; and Valley Forge - Lafayette at Washington's Headquarters.*

Jeffrey Drake Curtiss: *Battle of Monmouth (Washington Rebukes Lee); and Washington and Staff at Ft. Lee.*

Sons of the Revolution in the State of New Jersey and the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Springfield Committee: *Battle of Springfield NJ (Give 'em Watts Boys).*

Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation, the Museum of Hounds and Hunting, Robert N. Ferrer, and John M. Hilliard: *Fox Hunt at Mt. Vernon; Return from the Fox Hunt; and The First Gentlemen of Virginia.*

Robert N. McKay, Esq.: *The Surrender at Yorktown (Call to Parley)*

We also received individual donations from: Sondra Blewer, Barry S. Cohen, Muriel Talbot French, Neil Hefti, Richard Hershner, John Hilliard, Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr., Lisa Beth MacKinlay, Eugenia & Dennis McCrary, A. Edward O'Hara, M.D., Frederick W. Pattison,

Joseph B. Rosenblatt, Elizabeth & Stanley D. Scott, Alice & Roger Soderberg, Roland S. Summers, M.D., P.C., Earl D. Weiner, and Lucy Pullen Werner. A special thank you to: Eric Kramer, Susan Kathryn Hefti, and Mrs. Alexander O. Vietor for their assistance with this endeavor. Finally, we want to recognize 100% staff participation from the Museum and SRNY.

The Museum still needs to raise \$58,815 to meet its goal of \$109,700. Therefore, we look to you for assistance; the average cost of conservation is \$3,500. Complete sponsorship of a painting will be recognized with a notation on the painting's title card whenever it is displayed as well as textually whenever the painting is written about.

Paintings available for sponsorship are:

Arousing the Minute Men; Bunker Hill - Fight at the Rail Fence; John Adams Proposing Washington for General; Moll Pitcher; News from Yorktown; Paul Revere; The Defense of Ft. Washington; The Spirit of '76; Washington & Family at Mt. Vernon; Washington & Members of Congress Leaving Christ Church; Washington at Morristown (Camp at Night); and Washington Inspecting First Silver Coins.

Please contact Elizabeth Slocum, Development Officer, at 212-425-1778 ext. 21 for further details and images or see our website at www.frauncestavernmuseum.org.

You can also send your tax-deductible donation, made out to "Fraunces Tavern Museum" to: Fraunces Tavern Museum, Attn: Elizabeth Slocum, Development Officer, 54 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10004; donations can also be made online at http://www.frauncestavernmuseum.org/mus_donate.html

Fraunces Tavern Museum and Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York sincerely appreciate your support.



Patriot Vignettes

from the Archives of the General Society

submitted by Berta Foresee

John Marshall was a Lieutenant, 11th VA Regiment in July 1776. He was a Captain in May 1776. He was at the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth; he also endured the hardships of Valley Forge.

After filling several offices of distinction he became on January 31, 1801, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States

Lt. Spencer Clack was born in Loudoun County, Virginia on March 28, 1746 and died in Sevierville, TN. on July 9, 1832. He was a 1st Lieutenant, Company A, Henry County Virginia Militia (1782-1783) and was appointed to take a list of souls, tythes and taxable property-Fully's Choice. Spencer Clack was in the Captain James Dowden and William Ryan County Militia.

Absalom Pollard Sr. was born in New Kent Co., Virginia on January 1, 1760 and died in Lancaster, KY on August 29, 1835. He enlisted from Culpepper Co. Virginia in 1776 at age 16 and he served in Capt. Jacob Valentine's Co. of the 2nd Virginia Regiment. He was in the Battles of Monmouth and Stony Point and at the Siege of Yorktown under General George Washington.

Cover: *General Pulaski and the battle of Savannah*
Concept: Saul M. Montes-Bradley
Design: Alex Manfredini Digital Studio

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SONS OF THE REVOLUTION
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Isham Beasley was born in Orange County, North Carolina on January 11, 1760 and died in Smith County, Tennessee, May 20, 1855. He served from November 1779 for about four months with Captain James Herndon's Company in Col. Archibald Lytles' Regiment. He later served in Capt. Richardson's Light Horse Company and in Col. John Litteral's Regiment. While serving with this regiment, General Greene sent him from Guilford Court House to Halifax with an express message for the governor. He then joined Capt. Patterson's Company and served the remainder of his enlistment which was for three months. He was in the Battles of Lundley's Mill, Roft Swamp and a skirmish at Mr. Fall's Mill. Prisoners were taken and he served as a guard until they got to Hillsboro where he was discharged.

Change of Address?

Please mail or e-mail changes of address and any other change of information in your records to:

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