

M I N N E S O T A

SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • www.sar.org/mnssar • AUTUMN 2011



MNSSAR CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON

The chefs at Jax Cafe created a special menu using a colonial-era theme. Guests were given a choice of three menu dishes: New England Boiled Dinner of Beef Brisket, potatoes and vegetables in a rich beef sauce; Virginia Sour Apple Glazed Ham served with brown beans and braised mustard greens; Stuffed Game Hen with roasted whole potatoes and boiled carrots. Every entree included, Johnny Cake and Sally Lunn Bread; a George Washington Salad of mixed greens, artichokes and asparagus tossed with a red wine vinaigrette; and Plantation Pound Cake for Dessert.

Secretary-Treasurer Jones introduced Executive Chef Bob Foster who had prepared this special menu. He was greeted with a large round of applause.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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FORMER MINNESOTA CHIEF JUSTICE, HON. A. M. "SANDY" KEITH SPEAKS AT THE ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON

Minneapolis, MN – Thirty-nine members of the Minnesota Society, along with spouses, guests, and members of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Minnesota, gathered for the Annual Washington Day Luncheon. The total attendance was 66. Minnesota SR President Edward Reino Lief adorned each table setting with a copy of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, written by George Mason, obtained at Gunston Hall in Virginia.

MNSSAR Secretary-Treasurer Jones presented new member certificates and rosettes to fifteen new members. Three members achieved supplemental ancestor certificates. Secretary Jones presented World War II Certificates of Appreciation to William Arthur Harris and LTC Allen Dean Shepersky.

There were eleven members that reached 25 years of continuous membership in our Society. With several now living out of state, or in outstate Minnesota, none were able to attend but the certificates and pins will be mailed to them.

It was announced that the Minnesota Society had won the Marion Brown Award at the NSSAR Congress for being the state society that sponsored the First Place Eagle Scout winner. The certificate and large Eagle Trophy were handed to Timothy Harris, our Eagle Scout program chairman. It was announced that Secretary-Treasurer Jones had won another oak leaf cluster for the Liberty Medal award. The award was created in 1986 for members proposing ten new members. An oak leaf cluster is awarded for each additional ten. This is

his eighth cluster, and we have already been advised that he will receive another one at the NSSAR Congress in July 2012.

Secretary-Treasurer Jones related the story of the creation of the Lake Minnetonka Society of the Children of the American Revolution. The spark-plug behind that very successful society is Adrienne Louise Stork Morrison. President McRoberts and Secretary-Treasurer Jones then presented the Martha Washington Medal to Mrs. Morrison. This is the highest award the SAR gives to members of the DAR.

Jones auctioned two marvelous children books on the life of the Revolutionary Soldier for the benefit of the Saint Paul Chapter. The books were the generous donation of Charles Boyles of the Saint Paul Chapter.

President McRoberts dis-

cussed a social event/visit to the Taylor grave in Winona. The consensus was to hold it in May or June 2012. He also detailed his recent talk at a DAR Chapter in the area.

SR President Edward Lief introduced our speaker, Former Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, A. M. "Sandy" Keith. His interesting topic focused on the relationship of the Minnesota State Constitution to the U.S. Constitution. Keith chose for his example a controversial subject; abortion. He stated that in 1961 an abortion could only be obtained if rape or incest was involved or to save a mothers life. In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Roe vs. Wade* changed that. In 1976 the U.S. Congress voted to restrict the use of federal funds to fund abortions except in the case



World War II Veterans, William Arthur Harris and LTC Allen Dean Shepersky



Supplemental Applicant, Arthur Louis Finnel and MNSSAR Eagle Scout Chairman Tim Harris



Adrienne Louise Stork Morrison, recipient of the Martha Washington Medal flanked by Craig Whiting and Paul Kent Theisen



Minnesota SR President Edward Lief, Former Chief Justice "Sandy" Keith and MNSSAR President Ronald McRoberts



“DY” KEITH, HEON

of rape, incest or to save the mothers life. In 1980 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld this law.

In 1995 – *Doe vs. Gomez* – Chief Justice Keith and the Minnesota Supreme Court held that medical assistance and general assistance statutes that permitted use of public funds for childbirth-related medical services, but prohibited similar use of public funds for medical services related to therapeutic abortions, impermissibly infringed on a woman’s fundamental right of privacy under the Minnesota Constitution – the Minnesota Supreme Court held that the U.S. laws were unconstitutional.

Keith closed his dissertation by stating “It was either the best decision or the worst decision.”

MNSSAR NEW MEMBER REPORT

Many of the people listed were presented certificates and/or membership rosettes during the Constitution Day Luncheon:

NEW MEMBERS:	Ancestor
Dennis Sabourin Walsh.....	Soloman Stansbury
Dennis Garvin Croonquist.....	Nathaniel Condit
James Delancy Kramer, M.D.....	Abraham Cantine
David Joseph McCallum	Stephen Thompson
Brian Alan Brommel.....	Zachariah Cross
Jason Edward Witte	William D. Slye
James Frederick Mellinger, M.D.	John Jacob Mellinger
Douglas Neal Mellinger, M.D.	John Jacob Mellinger
Aaron Hale Printup.....	Joseph Printup
Steven Marlin Skytte, Jr.....	Andrew Kelly
Thomas Christopher Eaton	Isaac Mitchell
Jim Michael Reinholdson	Samuel Meader

NEW JUNIOR MEMBERS:	
Bryce Alexander Remple.....	George Douglas
William Malcolm Witte	William D. Slye

NEW MEMBER transferred from Youth Registrant:	
Sebastian James Barth	Morgan Morgan

TRANSFER IN FROM ARIZONA SOCIETY:	
Bruce Alan Aiton	Nicholas Blake

NEW SUPPLEMENTAL ANCESTORS:	
Arthur Louis Finnell	John Adam Rinehart
Stephen John Vescelus.....	Jezina Verseilous
David Adriance Foster	Michael Magie
	Matthias Porter
	Gysbert VanDenbergh
	William Witbeck

MNSSAR Members: Enroll Your Children / Grandchildren as Junior Members



Jr. Member William Witte, son of Jason Witte, at the MNSSAR Constitution Day Luncheon.

- Jr. Member Benefits:**
- Regular Member Number
 - Regular Member Certificate
 - Small Application Fee
 - Minimal National Dues – Only \$5 Annually
 - No State or Chapter Dues
 - Automatically Receive Adult Membership Benefits at Age 18

Contact John Hallberg Jones 612-721-4275 Today



David Joseph McCallum receives his membership rosette from his father, John David McCallum



New Members is Attendance – Back row left to right: Reinholdson, Croonquist, Jason Witte and his son, Jr. member William Witte, McCallum, Kramer. Front row: Walsh, Printup, Eaton

NEXT MEETING

The Minnesota Society’s 123rd Annual General Meeting will be held at Jax Cafe at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2012. Please watch for details to be mailed to you.

AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Monday July 7, 1777



FORT TICONDEROGA FALLS

Skenesborough, New York. Yesterday the American's abandoned Fort Ticonderoga leaving it for the advancing British army.

No one knew better than General St. Clair, commander of the post, "that a retreat, with an inferior army, from before a superior one, is perhaps the most delicate and dangerous undertaking in the whole circle of military operations, and that it never will be effected without prudence, fortitude and secrecy." It had to be done, he knew, and as much as he despised the very idea of retreating, he could console himself with the thought that his motive was not to avoid a fight but to save his army.

St. Clair led his army across Lake Champlain, on the floating bridge they had constructed earlier, to their fortification on Mount Independence. At the very moment St. Clair was doing his best to organize the troops for the march to Hubbardton, the unbelievable occurred. Suddenly, without warning, flames shot up from a building on the Mount, sending sparks and long tongues of fire aloft, illuminating the scene like some gigantic torch. The shock of knowing that the enemy, alerted to the retreat, might pounce on them at any moment from the rear or the flank proved too much for the thoroughly bewildered, unorganized militiamen, who ran off the road to Hubbardton, followed by a number of equally nervous Continentals. St. Clair rode up from the rear to the front of the crowd and ordered them to halt, but the militiamen were having none of that and ignored him, press-

ing forward in the half-light that precedes the dawn. Most of those who did obey St. Clair's orders were Continentals, and he told them to form up in single file, which was the only way to negotiate the rough, narrow cart track. It was almost 4:00 a.m. on July sixth, and dawn was just breaking when the last Americans retired, having fired only a handful of shots from what had been considered an unconquerable stronghold.

A final precaution had been taken to safeguard the army's retreat. Four men, serving as a forlorn hope, remained behind. They were all that was left of the garrison, and their assignment was to man the cannon in the shore battery on Mount Independence and fire on the British while they were crossing the floating bridge and were most vulnerable, unable to respond. Then the four would disappear into the woods and make their way back to rejoin the rear guard. Only it did not come off quite as planned.

When the British crossed the bridge and cautiously approached the works on Mount Independence, alert for snipers, they came upon the battery. The four men were at their posts, all rights, linstocks lighted and ready to fire, but beside them lay an empty cask of Madeira. They were all dead drunk.

On the sixth of May, Lieutenant General John Burgoyne, handsome soldier, litterateur, and man-about-London, fresh from an English winter strode off H.M.S. *Apollo* at Quebec. His epaulets blinked furiously

in the warm sunshine that flooded the green St. Lawrence, and he was thoroughly happy for the first time since the American rebellion had begun. Ever since he had first landed in Boston two years ago, as one of the now-famous trio of Burgoyne, Clinton, and Howe, he had longed and schemed for an independent command, and at last he had achieved it. Burgoyne had been chosen to command the field force to break the American Revolution.

It's principal elements were an advance from Montreal through Lake Champlain and the Hudson River to Albany, New York; a drive by a smaller force down the Mohawk Valley from Oswego; and an advance up the Hudson by a column from Howe's army. Converging at Albany, the three would come down on the rebels—front, flank, and rear. Even if Washington, by not risking his army in an attempt to meet the offensive, should thus escape immediate destruction, the operation would wound the rebellion mortally. By occupying the line of the Hudson, the British would sever New England from the rest of the colonies; the flow of men and supplies from the heartland of the rebellion would be cut off. And then with the Hudson line established, Howe would be free to destroy Washington's army in good time wherever it might be.

After six weeks in Quebec, "Gentleman Johnny" was ready to mount his offensive. Sir Guy Carlton, Governor of Quebec, had handed him an army of over 8,300, including

600 artillerymen for a train of 138 guns, 650 Canadian and Tory auxiliaries, 400 Indians of the Six Nations, and a main force of 3,700 smartly-trained regulars and 3,000 Germans, almost all of the latter Brunswickers.

On the sparkling morning of the twentieth of June, Burgoyne's expedition set sail in a mile-long flotilla up the shimmering blue waters to Crown Point, some eight miles north of Fort Ticonderoga.

On July 2 as the British army crept closer to the vital fort, a young lieutenant of the Royal Engineers informed Burgoyne that he had reconnoitered Sugar Loaf Hill and believed that cannon could be carried up it. They would have to be drawn up with blocks and tackles wound around trees, but it could be done. For two days and nights the British cannoner's worried their guns up the steep slopes from tree to tree, while working parties at Sugar Loaf's summit quietly cleared, leveled and fortified the gun positions. On July 5 the Americans who had passed a quiet and not very exuberant Fourth awoke to find themselves under enemy guns. A plunging fire would make a rubble of their supposedly impregnable fortress, and their own guns could not reach the enemies.

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