

M I N N E S O T A

# SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • [www.MinnesotaSAR.org](http://www.MinnesotaSAR.org) • WINTER 2012

## MNSSAR 123RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



*New Members and New Life-Members from left to right: Gary Printup, William DeCoursey, Bernard (Barney) Barton, William Harris, Dennis Croonquist, Brendan Tupa and Peter Lawless.*

Minneapolis, Minnesota – The Minnesota Society, and the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution held their annual general meetings at Jax Cafe on January 14, 2012. Luncheon, from the menu, was served during the meeting.

The Society was called to order by President COL Ronald Edward McRoberts, who led the Pledge to the US flag and read the Pledge to the SAR. Chaplain Vork gave the Invocation. The Minnesota Society was then recessed and the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Chapters conducted their business.

*Continued inside...*

**INSIDE THE**  
**MNSSAR SALUTE...**

MNSSAR 123rd Annual General Meeting Held at Jax Cafe

American Eagle

Phebe Ester Huntsinger – True Daughter of the American Revolution

Minnesota Society SAR Officers for 2012

Visit [www.MinnesotaSAR.org](http://www.MinnesotaSAR.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Sons of the American Revolution  
2700 East Minnehaha Parkway  
Minneapolis, MN 55406-3743





# MNSSAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Minneapolis Chapter

The Minneapolis Chapter was called to order by Vice President Hon. William R. Johnson, in the absence of President Rehn Smith who has recently undergone surgery.

Secretary Jones reported that the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal was presented in 25 area high schools in 2011, and that the Minneapolis Chapter also had presentations at two squadrons of Naval Sea Cadets.

Compatriot Jones spoke of the success of fundraising projects and the giving of scholarships by the Lake Minnetonka Society C.A.R. The Minneapolis Chapter will donate \$100 to the Society.

## Saint Paul Chapter

The Saint Paul Chapter was called to order by President John Charles Sassaman. COL Ronald McRoberts made a generous donation to the Saint Paul Chapter, noting that the chapter has a much smaller treasury than the Minneapolis Chapter. He challenged others to also make a donation.

Saint Paul Secretary-Treasurer Timothy Harris reported that twelve area high schools participated in the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal Program in 2011 and their students were presented with medals the past May.

On Flag Day, June 14, 2011, five Saint Paul businesses were presented with a

flag certificate for showing their patriotism and love of country by regularly flying the flag.

## Minnesota Society Membership

Secretary-Treasurer Jones reported on membership. During 2011 we had 23 new members, three reinstatements, one transfer in and three deaths, giving a net increase of 24. As of December 31, 2011 membership stands at 156, plus five dual members. However, there are still five that owe 2012 dues, who, if not paid by January 25, 2012, will be dropped for non-payment of dues. Two of those five have already indicated that they are mailing dues this weekend.

Compatriot Jones gave an interesting report on ages and time of membership of our Society. The names of eight new members were announced, as approved between 08 October and 31 December 2011. One certificate will be mailed; the other seven have asked that the presentation be made at our next meeting so that families can be present. John Sassaman and David Foster were presented certificates for Supplemental Ancestors. In addition five new members have already been approved in early January 2012. Life Membership pins were presented to Dennis Croonquist, Brendan Tupa, and William DeCoursey. One will be

mailed to Geoffrey Bodeau, and one will be presented to William Witte at the February meeting. William Harris is a new Life Member, the result of a birthday present from his sons Thomas and Timothy.

## Minnesota Society Endowment Trust Fund

Donations to Principal during 2011 were \$3,851.00. The Trustees proposed that the 2011 interest of \$600.05 be used to pay the following donation items: Duluth Public Library \$50.00; Minnesota Genealogical Society \$35.00; Taylor Grave Flowers \$20.00; Preservation Alliance of Minnesota \$40.00; Minnesota Genealogical Journal \$26.78; Taylor Grave Pilgrimage in late Spring or early Summer 2012 \$50.00; and the balance of \$378.27 to the MNSAR Color Guard. If the pilgrimage does not happen, that amount will be added to the Color Guard Fund. The Principal as of 31 December 2011 totaled \$20,923.00.

## Minnesota Society Programs

Compatriot Timothy Harris reported on the Eagle Scout Program, indicating that he mailed packets to over 900 new Eagle Scouts in 2011 and has received 23 entries for the contest thus far. Our Minnesota winner will be presented at the next meeting. Over the years Minnesota has had four national winners of the \$8,000.00 scholarship as well as second

and third place winners.

Compatriot Jones reported on the ROTC Medal program. Letters have already been mailed to the 13 JROTC units and the 7 ROTC units in Minnesota. Several Compatriots have assisted with the presentations over the last few years and spoke of their experiences at these ceremonies and their desire to do this service again. We note with regret the closing of the Vessey Leadership Academy and its JROTC program.

## Other Business

President McRoberts reported that the Taylor Grave book project is moving along. Compatriot Swisher indicated that if the MNSAR prepared a pamphlet on the subject, to be available to the Chamber of Commerce in Winona, that he would donate the printing through the Bayport Printing House.

President McRoberts indicated that Past President Stonecipher will present details at the next meeting of a pilgrimage to the Taylor grave for late spring or early summer.

The officers of the Minnesota Society, the Minneapolis Chapter, and the Saint Paul Chapter were installed by John Hallberg Jones.

President McRoberts read the SAR Recessional, and with no further business appearing, declared the annual meeting adjourned.



## PHEBE ESTER (THOMPSON) HUNTSINGER 1803 -1884

### TRUE DAUGHTER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

*By John D. McCallum – Written at the request of the Minnesota Society SAR*

Phebe Ester Thompson was born on November 24, 1803, in New Haven, Connecticut to Stephen and Patience Thompson. She was the fourth daughter and one of eleven children.

Her father, Stephen Thompson (1759 -1835) served for six years (1777 - 1783) as a Private in the Connecticut Line, participating in numerous battles including; Brandywine Creek, German-town, Fort Mifflin, Monmouth Court House, and Quaker Hill. He also wintered at Valley Forge, and Camp Redding. Stephen Thompson is believed to have been part of General Lafayette's advance party leading to the Siege and Battle of Yorktown, and may have been a participant in the taking of Redoubt #10. He received the Badge of Distinction for his six years of service. About 1785, Stephen Thompson married Patience, in New Haven, Connecticut.

Only a year after Phebe's birth, Stephen and Patience Thompson moved their family from New Haven, Connecticut to Onondaga, New York. Phebe would spend her childhood and early adult years in Onondaga, and the patriotism of the family would be continued, with Phebe's older brother, Adonijah Thompson serving in the

War of 1812.

On November 24, 1825, Phebe Thompson married Sylvanus Hunstinger in Camillus, New York. During the next six years, Phebe and Sylvanus would make their home in Camillus, and would see two daughters born, Emeleine and Charity. In 1831, Phebe and Sylvanus moved their family to Oswego, New York, with Sylvanus continuing his trade as a carpenter, and the couple raising their family, which would grow to eight children, with the birth of Angeline, Arthur, Elizabeth, Albert, Frances, and Camilla.

In the early 1850s, several of the older, married children of Phebe and Sylvanus Huntsinger moved from New York to the area of Berlin and Ripon, Wisconsin. In 1854, Phebe and Sylvanus moved the remainder of their family to Sacramento, Wisconsin, then a growing town, a short distance northeast of Berlin, along the south bank of the Fox River. Sylvanus continued his trade as a carpenter. Phebe enjoyed her grandchildren, and seeing her daughters married to successful businessman and farmers; Emiline & Samuel Wilson / Captain David Mapes, (founder of Ripon and Ripon College), Elizabeth and Norman Mason of Ripon, Ange-

line and Rossiter Willard, of Berlin, Charity and Cornelius Spoor of Berlin. Her sons would marry and become farmers: Albert & Susanna (Eastman) close by in Berlin Twp. and Arthur and Sarah (Hammond) in Wautoma. All would be successful and influential in their communities, and many would play a significant part of the political landscape of the area.

In the early 1860s, Phebe's children, Arthur and his family, Francis and her husband, and Camilla would move to Pine Island, Minnesota, where Camilla would marry Benjamin Franklin Swarthout. Phebe and Sylvanus would also add to their household, by caring for the father of Sylvanus. Peter Philander Huntsinger was a widower, blind, and in his late eighties.

In 1869, Peter Philander Huntsinger died at the age of 96 and in 1873, Phebe's husband, Sylvanus Huntsinger passed away. Both are buried side by side in Sacramento Cemetery. With the loss of her husband, Phebe moved to live with her youngest daughter Camilla and her husband Benjamin Swarthout in Pine Island, Minnesota.

In Pine Island, Phebe would continue to enjoy life, visiting neighbors and entertaining her grandchildren by



singing them songs, almost up to her very last day. After being ill for about twenty four hours, Phebe Ester (Thompson) Huntsinger passed away on February 23, 1884, and is buried in Pine Island Cemetery in Pine Island, Minnesota.

Note: Phebe Ester (Thompson) is the third great-grandmother of John D. McCallum.

# AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Tuesday July 8, 1777



## BRITISH CRUSH AMERICANS AT HUBBARDTON

Hubbardton, Vermont – Fort Ticonderoga, the Gibraltar of the North, the great bastion that watched over the Hudson-Champlain passage, was now firmly in the hands of General John Burgoyne. The routed American defenders were scattered to the winds, fleeing for their lives, and the British general was only a five- or six-day march from Albany and his rendezvous with Sir William Howe.

It was close to one o'clock on July 6, when the footsore American army, fleeing the British, reached Hubbardton, and General St. Claire was keenly aware of how desperately his men needed rest. They had been tramping for nearly nine hours in sweltering heat, covering more than twenty miles of rugged, tortuous terrain, and they had six more miles to go before reaching Castle Town.

For several hours St. Clair delayed at Hubbardton, hoping the rear guard would catch up, but finally, when it failed to appear, he set out with the army for Castle Town after leaving orders for Seth Warner and his 150 Green Mountain Boys to remain here until Col. Ebenezer Francis came up. Warner was to take charge of their combined units, plus Col. Nathan Hale's 2nd New Hampshire Regiment, which would turn the rear guard into a respectable fighting force.

It was four o'clock in the afternoon by the time Francis and Hale, with something over one thousand men, finally arrived at Hubbardton. Whatever his reasoning, Warner let his Green Mountain Boys hunker down in the area of the

Selleck house. Below, in the valley along Sucker Brook, which any pursuers from Mount Independence would have to cross, the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment and most of the stragglers had bivouacked. To the north and right of Warner, Francis's men took position in the woods, where they could block an enemy advance from that direction.

As the spent rebels fell into a troubled sleep that night, they had no way of knowing that a determined Scot and his crack troops lay on their arms at Lacey's camp, just three miles away.

Brigadier General Simon Fraser had gotten off to a gallingly late start, which was one of the luckiest breaks the Americans had that day. After assembling two companies of the 24th Regiment plus a detachment of the grenadier and light infantry battalions, Fraser set out in pursuit of the Americans. General Burgoyne, anticipating that Fraser might need help, ordered Major General Riedesel to lead his own regiment of Brunswickers and Breyman's company of Jagers and follow Fraser along the road to Hubbardton. The sun was up as they marched, promising another scorching day.

About 4:00 p.m. some German jagers overtook Fraser, and an hour later General Riedesel rode up, saying he had orders to support the brigadier. Riedesel stated flatly that his own troops could move no further that night; they were unused to such heat, encumbered by uniforms and

weapons unsuited to a forced march through wooded, bushy terrain, and tormented by clouds of insects, and it was a wonder they had not succumbed to heat prostration.

Fraser had his men ready to march at three o'clock on the morning of July 7. It was still dark, so their progress was slower and more arduous than what they had experienced the day before, but two hours later, as the sun was rising, they reached the end of a long climb and neared the saddle below Sargent Hill. Some Indian and Tory scouts were up ahead, reconnoitering, and suddenly shots rang out; rebel pickets had spotted them and fired before falling back toward the American camp.

In the van, Major Grant led Fraser's proud 24th Regiment, with a century of tradition behind it, followed by Major Alexander Lindsay, Earl of Balcarres, with ten companies of elite light infantry, while Major John Acland's ten companies of big, husky grenadiers brought up the rear.

The brigadier's battle plan called for Grant's redcoats to lead the attack and deliver a knockout blow. Barclarres was to angle up along Grant's left flank in case of enemy resistance proved stubborn, and the grenadiers would be held in reserve, ready to move in any direction if needed. Although it was daylight, the American camp was only now coming to life, with men cooking, eating, and packing up their gear.

At daybreak that morning, Colonel Francis enjoyed a cup of chocolate with his good

friend Captain Moses Greenleaf, and at seven o'clock, before heading to the Selleck cabin, where he met Seth Warner, he directed Greenleaf to parade the regiment and prepare to march. At seven-fifteen, Greenleaf had his companies lined up and they began moving south on the Crown Point–Castle Town road. At that moment someone yelled: a handful of redcoats could be seen emerging from the trees on the far side of Farmer Selleck's field, well within musket range, and without missing a beat, Francis's regiment faced right, swung from column into line, and headed for them on the double.

These British regulars were the leading elements of Balcarres's light companies. By the time they picked their way over and through the piles of logs and brush, neared the crest of the hill, and came in sight of the Massachusetts men, they were winded and disorganized. These fellows were chosen for their athletic ability and strength, but this steamy July day was unmitigated torture for soldiers in heavy woolen uniforms and leather caps, and the steep climb was enough to wind any man, particularly one carrying a knapsack, full cartouche box, spare ammunition, canteen, hatchet, and a musket through thick brush and fallen trees.

Francis's men had arrived here first and were lined up, waiting, muskets at the ready. Protected by the stone wall and the logs piled around it, they were within thirty or forty yards of the British, and when the opened fire it took the attackers by surprise, shatter-

ing their ragged line, sending the redcoats plunging down the hill, where their officers halted the flight.

At this point Fraser, who had run up the hill at the head of the light infantry battalion, might well have wondered if he had bitten off more than he could chew and should have waited for Riedesel to come up. With the battle barely begun, his left flank was in danger of being turned, while his advance party, the 24th Foot, with a score of men killed or wounded, had been stopped in its tracks by the stiff resistance of Warner's command, and was depending on the arrival of the Germans. Fraser decided to commit his reserves rather than lose the momentum of his initial surprise attack. He detached some of Balcarres's light troops with Acland and his grenadiers, ordering them to swing to the right to head off the Americans and prevent them from reaching the Castle Town road. He was taking an enormous risk – this maneuver seriously weakened the British left, where Fraser remained in charge – but he was counting on the Brunswickers to reinforce him before it was too late, and he dispatched a messenger to Riedesel urging him to come up at once.

By the time Warner got his Green Mountain Boys into formation, four separate rebel units were either engaged or about to go into action. Their American line of battle was in the shape of a half-moon about eight hundred yards, or nearly half a mile, long, snaking out from the west side of the road south of the Selleck house. Reading from left to right were

the regiments of Warner and Francis and most of Hale's 2nd New Hampshire, led by his second-in-command, Benjamin Titcomb. Nathan Hale himself was somewhere down near Sucker Brook with the scattered remnant of his regiment. Despite being taken completely by surprise, Hale's force, such as it was, had done its level best to delay the enemy's advance, but as a fighting unit it had all but ceased to exist, and the men, faced with overwhelming numbers, had slipped off into the woods.

On the British right, the detachment of grenadiers under Acland was heading toward a rocky precipice that commanded the road to Castle Town when Warner spotted them and sent part of his regiment to head them off.

When Warner saw grenadiers coming down the slope toward him he realized that his left flank was dangerously exposed and ordered his men, who were fighting stubbornly, to pull back to the east side of the Castle Town road and take a position behind a log fence that ran parallel to the road and then made a right-angle in the direction of Pittsford Mountain. It was a smart move: in order to attack Warner's troops at close range, where a bayonet charge would be devastating, the grenadiers would have to cross open fields under deadly American fire.

Col. Francis must have noted that the log fence would have to be the final stop – the point at which his rear guard must disengage and somehow make its way to the main army in Castle Town. After turning back the initial attack by Bal-

carres's light infantry and sending them scrambling down the hill, Francis's men regrouped and fell back to the rise, behind which they took cover, primed and loaded their weapons, and waited for the redcoats to make another assault.

Sizing up the situation on his front, the colonel could see that the left flank of the oncoming British was dangling – their line was too short – and he at once sent troops out from behind the fence to enfilade that exposed section of the redcoats' formation. By this time the battle had been raging for about an hour and twenty-five minutes. Despite fatigue and the demands of the long holding action, Francis's men began moving toward the British left flank, alerting Fraser that they were attacking, aiming to roll up his wing, and going about it pretty briskly.

At that moment, over the noise of gunfire came the surprising and unmistakable notes of a military band, bugles blaring, fifes tooting, drums beating the grenadiers' march. The Brunswickers had finally arrived. Their appearance was in the nick of time for Fraser. Out of nowhere it seemed, came Captain von Geyses's jagers in green coats, with brown leather breeches and leggings, carrying German rifles and straight hunting swords, heading directly at the Americans with fixed bayonets. The hard-pressed New Hampshire regiment, which suffered more disabling wounds than Francis's and Warner's regiments combined, gave way and ran back to the protection of the fence, but the fire from the jagers' rifles was deadly and the rebels realized

they were all but surrounded.

The British grenadiers had pushed Warner's Green Mountain Boys before them and were sweeping in on the left. For a while the rebels held out, but it was a losing game. If they were to avoid the enemy's savage bayonet charge, the Americans had to reach the only fallback position that remained to them – a hedgerow on the far side of Hubbardton Brook. It was an obstacle that would not be easy to cross, but they had to get beyond it and reach the steep slope of Pittsford Mountain. These men were desperate now; unless they made it up and over the mountain, they were trapped.

They had had the protection of walls, trees, terrain, and a fence, but now their only hope of escape was to win a footrace across eighty yards of a wheat field under intense fire. The enemy was closing fast.

Ebenezer Francis shouted to his troops not to shoot – they were hitting their own men. And that was his last command. It was followed by a volley from the enemy and Francis fell dead. It was the final crushing blow. Without the leader who had inspired them, the rebels scattered and ran for their lives, scrambling up the cliffs behind Hubbardton Brook with the frantic speed of hunted men. Except for the occasional musket shot from the woods, the battle of Hubbardton was over.

Sources:

*Saratoga, Turning Point of America's Revolutionary War,*  
by Richard M. Ketchum  
Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 1997



## 2012 MINNESOTA SOCIETY SAR OFFICERS

The following compatriots were nominated and elected to serve another year for the Minnesota Society and/or their respective chapters. Congratulations to all the compatriots who accepted service to the Minnesota Society Sons of the American Revolution.

### MINNESOTA SOCIETY SAR

President.....COL Ronald Edward McRoberts  
 Vice President.....Larry Wray Sisk  
 Secretary-Treasurer.....John Hallberg Jones, PP  
 Registrar.....Arthur Louis Finnell, PP  
 Genealogist & Asst. Registrar.....William Leslie DeCoursey, PP  
 Chancellor.....Hon. David Sinclair Bouschor, PP  
 Historian/Newsletter Editor.....Timothy Charles Harris, PP  
 Librarian.....Thomas Christopher Harris  
 Surgeon.....Dr. Roy Franklin House, Jr.  
 Chaplain.....The Rev. Richard Lanklyn Vork  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Jonathan Lee Gustafson

Past Presidents are automatically members of the Board of Managers. Those not named above are:

James Fredrick Foster	Duane L.C.M. Galles, Esq.
Curtis John Oliver	Marvin Eugene Stonecipher
Michael Scott Swisher	Hon. Paul Kent Theisen
Page Gregory Whitmore	Buford Allen Young

#### Board of Managers:

(up to 20 members, in addition to the above.)

Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D.	Charles Edward Boyles
Tracy Ashley Crocker	Peter Arrott Dixon
Jay Thomas W. Franklin	William Arthur Harris, Sr.
Hon. William Raymond Johnson	Robert Edward Kahl, II
Mark Allen Labine	Larry Allan Lundblad, Ph.D.
Paul Victor William E. Miller, Ph.D.	Robert Arthur Minish
Thomas Truxtun Morrison, Sr.	Randall Roger Nelson
Christopher John Pizinger	John Charles Sassaman
George Floyd Smith, M.D.	Robert Leslie Smith, III
Rehn Douglas Smith	Stephen John Vescelus

#### SAR Endowment Trust Fund: (three year terms)

Trustee ending January 2013 .....John Hallberg Jones, PP  
 Trustee ending January 2014 .....Duane L.C.M. Galles, Esq., PP  
 Trustee ending January 2015 .....Michael Scott Swisher, PP

#### Nominated for election at the NSSAR National Congress in Phoenix, Arizona in July 2012:

National Trustee for Minnesota ...Peter Arrott Dixon, PP  
 Alternate National Trustee MN ...John Hallberg Jones, PP

### MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER

President .....Rehn Douglas Smith  
 Vice President.....Hon. William Raymond Johnson  
 Secretary-Treasurer .....John Hallberg Jones  
 Chaplain.....Michael Scott Swisher  
 Board of Managers .....Thomas Truxtun Morrison  
 Tracy Ashley Crocker  
 Timothy Charles Harris

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 Arthur Louis Finnell  
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 Robert Edward Kahl, II  
 Larry Allan Lundblad, Ph.D.  
 Hon. Paul Kent Theisen  
 Larry Larson Warren  
 Page Gregory Whitmore

### SAINT PAUL CHAPTER

President .....John Charles Sassaman  
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 Secretary-Treasurer .....Timothy Charles Harris  
 Chaplain.....The Rev. Richard Lanklyn Vork  
 Board of Managers .....James Fredrick Foster  
 COL Ronald Edward McRoberts  
 Larry Wray Sisk

### NEXT MEETING

**LTC Thomas Pelham Curtis, District Deputy President General of the Society of the War of 1812**, will speak at the annual George Washington Observance and Luncheon. 2012 marks the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. Jax will serve their signature Beef Tenderloin Tips entree. Watch for detailed information to be mailed to you. **Learn more at [www.MinnesotaSAR.org/meetings.html](http://www.MinnesotaSAR.org/meetings.html)**.