

M I N N E S O T A

SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • www.MinnesotaSAR.org • WINTER 2013

MNSAR 124TH ANNUAL MEETING



Minneapolis, Minnesota – The Minnesota Society, and the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution held their annual meetings at Jax Cafe on January 12, 2013. 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. Minneapolis Chapter Chaplain Michael Swisher gave the Invocation. The Minnesota Society was then recessed and the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Chapters conducted their business.

Continued inside...

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American Eagle

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Saint Paul Chapter Officers
Minneapolis Chapter and
2013 Minnesota Society,

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124th Annual Meeting
Minnesota Society SAR

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**INSIDE THE
MNSAR SALUTE...**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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





MINNESOTA SOCIETY SAR ANNUAL 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 was absent due to health concerns.

Secretary Jones reported that the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal was presented in 25 area high schools in 2012, and that the Minneapolis Chapter also had presentations at two squadrons of Naval Sea Cadets.

Compatriot Jones spoke of the success of fund-raising 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. Sassaman reported that eleven area high schools participated in the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal Program in 2012 and their students were presented with medals the past May. The twelfth school, St. Bernards, closed its doors the previous year.

On Flag Day, June 14, 2012, 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 2012 we had 33 new members, one reinstatement, four deaths, four transfer out, and one resignation, giving a net increase of 25, pending NSSAR changes. (The NSSAR is still getting final figures to the state societies.) 2012 started at 153 MNSAR members and ended at 178. In addition the MNSAR has six dual members.

Michael Swisher was presented a certificate for a memorial membership for his grandfather, Scott Swisher. Rosettes were presented to Ronald Peterson and Steven Lokensgard, as this was the first meeting they had attended. Jones reported on statistics regarding birthdates and registration dates. Since the MNSAR Annual Meeting landed on Registrar Finnell's birthday, the group sang "Happy Birthday" to him.

Minnesota Society Endowment Trust Fund

Donations to Principal during 2012 were \$2,997.00. The Trustees proposed that the 2012 interest of \$701.17 be used to pay the following donation items: MN Genealogical Society \$35.00, Taylor Grave Flowers \$20.00, Preservation Alliance of MN \$40.00, MN Genealogical

Journal \$26.78, NSSAR for CAAH \$100.00, New York Society S.R. for Fraunces Tavern Restoration \$50.00, and the balance of \$429.39 to the MNSAR Color Guard. If any of the amounts vary, adjustment will be made to the Color Guard Fund donation. The Principal as of 31 December 2012 totaled \$23,920.00.

Minnesota Society Programs

Compatriot John Sassaman reported on the Eagle Scout Program, indicating that he mailed packets to nearly 400 new Eagle Scouts in 2012 and has received about a dozen 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 twelve JROTC units and the seven ROTC units in Minnesota.

Other Business

President McRoberts announced the next meeting on February 23rd, citing many details. He spoke of a possible Heritage Ball with other lineage societies for a time later in the year. William Johnson will chair the

committee, with McRoberts, Swisher, Jones, and others participating. He reported that Compatriot Stonecipher will be arranging a summer social event, which may be in conjunction with a Civil War event at Cannon Falls.

Secretary-Treasurer Jones conducted an auction for a donated copy of the Centennial History of NSSAR with the proceeds going to the Saint Paul Chapter. Additionally six refrigerator magnets were sold for a total of \$60.00 for the MNSAR Endowment Trust Fund. These items had been donated by President McRoberts.

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

President McRoberts expressed appreciation to all for the support he has received the past two years and then read the SAR Recessional. With no further business appearing, McRoberts declared the annual meetings of the Minnesota Society, the Minneapolis Chapter, and the Saint Paul Chapter adjourned.



2013 MINNESOTA SOCIETY SAR OFFICERS

The following compatriots were nominated and elected to serve 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:.....Larry Wray Sisk
 Vice President:John Charles Sassaman
 Secretary-Treasurer:John Hallberg Jones, P.P.
 Registrar:.....Arthur Louis Finnell, P.P.
 Genealogist & Assist. Registrar: ..William Leslie DeCoursey, P.P.
 Chancellor:Brendan Robert Tupa, J.D.
 Historian/Newsletter Editor:Timothy Charles Harris, P.P.
 Librarian:.....Thomas Christopher Harris
 Surgeon:Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D.
 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:

Hon. David S. Bouschor, P.P.	James Fredrick Foster
Duane L. C. M. Galles, Esq.	COL Ronald E. McRoberts
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)

Charles Edward Boyles	Tracy Ashley Crocker
Dennis Garvin Croonquist	David Adrian Foster
Jay Thomas W. Franklin	William Arthur Harris
Hon. William Raymond Johnson	Robert Edward Kahl II
Mark Allen Labine	Larry Allan Lundblad, Ph.D.
John David McCallum	Robert Arthur Minish
Thomas Truxtun Morrison, Sr.	Randall Roger Nelson
Christopher John Pizinger	LTC Allen Dean Shepersky
George Floyd Smith, M.D.	Aaron Hale Printup
Rehn Douglas Smith	Stephen John Vescelus

S.A.R. Endowment Trust Fund: (three-year terms)

Trustee ending January 2014:Duane L. C. M. Galles, P.P.
 Trustee ending January 2015:Michael Scott Swisher, P.P.
 Trustee ending January 2016:John Hallberg Jones, P.P.

Nominated for Election at the NSSAR National Congress in Kansas City, MO, in July 2013

National Trustee for Minnesota: ..Peter Arrott Dixon, P.P.
 Alternate National Trustee MN: ...Duane L.C.M. Galles, Ph.D., P.P.

MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER SAR

President:.....Hon. William Raymond Johnson
 Vice President:Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D.
 Secretary-Treasurer:John Hallberg Jones
 Chaplain:Michael Scott Swisher, P.P.
 Board of Managers:.....Thomas Truxtun Morrison
 Tracy Ashley Crocker
 Timothy Charles Harris

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William Leslie DeCoursey
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 Robert Edward Kahl II
 Larry Allan Lundblad, Ph.D.
 Rehn Douglas Smith
 Hon. Paul Kent Theisen
 Larry Larson Warren
 Page Gregory Whitmore

SAINT PAUL CHAPTER SAR

President.....Charles Edward Boyles
 Vice PresidentJohn David McCallum
 Secretary-TreasurerTimothy Charles Harris
 ChaplainThe Rev. Richard Lanklyn Vork
 Board of Managers.....COL. Ronald Edward McRoberts
 Larry Wray Sisk
 John Charles Sassaman

NEXT MEETING

Dr. Stephen Keillor will be our Keynote Speaker at the Annual George Washington Luncheon Meeting on February 23, 2013 at Jax Cafe.

Dr. Stephen Keillor, Adjunct Assistant Professor of History, Bethel University – Civil War Specialist – will speak about the First Minnesota Volunteers and the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Watch for detailed information to be mailed to you.

AMERICAN EAGLE



News of Yesterday Reported Today

Saturday August 23, 1777

DISASTEROUS RESULTS AT THE BATTLE OF STATEN ISLAND

Hanover, New Jersey – Yesterday Major General John Sullivan conducted a raid against British forces on Staten Island. Sullivan's raid was well-executed, but it suffered from a shortage of boats to effect the crossing and one of its detachments was misled by its guide to the front of the enemy position rather than its rear. As a result, Sullivan did not take as many prisoners as expected, and had about 200 of his own men taken prisoner due in part to the lack of boats.

On July 23, 1777, following months of preparation and some preliminary maneuvers in New Jersey, British General Sir William Howe and his brother, Admiral Richard Howe, launched a fleet carrying most of the New York-based army south.

General Washington was notified promptly of the fleet's departure. He learned on August 10 that the fleet appeared to be moving south of Philadelphia, possibly heading for Charleston, South Carolina. As a result, he prepared to move north to assist General Horatio Gates defend the Hudson River against Lieutenant General John Burgoyne's march south from Quebec. On August 21 he was alerted that the fleet had been spotted one week earlier at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. Realizing the danger to Philadelphia, he immediately issued orders to move the entire army south with all speed. His orders to Major General John Sullivan, who commanded the front line defenses in eastern New Jersey, were to rejoin the main army "with all convenient speed".

Sullivan, in the meantime, had learned that the departure

of Howe's army had left Staten Island vulnerable, and planned and put into execution a raid against British targets there. His plan was to cross two groups onto the island from points in Elizabethtown, capture prisoners from the isolated militia outposts, and destroy supplies. They would then go to the Old Blazing Star Ferry to return to the mainland.

British defenses on the island, under the overall command of Brigadier General John Campbell, consisted of the regular army elements from the 52nd Foot, regiments of "Hessians" from the German states of Waldeck and Ansbach, and the Loyalist New Jersey militia known as Skinner's Brigade under the command of Cortlandt Skinner. Campbell's men numbered about 900, and were stationed near the northeastern tip of the island. Skinner's men, numbering about 400 were stationed at outposts along the western shore between Dexter's Ferry and Ward's Point.

General Sullivan, at his base in Hanover, New Jersey, ordered his commanders on August 20 to prepare their troops for a march the next day. On the afternoon of August 21 two columns numbering about 1,000 in all left the camp. One column was led by Brigadier General William Smallwood, and the other, headed by Sullivan, consisted of troops led by a French officer who had been given a Continental Army brigadier's commission, the Chevalier Philippe Hubert Preudhomme de Borre. After reaching Elizabethtown late that evening, they rested for a few hours, and began crossing early the next morning. One detachment, led by Colonel Matthias

Ogden, crossed opposite Fresh Kills and rowed partway up the kill, in order to approach their target, the militia brigade of Elisha Lawrence, from its rear. The remaining troops crossed near Palmer's run on the north side of the island, where they split into three groups. Smallwood and Sullivan led most of their columns away to attack specific targets, each leaving a regiment behind to cover their line of retreat.

Ogden attacked Lawrence's outpost at dawn, surprising and routing the militia company. After a few minutes of battle he had taken 80 prisoners, and he moved on to the outpost of Lieutenant Colonel Edward Vaughan Dongan, commanding the 3rd battalion of Skinner's Brigade. Dongan's men put up stiff resistance, even though he was felled with a mortal wound. This prompted Ogden to retreat toward the Old Blazing Star. After waiting there as long as he thought prudent, Ogden crossed his men back to the mainland before Sullivan and Smallwood arrived.

Sullivan moved to attack Skinner's 5th battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Barton, at the New Blazing Star Ferry, but these troops were alert, and fled when Sullivan's forces advanced on them. Although Sullivan had placed troops to intercept men who tried to get away, many of Barton's men escaped, crossing over to the Jersey shore or hiding in the woods and swamps of the area. Sullivan took 40 prisoners, including Barton. Some of his men advanced on Skinner's headquarters, but the force there was too strong, and the Americans retreated.

General Smallwood's column was led by its guide to the front of the Loyalist battalion of Abraham van Buskirk, instead of its rear. He ordered the attack anyway, and Buskirk's men fled until they were rallied by General Skinner, and the tables were then turned on the Americans. They beat a hasty retreat, although they had time to destroy camp supplies and equipment, and managed to seize a battle standard.

Smallwood and Sullivan joined forces near Richmond, a village in the center of the island, and made their way to the Old Blazing Star. Sullivan sent for the boats to speed the crossing, but they never arrived, so he began crossing the troops and prisoners using the three boats that Ogden had commandeered to cross earlier. As they did this, Skinner and his company approached, accompanied by the forces of Campbell, the 52nd, and the Waldeck and Ansbach regiments. Sullivan ordered the companies of Majors Stewart and Tillard to cover the retreat. Numbering roughly 80 men, they successfully held off the accumulated British forces until all other American troops had crossed to the mainland, repulsing several determined attempts to break through their line. Although some of this covering line managed to escape, a number of men were killed, and a sizable number surrendered after they ran out of ammunition and the British began firing grape shot at them.

The British loss was 5 killed, 7 wounded and 84 missing. The British took 259 prisoners in the engagement. Twenty-one of the American prisoners were officers, one of whom was wounded.