

M I N N E S O T A

SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • www.MinnesotaSAR.org • WINTER 2014

MNSAR 125TH 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 11, 2014. Luncheon, from the menu, was served during the meeting.

The Society was called to order by President Larry Wray Sisk. The colors were presented by the MNSAR Color Guard, following which President Sisk led the Pledge to the US flag and read the Pledge to the SAR. Minneapolis Chapter Chaplain 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
2014 Minnesota Society,

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125th 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

Saint Paul Chapter

The Saint Paul Chapter was called to order by President Charles Edward Boyles. Secretary-Treasurer Timothy Harris reported on the Bronze Good citizenship Medal Program and the Flag Certificate Program. Eleven area high schools participated in the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal Program and their students were presented with their medals the past May. Letters were sent to eleven area high schools to begin the program for 2014.

Five Saint Paul businesses were presented with a flag certificate for regularly flying the flag on Flag Day, June 14, 2013.

Minneapolis Chapter

The Minneapolis Chapter was called to order by Vice President Hon. William R. Johnson. The minutes of the Annual Meeting of 12 January 2013 were approved as summarized in The SAR Salute.

Secretary-Treasurer Jones presented the Annual Financial Report, noting total assets of \$19,685.93 as of 31 December 2013.

Compatriot Jones reported that the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal was presented in 24 area high schools in 2013, and that we also had presentations at a squadron of Naval Sea Cadets. Letters have already been mailed to all schools/units for the 2014 program.

Compatriot Jones spoke of the success of fund-raising projects and the giving of scholarships by the Lake Minnetonka Society C.A.R. Upon motion passed, the Minneapolis Chapter will donate \$100.00 to the Society.

Minnesota Society Membership

Secretary-Treasurer Jones reported on membership for 2013: 23 new members, five deaths, one transfer out, and one resignation, giving a net increase of sixteen. 2013 started at 156 and ended at 192. In addition we have five dual members. Rosettes were presented to Charles Tyler and Randall Smith as this was the first meeting they had attended. Jones reported on statistics regarding birthdates and registration dates.

Minnesota Society Financial Report and Endowment Trust Fund

Compatriot Jones presented the Annual Financial Report, showing net assets of \$40,088.67 as of 31 December 2013. He then presented the report of the MNSAR Endowment Trust. Donations to Principal during 2013 were \$2,684.33. The Trustees proposed that the 2013 interest of \$661.58 be used to pay the following donation items: Minnesota Genealogical Society \$35.00, Taylor Grave Flowers \$20.00, Preservation

Alliance of Minnesota \$40.00, and the balance of \$556.58 to the MNSAR Color Guard. If any of the amounts vary, adjustment will be made to the Color Guard Fund donation.

Minnesota Society Programs

Compatriot Sassaman reported on the Eagle Scout Program, indicating that he mailed packets to nearly all new Eagle Scouts in 2013 and has received about twenty 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 12 JROTC units and the 7 ROTC units in Minnesota.

Compatriot Paul Theisen presented an outstanding and all-encompassing report on the MNSAR Color Guard. Go to www.MinnesotaSAR.org for a detailed report.

Comp Jones presented a proposal to award the Meritorious Service Medal to John Charles Sassaman and COL Ronald Edward McRoberts and the Patriot Medal to Hon. Paul Kent Theisen. The motion was enthusiastically and unanimously passed.

Other Business

Compatriot Aaron Printup presented a proposal for the creation of a marker honoring Chief Joseph Orono, for whom the City of Orono is named. He was a Penobscot Indian and brought his entire tribe in support of the American cause in the Revolution. A motion was passed to appropriate up to \$400.00 for the creation of the marker, which will be placed in the City Hall in Orono. The Minneapolis Chapter and Saint Paul Chapters were each called back into session and each passed a motion to support the project with a donation of \$100.00.

Compatriot DeCoursey reported on a program he presented last summer to a DAR Chapter when they placed a marker in Loring Park. His talk had been well received.

The officers of the Minnesota Society, the Minneapolis Chapter, and the Saint Paul Chapter were installed by NSSAR Vice President General COL Ronald McRoberts.

The Color Guard retired the colors and MNSAR President Sisk read the SAR Recessional, and with no further business appearing, declared the annual meetings of the Minnesota Society, Minneapolis Chapter, and Saint Paul Chapter adjourned.



2014 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, Minneapolis and Saint Paul Chapters of the 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:Michael Scott Swisher, P.P.
 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
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 2015:Michael Scott Swisher, P.P.
 Trustee ending January 2016:John Hallberg Jones, P.P.
 Trustee ending January 2017:Duane L. C. M. Galles, P.P.

Nominated for Election at the NSSAR National Congress in Greenville, SC, in July 2014

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

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

William Leslie DeCoursey
 Arthur Louis Finnell
 Duane L. C. M. Galles, Ph.D.
 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
 ChaplainThomas Christopher Harris
 Board of Managers.....COL. Ronald Edward McRoberts
 Larry Wray Sisk
 John Charles Sassaman

NEXT MEETING

The Annual George Washington Luncheon Meeting will be held at Jax Cafe on February 15, 2014.

The topic will be "Presidential Anecdotes. Watch for detailed information to be mailed to you.

WORLD WIDE WEB

Go to <http://www.MinnesotaSAR.org>. You can catch up on meeting announcements, look up past newsletters, learn about color guard activity and about MNSAR award programs.

AMERICAN EAGLE



News of Yesterday Reported Today

Wednesday September 3, 1777

BATTLE OF COOCH'S BRIDGE

Newark, Delaware – American Brigadier General William Maxwell had stationed his special corps at Cooch's Bridge. He discovered that the vanguard of Cornwallis's division was now bearing down on him. Maxwell had planted troops in readiness for an ambush along either side of the road leading from Aikin's tavern. He strung his troops out for a mile below Cooch's Bridge where the thick woods of September covered him. Maxwell ordered his troops to shoot and retreat until he himself decided on a place to make a stand.

In the vanguard of Cornwallis's column was the British light infantry and two amusettes (light field cannon) and nearly 300 Hessian and Anspach chasseurs under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Ludwig von Wurmb. (In the German army, a chasseur was a jager who was part of a regiment as opposed to those serving in the specially formed Jager corp. – Jagers were expert marksman who performed special reconnaissance missions.) Von Wurmb reported that, "about a mile beyond [Aikin's Tavern] the country was close – the woods within shot of the road frequently in front and flank and in projecting point towards the road. Here the rebels began to attack us about 9 o'clock with continued irregular fire for nearly two miles."

In short, the road was ripe for an ambush. And the silver hammers of Maxwell's musketeers came to bear upon the British.

The spirited American ambush began about two miles south of Cooch's Bridge. Mimicking tactics learned from Native Americans, the Americans hid behind trees and rocks and laid round after round into the British. Initially the British had a hard time knowing where to return fire. After taking their shots, the Americans would fall back, reload, and fire again. In this way they fell back toward Cooch's

Bridge, using the familiar terrain to their advantage. Finally, near the Bridge itself the Americans "had shot themselves out of ammunition... the fight was carried on with the sword" and bayonet. These were weapons that gave the British the advantage. Von Wurmb reported that the Americans were "finally put to flight." He continued, "But they immediately made a stand again and we drove them away a second time, when they took post beyond Christeen Creek at Cooch's Bridge."

Concurrently, the 2nd Battalion of British light infantry had been sent to the right across the Christiana Creek, to attempt an attack on the American left and rear.

That battalion went too deep and took itself out of the play. Blocked from action by Purgatory Swamp, the battalion gave up its attempt at flanking and doubled back to assist the British troops engaged with Maxwell's at the Bridge. Had the 2nd Battalion been successful at flanking, Maxwell's men would have been forced to make a hasty retreat. As it was, when the British 2nd arrived back at the bridge, they found Maxwell's corps in retreat. British Captain John Montresor stated that the flight "became so precipitate that great numbers threw down their arms and blankets." Out of ammunition and facing superior numbers, it's likely that Maxwell's corps wisely high-tailed it as fast as possible, leaving some arms and blankets behind, but in nowhere near the great numbers that Montresor claims.

General Sir William Howe arrived shortly after the battle and personally congratulated Colonel Wurmb for a fine action. Hessian losses total three killed and 20 wounded; the Americans lost around 40. For the United States, this is the first battle waged under the new stars and stripes flag.

Maxwell's Brigade

Washington was sharply feeling the loss of Daniel Morgan and his militiamen who had recently been sent to Saratoga to reinforce General Gates. In their place were green militiamen who had neither the scouting, nor the fighting capabilities, of Morgan's mountain men. In fact, these militiamen would often turn tail rather than fight at the first sign of danger. As a stopgap measure, Washington formed a "crack" brigade. This elite corps of light infantry consisted of approximately 700 men — 100 each drawn from the seven existing brigades. Picked for marksmanship and maneuverability, the corps was designed to launch cobra-quick strikes at the enemy's vulnerable points and clear out as fast as possible. Acting independently from the army, the corps would conduct reconnaissance, be used for special missions, screen, harass, and ambush. Commanding the corps is New Jersey General, "Scotch Willie" Maxwell, a veteran who had fought with Braddock in 1755.

From the late spring through early summer of 1777, George Washington anxiously tracked British movements in New York, attempting to divine their hidden meaning. General Sir William Howe commanded an army double or treble the size of his own, keeping him in an agony of suspense.

On July 23rd the largest armada ever assembled in America set sail off of Sandy Hook, New Jersey. It was carrying 17,000 British soldiers and sailors in over 260 ships. They underwent a distressful 34-day sea-trek. The voyage took its toll in lost time, seasick soldiers, and scores of dead horses.

Washington's troops started in northern New Jersey and shadowed the movement of the British fleet. Washington lost sight of the fleet for an agonizing three-week period, starting when the armada moved further offshore as it passed the Delaware Capes. He feared that the fleet may have doubled back to New York to help General Burgoyne in his attempt to capture upstate New York against the Americans headed by General Gates.

Until he could determine the destination of the fleet, Washington needed to maintain a position where he could move north or

south. When their destination was clear, Washington moved south to a position between Head of Elk and Philadelphia.

On August 28th, three days after the armada disembarked at the Head of Elk, Maryland, General Howe's army was divided into two grand divisions – one under General Charles Cornwallis, the other led by Hessian General Wilhelm von Knyphausen – and began marching toward Philadelphia.

Coming down to intercept him was George Washington, with a force variously estimated at 16,000 or 14,000 men, of which 11,000 or 12,000 were fit for duty.

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