

M I N N E S O T A

SAR Salute



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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 Constitution Day Luncheon on October 10. The total attendance was 65. Jax Café had prepared their marvelous Encrusted Walleye Pike, with a Squash Ravioli as the vegetarian alternative. Key Lime Pie topped off the meal.

As always, the color-guard led off the festivities by presenting the colors. New Members were welcomed: Robert Andrew Bodeau, Kevin Everett Sullivan, and Robert W.G.H. Allison. Each was presented their certificate of membership and a lapel rosette. In addition, Compatriot Allison was presented the War Service Medal.

INSIDE THE MNSAR SALUTE...

Annual Constitution Day Luncheon

Dianne Plunkett Latham, MNDAR
Lineage Research Co-Chair,
Addressed the MNSAR

American Eagle

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MNSAR Membership Report

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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





DNA TESTING TO PROVE LINEAGE

Diane Plunkett Latham Explained DNA in Easy to Understand Terms

Dianne Plunkett Latham presented a fascinating program on DNA Testing To Prove Lineage. Latham is the MNDAR Lineage Research Co-Chair, Registrar and Past Regent of the Monument Chapter DAR.

Latham used a Powerpoint presentation and began her oration with definitions. Deoxyribonucleic acid or **DNA** is a molecule that contains the instructions an organism needs to develop, live and reproduce. These instructions are found inside every cell, and are passed down from parents to their children. A **genome** is an organism's complete set of DNA, including all of its genes. Each genome contains all of the information needed to build and maintain that organism. In humans, a copy of the entire genome – more than 3 billion DNA base pairs – is contained in all cells that have a nucleus. **Autosomes** pertain to a chromosome that is not a sex chromosome. People normally have 22 pairs of autosomes in each cell, together with 2 sex chromosomes, X and Y in a male and X and X in a female.

The DNA test kit usually consists of a cheek swab a saliva collection tube, and a prepaid return mailer. After returning your sample your DNA is processed at a lab.

Latham recommended FamilyTreeDNA.com as having the largest commercial database, helpful software and management tools, free publications and webinars. She said the **Patrilineal** (Y-DNA) test is the best test available for genealogy research. The Y chromosome is passed almost

unchanged from father to son. Prices vary based on the number of marker matches desired – 37, 67 or 111 marker matches are available. Y-DNA tests can be used to test your direct paternal lineage – your father, your father's father, your father's father's father, etc. Along this direct paternal line, Y-DNA can be used to verify whether two individuals are descendants from the same distant paternal ancestor, as well as potentially find connections to others who are linked to your paternal lineage.

The **Matrilineal** DNA, referred to as mitochondrial DNA or mtDNA, is passed down from mothers to their sons and daughters. It is only carried through the female line, however, so while a son inherits his mother's mtDNA, he does not pass it down to his own children. It does mean, however, that both men and women can have their mtDNA tested. It is used to determine where your maternal ancestors came from and how they migrated throughout the world.

Latham recommended the book "Seven Daughters of Eve" by Bryan Sykes. Using mtDNA, researchers have traced European populations back to seven "daughters of Eve":

Daughters	% Modern Europe
Ursula.....	11%
Xenia.....	6%
Helena.....	46%
Velda.....	5%
Tara.....	9%
Katrine.....	6%
Jasmine.....	17%

Autosomal DNA tests can be used to search for relative

connections along any branch of your family tree. Your autosomal DNA, contains random bits of DNA from your great-grandparents, great-great grandparents, and so on. Close relatives will share large fragments of DNA from a common ancestor. Connections arising from more distant relatives will result in smaller fragments of shared DNA. The smaller the fragment of shared autosomal DNA, generally the further back the connection in your family tree.

The average amount of autosomal DNA shared with a relative decreases with each successive generation. Percentages are also approximate – for example a sibling may share anywhere from 47–52% of their DNA in common.

- 50% (parents and siblings)
- 25% (grandparents, aunts/uncles, half-siblings)
- 12.5% (first cousins)
- 6.25% (first cousins, once removed)
- 3.125 (second cousins, first cousins twice removed)
- 0.781% (third cousins)
- 0.195% (fourth cousins)

Latham went on to explain why she had DNA testing done. One anecdote involved her Plunkett line. Her family history had her possibly being related to St. Oliver Plunkett who was the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. She learned through her "autosomal fishing trip" that she was not descended from Plunkett but from McGuire. Looking at an ancient map of Ireland she learned that the McGuire clan and Plunkett clan were near neighbors.



Somewhere along her line an illegitimate child was born. Through autosomal testing one can learn an unrelated identical surname, false paternity or adoption in their family background.

DNA test results may be used in the SAR application process as one piece of supporting evidence in a "preponderance of evidence" case, or as one of the additional pieces of evidence when the applicant is relying on a record copy of an old DAR application, or other lineage society. An applicant's DNA test results must show a match for at least 36 of 37, or 65 of 67, genetic markers on the Y-chromosome with another male who has an accepted, documented paper trail back to the patriot ancestor. The DAR's DNA policy is even more restrictive.

Latham ended her presentation with "There is no end in sight!" After the luncheon closed, many MNSAR members lingered and asked questions of her.



MNSAR COLOR GUARD ACTIVITY

Ramsey Happy Days Festival



Ramsey, MN – The MNSAR Color Guard formed jointly with the 7th Pennsylvania Regiment led the annual City of Ramsey Happy Days Parade held on Saturday, September 12, 2015. This was the second year the combined guard has been invited to lead the parade and the crowd cheered and welcomed them.

The Color Guard was awarded “Peoples Choice” award by the judges.

Photo compliments of Theresa Hyde

Replica Drum



Three years ago the MNSAR Color Guard made the decision to bite the bullet and purchase a top of the line period rope tension drum. It is hand made in Bellows Falls, Vermont by Cooperman Drum. Cooperman craftsman have honed their skills of selecting trees in the local forests for their unique tone qualities and bending characteristics, as well as the craft of sawing the logs and steam-bending the lumber.

The drum is the property of the Minnesota SAR/SR. Our new drum will stand the test of time and be a tribute to our societies.

Steven James Hyde is the MNSAR Color Guard drummer.

Brown Bess Presented to the MNSAR

Geoffrey Markham read a description of his father’s ancestor’s service and presented a Revolutionary War era Musket of the kind used by their ancestor as a gift to the Color Guard from his father, Stuart Henry Markham III. Stuart Markham is an active member of the MNSAR Color Guard but could not attend the Constitution Day Luncheon due to recent surgery.



The text of Markham’s remarks are presented below:

In April of 1775 35-year-old Barzillai Markham answered the call to arms and joined the Lexington Alarm as a Sergeant. In July of that year he was promoted to the rank of Ensign, 5th Co. 8th Connecticut Regiment. Because of ill health he resigned his commission on 7 Oct. 1775 and was honorably discharged from the army.

Barzillai was born 14 Nov. 1740 in Enfield Connecticut and died at the age of 84 on 1 June 1824 in Essex, New York. One hundred and ten years before, his great great grandfather, Deacon Daniel Markham escaped to the shores of Cambridge Massachusetts to escape the tyranny of the king of England in 1665 to practice his religion and become a freeman.

It is with honor that I donate this working replica of a 1768 Second Pattern “Bess” flintlock musket to the Minnesota Society Sons of the American Revolution, the Minnesota SAR Color Guard and to the memory of Barzillai Markham as a living memorial and teaching tool of the men of the Revolutionary War. The men who died or lived in that conflict, whether their actions great or small, have impacted everyone who is here today and I salute them. May their memory always be kept alive and cherished.

– Stuart Markham

An engraving establishing ownership to the MNSAR and a reference of the dedication to Barzillai Markham will be added to the musket.

2016 MNSAR Meeting Schedule

Upcoming meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Saturday, January 9, 2016 – SAR Annual Meeting – Members only
- Saturday, February 13, 2016 – SAR-SR Washington Day Luncheon
- Saturday, October 1, 2016 – SAR-SR Constitution Day Luncheon

All of the meetings will be held at Jax Cafe.



Remembering Three Members

MNSAR member, Bill B. Thomas, 89, of Red Wing, died Friday, April 24, 2015 at his home. He was born on April 13, 1926 in Plainview, Texas. He enjoyed choral singing, especially church choirs, Red Wing Singers and the Silvertones and also doing genealogy research of his family. He was a devoted family man and a good friend.

Stuart Henry Markham III, 70, of Plymouth, MN passed away on Thursday, October 15, 2015. He was to be present at the recently held Constitution Day Luncheon but had to undergo emergency surgery the day before the meeting. His son, Geoffrey, presented a Revolutionary War era Musket of the kind used by their ancestor as a gift to the MNSAR Color Guard on his father's behalf. Stuart was born on January 18, 1945. Markham was very active in the MNSAR in the short time he was a member.

Gary Monroe Printup, 69, of Crystal Bay, MN died on Sunday, October 18, 2015. He had been a member of the MNSAR since 2011. Gary was born on December 27, 1946. His son Aaron is an active member of the MNSAR.

Minnesota Society C.A.R. Report



Bruce Mueller, Senior President of the Minnesota Society C.A.R., brought greetings and spoke of the several ways the MNSAR can be involved with their group. He provided The Minnesota Northstar, the Minnesota Society's newsletter for anyone who was interested. He also explained ways one can help the Minnesota Society C.A.R. such as attending meetings, becoming a leader, participating in service activities, providing financial support, subscribing to state and local newsletters and the national magazine (available at www.NSCAR.org). One can promote the C.A.R. by wearing their apparel and pins, and encouraging family, friends and neighbors to attend C.A.R. activities and joining the C.A.R.

Mueller pointed out that the Great Plains Regional Meeting will be held in Minnesota on July 20-21, 2016. The location is yet to be determined. He encourages the MNSAR members to attend the event or volunteer to help. You can contact Bruce Mueller at MinnesotaCAR@gmail.com.

MNSAR MEMBERSHIP REPORT Membership Changes Since Spring 2015

New Members were welcomed during the Constitution Day Luncheon: Robert Andrew Bodeau, Kevin Everett Sullivan, and Robert W.G.H. Allison. Each was presented their certificate of membership and a lapel rosette. In addition, Compatriot Allison was presented the War Service Medal. Membership certificates will be mailed to those new members not in attendance: Delbert Schoeberl, Gunnar Bowman, John Bowman, Marshall Rinek, Michael Moses, James Brown, John Brown, Maxwell Mengershauser, and Nicholas Peterson. A Supplemental Application Certificate was presented to John Sassaman. Additional Supplemental certificates have been mailed to Christopher Moberg for three Supplemental Applications. David Foster has had 9 approved Supplemental Applications in recent months, and has asked to receive the certificates during the next meeting.

NEW MEMBERS:

Name	Patriot
Robert Andrew Bodeau	William Trowbridge
Delbert Walter Schoeberl.....	George Walters
Gunnar Worthington Bowman.....	Otis Ensign
John James Bowman	Otis Ensign
Marshall Ayers Rinek	Henry Revis
Kevin Everett Sullivan	Edward Anderson
Michael David Moses.....	Joseph Dunbar
Robert W.G.H. Allison.....	David Gwin
James Harlow Brown	Charles Lansdale
John Max Brown	Charles Lansdale
Maxwell D. Mengershauser	Hezekiah Barrett
Nicholas John Petersen.....	James Denison

SUPPLEMENTAL PATRIOTS APPROVED:

Christopher W. Moberg	John Chew
John Charles Sassaman.....	John Bacher
Christopher W. Moberg	Samuel Whipple
David Adriance Foster	John Burch Sr.
David Adriance Foster	John Burch Jr.
David Adriance Foster	Rem Adriance
David Adriance Foster	Uriah Mitchell
David Adriance Foster	Martin DeForest
Christopher W. Moberg	Robert Gilmore
David Adriance Foster	Isaac Foster Jr.
David Adriance Foster	William Horn Jr.
David Adriance Foster	Rudolphus Swartwout
David Adriance Foster	Theodorus VanWyck Jr.

AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Thursday October 23, 1777

AMERICANS ROUT HESSIANS AT FORT MERCER

Billingsport, New Jersey – Yesterday, Hessian Colonel, von Donop, to save his honor, attacked Fort Mercer with panache but without artillery, suffering a resounding defeat in one of the most striking American victories of the war, minor though it may have been.

Sir William Howe was determined to reduce the American forts on the Delaware River below Philadelphia. They blocked his supply line over the water route that was both easier to traverse and to defend, compelling him to adopt the landward route that was open both to attack and to the difficulty of movement created by storms, especially in winter.

The forts had been built under the expert supervision of the French engineer, the Chevalier du Plessis – one of the few, foreign volunteers commissioned by the foreigner-fawning Congress who proved to be of value in the Revolutionary War. Plessis had constructed an interlocking system based upon two forts – Mifflin and Mercer – and supported by lesser fortifications at the village of Billingsport on the New Jersey shore plus two small adjacent isles in the river known as Billings Island.



Fort Mifflin was on Mud Island, close to the mouth of the Schuylkill River. It was heavily fortified, as was Fort Mercer, slightly higher upriver at Red Bank in New Jersey. Plessis's defensive system relied heavily on the use of *cheveaux-de-frise*, that is, "iron horses," which were constructed of a long horizontal baulk of timber or an iron barrel to which iron spikes five or six feet long, sharpened at either end, were affixed. Used in water, they were towed to a channel and then sunk with loads of stones, so that their spikes were not visible above water. A ship sailing into one would founder on it. On land they were used to block narrow passes or breaches, most often against cavalry. Galley's and floating batteries, under Commander John Ha-

zelwood, also supported, the forts' defenses, and beyond Mercer's *cheveaux-de-frise* were the frigate, *Delaware*, 28 guns; *Province*, 18; thirteen galleys each with one 18-pounder; seventeen fire-ships; and numerous fire rafts loaded with powder and dry brush. Compared to the leviathans commanded by Lord Richard Howe; these naval defenses were puny, indeed, but they represented much of the strength of the fledgling United States Navy, especially their precious cannon. Without foundries of their own, the Americans had been heavily, dependent on either captured ordnance or the light field pieces provided by Beaumarchais.

About four hundred men of two Rhode Island regiments held Fort Mercer under the command of Colonel

Christopher Greene, a cousin of Nathanael's, a "stout arid strong" man, good-humored, beloved of his soldiers. Greene had distinguished himself at Bunker Hill, and again at Quebec. Against him came Colonel, Carl Emil Kurt von Donop, who had commanded the chain of Hessian posts in New Jersey when Rall was overwhelmed at Trenton by Washington. In Donop's mind that unfortunate raid was a stain upon his reputation, and to remove it, he requested that Howe grant him the honor of attacking Mercer. It was done, and Donop collected a force of about two thousand Hessians, among them grenadiers and *chasseurs* both mounted and dismounted, together with eight field pieces and two British howitzers. Donop asked for

more artillery, a request that Howe denied with the remark that if Donop thought that his Germans could not take the fort, then a British force would. Stung, Donop told the aide who brought the message; "Tell your general that the Germans are not afraid to face death." To his officers, he said: "Either the fort will soon be called Fort Donop, or I shall have fallen." Some of the Hessian chief's resentment of Howe's gratuitous insult was dissipated, however, after Howe sent a British formation across the Delaware to seize the unfinished fort at Billingsport, thus making Donop's approach to Mercer easier.

Inside that fort, meanwhile, Plessis advised Greene to withdraw from his outer defenses to concentrate inside a five-sided redoubt at the center of the works. Greene agreed, but decided not to do so until the enemy appeared, perhaps because this would give the appearance of a retreat. Meanwhile, inspired by a dispatch from Washington reminding him that if he held out, Howe would have to evacuate Philadelphia, he raised his flag on a high hickory tree inside his lines.

The flag was visible on October 22 to Colonel von Donop as he led his superior force through the woods that ended four hundred yards

short of the fort. Hoping to capture the position by summons, he sent an officer forward under a flag of truce and preceded by a drummer boy "as insolent as his officer." Donop's message declared: "The King of England commands his rebellious subjects to lay down their arms, and they are warned that if they wait until the battle, no quarter will be granted."

Greene rejected the demand with scorn.

Meanwhile, Donop lost more time by his methodical preparation for the assault, so that it was four o'clock in the afternoon before the oboes blew and the Hessian lines moved forward. That meant only an hour of daylight remaining in which to take the fort. Nevertheless, Donop exhorted his officers to fight like Germans, watching proudly as they dismounted with drawn swords and led his men forward, marching in parade-ground formation over the intervening four hundred yards and following sappers carrying fascines to bridge the ditches of the enemy's outer works.

At this point, Greene ordered his withdrawal. Seeing the Americans back-pedaling, assuming that they were fleeing, the jubilant Hessians shouted, "*Vittoria!* – and rushed forward, throwing their hats into the air. Reaching the abatis outside the redoubt, they were halted by

its sharpened branches, and as they gathered there in bunches, a dreadful fire broke from the unseen Yankees. Greene had instructed his men to fire low and aim at the broad white belts of the enemy's uniforms, and they did so with devastating effect. The sight of so many comrades down unnerved Donop's men, and many turned to flee. Brought back by officers beating them with the flat of their swords, they still milled about among the abatis branches they sought to cut with their bayonets – and many more fell.

Retiring and regrouping for a second assault, Donop's men were struck by a savage flanking fire from the American galleys and floating batteries on the river. In this onslaught Donop fell mortally wounded by a musket ball in the stomach. Twenty-two of his officers, including all the battalion commanders, were either killed or wounded – and with this, the entire attacking force turned and fled, leaving almost a third of their number, almost seven hundred men, either killed, wounded or captured. American casualties were fourteen killed and twenty-three wounded. Two British



warships, *Augusta* and *Merrill*, also were lost. So complete was the Hessian rout that Donop's men dumped their cannon into the river so that they could use the gun carriages to take off their wounded.

When the dying "No-Quarter" Donop was carried into the fort, American soldiers began baiting him, one of them exclaiming: "Well, is it settled that no quarter is to be given?" To this, the Hessian commander replied: "I am, in your hands. You can avenge yourselves." Plessis appeared to rebuke the Americans, prompting Donop to ask who he was. "A French officer," the engineer replied, whereupon Donop, with the eighteenth-century soldier's fondness for the studied line, remarked: "I am content. I die in the arms of honor itself."

Sources:

George Washington's War
by Robert Leckie,
Harper Perennial, 1993