

M I N N E S O T A

# SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • www.MinnesotaSAR.org • WINTER 2015

## MNSAR 126TH 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 10, 2015. 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. Chaplain Swisher gave the Invocation. The Minnesota Society was then recessed and the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Chapters conducted their business.

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2015 MNSAR, Minneapolis and  
Saint Paul Chapter Officers

.....

American Eagle

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 presented the annual Financial Report indicating total assets of \$5,036.12.

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 2015.

Five Saint Paul businesses were presented with a flag certificate for regularly flying the flag on Flag Day, June 14, 2014.

### Minneapolis Chapter

The Minneapolis Chapter was called to order by President Hon. William R. Johnson. Secretary-Treasurer Jones presented the Annual Financial Report, noting total assets of \$19,631.59 as of 31 December 2014.

Compatriot Jones reported that the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal was presented in 24 area high schools in 2014, and that a presentation was also made at a squadron of Naval Sea Cadets. Letters have already been mailed to all schools/units to begin the 2015 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 2014: 15 new members, one transfer in, five deaths, and one resignation, giving a net increase of ten. 2014 started at 191 and ended at 201. In addition we have six dual members. 2015 has started with two new members registered and one application just sent in. Jones reported on statistics regarding birthdates and registration dates. He also reported on a survey of state society dues, which showed that Minnesota has the second lowest dues of all the societies.

### Minnesota Society Financial Report and Endowment Trust Fund

Compatriot Jones presented the Annual Financial Report, showing net assets of \$40,777.10 as of 31 December 2014. He then presented the report of the MNSAR Endowment Trust. Donations to principal during 2014 were \$3,037.00. The Trustees proposed that the 2014 interest of \$571.45 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 \$476.45 to the MNSAR Color Guard. If any of the amounts vary, adjustment will be made to the Color Guard Fund donation.

### Minnesota Society Programs

Compatriots John Sassaman and Stuart Markham reported on the Eagle Scout Program, indicating that they mailed packets to over 900 new Eagle Scouts in 2014 and have received nine 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.

Once again the Minnesota Society presented medals in all ROTC-JROTC units in the state. There are seven college units and twelve high school units. Letters have already been mailed to the Minnesota units to begin the 2015 program.

### Other Business

The MNSAR had received two additional streamers for our flag from the National Society, recognizing the Orono Plaque project as well

as retention of members. Last June the MNSAR presented a marker, which was placed in the City Hall of Orono, honoring Chief Joseph Orono, for whom the City of Orono is named.

Secretary-Treasurer Jones auctioned off a 1981 Yorktown Medal, issued by the Bicentennial Commission. It was a proof quality bronze medallion. The winning bid of \$200.00 was made by Chaplain Swisher, and the sum will be added to the MNSAR Endowment Trust Fund.

The officers of the Minnesota Society, the Minneapolis Chapter, and the Saint Paul Chapter were installed by Secretary-Treasurer John Hallberg Jones. Incoming Minneapolis and St. Paul Chapter Presidents as well as the new MNSAR President were presented with neck ribbons and emblems. Past president certificates and emblems were presented to the out-going presidents.

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.



## Color Guard Report

The Minnesota SAR Color Guard was organized in 2007 to provide a uniformed team to present colors at SAR and public events, to remind us of our heritage and to honor those from whom we are descended, plus a way to kindle the flame of patriotism.

The team began with three members and has grown to eight. Three and possibly four new members are in the process of selecting uniforms.

During 2014 the Guard has appeared at a presentation ceremony for the city of Orono, citizenship ceremonies in Saint Cloud, the Ramsey Happy Days parade, and, for the fifth consecutive year, participated in the Fourth of July C.A.R. flying pancake breakfast in Wayzata.

They plan to purchase a Cooperman Drum which is hand made in Vermont. That will allow them to better participate in local parades and larger gatherings.

You may view the MN-SAR Color Guard Blog at <http://www.sarmncg.blogspot.com>. This blog provides news and information about the color guard as well as links to related organizations, information sources and sutlers.

For information about joining please contact [pstheis36@mainstreetcom.com](mailto:pstheis36@mainstreetcom.com).

## SAR Magazine for Veteran Homes

Compatriot Arthur Finnell would like to implement a program to deliver recently received SAR Magazines to Minnesota Veteran Homes. There are five in the state.

Finnell is looking for five MNSAR members to donate their SAR Magazine for this effort. Finnell will personally deliver magazines on a continuing basis to the local veteran homes and mail them to out state addresses.

If you are interested you may email Arthur Finnell at [papabearmn@gmail.com](mailto:papabearmn@gmail.com). His mailing address is:

Arthur Finnell  
7501 West 101st Street, #204  
Bloomington, MN 55438

## Known War of 1812 Veterans Buried in Minnesota

*Compiled by Arthur Finnell for the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Minnesota.*

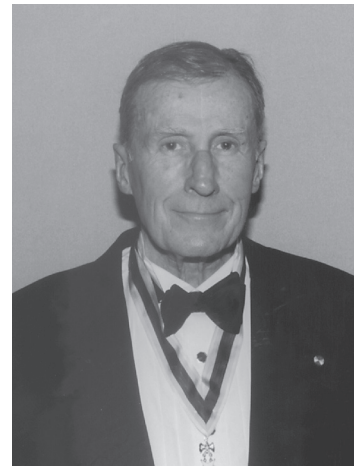
This book contains over 200 sketches of veterans and a number of photos of the veterans themselves as older men. Finnell has also included a sketch of the one Revolutionary War soldier buried in Minnesota. If you are interested in obtaining a copy please contact Arthur Finnell.

## Remembering Page Gregory Whitmore

Long time member and past president of the MNSAR died of natural causes on Sunday December 14, 2014. He is survived by his wife, Arvella, two sons, Bruce and Clark, and two daughters, Laura and Diane. They have six grandchildren.

Page was a veteran of World War II. He was on active duty in the US Navy from 1943-1946 which included graduation from Bucknell University in the V-12 program, and post-war service as an electronics officer on the destroyer USS *Rupertus*, followed by many years as an Ensign in the Naval Reserve. He worked as an electrical engineer for General Electric Co. before joining 3M in 1961, where he became Director of Marketing Research. From 1970 to 1981 he worked as an independent consultant. He and Arvella lived in the same house overlooking Lake Nokomis for 50 years, before moving to Boutwells Landing in Oak Park Heights, Minnesota.

Page joined the MNSAR upon the recommendation of his cousin who was the President of the Virginia Society at the time. Page had many Revolutionary War ancestors. For years it seemed that at almost every meeting Page was presented with a new supplemental certificate.



He learned from his parents, family reunions and books that his Revolutionary War ancestors were generally Virginia plantation owners and often were kin to one another.

Page's favorite ancestor was Patrick Henry. He was called "Patrik" at his mother's ancestral home, "Banister Lodge." Among Patrick Henry papers owned by Page's immediate family is a letter in the frail handwriting of former President, John Adams, complaining that Virginia got too much credit compared to Massachusetts for its role leading to the American Revolution.

Page will be missed by his many friends in the Minnesota Society SAR.



## 2015 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. Presidents, Bodeau, McCallum and Sassaman are pictured on the front of this newsletter.

### MINNESOTA SOCIETY SAR

President:.....John Charles Sassaman  
 Vice President: .....Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D.  
 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: .....George Floyd Smith, 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	James Fredrick Foster
Duane L. C. M. Galles, Esq.	COL Ronald E. McRoberts
Curtis John Oliver	Larry Wray Sisk
Marvin Eugene Stonecipher	Hon. Paul Kent Theisen
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 Adriance Foster
Jay Thomas W. Franklin	Marvin Lane Jansma
Hon. William Raymond Johnson	Larry Allan Lundblad, Ph.D.
Stuart Henry Markham III	John David McCallum
Robert Arthur Minish	Christopher Willard Moberg
Thomas Truxtun Morrison, Sr.	Randall Roger Nelson
Christopher John Pizinger	Aaron Hale Printup
LTC Allen Dean Shepersky	Rehn Douglas Smith
Stephen Paul Thompson	Stephen John Vescelus

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

Trustee ending January 2016: .....John Hallberg Jones, P.P.  
 Trustee ending January 2017: .....Duane L. C. M. Galles, P.P.  
 Trustee ending January 2018: .....Michael Scott Swisher, P.P.

**Nominated for Election at the NSSAR National Congress in Louisville, KY, in July 2015**

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:.....Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D.  
 Vice President: .....Aaron Hale Printup  
 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.  
 Hon. William Raymond Johnson  
 Robert Edward Kahl, II  
 Larry Allan Lundblad, Ph.D.  
 Rehn Douglas Smith  
 Hon. Paul Kent Theisen  
 Larry Larson Warren

### SAINT PAUL CHAPTER SAR

President.....John David McCallum  
 Vice President .....Dennis Garvin Croonquist  
 Secretary-Treasurer .....Timothy Charles Harris  
 Chaplain .....Thomas Christopher Harris  
 Board of Managers.....Larry Wray Sisk  
 John Charles Sassaman  
 Charles Edward Boyles

### NEXT MEETING

The Annual George Washington Luncheon Meeting will be held at Jax Cafe on February 14, 2015. Watch for detailed information to be mailed to you.

# AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Tuesday September 7, 1777

## BRITISH CAPTURE HUDSON RIVER FORTS

Kingston, New York – British General John Burgoyne, who's army is bogged down along the Hudson River near Saratoga, New York, has given up all hope of expecting anything from Sir William Howe. But still, he put his faith in relief from his friend Sir Henry Clinton – promising an expedition up the Hudson to capture Forts Clinton and Montgomery, the principle bastions commanding the waterway.

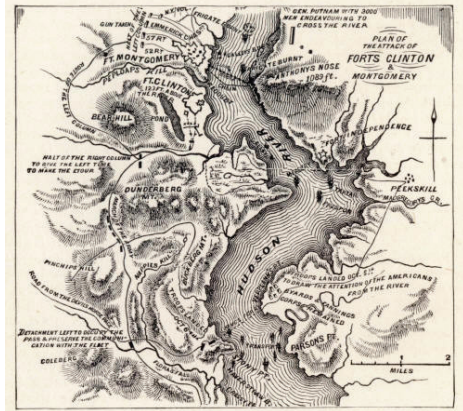
The British assault on the Highlands commenced yesterday, October 6, 1777. Sir Henry Clinton led a flotilla of forty ships with no fewer than 4,000 soldiers, mostly British regulars and Hessians. The American defenders consisted of about 600 men—mainly militia, half of whom were unarmed. General George Clinton, who is also the Governor of New York, assigned his older brother James command of Fort Clinton while across Popolopen Creek the governor himself commanded the weaker and incomplete Fort Montgomery. On Monday, the British attacked the governor's advance picket of thirty men. The guard volleyed and then retreated to Fort Clinton. The British then moved to attack the forts from the rear. Governor Clinton parried by sending 160 men with one artillery piece – all that he could spare – to block a pass through the Highlands. After a courageous fight in which the British suffered heavy casualties, the guard slowly retreated to the fort. Defending themselves in hand-to-hand combat with fixed bayonets, they disputed the ground inch by inch. Clinton sent another sixty men led by Captain John Lamb with a single cannon from Fort Montgomery to harass the enemy until reinforcements could arrive from General Israel Putnam on the opposite side of the Hudson

at Peekskill. Repeatedly the British were driven back by New York grapeshot and well-directed fire from the muskets, which made great havoc among them.

Defeated in their frontal assault, the British troops dispersed into the woods and encircled the small American force. Understanding the better part of valor, Lamb ordered the cannon spiked and retreated to the fort. Within minutes, at about 2:00 P.M., both forts were surrounded. Three hours later, a British officer—Lieutenant Colonel Mungo Campbell – appeared with a white flag to discuss terms of surrender. Governor Clinton sent Lieutenant Colonel Livingston to “know his business.” Campbell demanded that the Americans “surrender in five minutes, and thereby prevent the effusion of blood.” The brazen American emissary boldly responded “that he had no authority to treat with him,” unless the British “meant to surrender themselves prisoners of war,” in which case the Americans assured him they would be well treated. If the British did not intend to surrender, they could resume their attack on the forts because the New Yorkers were determined to defend them to the last extremity. Incensed at this audacity, the British resumed the attack and a most incessant fire kept up till night. Without reinforcements, Governor Clinton reported that, after eight or ten assaults, his 600 troops were overwhelmed “soon after dusk, when the enemy forced our lines and redoubts at both posts, and the garrisons were obliged to fight their way out, as many as could, as we were determined not to surrender, and many have escaped.” The escaping soldiers made their way “under cover of the Night, and by getting in the Mountains, have eluded the vigilance of their

pursuers, and are hourly coming in.”

Sir Henry Clinton lost about three hundred men and fifteen officers in capturing the forts. Many of these fatalities occurred during the last three to four hours of the attack when the musketry was incessant within forty yards, and less a greater part of the time. Lieutenant Colonel Campbell in command of the attack was killed in the first assault. Angered by their losses at Fort Montgomery, the Hessians gave no quarter as they bayoneted unarmed prisoners until stopped by some British officers. About half of the defenders were either captured or killed, Fort Montgomery suffering the more serious losses. Stephen Lush, the governor's aide was among the captured. In making his retreat from Fort Clinton, General James Clinton was stabbed with a bayonet, but survived when the weapon veered off the garrison's orderly book in his breeches pocket. He was able to make good his escape in the forest west of the fort even though the bayonet had wounded him in the groin. Governor Clinton himself barely avoided capture by descending a steep cliff and crossing the Hudson under cover of darkness. As he reached the shore with British troops searching for survivors, the governor hailed a boat that had just embarked. Recognizing the governor's voice, an officer ordered the boat to return. When Clinton saw that the boat was loaded to the gunwale, he ordered it off, determined to make his escape by swimming across the river. The officer in the boat refused to obey the order and offered his spot to



the governor, preferring to chance capture so that the governor could safely escape. Rather than continue the dispute that endangered all, both men got into the boat and ever so slowly the overloaded vessel made its way safely across the Hudson.

Sir Henry Clinton's attempt to notify General Burgoyne of his success was thwarted when his courier Daniel Taylor was captured by the Patriots. Because Taylor was seen to pop something into his mouth and swallow it, Governor Clinton ordered him dosed with an emetic that caused Taylor to throw up the object. It was a silver-covered musket ball, which, when opened, disclosed a message from Clinton which said: “*Nous y voici*, and nothing now between us and Gates. I sincerely hope this little success of ours may facilitate your operations.” Taylor was then hung, and Burgoyne, not receiving this encouraging note, began to take counsel from his desperation.

Sources:

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*George Clinton, Yeoman*  
*Politician of the New Republic*  
by John P. Kaminski,  
Madison House Publishers, 1993