

M I N N E S O T A

SAR Salute



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ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON

37 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. The total attendance was 51. Jax Café had prepared their signature Chicken Chardonnay for the group, with a vegetarian alternative for those desiring such, and a delightful White Chocolate Mousse with Macadamia Nuts dessert.

The Minnesota SAR Color Guard presented the colors. President Geoffrey Robert Bodeau led the Pledge to the U.S. Flag and the Pledge to the SAR, and SAR Chaplain Michael Scott Swisher gave the invocation. Between courses, business matters were handled. Secretary-Treasurer John Hallberg Jones sold five copies of "MNSAR Centennial Registry", a volume published in 1989, with the proceeds going to the MNSAR Endowment Trust Fund. The MNSAR was honored to have Michael Rowley, Vice-President General for the North Central District, with us (pictured with MNSAR President Bodeau). He brought warm greetings and remarks relative to the President General's incentives for state societies and chapters.

**INSIDE THE
MNSAR SALUTE...**

Annual MNSAR Constitution
Day Luncheon

Topic of the Day:
The Battle of Germantown

SAR Veterans Medal Program

New Members

American Eagle

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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





TOPIC OF THE DAY AT THE CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON: THE BATTLE OF GERMANTOWN

Michael David Moses brought an excellent scholarly address on The American Revolution; the Battle of Germantown. Moses speaks to school children – mostly about his service in Viet Nam. He is a member of the MNSAR and he learned what his ancestors did to help make America.

Joseph Dunbar of the Scottish Clan Dunbar served in the Revolutionary War under Generals Anthony Wayne and John Sullivan. Dunbar was involved in the Battle of Germantown.

Moses backed up his dissertation with a Powerpoint presentation that included maps and illustrations.

During the summer of 1777 General John Burgoyne had designs to divide and conquer the Americans by marching down the Hudson valley. The British Commander, General William Howe, had his own plans – to take Philadelphia.

General Howe embarked 17,000 troops on transport ships. Washington was flummoxed as to the destination of Howe's armada. On August 22nd the Americans received positive intelligence that the British fleet had entered Chesapeake Bay. On August 25th General Howe debarked 15,000 men at Head of Elk, Maryland. On September 11, 1777 the "Redcoats" of the British Army defeated the American rebels at Brandywine Creek and forced them to withdraw northeast toward the American capital and

the largest city of Philadelphia where the Second Continental Congress had been meeting since 1775. More troops fought at Brandywine than any other battle of the American Revolution. It was also the longest single-day battle of the war, with continuous fighting for 11 hours. Howe had triumphed tactically, but Washington, though trounced, extricated his army to fight another day.

On September 26, the British occupied Philadelphia to the cheers of Loyalist inhabitants and subsequently established a camp at Germantown, six miles to the north.

General George Washington, informed by spies that General William Howe remained encamped at Germantown was determined to attack and surprise him. Various British detachments left at Philadelphia, Billingsport, and elsewhere had reduced Howe's army to 8,000 men while Washington, newly reinforced by Pennsylvania and New Jersey militia, possessed over 11,000. The Americans then devised a complicated plan to envelop and destroy Howe. Militia brigades under Generals John Armstrong and William Smallwood were to move out in a wide sweeping arc and place themselves behind Howe's right and left flanks. As it turned out, both columns proved ineffectual, either having arrived late or getting lost. The main attack upon the center was conducted by the

divisions of Generals John Sullivan and Anthony Wayne, with 3,000 men, while General Nathanael Greene marched 5,000 men to overpower the British right. Washington carefully left camp that evening and marched all night toward the British position.

The division of General John Sullivan made first contact with the enemy, pushing back British light infantry and the 40th Regiment under Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Musgrave. As the Americans pressed on, Musgrave and his men occupied the two-story stone house of Loyalist Benjamin Chew and barricaded themselves. This obstacle tripped up Sullivan's attack, for General Henry Knox convinced Washington not to leave a fortified position in his rear. The Americans lacked heavy artillery, so for the next several hours the light brigade of General William Maxwell unsuccessfully attempted to storm the Chew house, taking heavy losses. Washington's movements were further complicated by the onset of a thick ground fog that reduced vision to a few yards.

The British, surprised by the ferocity of the American assault, were taken further aback when General Nathanael Greene's division suddenly burst out of the fog and hit their right flank. Troops under General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg drove the British hard, but the division of Gen-

eral Adam Stephen became separated from the main body and accidentally attacked General Anthony Wayne's men from behind. Confusion broke out in the American ranks and Howe, sensing an opportunity, ordered an advance across the field. Sullivan and Wayne slowly gave ground to forces commanded by General Charles Grey while on the right Greene lost the entire 9th Virginia Infantry under Colonel George Matthews when it was surrounded. Washington tried to rally his forces but they continued retreating and the engagement slowly wound down by 10 a.m. Howe failed to follow-up his victory. He pursued for about 10 miles before returning to camp. American losses were 152 killed (one third of them at the Chew house), 521 wounded, and 400 captured, to a British tally of 70 dead, 450 injured, and 14 missing. Washington's overly ornate strategy proved beyond the capacity of his amateur troops to perform, but they retired in good spirits.

The French Court was impressed with the tenacity of the Americans at Germantown. The stunning victory at Saratoga convinced them further to provide troops, ships and arms to the American cause. After the French Alliance the conflict became a World War.

His outstanding presentation prompted many questions and was enjoyed by all.



SAR VETERAN MEDAL PROGRAM



The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution recognizes the military service of its members with an award in the form of a medal. The Minnesota Society of the SAR will coordinate application for and presentation of these medal to all its veteran members. Please send proof of service, preferably a copy of DD Form 214, to:

Ronald E. McRoberts
15111 Elmcrest Avenue North
Hugo, MN 55038
mrob001@umn.edu

Alternatively, an electronically scanned version of the proof may be sent via e-mail to mrob001@umn.edu.

MNSAR MEMBERSHIP REPORT

President Geoffrey Bodeau and Secretary-Treasurer John Hallberg Jones presented certificates and rosettes to new members: Steven Harrison accepted for his sons Christopher, Jeffrey, and Andrew; Eric Wesman; Ronald Campbell; John Sassaman accepted for his brother William; Phillip Pribyl; Edward Crozier; Michael Huttner; and Thomas Scherer. Certificates have been



mailed to Peter Stelter, Michael Grund, Thomas Grund, David Smith, Channing Smith, Eric Kreager, Ethan Kreager, Thomas Baxter, William Baxter, and John Baxter. Supplemental Certificates and stars were presented to Marvin Jansma, John Sassaman (2), Robert Allison, Jacob Waters, and Michael Moses.:

NEW MEMBERS:

Member	Patriot
Christopher F. Harrison.....	Lebbeus Chapman
Jeffrey O. Harrison.....	Lebbeus Chapman
Andrew F. Harrison.....	Lebbeus Chapman
Peter L. Stelter	John DeWald
Michael J. Grund.....	Silas Stone
Thomas M. Grund.....	Silas Stone
Eric H. Wesman	Daniel Moore
Thorton H. O. Ridder *	Casparus Westervelt

* Transferred from Ohio

Ronald J. Campbell.....	Isaac Sanderson
David C. Smith.....	Gormley
Channing D. Smith.....	Gormley
Eric R. Kreager	Henry Miller
Ethan R. Kreager.....	Henry Miller
William R. Sassaman	Hermanus Sassmannhausen
Phillip J. Pribyl.....	David Whitman
Michael W. Huttner.....	Thomas Eldredge
Edward S. Crozier.....	John Croser
Thomas J. Scherer.....	Daniel Bertolet
Thomas C. Baxter	Peter Perrinne
William P. Baxter	Peter Perrinne
John A. Baxter.....	Peter Perrinne

We welcome back by transfer from Texas:
Craig W. Whiting

SUPPLEMENTAL PATRIOTS:

Member	Patriot
Marvin L. Jansma.....	Matthew Barnum
John C. Sassaman.....	George Himmelberger
John C. Sassaman.....	Maria Magdalena Spiess
Robert W. G. Allison.....	John Carlile, Sr.
Jacob Waters	Absolom Anderson
Michael D. Moses	Thomas Starkweather

John Sassaman was presented two Oak Leaf Clusters for his Liberty Medal, along with a certificate. The Liberty Medal is presented to a compatriot who is a first line signer on ten new member applications. John Sassaman qualified as a signer on twenty new member applications during 2017.

AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Friday August 21, 1778

NEWPORT EXPEDITION ENDS IN A FIASCO

Newport, Rhode Island – On August 19, 1778 American artillery under General John Sullivan began bombarding Newport, Rhode Island, but the following day the French fleet arrived in battered condition and Admiral Charles-Hector-Theodat, comte d’Estaing declared his intention to abandon the siege and sail for Boston for repairs.

Following Monmouth, General Washington gave his army a day of rest. The men bathed in a brook, washed their clothes and cleaned their arms and equipment. Some of them took to plundering the local inhabitants, and when the inhabitants complained, Washington ordered a search of knapsacks and issued a threat of death to any man found guilty of looting.

Next Washington made for New York State, moving his army by “easy marches.” Breaking camp at three in the morning, the men marched about ten miles until the July heat compelled them to halt, when they made camp in the late morning or early afternoon. Even so the heat was intense enough to prostrate many men with heat exhaustion, while killing a few of them, as well as more horses than could be spared. Halting on the cooler banks of the Raritan River opposite New Brunswick the troops rested a few days before marching on to Paterson, where Washington and his staff picnicked on cold ham and biscuits beside the Passaic Falls, enjoying its thunder and

delightfully cool mists. From there they crossed the Hudson to join Gates’s command at White Plains. Here Washington established himself in a strong defensive position, waiting to see what Clinton, holding New York City, Staten Island and Newport would do next. He was quietly jubilant, writing, “It is not a little pleasing, nor less wonderful to contemplate that after two years maneuvering... both armies are brought back to the very point they set out from.” For three years, beset by every privation and shortage; inhibited by dissent, disorder, desertion and discontent; outnumbered and outgunned and more often than not outmaneuvered, the American army had fought the enemy to a standstill, and as vindication of his often-criticized policy of delay, there came the welcome news that the Comte d’Estaing’s fleet, led by the mighty *Languedoc* mounting ninety guns, had arrived in American waters. True, the comte’s incredibly lengthy voyage of eighty seven days – which he attributed to bad weather and “practice maneuvers” – had brought him off the Delaware ten days too late to intercept Howe’s fleet carrying Clinton’s big guns and much of his baggage or to prevent Howe from ferrying Clinton’s army to the safety of New York. With at least double the firepower of Howe’s fleet, now in New York Harbor, it is almost certain that if d’Estaing had arrived in time, he would have defeated the British at sea, and with his four thousand infantry to thicken



Washington’s army, probably would have helped to recapture New York.

All the commander in chief’s resources were at that moment directed toward recovering Newport from the British. General Sullivan, with about ten thousand men divided between Generals Greene and Lafayette, had marched north of the vital port city to rendezvous with d’Estaing’s four thousand French soldiers. But Clinton and Admiral “Black Dick” Howe acted quickly to discomfit them. Clinton collected a force of five thousand to come to the aid of General Pigot, who held Newport with about three thousand troops, while Admiral Howe, now reinforced, crowded on all sail for Rhode Island.

Hearing of Howe’s approach, d’Estaing re-embarked his troops and sailed out to meet him. Sullivan was furi-

ous, but the Frenchman would not change his mind. On the night of August 11 the ships of both fleets were scattered by a violent storm, and both had to sail away for repairs – Howe to New York and d’Estaing to Boston.

In the meantime, the French withdrawal had so disgusted Sullivan’s militia that more than five thousand of them went home. Sullivan had to backpedal furiously away from the eagerly pursuing Pigot, and the Newport expedition ended in a fiasco.

Sources:

Revolutionary War Almanac,
by John C. Fredriksen,
Infobase Publishing, 2006

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

Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, January 12, 2019: Annual Business Meeting for MNSAR members only.

Saturday, February 16, 2019: Washington Day Luncheon – SAR & SR – open to all. **Program:** “Free Masons and the American Revolution” presented by Kevin Sullivan.

The meetings will be held at Jax Cafe.