

M I N N E S O T A

SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • www.MinnesotaSAR.org • AUTUMN 2019



ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON

Minneapolis, Minnesota – On October 19, 2019 – the anniversary of Cornwallis’s surrender – 31 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 48. Jax Café had prepared their signature chicken marsala for the group followed by a delightful raspberry mousse dessert.

President Dennis Garvin Croonquist led the Pledge to the U.S. Flag and the Pledge to the SAR, and Compatriot John Hallberg Jones gave the invocation. Vice President General for the North Central District Christopher Moberg brought official greetings from the NSSAR and spoke of his recent activity. COL McRoberts and President Croonquist presented the State Distinguished Service Medal to John Hallberg Jones, citing 49 years as Secretary-Treasurer of our Minnesota Society. Steven Hyde and the Minnesota Society Color Guard presented a Sterling Silver letter opener, being a model of the personal sword of George Washington to Jones for his support of the Color Guard over all the years.

INSIDE THE
MNSAR SALUTE...

Annual MNSAR Constitution
Day Luncheon

A Surgeon with Stilwell

A Splash of Color

New Members

SAR Fall Leadership Report

MNSAR History

American Eagle

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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





A SURGEON WITH STILWELL

DR. JOHN H. GRINDLAY AND COMBAT MEDICINE IN THE CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER OF WORLD WAR II



Alan K. Lathrop, brought an excellent scholarly address entitled, *A Surgeon with Stilwell*, a summation of the China-Burma-India theater of 1941-1944. He has written an excellent book on the subject.

Lathrop projected many photographs and maps during his speech to help tell the story. Much of the following are excerpts from his book "*A Surgeon with Stilwell*."

By mid-1941, the conflict between China and Japan had been raging for four years. Photographs in American magazines and newspapers portrayed the savage nature of the combat, and the fortitude and stoic endurance of the Chinese people and the steadfast Nationalist government of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek made them heroic symbols in the United States of the struggle against Japanese aggression. The grim war and the toll it was taking on China motivated the U.S. government to consider sending a military mission to China with the intention of establishing an effective means of coordinating and administering Lend-Lease aid to the hard-pressed Chinese

Nationalist armies and providing modern military training to make them more effective.

The American Military Mission to China (AMMISCA) medical staff was under the command of Major Joseph Mendelson and consisted of a surgeon and two technicians, who would provide medical support for the mission, help set up equipment, and conduct laboratory work. The surgeon was First Lieutenant John Happer Grindlay, known as "Grumpy" among his friends, a thirty-one-year-old physician from Ohio and a member of the Army Reserve who was on the staff of Walter Reed General Hospital when he learned about AMMISCA from a fellow medical officer.

Born in Philadelphia on 13 November 1909, Grindlay received his AB degree at Oberlin College in 1931 and his MD from Harvard Medical School in 1935. He entered Dartmouth Medical College as a fellow in pathology (1935-1936) and served an internship on the house staff at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital at Dartmouth for another year (1936-1937). From 1937 to 1939 Grindlay attended the Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Medicine in Rochester, Minnesota, as a fellow in surgery, and he received his MS in surgery from the University of Minnesota in 1940. He joined the U.S. Army Reserve as a medical officer the following year and was assigned to Walter Reed.

Lieutenant General Joseph Warren Stilwell (1883-1946) had served as U.S. military attache in China in the late 1930s, spoke fluent Chinese, and knew the people and politics of China intimately from two extended tours of duty. He was appointed by General George Marshall, army chief of staff, at the direction of President Roosevelt, to head all U.S. forces in the newly created China-Burma-India theater, administer Lend-Lease aid in the theater, serve as chief of staff to Chiang Kai-shek, and take charge of all forces then operating in Burma, including the British and Chinese.

Meantime, tension was building in Rangoon as the Japanese advanced closer to the city, and evacuation of the civilian populace and the military was beginning. The Japanese had invaded Burma from Siam (Thailand) on 20 January 1942 and marched against weak British resistance to the Sittang River, east of Rangoon. The British dug in to defend the important railroad bridge on the line that ran to Rangoon, but the overwhelming enemy attack forced the bridge to be blown on 23 February after less than half of the British forces had crossed it. With the British defenses in shambles, the Japanese drove on toward the key port of Burma.

On the morning of 7 May, Stilwell's "walkout," as it came to be called, began. Grindlay's diary, which he scrupulously kept during the ordeal, clearly

(and sometimes brutally) illuminates the pain, discomfort, exhaustion, and dangers the party experienced in the days that followed. "The first half of the 14 day march was hell, as was the second," he wrote to his wife after arriving in India.

The days of grueling climbs and descents were taking a toll on Grindlay, "I was getting absolutely exhausted for some reason," he wrote on 19 May. Late that afternoon they reached a narrow steel suspension bridge "on other side of which was end of motor [road coming from India]." A party of American officers arrived, some of them the men from Stilwell's staff who had been evacuated from Burma by air before the walkout began and who prepared for Stilwell's arrival in India.

The party stayed at Gauhati until July and then moved to Ramgarh, a road junction about two hundred air miles northwest of Calcutta. The medical personnel set up a hospital to treat the thousands of Chinese soldiers struggling out of Burma well into the summer and fall of 1942. These men would form the nucleus of a new, re-armed and reinvigorated army that would return to Burma in 1943 to begin the reconquest of the country they had tried so hard to defend.

Lathrop's outstanding presentation prompted many questions and was enjoyed by all. President Croonquist presented him a Certificate of Appreciation.



A SPLASH OF COLOR

A Message From the MNSAR Color Guard

Color Guard Commander Steven Hyde presented a report promoting the MNSAR Color Guard. He reported on the Color Guard's activity during 2019 including, the Grandview Middle School event and the annual Wayzata Chapter C.A.R. "flying pancake" Independence Day event. (*See the Summer, 2019 SAR Salute*)

Each of the Minnesota Color Guard members displayed the new red, white and blue cockade on their hats. The cockade features an image of a Minute Man within a border of Minnesota which will help differentiate the MNSAR Color Guard members from other units.

Hyde reported that Bradley T. Lyons, a member of the Florida SAR Color Guard had passed away and donated his uniform to the MNSAR.

Hyde sited the service of John McCallum in the Color Guard over many years. He announced that John McCallum was being presented with the Bronze Color Guard Medal.

Color Guard member Kevin Sullivan recited a wonderful rendition of Longfellow's epic poem "Paul Revere's Ride."

MNSAR MEMBERSHIP REPORT

President Dennis Gavin Croonquist and Secretary-Treasurer John Hallberg Jones presented certificates and rosettes to new members: Kevin Bursch and Daniel Hawley, whose certificate was accepted by his father David Hawley. Arthur Louis Finnell had already received the certificate for the Memorial Membership for his father Lawrence Arthur Finnell. New Member Certificates will be mailed to Robert Dolle, Anthony Hurst, Christopher Erickson, Steven Hirman, Benjamin Hirman, Jeremy Benitez, Larry Walters, Matthew Kramer, George Bodem, David Lee, and Elias Lee. Supplemental Certificates and/or stars were presented to Robert Allison, Marvin Jansma, and Christopher Moberg, and one will be mailed to Richard Smith.



Kevin Bursch surrounded by the color guard, president Croonquist and Secretary-Treasurer Jones.

NEW MEMBERS:

Member	Patriot
Robert Joseph Dolle, Jr.	David Mason
Kevin James Bursch, Jr.	Abraham Banta
Anthony Paul Hurst.....	Ebenezer Wood
Christopher A. Erickson....	Abel Owen
Steven Ross Hirman.....	Warner Wynn
Benjamin Ross Hirman.....	Warner Wynn
Daniel Mayer Hawley.....	Joseph Hawley
Jeremy Daniel Benitez.....	Jacob Manning
Larry Eugene Walters.....	Samuel Ransom
Matthew Edward Kramer..	Abraham Cantine
George Bohnert Bodem	Micah Vail
David George Lee.....	Thomas Morris
Elias Reuben Lee.....	Thomas Morris

SUPPLEMENTAL:

Member	Patriot
Robert W. G. H. Allison.....	George Rymer
Marvin Lane Jansma.....	John Dunlap
Marvin Lane Jansma.....	John Wampler
Marvin Lane Jansma.....	Johann Eigenbroad
Richard Eugene Smith.....	John Crane
Christopher Moberg.....	Joseph Whipple

MEMORIAL:

Member	Patriot
Lawrence Arthur Finnell...	Reuben Finnell

Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, January 11, 2020: Annual Business Meeting for MNSAR members only.

Saturday, February 15, 2020: Washington Day Luncheon – SAR & SR – open to all. COL Ronald McRoberts will speak about the Minute Man and their experience gained during the colonial wars. Booth meetings will be held at Jax Cafe.

MNSAR MEMBER RECOGNITIONS

John Sassaman was presented two Oak Leaf Clusters for his Liberty Medal, along with a certificate, and John Hallberg Jones was also presented an Oak Leaf Cluster and Certificate for his Liberty Medal. The Liberty Medal is presented to a compatriot who is a first line signer on ten new member applications.

COL Ronald McRoberts presented NSSAR War Service Medals and Certificates to Arthur Finnell and Marvin Jansma and will mail the same to Lyle Doerr.



SAR FALL LEADERSHIP REPORT

By Chris Moberg

Louisville, Kentucky – The Fall Leadership Meeting of the SAR was held from September 19 through 21, 2019 at the historic Brown Hotel. My first event was the Council of VPG’s meeting on Friday morning. The representatives of the various districts were encouraged to promote member retention, reinstatement, and mentorship. We were informed that one of the most effective ways to increase retention is to have a national level dues program, in which there is an option for automatic dues renewal. While the idea is being actively pursued by National, it is acknowledged that it will take some time to implement, as there is currently a wide variance among states and chapters as to how dues are handled.

On Friday afternoon, there was a tour of the National Headquarters. In addition to seeing staff offices and the library, we saw the first floor museum space, where the proposed layout of each display was marked with tape on the floor. That evening, I had the honor of participating with the color guard in posting the colors for the banquet. An informative update was given by a representative from Solid Light, Inc. on the progress of the SAR Education Center and Museum (see www.sarfoundation.org).

On Saturday morning, I attended the donor recognition breakfast and the Trustee meeting. Items of business included:

1. The contract with Solid Light, Inc. was amended to add a retail store to the museum plans at no additional cost.
2. \$2,400 in the U.S. Stamp Fund was reallocated to the 250th Anniversary Fund.
3. \$10,000 in the King’s College Project Fund was reallocated to upgrade the accounting software and a new storefront.
4. \$38,500 was allocated to the remaining work on the membership data module. The new membership database should be on-line by the Spring Leadership Meeting.
5. The proposed 2020 budget was approved.
6. Donations to the George Washington Endowment Fund will be split evenly between the George Washington Endowment Fund, the Howard F. Horne, Jr. Fund, and the Walter Buchanan “Buck” Meek Fund to boost the amount in these funds.
7. The 2024 National Congress will be held in Pennsylvania.
8. Five donated swords found to be from the 1800’s or later will be sold at auction, with the proceeds going to the Museum Special Artifacts Fund.

On Saturday evening, there was a banquet where we saw an interesting presentation on Bermuda and the American Revolution and learned about the upcoming SAR/DAR/CAR Bermuda trip planned for May 13-18, 2020. I joined the “SARpremes” in singing a few Revolutionary War era songs at the banquet, as well as a version of the famous Kingston Trio song “M.T.A.” in honor of Massachusetts resident and President General, Jack Manning. Finally, I participated with the color guard in retiring the colors.

HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY

Part One

A group of 80 descendants of Revolutionary Soldiers dressed in the uniforms of Soldiers of the Revolution took part in a parade held July 4, 1876, in San Francisco. So much interest was aroused that they formed an organization called “Sons of Revolutionary Sires.” This was the first organization of this character and a number of similar groups were organized in other States during the next few years. These groups usually called themselves “Sons of the Revolution.”

On April 30, 1889 a meeting was held at Fraunces Tavern, New York City, to form a National Society and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Washington’s inauguration as President of the United States.

MINNESOTA SOCIETY

For several years a number of eligible people in Minnesota had been discussing and considering the formation of a Minnesota Society. The result was an organization meeting held at 4:00 P.M., Dec. 26, 1889, at the Chamber of Commerce in St. Paul. After Wm. O. McDowell of New Jersey, the Vice President of the National Society, explained the purpose of the meeting, Judge Albert Edgerton, a “real son,” moved “That, we the gentlemen here assembled, do hereby constitute ourselves the Minnesota Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.” The following were present and signed the roll: Gen. J. B. Sanborn, E. V. Smalley, Judge R. R. Nelson,

E. W. Peet, Rev. Edward Mitchell, Rev. R. F. MacLaren, A. S. Tallmudge, C. B. Palmer, John W. Griggs, Sherwood Hough, Judge Albert Edgerton, John W. Boxell, P. Barton, E. V. Smith, W. K. Millikan, Douglas Putnam, and Geo. F. McAfee, all of St. Paul; Mayor E. W. Durant of Stillwater; Geo. K. Shaw of Minneapolis, Benj. Nute of Duluth, Daniel Getty of White Bear.

A committee composed of Gen. J. B. Sanborn, Judge Nelson, Judge Edgerton, Dr. Day, all of St. Paul; Geo. Shaw and E. W. Wilson of Minneapolis; Mayor Durant of Stillwater; Benj. Nute of Duluth and Earl Yoemans of Winona was appointed to prepare a Constitution and By-Laws.

This committee reported at a second meeting held Dec. 28, 1889, and the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. The following officers were elected:

- Judge Albert Edgerton,
President
- George K. Shaw,
Vice President
- A. S. Tallmudge,
Secretary-Treasurer
- C. B. Palmer, *Registrar*

The membership of Minnesota Society increased rapidly with the result that in 1894 Minnesota ranked sixth in total members, only being exceeded by: Connecticut, 798; New York, 499; District of Columbia, 424; Massachusetts, 403; New Jersey, 276; and Minnesota, 231.

AMERICAN EAGLE



News of Yesterday Reported Today

Friday February 26, 1779

VINCENNES SURRENDERS TO AMERICA

Vincennes – A dashing frontiersman named George Rogers Clark struck a sharp blow to the British. The British, under the unsavory Colonel Henry Hamilton – the “Hair-Buyer,” who paid Indians for American scalps – captured Vincennes. Hearing of this, Clark led a tiny force of 130 men, half of them French, against Fort Sackville. Here Clark deceived Hamilton’s superior force by marching his little band back and forth to create the impression of a thousand men approaching. That was enough for Hamilton’s Indians, who quickly deserted. Then, after Clark’s sharpshooters began picking off the forts defenders, Hamilton asked for talks. To make up Hamilton’s mind, Clark had five Indians, who had been captured with scalps in their possession, tomahawked in full view of the garrison. Yesterday, February 25, Hamilton surrendered Vincennes.

Virginia, largest of the states, claimant to all the territory drained by the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, was particularly alive to its responsibilities in protecting the West. As British Fort Niagara stood an ominous cloud over western New York and Pennsylvania, so Fort Detroit shadowed the Ohio and Illinois country at the back parts of Virginia. There commanded Colonel Henry Hamilton, who had earned the soubriquet “Hair Buyer” because, the frontiersmen told, he promised rewards to his Indians for American scalps. In June, 1777, he had been instructed by the Ministry to assemble Indians and “employ them in making a diversion and exciting an alarm upon the frontiers of Virginia and Pennsylvania...” to support

them he was to recruit loyalists with promises of postwar bounties of two hundred acres, in addition to soldier’s pay.

On the Virginia frontier, since before the war, had been a tall, lithe, redhead with “black, penetrating, sparkling eyes,” named George Rogers Clark. He was young – only twenty-four in 1777 – but he had surveyed hundreds of miles of western lands and had helped the Kentuckians to organize a government and secure their recognition as a Virginia colony. By the time 1777 was well along as “the bloody year” on the frontier, Clark was an implacable foe of both Hamilton and his sovereign. Late that fall he set out for Williamsburg with a plan for the conquest of the British-held French villages north of the Ohio and ultimately of Detroit itself.

George Clark’s idea was not new. Early in the war there had been talk of an expedition against Detroit, but neither the Continental Congress nor the states set one in motion. In the spring of 1777, the Congress had sent Brigadier General Edward Hand to assume command at Fort Pitt, at the confluence of the Alleghany and the Monongahela rivers, and to organize a punitive expedition into the Ohio country. But Hand was surrounded by hostiles and was still at Fort Pitt when Clark trekked eastward to consult Governor Patrick Henry. In January, 1778, the Virginia Assembly commissioned Clark a lieutenant colonel of Virginia militia, granting him £1,200 and authority to draw supplies at Pittsburgh. Ostensibly he was to defend Kentucky. Secretly he was empowered to take the British post in the French town of Kaskaskia,

near the mouth of the river of the same name, and if possible, Detroit.

The young giant in hunting shirt hurried back to the banks of the Monongahela to recruit. It was not an easy thing, in a region whose whole population totaled only a few hundred souls, to persuade men to leave their homesteads thinly protected to go on a vaguely defined march against the Indians. But at length, on the twenty-fourth of June, 1778, leaving twenty families to defend a blockhouse of supplies on an island at the Falls of Ohio, Colonel Clark set out for Kaskaskia. His flotilla of flatboats carried 175 frontiersmen.

Four days later, the expedition entered the mouth of the Tennessee River and was floated and rowed to the ruins of the old French fort, Massaic, ten miles below. Here the men hid their boats. To travel the river farther and proceed by the Mississippi, Clark realized, would be to surrender advantage of surprise.

Next morning, guided by a party of hunters from Kaskaskia who joined him, Clark began a 120-mile march overland to his goal. Accustomed to travel, his men traveled light and fast, and reached the Kaskaskia, a mile from the town, on the evening of the fourth of July. Procuring boats, they ferried across the river in the dark. The only sound in the unsuspecting town of two hundred and fifty houses and a stone fort, they guessed to be “Negroes at a dance.” Dividing his little force, Colonel Clark surrounded the town, broke into the fort, and took Kaskaskia without firing a shot.

“Nothing could excel the confusion these people seemed to be in,” the colonel wrote

back to his old friend, George Mason, at Williamsburg, “being taught to expect nothing but savage treatment from the Americans. Giving all for lost... they were willing to be slaves to save their families.” But when the terrified French townspeople learned that France and America now were official allies and that the fierce-looking Americans would not molest them in their persons, property, or religion if they took an oath of fidelity to the state of Virginia, they “fell into transports of joy” and eagerly embraced the conquerors.

While a detachment of thirty of Clark’s men raced on borrowed mounts sixty miles to capture Cahokia, across the Mississippi from the friendly Spanish post of St. Louis, Father Pierre Gibault of Kaskaskia volunteered to travel to Vincennes and win over the French inhabitants. Two more posts accepted the Americans before Father Gibault returned, on the first of August, reporting complete success. Clark promptly sent Captain Leonard Helm to occupy Vincennes and its stronghold, Fort Sackville, and to assume command of the French militia there. He himself gave the rest of the summer to persuading his men not to return home and to a number of conferences in which he cajoled thousands of red chiefs and warriors into good behavior.

But the Virginian did not remain long unchallenged in the territory he had organized as the county of Illinois in the state of Virginia. In the fall, Colonel Hamilton made a hard, long march south from Detroit with some five hundred men, including about three hundred Indians, and in a swirling

snowstorm on December 17, retook Vincennes and captured its American garrison – Captain Helm and three soldiers.

While Clark hastened to prepare Kaskaskia for siege, Francis Vigo returned from Vincennes to inform him that “Mr. Hamilton had weakened himself by sending his Indians against the frontier... that he had not more than eighty men in garrison, three pieces of cannon and some swivels mounted and that he intended to attack this place as soon as the winter opened.” Vigo, a bold, liberty-loving Italian fur trader and merchant of St. Louis, upon the arrival of Clark had volunteered his energies and money to the Virginians expedition. At Clark’s request he had traveled northeast across the Wabash to spy out Vincennes. He had been a soldier, and the intelligence he brought – after capture and release by Hamilton – was full and explicit. On the basis of it, Clark decided not to await an attack; he resolved instead to carry war to Vincennes. The enemy, he thought, “could not suppose... we should be so mad as to attempt to march eighty leagues through a drowned country in the depth of winter, that they would be off their guard and probably would not think it worthwhile to keep out spies.”

“At this moment I would have bound myself a slave to have had five hundred troops,” Clark confessed, but he was obliged to make do with what he had. He built a large row galley and armed it with six light guns. In February, 1779, he sent it, manned by forty-six men, up the Ohio and Wabash to take station “ten leagues below the post Vincennes and wait until further orders.” He anticipated that the Wabash would be overflowed so broadly that the only way he would be able to move his artillery and stores was by boat. Should Hamilton by some chance learn of his approach and try to escape down the Mississippi, the row galley was to capture him.

At the head of only a hundred and seventy men, nearly

half French volunteers, he himself set out overland for Vincennes, two hundred and forty long, cold miles away. Although some of the march lay through “the most beautiful country in the world,” it was also some of the worst at this season. The four rivers he must cross flooded the prairies, and about Vincennes the water spread five miles wide. “We set out,” said the colonel, “on a forlorn hope indeed. For our whole party with the boat’s crew consisted of only a little upwards of two hundred. I cannot account for it, but I still had inward assurance of success and never could, when weighing every circumstance, doubt it.”

Here, twenty miles from their goal, began the drowned lands, country almost entirely inundated. The two branches of the Little Wabash were now one, flowing together in a solid sheet of water five miles broad, broken only by the forest of naked trees awash, and rearing from its surface into the icy February air. Clark said he “viewed this sheet of water from some time with distrust.” But he overcame his doubts and ordered his men to build a great canoe and a platform above water on the opposite shore. He ferried supplies in the canoe and piled them on the scaffold, then swam the horses across and loaded them. He led his men splashing through three feet of water to the far branch of the river and camped. “A little antic drummer afforded them great diversion,” remarked the colonel, “by floating on the drum.”

Pushing through water breast-high on the twenty-third of February, the force emerged from the bottom lands in the early afternoon and halted on a small knoll in sight of Vincennes. From the hill, Colonel Clark sent a letter to the inhabitants announcing his presence and his intention of taking the post that night, and warning them to stay indoors. In the evening, after parading his troops round and round behind hills to give the impression of a thousand men, Clark led them

in wading through deep water to the rising ground on which the town stood. “With colors flying and drums braced,” they entered the town about eight o’clock and took possession, while a company of fourteen went to fire on the fort. One of Clark’s captains noted, “Smart firing all night on both sides. The cannon played smartly, not one of our men wounded... fine sport for the sons of Liberty.”

About eight in the morning, Clark sent a flag to Hamilton demanding unconditional surrender, which Hamilton curtly refused. After noon, however, the Englishman asked for a parley at the town church, but the enemies could not agree on terms, and Hamilton returned to the fort. During the afternoon, Hamilton reported later to his superior, a party of Indians returning from a scout were attacked by Clark’s men and two were killed and one wounded. Hamilton was told:

“The rest were surrounded and taken bound to the village where being set in the street opposite the fort gate, they were put to death, notwithstanding a truce at that moment existed... One of them was tomahawked immediately. The rest, sitting on the ground in a ring, bound, seeing by the fate of their comrade what they had to expect, the next on his left sung his death song and was in turn tomahawked. The rest underwent the same... One only was saved by the intercession of a rebel officer who pleaded for him, telling Colonel Clark that the savage’s father had formerly saved his life.

The chief of this party, after having the hatchet stuck in his head, took it out himself and delivered it to the inhuman monster who struck him first, who repeated his stroke a second and a third time, after which the miserable spectacle was dragged by the rope around his neck to the river, thrown in, and suffered to spend still a few moments of life in fruitless strugglings...

Colonel Clark, yet reeking with the blood of these

unhappy victims, came to the esplanade before the fort gate, where I had agreed to meet him and treat of the surrender of the garrison. He spoke with rapture of his late achievement, while he washed the blood from his hand stained in this inhuman sacrifice.”

Hamilton’s report was not exaggerated. Clark candidly admitted his act, saying it was merely a matter of policy. He hoped that the execution of the redmen before their friends would persuade them that the English could not or would not give them the protection they had been promised and would incense them against the British.

Colonel Henry Hamilton chose to surrender to an almost certain prison confinement rather than risk the lives of his men, but he insisted on including in the articles of capitulation an article relating his reasons for giving up his Post: the remoteness from succor, the state and quantity of provisions, the unanimity of officers and men on its expediency, the honorable terms allowed and lastly his confidence in a generous enemy. At ten o’clock, the twenty-fifth of February, 1779, the American colors rose above Fort Sackville.

George Rogers Clark, the hardened woodsman who matter-of-factly slew the redman wherever he encountered him, did not wreck vengeance upon Hamilton’s garrison. The enlisted men were paroled and the officers marched off for Virginia. There Hamilton was to be confined.

Sources:

George Washington’s War by Robert Leckie, HarperPerennial, 1993

Rebels and Redcoats by George F. Scheer and Hugh F. Rankin, Da Capo Press, 1957