

M I N N E S O T A

SAR Salute



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



ANNUAL C.A.R. PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Wayzata, MN – Folks lined up for the flying pancake breakfast and visited under the shade trees. The living history team mingled with the crowd giving the visitors opportunity to learn more about the times of our Revolution. A display of a bell tent of the era and camp equipment was especially exciting for the children. Several times during the morning the two drummers called the soldiers to form up, march to the pier and fire musket volleys. This year our two drummers Kerry and Steve were joined by 11-year-old James with his fife.

The Declaration of Independence was read by SAR member Kevin Sullivan. Wayzata Mayor Wilcox introduced veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam giving the crowd a brief biography of the service of each and a tribute also to those attending who have served in the armed forces. Attendance this year finished at 1,416.

INSIDE THE MNSAR SALUTE...

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129TH SAR NATIONAL CONGRESS REPORT

by Chris Moberg, National Trustee for Minnesota

Costa Mesa, California – The annual national congress of the SAR was held from Friday, July 5 to Thursday, July 11, 2019. The weather was extremely pleasant the entire time, making it difficult to return to hot and humid Minnesota. A number of tours were offered during the week, including a “Huntington Library and Gardens” tour, a “Lyons Air Museum and Richard Nixon Presidential Library” tour, a “San Juan Capistrano Mission” tour, and a “Ronald Reagan Presidential Library” tour. The host society reception was a beautiful four-hour dinner cruise in Newport Beach on the Hornblower ship “Endless Dreams.” I had the honor of participating with the color guard at the President General’s review at Castaway Park, the memorial service at Saint Andrews Church, and congress sessions and banquets at the Hilton hotel.

Attendees heard outstanding speeches by high school students during the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Orations contest. At the youth awards luncheon, the winning essay was read, and the top posters and brochures were displayed. A unique opportunity at this year’s conference was four excellent sessions hosted by the William L. Clements Library from the University of Michi-

gan. The Clements library has one of the best collections of primary source materials for the American Revolution in the country and is proud to be collaborating with the SAR.

Minnesota sent two delegates to the Congress: Minnesota Society President Dennis Croonquist, and myself, St. Paul Chapter President. Some of the items of business included:

1. Two additional classes of membership already in the bylaws were added to the constitution: national life membership and emeritus membership.
2. The memorial membership in the bylaws was changed to allow membership of deceased children and to ensure that a new patriot ancestor is not used on the application.
3. “Independent Audit Committee” was changed to “Audit Committee” in the bylaws, and the number of committee members was increased from five to seven.
4. The bylaws were updated to clarify that life members who let their state society membership lapse do not need to pay national dues upon reinstatement to a state society.
5. Incorrect information about membership requirements for the Ladies’ Auxiliary were removed from the bylaws.

MNSAR COLOR GUARD AND SCHOOL PROGRAM IN MOUND

by Craig Whiting

Mound, Minnesota – May 16, 2019 Compatriots Chris Moberg and Craig Whiting were joined by DAR Ladies Teresa Anderson and Gigi Hickey for a living history presentation at Grandview Middle School in Mound.

Assisting was student James Glassmann, CAR. Three one hour sessions were held with 30 plus fifth grade students per session. The team introduced themselves and their persona and gave a brief history of their patriot ancestor then launched into a series of short stories, pointing out some facts and fictions about people and the struggle, offering several vignettes and answered plenty of questions coming in from the students. Some subjects covered were flag history (in which students held flags) Molly Pitcher lore, camp followers, how the Cubans helped our victory at Yorktown, the Sybil Ludington story, clothing, pay, child life in the era, death or incapacity due to disease vs. battle wounds, militia service, how Mount Vernon got its name, the help of the French and Spanish, Franklin’s snake cartoon and “Huzzah” (which the students shouted with enthusiasm). One of the teachers wrote us: “it’s fun to hear crazy stories that you wouldn’t read about in a fifth grade text



book,” and “more about what did they eat, how did they sleep, what were the weather conditions, ... more random details that the kids wouldn’t have learned about” and suggested we use more replicas from the period which the students may hold and pass around.

The living history team concluded that there will most likely be more such teaching opportunities arising now and that a combined SAR/DAR/CAR living history team equipped with replica items of the Revolutionary War era will be pursued. The DAR and SAR working together to further education on the Revolution together was a great success.

For more photos visit: <http://sarmnecg.blogspot.com>



MNSAR TRAVELING TRUNK PROPOSAL

In a recent living history morning with students of a middle school, two members of our color guard, one CAR member and two DAR members found a need for hands-on materials to support discussion of life during the Revolution. Replica items that may be held by students will enhance the education program by making it more realistic.

The "Traveling Trunk" is an educational tool to be used by members of the SAR in conjunction with member efforts to fulfill the mission of the SAR. This tool, like others of the kind in other chapters and the American Revolution Institute, is to be available on a no-fee basis to be borrowed by schools, the DAR, the CAR and any organization deemed by the SAR to be qualified. These items, props of the era to be used in education, will help students by allowing them to see, touch and learn about life in the Revolutionary War era. The Color Guard will be responsible for managing the trunk.

The trunk will contain items of interest relating to the revolutionary era. Such items may be:

- Hunting Frock, Uniform Coat, Tri-Corn Hat
- Pullover 18th Century Dress, Bonnet, Pockets
- Replica Eating Utensils
- Period Lantern

- Quill Pen, Ink
- Early Games and Toys
- Copy of New England Primer
- Hornbook
- Cartridge Box with Belt
- Various Flags
- Copy of the Declaration and the Constitution
- Spyglass
- Map Reproductions
- Spectacles
- Musket Pick, Powder Horn
- Early Sewing Kit
- Medical Kit
- Candle Mold, Beeswax Candles, Fire Starting Kit
- Wooden Trunks to Hold These Items
- Bayonet, Hatchet
- Wooden Canteen
- CD of Fife and Drum Music
- Wooden Trunks to Hold These Items

Not included in the trunk, but available for school use if delivery and set up is arranged: tent w/poles, indoor tent pole frame and replica fire pit with period iron roasting equipment, cooking pot, etc. Also a laptop projector for use by SAR team in presentations.

While some funding may be provided by the Compatriot Wayne Snodgrass grant (Colorado SAR), help will be needed from our own Minnesota compatriots. If you are interested in helping by sponsoring items or by joining the team, please contact Steve Hyde.

2019 MNSAR MEDALS AND AWARDS PROGRAMS

Minnesota Society ROTC Awards

The ROTC/JROTC Medal program in 2019 once again handled presentations in all 12 JROTC units and all 7 ROTC units in Minnesota. We and the following Compatriots for being at these programs and doing the presentations: Dennis G. Croonquist, Steven J. Hyde, Hon. David Sinclair Bouschor, Hon. William Johnson, Christopher W. Moberg, Marvin Lane Jansma, Janes Everett Hagen, Michael Ronald Bradley, Michael William Huttner, David Adriance Foster, John Charles Sassaman, Charles Edward Boyles, and Christopher John Pizinger. Our Society was represented well.

We are pleased to announce that James Everett Hagen has taken over the chairmanship of this committee; John Hallberg Jones has done the job for over 40 years and has now stepped down. We look forward to the continued good reports for this project.

Minneapolis and St. Paul Chapters Bronze Good Citizenship Medals

The Bronze Good Citizenship Medal program of the Minneapolis Chapter continues to be one of the largest in the nation for the SAR. In 2019 our Chapter presented the medal in 23 area high

schools and one Naval Sea Cadets Squadron. John Hallberg Jones has coordinated this project for over 40 years. We are pleased to advise that the program will now be chaired by Michael William Huttner. We appreciate his stepping up to the plate to do this great project and look forward to the strong continuation of this program.

Medals were also awarded to eleven St. Paul area high school students this year.

The criteria for the recipient of the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal is Scholarship, Leadership, Character, Service and an appreciation of patriotism.

Flag Certificates

On Flag Day five Saint Paul area businesses were presented with flag certificates by the Saint Paul Chapter SAR for showing patriotism and love of country by flying the flag. This years recipients were:

- Broadview Builders, Lexington
- Kopy Motors, Forest Lake
- Muffler Doctor, Lexington
- Sven's Shoes, Chisago City
- Uncommon Loon Brewing Company, Chisago City



NEW PRAGUE EAGLE SCOUT WINS MINNESOTA COMPETITION

Joseph B. Taylor of the Northern Star Council Boy Scouts of America is the Minnesota winner of the SAR's Eagle Scout Scholarship and Awards Program. Joseph was unable to attend the Washington Day Luncheon due to his college schedule. He received his Spreading Wings Eagle Trophy at a later date.

Joseph's application, four generation ancestor chart and his patriotic essay were sent to National SAR headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky to compete with other state winners for a \$10,000 scholarship. \$6,000 and \$4,000 runner-up scholarships were also chosen.

His winning essay is printed below:



John Paul Jones: one naval commander with a unique history and a compelling story of service.

When considering the conflicts of the American Revolution, names such as Bunker Hill, Trenton, and Yorktown come to mind. More often than not, too little thought is given to the other than land based campaigns of the time. Yes, even in its infancy, the United States had a navy. A brief search of the early American Navy will lead to the name John Paul Jones: one naval commander with a unique history and a compelling story of service.

Born in Scotland on July 6th, 1747, John Paul began to lead his sailing career at the age of thirteen. From his apprenticeship, he learned the ropes and the seas, eventually becoming a merchant sailor. After killing a man to fend off a mutinous crew, John Paul fled to America under the impression he would not receive a fair trial for his actions.

There he assumed the name John Paul Jones. When the Revolutionary War broke out, Jones volunteered for and was commissioned into the Continental Navy. His first ship, *Alfred*, was a brief assignment before he took command of the *Providence*, outfitted with twenty one guns, in 1776. Jones was quick to begin wreaking havoc on British naval and merchant vessels. While commanding the *Providence*, Jones captured or sank sixteen British vessels. Back in command of *Alfred*, Jones captured several more British ships before being appointed to command the brand new *Ranger* in 1777. This time, Jones sailed to the British Isles and the coast of France to attack the British navy and merchants close to home. Yet again, John Paul Jones had many victories and succeeded in disrupting the British war effort in addi-

tion to reminding them they were not invulnerable to attack. However, his greatest feat was yet to come.

In August 1779, Jones assumed command of five ships including the *Bonhomme Richard*, his biggest, most armed ship to date. With his new ship, Jones commenced another tour around the British Isles. Jones, just one month after gaining his new fleet, intercepted British merchant vessels under the protection of war ships *Serapis* and *Countess of Scarborough*. The following battle became one of the most revered in American naval history. It was during this battle which Jones was challenged whether or not he wanted to surrender to which he retorted, "I have not yet begun to fight!" Then, he tied the ships together and proceeded to fire volley after volley of cannon fire into the opposing ship during an ugly

battle which lasted several hours. The *Bonhomme Richard* was fatally damaged, but it was the *Serapis* which surrendered first. Jones and his crew captured the ship taking it as their own while the *Bonhomme Richard* sank. Defeating the British war ship made his name recognizable around the world for years to come.

His life after this historic battle slowly declined until his death. However, he did receive a congressional medal of honor for his actions in the Continental Navy. After the revolution, despite his successful naval career, American leaders ignored his advice to maintain a strong navy for future conflicts. John Paul Jones served a brief term in the Russian navy before his death in July 1792.

AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Wednesday December 30, 1778

SAVANNAH FALLS TO THE BRITISH

Savannah, Georgia – Yesterday, Savannah, Georgia fell to British hands in a pitched battle.

In the fall of 1778, Colonel McIntosh, who had been left in command of the town after the repulse of the British in March 1776, notified Major General Robert Howe, commander of the American forces in this section, with headquarters at Charleston, that an advance of the British upon Savannah was anticipated, and that his small force, 250 men, with 100 for duty, was inadequate to defend the place. Howe came over and took command. He had about 500 regulars and 350 militia.

Howe learned that the British had planned for General Augustine Prevost to advance from East Florida and arrive near Savannah in time to cooperate with the naval fleet, under Sir Hyde Parker and the troops under Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell, to be sent from New York. Prevost advanced as far as Sunbury. The Americans made a show of being in strong force and Prevost retreated.

Howe returned to Savannah and ordered all of the troops to assemble there. The town was in an almost defenseless condition, excepting from the water side. The fort on the eastern end

of the bluff had been considerably enlarged, more guns mounted, and made quite formidable. It was named Fort Wayne, in honor of Brigadier General Anthony Wayne.

By December 27, the whole of the British fleet had anchored off Tybee Island. The vessels composing the armed squadron were the *Phoenix*, 44 guns; the *Rose* and *Fowey*, 24 guns each; the *Vigilant*, 28 guns; and the brig *Keppel*, the sloop *Greenwich* and the galley *Comet*. The transports brought about 3,500 men. Howe had about 900 men to oppose their force. The British were not at first aware of the weakness of the Americans and were disposed to wait the arrival of Prevost's command before commencing the assault upon the town.

To gain information, Campbell sent a boat's crew ashore to capture some of the inhabitants. The crew landed on Wilmington Island and took two men prisoner, who informed them of the exact condition of the Americans. Believing the information received to be correct, Campbell decided to attack without delay.

On December 28, the squadron sailed up within two miles of Savannah, opposite to Girardeau's Planta-



tion, and preparations were made to land early the next morning. Howe was not correctly informed concerning the strength of the enemy, and believing he could cope with them, determined to defend the town.

Observing this movement of the enemy, he rightly concluded that the troops would land below Brewton Hill 4 and advance upon the town by the great road and Captain John C. Smith, with his company of South Carolinians, was sent to the hill to watch the enemy.

The army was divided into two brigades; the first, commanded by Colonel Elbert, constituted the left, and the other, under Colonel Huger, the right wing. Five pieces of cannon were posted in front of the causeway.

To the right of the position of the Americans, a small path led through a

swamp to the high grounds on the opposite side. This path was pointed out to Howe by Colonel Walton as a place which should be guarded, but Howe, thinking differently, paid no attention to the suggestion. The roads to White Bluff and the Ogeechee River united near their barracks, and Colonel Walton, with 100 militia, was posted there.

On December 29, Campbell selected Girardeau's Plantation, located about 2 miles below the city, for the landing place. When word reached Howe that the landing had started, he sent a company of Continentals to occupy the bluffs above the landing site. Campbell realized that the bluffs would need to be controlled before the majority of his forces could land, and dispatched two companies of the 71st Regiment to take control of

them.

The Continentals opened fire at about 100 yards; the British, rather than returning fire, advanced rapidly with bayonets fixed, denying the Continentals a second shot. The Continentals retreated, having killed four and wounded five at no cost to themselves. By noon, Campbell had landed his army and began to proceed cautiously toward the city.

Howe held a council that morning, and ground was chosen at which to make a stand. About one-half mile south of the city, he established a line of defense in the shape of an open "V", with the ends anchored by swampy woods.

On the left, Howe placed Georgia Continentals and militia under Samuel Elbert, while on the right he put South Carolina Continentals and militia under Isaac Huger and William Thomson. The line was supported by four pieces of field artillery,

and light infantry companies guarded the flanks. Most of Howe's troops, including the Continentals, had seen little or no action in the war.

When Campbell's advance companies spotted Howe's line around 2:00 PM, the main body stopped short of the field and Campbell went to see what he was up against. He viewed Howe's defenses as essentially sound, but a local slave told him that there was a path through the swamp on Howe's right.

Campbell ordered Sir James Baird to take 350 light infantry and 250 New York Loyalists and follow the slave through the swamp, while he arrayed his troops just out of view in a way that would give the impression he would attempt a flanking maneuver on Howe's left. One of his officers climbed a tree to observe Baird's progress.

True to the slave's word, the trail came out near the

Continental barracks, which had been left unguarded; the Continentals were unaware they had been flanked. When they reached position, the man in the tree signaled by waving his hat, and Campbell ordered the regulars to charge.

The first sounds of battle Howe heard were musket fire from the barracks, but these were rapidly followed by cannon fire and the appearance of charging British and German troops on his front. He ordered an immediate retreat, but it rapidly turned into a rout.

His untried troops hardly bothered to return fire, some throwing down their weapons before attempting to run away through the swampy terrain. Campbell reported that "It was scarcely possible to come up with them, their retreat was rapid beyond Conception."

The light infantry in the Continental rear cut off the road to Augusta, the only

significant escape route, forcing a mad scramble of retreating troops into the city itself. The Georgia soldiers on the right attempted to find a safe crossing of Musgrove Creek, but one did not exist, and many of the troops were taken prisoner.

Soldiers who did not immediately surrender were sometimes bayoneted. Huger managed to form a rear-guard to cover the escape of a number of the Continentals. Some of Howe's men managed to escape to the north before the British closed off the city, but others were forced to attempt swimming across Yamacraw Creek; an unknown number drowned in the attempt.

Sources:

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

<https://revolutionarywar.us/year-1778/battle-of-savannah/>

NEW MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER SECRETARY- TREASURER

John Hallberg Jones, who has served as Secretary-Treasurer for over 40 years, has now stepped down. The new Secretary-Treasurer will be Thomas C. Harris. This change was put into place on 26 June. We appreciate Tom bringing his lineage society expertise to this office and look forward to continued success for the Chapter.

NEW VICE PRESIDENT GENERAL OF THE NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

During the SAR National Congress, Christopher Willard Moberg was installed as Vice President General of the North Central District. Duane Galles was elected National Trustee for Minnesota. Next year's congress will be in Richmond, Virginia.

NEXT MEETING

The Minnesota SAR's annual Constitution Day Luncheon will be held at Jax Cafe on Saturday, October 19, 2019.

Minnesota author Alan Lathrop will present a history from his book, "A Surgeon with Stillwell" – about Dr. John Grindlay and combat medicine in the China-Burma-India Theater during WWII.