

M I N N E S O T A

# SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • [www.MinnesotaSAR.org](http://www.MinnesotaSAR.org) • SPRING 2015



## 2015 Annual Washington Day Luncheon

February 14, 2015 – Minneapolis, Minnesota – 34 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 Washington Day Luncheon. The total attendance was 54. Jax Café had prepared their signature Chicken Marinara served on a bed of penne pasta and green beans. A Squash Ravioli was served as the vegetarian alternative. The assemblage enjoyed a delightful apple crisp for dessert.

**INSIDE THE  
MNSAR SALUTE...**

.....

Annual George Washington  
Observance and Luncheon

.....

The American Century and the  
Renaissance of Heraldry in America

.....

Hutchinson Eagle Scout Honored

.....

MNSAR Liaison Committee

.....

New MNSAR Members

.....

American Eagle

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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





# THE AMERICAN CENTURY AND THE RENAISSANCE OF HERALDRY IN AMERICA



Secretary/Treasurer John Hallberg Jones introduced the speaker of the day, Duane Leroy Charles Mealman Galles. Galles is a Past President of Minnesota SAR and SR, past head of five national lineage societies, and an internationally recognized expert on heraldry. He brought a fascinating and scholarly address entitled, "The American Century and the Renaissance of Heraldry in America" He also had a display of the personal arms of Compatriots Jones and Swisher, as well as his own.

George Washington was very proud of his heraldry – indeed he had his coat of arms emblazoned on his horse-drawn carriage. Throughout his life Washington also had the family's heraldic crest applied to such diverse personal belongings as silverware, wax seals,

walking sticks, and interiors of buildings including Mount Vernon, where the coat of arms was featured in the middle of the wooden fireplace mantel in the front parlor. The coat of arms was even featured on the livery uniforms of Washington's servants, a common practice amongst wealthy planters prior to the Revolution. At one point Washington asked the Marquis de Lafayette to purchase a French-made silver tea set with the Washington coat of arms.

Galles explained that there was a great interest in heraldry during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and that it fell in disfavor around the time of Andrew Jackson's presidency.

In the 1890s heraldry enjoyed a resurgence coinciding with the United States becoming

a world power. During 1893 the United States overthrew the Queen of Hawaii. The ultimate goal of the revolutionaries was the annexation of the islands to the United States, which was finally accomplished in 1898. During the Spanish American War the United States was granted temporary American control of Cuba, and ceded indefinite colonial authority over Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippine islands from Spain. In 1903 the Province of Panama separated from Columbia. During 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt helped broker the Treaty of Portsmouth which formally ended the 1904-05 Russo-Japanese War. Roosevelt won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. In a show of strength, President Roosevelt had the United States Navy battle fleet complete a fifteen-month circumnavigation of the globe. In 1917 the United States joined World War I by declaring war against Germany. The Washington Naval Treaty, also known as the Five-Power Treaty, was a treaty among the major nations that had won World War I, which by the terms of the treaty agreed to prevent an arms race by limiting naval construction.

At the time these events were taking place heraldry was becoming popular again. In 1898 University clubs were commissioning coat of arms as was the Army at West Point and

the Navy at Annapolis. Other colleges followed: Harvard, Yale, the College of Rhode Island and many others. On the ecclesiastical front the Catholic Church, in 1905, regulated the composition of the coat of arms through the Heraldry Commission. On the military front, President Woodrow Wilson, in 1919, directed the creation of the Heraldic Program Office under the War Department General Staff. Its purpose was to take responsibility for the coordination and approval of coats of arms and other insignia for Army organizations. By the end of World War II, its role expanded to include the other military services. In 1957 a law directed the Secretary of the Army to furnish heraldic services to all branches of the federal government.



**Nettie Emma Mealman Heraldic Crest.**



## HUTCHINSON EAGLE SCOUT HONORED



Wyatt S. Hahn of the Northern Star Council Boy Scouts of America is the Minnesota winner of the SAR's Eagle Scout Scholarship and Awards Program. Wyatt, seen here receiving his certificate and medal from the Eagle Scout Scholarship and Awards Chairman, John Sassaman and his assistant, Stuart Markham, was honored at the annual Washington Day Luncheon held at Jax Cafe. His father and mother were also in attendance. Wyatt read his patriotic essay about the Battle of Point Pleasant which is presented in this newsletter.

Wyatt'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 an \$8,000 scholarship. \$4,000 and \$2,000 runner-up scholarships were also chosen.

This year's national winner was an Eagle Scout from Missouri. The first and second runners-up represented the Iowa and Indiana Societies of the SAR.

### The Battle of Point Pleasant, by Wyatt S. Hahn – 2014 MNSAR Eagle Scout Contest Winner

Whether you are a historian or just a history buff, you could argue that The Battle of Point Pleasant was the start of the Revolutionary War.

The Battle of Point Pleasant was fought on October 10, 1774, between Virginia militia and the Shawnee and Mingo Indian tribes. The battle was fought along the Ohio River near what is now Point Pleasant, Virginia. The Indians were led by Chief Cornstalk of the Shawnee and Colonel Andrew Lewis who commanded the Virginia militia. Chief Cornstalk was hoping to halt the militias advance into the Ohio Valley.

The 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwit, which had been negotiated between Lord Dunmore, the Royal Governor of Virginia, and the Iroquois Indians, stated that the Indians would surrender their land south of the Ohio Valley. Chief Cornstalk and the

Shawnee tribes had not been involved in the treaty negotiations and therefore were not willing to give up their land. Sir William Johnson, who led the British Indian Department, isolated the Shawnee tribe from other tribes, therefore, when the war began, the Shawnee warriors had few allies to help fight Colonel Lewis and Dunmore's militia.

Colonel Andrew Lewis had approximately 1,000 men under his command. They were part of a two-pronged invasion of the Ohio Valley. Lewis was planning on meeting with Lord Dunmore's 1,000 men, who were heading west from Fort Pitt (Fort Dunmore), to enforce the treaty of Fort Stanwit. The two armies were planning to meet at the mouth of the Hocking River and together attack the Indian settlements.

Chief Cornstalk had men monitoring both armies from

the time of their departure. In order to prevent the armies from joining ranks, Cornstalk ordered his 900 warriors to attack Colonel Lewis' army before they awoke on the morning of Oct. 10. However, two militia, James Robinson, and Valentine Sevier, had left camp early to hunt. These two men ran into Shawnee forces and returned back to camp to report their findings. Upon hearing of this, Colonel Lewis ordered his brother, Charles Lewis, and William Flemming, to each take one column of 150 men and to engage the Shawnee. Musket fire smoke, along with fog, made it difficult to see, causing the battle to be mostly hand-to-hand fighting.

Another flanking movement above the battlefield, led by Lieutenant Isaac Shelby, who became the first governor of Kentucky, was mistaken by Chief Cornstalk as the arrival

of Lord Dunmore's men. The Shawnee retreated late in the afternoon with Governor Dunmore at Camp Charlotte. The treaty was formalized at Pittsburgh in 1775.

There is a long-standing belief that The Battle of Point Pleasant was the first battle of the Revolutionary War. Many historians disagree, but the battle had its own merits. Most importantly, it pacified the Ohio Valley for more than two years. Without the defeat of the Ohio tribes, the Revolutionary War would have been fought on two-fronts during its infancy. Without a doubt, a two-front war might have spelled defeat to the young independence movement.

Whether you believe The Battle of Point Pleasant was the start of the Revolutionary War or not, it was the most important and only battle ever fought in present West Virginia.



## MNSAR LIAISON COMMITTEE

Craig W. Whiting, Chairman

A new committee has been established by the Minnesota Society for the purpose of establishing communications with the Minnesota DAR and the C.A.R. Our new MNSAR Liaison Committee has established contacts with these organizations and will be providing them with information on the MNSAR and the various projects and awards we are involved in. In addition, the committee is seeking from these organizations ways we may mutually participate or assist. Already the committee has sent one SAR representative to the Minnesota C.A.R. annual meeting and has received from the DAR an interest in inviting our Color Guard to participate in some of their activities. Current members of the committee are Stuart Markham – Eagle Scout Liaison, Aaron Printup – CAR Liaison, Paul Theisen – Color Guard Liaison, and Craig Whiting – DAR Liaison and Chairman. Volunteers are welcome. The committee reports to the MNSAR President, John Sassaman.

### Adopt a Flag Program

Adopt A Flag is a program arising from the work of the new Liaison Committee. This program has been designed to assist the Minnesota Chapters of the Children of the American Revolution by providing flags and flag poles from the era of the Revolution. Members of the C.A.R. are allowed to “adopt” a particular flag, learn the history of that flag, care for it and carry it in C.A.R. events. Each C.A.R. member will be given the opportunity to make a presentation to the C.A.R. to tell the story of that flag. Perhaps such presentations may be made to the SAR and DAR as well. The flags will be the property of the C.A.R. and as members leave the C.A.R. they would present the flag to a remaining member.

The flags and poles are to be purchased by the MNSAR from contributions by SAR members. These are our sponsors and already we have two who have stepped up to the plate to buy flags for the program. To help with this effort please contact our C.A.R. Liaison Aaron Printup at [ahprintup@aol.com](mailto:ahprintup@aol.com)

If there is a particular flag you wish to sponsor, you are welcome to choose it. If you wish to include with the flag a note stating the flag is in honor of your patriot ancestor, you are welcome to do so.

Flags cost from \$35 upwards and a pole from \$19 upwards.

Members of the C.A.R. often become members of the SAR or DAR.

## NEW MNSAR MEMBERS



*MNSAR President and Color Guard member, John Sassaman, poses with the McNamara family, Thomas and Charles McNamara are new Junior members of the MNSAR. Charles is President of the Minnesota Society C.A.R., Thomas is President of the Fort Snelling Society, C.A.R. and his mother, Mary, is the Senior President of the Fort Snelling Society.*

MNSAR Secretary-Treasurer Jones presented new members with a certificate of membership and rosette: Charles Teske McNamara (President of the Minnesota Society C.A.R.) and Thomas Teske McNamara (President of the Fort Snelling Society C.A.R.). Their parents, Mary Teske McNamara and Charles McNamara, and their Grandmother, Mary Teske also attended the Washington Day Luncheon. These young men are the third generation in their family to be active in C.A.R. Also present was Bruce Mueller, a Minnesota SAR member residing in South Dakota, who is the Senior President of the Minnesota Society C.A.R.

A Supplemental Application certificate was presented to John Bradford Snell. He had persisted for several years in getting the documentation for this line.

### NEW MEMBERS:

Name	Patriot
James Walton Mitchell .....	Garret Hanson
Charles Teske McNamara.....	Antionne Barras
Thomas Teske McNamara .....	Antionne Barras

### SUPPLEMENTAL PATRIOT APPROVED:

John Bradford Snell .....	James Smith
---------------------------	-------------

## Next Meeting

The Constitution Day Luncheon will be held at Jax Cafe on October 3, 2015.

A great program is planned to explain DNA testing in common language.

# AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Wednesday October 8, 1777

## AMERICANS TRIUMPHANT AT BEMIS HEIGHTS

Stillwater, New York – Following the September 19th Battle of Freeman's Farm, General John Burgoyne had given up hope of expecting any help from Sir William Howe. He knew that General Gates was receiving reinforcements daily and soon might have as many as twelve thousand well-entrenched and well-supplied men opposing his own six thousand with less than a month's supply of food and almost no fodder for the horses, cut off from Canada and hearing no word from New York. In the meantime the British commander decided to fortify his position. Finally, on October sixth, Burgoyne decided to see if there was some way around the Americans. He ordered a reconnaissance in force for the next day: he himself would lead it. He simply had to get close enough to the Americans to see how powerful their defenses were, as if there were some doubt in his mind that he was hopelessly outnumbered. As his troop reconnoitered, they could also forage. If still no help came from Clinton by October 11, then they would retreat to Canada.

At ten o'clock the crisp autumn morning of October 7, 1777, Burgoyne rode out at the head of fifteen hundred slow-marching regulars and six hundred Canadian Loyalists. Behind them came artillery and empty wagons. The men had been fortified the night before by a double ration of beef and rum. They moved some two-thirds of a mile southwest of their entrenchments. Burgoyne ordered a halt on a long rise in a field of sere cornstalks. While

his soldiers formed a thousand-yard red line, servants and women camp followers went to work harvesting corn for the horses, heaving it into wagons. Burgoyne then ordered the column to re-form and move to higher ground ahead of him. By then word of his movement had been received at Gate's headquarters. Wilkinson rode out to Daniel Morgan on the left, carrying back the Old Wagoner's request to attack the British. At this request, Gates is said to have exclaimed once again: "Order on Morgan to begin the game." So freed, Morgan deployed his three hundred marksmen to work around the enemy right. As they did, General Poor's brigade moved toward Burgoyne's left.

At half-past two both formations were in position, taking losses from shells lobbed into them by enemy howitzers, but standing firm. Between them was a hill occupied by Major Dyce Acland's Grenadiers, firing high with musket and artillery. Then the grenadiers came yelling downhill in a bayonet charge. Poor's Yankees stood rock still until the redcoats were within range, then opened up in a shattering volley that struck them to the ground. Turning, the Grenadiers fled, abandoning their cannon and their commander, shot through both legs. A boy wandered onto the battlefield prepared to shoot the commander dead until Wilkinson rode up to intervene.

On the left Morgan's riflemen were engaged with Fraser's Canadian Loyalists, who had strayed from the main body. Passing through and



around them, these demons in fringed buckskin and coonskin caps struck savagely at the light infantry under young Lord Balcarres. As they turned to face the backwoodsmen, Dearborn's light infantry appeared on their left to join Morgan in a crossfire that forced the British to break and run. The brave Balcarres rode among his men trying to rally them, but to no avail. Now Balcarres saw that soon all would be lost and sent his aide Sir Francis Clerke forward to order a general withdrawal from the cornfield into the fortifications. But one of Morgan's sharpshooters shot Clerke from his horse, and he fell to the ground.

Back at Gates's headquarters two miles to the rear, Benedict Arnold fumed and fretted outside his tent, listening in agony to the battle that he was forbidden to join, anxiously watching the curling black smoke toward which he was enjoined not to ride. On October first Gates had relieved Arnold of his command. Insubordination or no he must take part in the kill he

had worked for so long on Lake Champlain, on the Kennebec, at Quebec, and in Valcour Bay. He leaped aboard his big black charger Warren, riding around the encampment "betraying great agitation and wrath." He saw Gates outside his tent nonchalantly receiving messages, saw Gates look up and see him—and then see through him—and that tore his restraint like a piece of paper. Shouting, "Victory or death!" He plunged his spurs into Warren's sides, hauling back on the reins to clear a sally port—and went galloping toward Morgan and Dearborn, his favorite fighters and their beloved men. Behind him Gates called for Major John Armstong to order Arnold back. But for some mysterious reason, though mounted on an extremely fast horse, Armstrong did not overtake Arnold.

Following a wagon trail winding through tall trees, Arnold began rounding up stragglers, drawing his sword and pointing it toward the enemy. At the edge of a clearing he found some of Learned's men drink-

ing at a brook and washing the black powder stains from their faces. “Come on, brave boys, come on!” he shouted, leaping the stream to lead them up a hill toward the Hessians. But as the Germans opened fire, Arnold turned in the saddle to find himself alone. Riding back he reformed the Americans and led them uphill again, and this time it was the Hessians who fled—sprinting through the cornfield and hurdling the bodies strewn throughout it. Wilkinson, who appeared just then, described the cornfield: “In a square space of ten or fifteen yards lay eighteen grenadiers in the agonies of death and three officers propped up against the stumps of trees, mortally wounded, bleeding and almost senseless.”

Arnold next rode toward Morgan, directing his men opposite Fraser. The Loyalists were fighting savagely while Fraser rode up and down on a big, steel-gray mare, shouting at his men, forming them in a new line. Arnold pointed to him and yelled to Morgan: “That man on the gray horse is a host in himself, and must be disposed of!” The Old Wagoner nodded, and called for Tim Murphy, a legendary marksman and veteran Indian fighter. “That gallant officer is General Fraser,” he said, pointing to him. “I admire him, but it is necessary that he should die—do your duty!” Murphy climbed a tree and lifted his double-barreled rifle.

His first shot creased the crupper of Fraser’s horse. The second parted his horse’s mane, and Fraser’s aide urged him to take cover. But the brave Highlander shook his head. “My duty forbids me to fly from danger,” he said, just before Murphy’s third shot tore into his stomach, mortally wounding him. An aide took the reins and led him off the battlefield.

Now Burgoyne, with bullet holes in his collar and coat, led a retreat through a sally port into his encampment, telling Lieutenant Anbury: “Sir, you must defend this post to the very last man.” Anbury’s reply was drowned out by the blasting of British cannon firing at an American column approaching the British right. Obviously the jubilant rebels planned to attack the British position. Remnants of Fraser’s light infantry also hurried through the sally port, taking position with about two hundred Hessians manning Breymann’s redoubt in front of the main British fort.

Now Benedict Arnold galloped over the battlefield like a mad wraith, so exhilarated that at one point his waving sword accidentally stuck a rifleman on the head, but did him no harm. Coming upon one formation of troops, he shouted: “What regiment is this?”

“Colonel Latimer’s sir.”

“Ah, my old Norwich and New London friends. God bless you! I am glad to see you. Now come on, boys! If the day

is long enough, we’ll have them all in hell before night!”

Spurring his black charger again, he rode out of the forest and into Freeman’s Meadow, finding a narrow path through the enemy’s abatis outside the British forward trenches that had been left there for British patrols. Galloping through it, he led his cheering men toward Breymann’s redoubt. Racing its length, he passed like an avenging angel through the shot and shell flying forth from both armies, his own head and shoulders visible to the men of both sides, but not to the men following him. Coming to Breymann’s, he yelled for his men to follow him around the position and into its rear through a sally port. They followed, many falling under the fire poured down upon them from the Hessians on the walls. Inside Colonel Breymann slashed wildly with his sword at his panicking soldiers, before falling to the ground dying, believed to have been shot by his own men. Now German musket balls pierced Warren’s side, and the stricken horse fell kicking and screaming, throwing Arnold clear. Arnold jumped erect with drawn sword, just as a wounded Hessian rolled over and fired at him. Arnold went down. His men lunged at the German with their bayonets. “Don’t hurt him!” Arnold yelled. “He’s a fine fellow. He only did his duty.”

Morgan, Dearborn and

other officers rushed toward Arnold, but he waved them away, shouting encouragement to his men firing American rifles and captured British cannon to beat back the last fierce enemy counterattack. And that was the last gasp of the Battle of Bemis Heights.

Benedict Arnold’s triumphant troops made a litter out of ridgepoles and tent cloth to carry their idolized leader gently back to the American camp. Here as he lay gasping in agony, Major Armstrong at last overtook him and ordered him to return to this quarters lest he do something rash. A gasp—something akin to a laugh—broke from Arnold’s twisted lips. Dearborn asked, “Where are you hit?”

“In the same leg,” [wounded at Quebec] Arnold whispered hoarsely. “I wish it had been my heart.”

Burgoyne’s gamble had cost him another five hundred men, half of them captured. The American loss was significantly lower.

Sources:

*Benedict Arnold, Patriot and Traitor*  
by Willard Sterne Randall,  
Barnes and Noble Books, 1990

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

*Revolutionary War Almanac*  
by John C. Fredriksen,  
Facts on File, Inc. An imprint of  
Infobase Publishing, 2006