

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 2016



## 2016 ANNUAL WASHINGTON DAY LUNCHEON

February 13, 2016 – Minneapolis, Minnesota – 36 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 59. Jax Café had prepared their signature Pistachio Encrusted Chicken for the group, with a Squash Ravioli as the vegetarian alternative, and a delightful Macadamia Nut White Chocolate Mousse dessert.

Bruce Mueller, Senior State President of the MNCAR attended. He announced the upcoming MNCAR Meeting on March 5, to which all SAR members and friends are invited. The recent newsletter from MNCAR was at each place. LTC Frances Stachour, Past Regent of the MNDAR, who also attended, conveyed greetings.

**INSIDE THE  
MNSAR SALUTE...**

Annual George Washington  
Observance and Luncheon

Boston – Cradle of the Revolution

Roger Young and  
ALLY People Solutions

Minnesota C.A.R. to Host  
Great Plains Regional Conference

American Eagle

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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





## BOSTON – CRADLE OF THE REVOLUTION



COL Ronald E. McRoberts, Past President of Minnesota SAR and SR, brought a fascinating and scholarly address entitled, “*Boston – Cradle of the Revolution*”. He not only went through the history of that time and place, but added the military movements throughout the years preceding the Declaration of Independence.

McRoberts emphasized that the consequences of each event lead to tensions that precipitated the next event. The trajectory of which took on a life of its own.

It started with the French and Indian War, or as it was known in the rest of the world, the Seven Year’s War. Great Britain prevailed but as a consequence was very nearly bankrupt. The crown felt that her colonies should share in the expense so they

enacted the Stamp Act of 1765. The colonists didn’t object to paying their taxes, they objected to the manner of the tax – they preferred to know how much to collect and be allowed to decide how to raise it.

As a result the Sons of Liberty was organized and the Massachusetts Assembly called a joint meeting with the other colonies. There should be no taxation without representation!

Parliament responded by enacting the Townshend Duties of 1767. There was such resistance to these measures which resulted in riots that Great Britain sent troops to Boston. On March 5, 1770 a confrontation arose in front of the Custom’s House. The British troops fired on the crowd killing five colonists and wounding six others. Although most of the British

soldiers were acquitted of wrong doing American propaganda capitalized on the Boston Massacre.

In 1773 parliament passed the Tea Act, an attempt to rescue the cash-strapped British East India Company, forced into near-bankruptcy by colonial boycotts. This resulted in the Boston Tea Party where the Sons of Liberty, disguised as Indians, boarded the tea ships and dumped 342 chests of tea, valued at £10,000 into Boston Harbor.

In 1774 Parliament responded with the Cohersive Acts, known as the Intolerable Acts in America, which ended local self governance and closed Boston commerce. America responded to these measures by setting up their own government. The other colonies rallied around Massachusetts. The Americans raised militias and stockpiled arms and supplies.

On April 18, 1775 British General Thomas Gage ordered his elite flank-company force to seize the colonial arms cache at Concord, Massachusetts. Patriots Paul Revere and William Dawes were sent to Lexington to alert Samuel Adams and John Hancock. The following morning a gathering of 70 minutemen confronted the advance forces of the

British light infantry at Lexington. Shots rang out killing eight and wounding nine. The British marched to Concord where there was more bloodshed. As the British retreated toward Boston their march was continually intercepted by throngs of angry militiamen who raked the column with musket fire from behind walls, trees and all available cover. Of 1,800 British engaged they lost 73 killed and 201 wounded. The American militia assembled in Cambridge, Mass. and enforced a siege to the British confined in Boston.

McRoberts went on to describe the Battle of Bunker Hill, Washington taking command, and the incredible feat of Henry Knox transporting 44 cannon and 16 mortars from Fort Ticonderoga to American forces in Cambridge. Knox accomplished his remarkable trek of 300 miles in the dead of winter. McRoberts also described the fortification of Dorchester Heights using Knox’s artillery which resulted in Britain evacuating Boston on March 17, 1776.

He reiterated how the consequences of each event led to the other. At the beginning all the colonists wanted was to be treated like British citizens. Instead events lead to the formation of a new nation.



## ROGER YOUNG AND ALLY PEOPLE SOLUTIONS

MNSAR member Roger Young started at ALLY People Solutions in 1972, when he was twenty-one years old. He is very outgoing, and people are attracted to his dynamic personality. Roger had a career in the restaurant business working sixteen years at two local restaurants – Chi Chi’s and Taco Bell.

His supervisors often described Roger as a great ambassador because he knew every customer, visited with each, and made them feel important.

Roger is now retired and participates in retirement focused activities at ALLY. In particular he enjoys coming to the branch and hanging out with friends. ALLY participation is a strong family value in the Young family. His mother, Irene, became a Board member shortly after Roger joined ALLY and remained on the Board until her passing. Roger’s brother, Allen, took up the torch and was a Board member for several years.

Relationships matter at ALLY and it has been very fortunate to have been a major part of Roger’s life for 43 years and counting!

ALLY People Solutions, a St. Paul organization assists and advocates for people with developmental challenges. It began with a



dedicated group of parents who sought an alternative to institutional care for their children in the 1950s and has grown into a comprehensive program that partners with businesses, who hire participants for jobs in a competitive workplace.

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## Minnesota C.A.R. to Host Great Plains Regional Meeting

The forty-fifth annual meeting of the Great Plains Region, N.S.C.A.R. will be held June 20-21, 2016, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Suites Minneapolis Airport/Mall of America, in Bloomington, Minnesota.

The meeting will feature presentations on C.A.R. programs for 2016-2017 by members of the National Board, activities for members and adults, and fun for everyone who attends.

Make plans now to attend. Registration information will be posted in May on the National website [www.NSCAR.org](http://www.NSCAR.org).

Help and donations are needed to make the regional meeting a success. Please contact Bruce Mueller, Senior State President, [MinnesotaCAR@gmail.com](mailto:MinnesotaCAR@gmail.com).

### NEXT MEETING

The MNSAR’s annual Constitution Day Luncheon will be held at Jax Cafe on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016. Watch for detailed information in the mail.

*...continued from page 4*

Barry’s success won the admiration of friend and foe. Sir William Howe is said to have offered Captain Barry twenty thousand guineas and the command of a British frigate if he would desert the service of the United Colonies. The alleged answer of Barry is stated to have been: “Not the value and command of the whole British fleet can seduce me from the cause of my country.”

Captain John Barry is widely credited as “The Father of the American Navy” and was appointed a captain in the Continental Navy on December 7, 1775. He was the first captain placed in command of a US warship commissioned for service under the Continental flag.

*Sources:*

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

*The Story of Commodore John Barry “Father of the American Navy” by Martin I.J. Griffin Historian of the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Philadelphia, 1908*

<http://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/history/item/4774-john-barry-true-father-of-the-american-navy>

<https://broeder10.wordpress.com/2012/06/28/captain-nicholas-biddle-and-the-randolph/>

# AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Friday March 13, 1778



## UNEVEN BATTLES OF THE FLEDGING CONTINENTAL NAVY

Barbados, West Indies – On March 7, 1778, Captain Nicholas Biddle, commanding the 32-gun frigate *Randolph*, encountered the much larger 64-gun HMS *Yarmouth* under Captain Nicholas Vincent.

Biddle was one of the first Captains in the Continental Navy and by February, 1777 had command of the *Randolph*. Biddle led a squadron of his own ship plus four smaller ships whose mission was to either destroy British ships on blockade duty and failing that raid British commerce.

The little squadron headed for the Caribbean where it was hoped they would find unsupported merchant vessels that they could take as prizes. Biddle sighted a sail and ordered the squadron to give chase, his own ship and largest of the squadron in the lead.

The *General Moultrie*, also a frigate but of only 20 guns and part of the squadron recognized too late that the sail sighted was the *Yarmouth*, a British Ship-of-the-Line mounting 64 guns!

Fighting it out with a Ship-of-the-Line was not part of Biddle's directive nor was it all that wise even if you included the *General Moultrie's* 20 guns. The weight of broadside from a Ship-of-the-Line compared to a frigate was simply too much.

Never-the-less Biddle opened fire on the *Yarmouth* and the Brit returned fire immediately. Although Biddle had trained his crew well and they were getting off 4-5 broadsides for every one of the *Yarmouth's*, the *Yarmouth's* meant more!

The *General Moultrie* also got off three broadsides at the *Yarmouth* but ceased to fire because the commanding officer thought he was hitting the *Randolph*. This says something about how close the *Randolph* and the *Yarmouth* were to one another.

Biddle was wounded and while being tended to by the surgeon the *Randolph* exploded, literally disintegrating, showering the *Yarmouth* with debris and killing all but four of the 305 on board – including Biddle.

The *General Moultrie* presumably headed for the hills and the rest of the American squadron would have not have come close enough to risk a broadside from *Yarmouth*. Therefore, no American ship was around to look for survivors and it was left to the *Yarmouth* who returned to the area four days later to find four Americans who had been blown clear by the explosion.

Valley Forge, Pennsylvania – On March 7, 1778, Captain John Barry launched a daring mission – Barry with

twenty-seven men in five rowboats, made a midnight dash past the British guards on Philadelphia's riverfront. Rowing carefully with muffled oarlocks, at early day-break Barry's meager forces silently slid alongside two heavily-laden British transports. The British sailors were caught completely unawares – surprise is an admirable weapon. Barry led his men in swarming over the gunwales; at the sight of the determined Americans, the sailors fled the decks.

Barry had captured the *Mermaid* and the *Kitty*, transports from Rhode Island, laden with supplies for the British. He stripped the vessels and sent the supplies northward through New Jersey and burned the vessels. The *Alert*, a British schooner with eight four-pounders, twelve four-pound howitzers and thirty-three men properly equipped for an armed vessel, came in sight while Barry was engaged in the encounter with the supply vessels. Barry sent a flag to Captain Morse, of the *Alert*, demanding a surrender, promising that the officers would be allowed their private baggage, whereupon the *Alert* was "delivered up" to Captain Barry, who granted parole to the Captain to go to Philadelphia for a fortnight. "The schooner is a most excellent vessel for our purpose," wrote Cap-

tain Barry to General Washington two days later, when sending him a "cheese and a jar of pickled oysters" from the store of wines and luxuries intended for General Howe's table. He also sent a plan of New York "which may be of service," which he had taken from the *Alert*.

The "hero of the Delaware," with more bravery than weaponry, had captured three valuable ships, many supplies, one major, two captains, three lieutenants, ten soldiers and more than 100 armed sailors!

Writing Barry after receiving the supplies, General Washington stated, "I congratulate you on the success which has crowned your gallantry. My wish is that a suitable recompense may always attend your bravery."

Alexander Hamilton, writing to Governor Clinton, of New York, from Washington's Headquarters at Valley Forge, on March 12, 1778, said: "We have nothing new in camp save that Captain Barry has destroyed, with a few gunboats, two large ships belonging to the enemy, laden with forage from Rhode Island. He also took an armed schooner which he has since been obliged to run ashore after a gallant defense. 'Tis said he has saved her cannon and stores – among the ordnance four brass howitzers."

*continued inside...*