

MINNESOTA SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • www.MinnesotaSAR.org • AUTUMN 2020



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CROONQUIST

2020 has been a year of adversity and does not appear to be stopping anytime soon. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, we have had to cancel our color guard activities including the Independence Day Celebration held in conjunction with the Children of the American Revolution at Lake Minnetonka and our annual Constitution Day Luncheon in September. Nationally, The Annual SAR Congress in Virginia was cancelled as well as the Fall Leadership conference normally held in Louisville.

We remain hopeful that the Annual meeting will take place in early January at Jax Cafe and following that our Washington Day Luncheon in February. We plan on hosting two DAR members who will talk about the bicentennial festivities of Fort Snelling.

Until we meet again, stay healthy.

Yours faithfully,

Dennis Croonquist, MNSAR President

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American Eagle

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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NEW MNSAR WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

WWW.MINNESOTASAR.ORG | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MINNESOTASAR



The Minnesota State Society SAR website has been updated for easier navigation. The dynamic new website now re-sizes on notebooks and smart phones.

State Society on Facebook

The Minnesota State Society can now publish events and share information through Facebook. There is a Minnesota SAR page for sharing information with the public. There is also a private discussion group restricted to members of our State Society. Rick Smith (eaglechair@airpost.net or 651-437-5772) is an administrator for both the page and the group.

MNSAR Facebook Page

The Facebook page, combined with the state web site, inform the general public about the State Society and about SAR in general. Facebook users find the page by searching for its name “Minnesota Society, Sons of the American Revolution,” or by visiting facebook.com/minnesotasar. The page uses the Color Guard’s custom rosette as its profile photo.

State Society officials

may post notices and announce public events on the page. The Color Guard can post photos of recent events. These are visible to any Facebook user who visits the page. Facebook users may “Like” or “Follow” the page to add page posts and events to their news feed.

MNSAR Private Discussion Group

State Society members who use Facebook are invited to join the “MNSAR Members” group. This is exclusively for State Society members. Since it is a private group, its contents and discussions are only visible to group members. The group is an appropriate place to plan activities and discuss society business.

Locate the group by searching for “MNSAR Members.” To join, click on the “+ Join Group” button. Facebook will prompt you for your national and state membership numbers. Any current member of the group may approve a “join” request.

We intend to post a membership list, including contact information, to the group. It will be

available to all group members from the group’s “Files” list. In most cases Facebook will prevent nonmembers from looking at such files, since they belong to a private group. However, if a compatriot wishes to withhold some or all of their information from Facebook, contact Rick Smith and he will omit that information from the shared list.

2020 SAR FALL LEADERSHIP MEETING REPORT

BY CHRIS MOBERG

The Fall Leadership Board of Trustees Zoom Meeting was held on Saturday, September 26, 2020 from 1 PM to 4:50 PM ET. Some of the items of business include the following:

1. Approved a motion that requires all General Officers to complete the NSSAR Youth Protection Training (YPT) program within three months.
2. Approved a motion that requires all National Education committee and CAR-SAR Liaison committee members to complete the NSSAR YPT program within three months.
3. Approved a motion that requires all chairs and vice-chairs of national committees to complete the NSSAR YPT program within three months.
4. Approved a motion to extend the Conflict of Interest policy to include the members of all Bylaw 19 standing committees.
5. Approved the 2021 budget. The application fee increase that was planned for the 2020 Congress is expected to be approved at the 2021 Congress in Renton, Washington.
6. Approved a policy to clarify the purpose of the SAR Founders Circle. Membership in the Founders Circle is open to individuals who make a bequest of \$10,000 or more to the SAR Foundation. Upon the death of the individual, the donation is placed in the Alexander Hamilton endowment fund.
7. Approved the Patriot Sons and Daughters program. This program is an initiative by the 250th Anniversary Committee to hold grave marking ceremonies for the children and grandchildren of Revolutionary War patriots.

8. Voted on first, second, and third place winners for the SAR logo contest.

The intent of the first three motions is to have national officers lead by example in completing the YPT program. Once the program is completed, the certification is good for three years. The course is available at www.sarcourses.org and takes about half an hour to complete.

The next Board of Trustees Zoom meeting will be held on Saturday, December 5th. The meeting will take up the issue of amending the NSSAR constitution to allow for congresses to be held in a format other than strictly in-person meetings. While the current plan is to hold an in-person congress in Renton, Washington on July 10 - 15, 2021, it is prudent to have additional options should the pandemic continue to be a problem. To change the constitution, an in-person special congress of at least 25 state society delegates would be required.

2020 MNSAR MEDALS AND AWARDS PROGRAMS

Minnesota Society ROTC Awards

The ROTC/JROTC Medal program in 2020 once again provided medals and certificates to nine JROTC units and all seven ROTC units in Minnesota. Due to the coronavirus pandemic presentations were not made although medals and certificates were forwarded to the recipients by the ROTC/JROTC units.

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 2020 our Chapter provided the medal and certificate to 19 area high schools and one Naval Sea Cadets Squadron. Medals and certificates were also awarded to eleven St. Paul area high school students this year. The Naval Sea Cadets had their award ceremony in January before COVID-19 and a couple of schools held virtual presentations.

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

Flag Certificates

Normally five Saint Paul area businesses are presented with flag certificates by the Saint Paul Chapter SAR for showing patriotism and love of country by flying the flag. Flag certificates were not presented this year because of the pandemic.

MNSAR MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS:

Member	Patriot
Howard Kent Bell	Thomas Kent
Brandon Ross Caywood.....	John Stewart
Jacob Lawrence Caywood	John Stewart
Mitchell Douglas Caywood	John Stewart
Philip Regan Christiansen.....	Elisha Alden
Brian James Davis.....	George Grant
Erik Emmet Davis.....	George Grant
Lance L. Garrick	Reuben Wellman
Gregory David Kupp.....	Jacob Kupp
Elwin Lee Loomis.....	George Loomis
Mike Paulus	James Yarborough
John Stewart Snell.....	Simeon Samson/Sampson
Michael John Stainbrook	Asa Wells
Garrick Rhett Van Buren.....	Frederick Garrick

SUPPLEMENTAL:

Member	Patriot
Robert Wayne Allison	Thomas Bodkin/Botkin
Arthur Louis Finnell	Silas Kirby, Jr.
Arthur Louis Finnell	Silas Kirby, Sr.
Robert Oliver Neese.....	William Crumley
Robert Oliver Neese.....	John Sharp, Sr.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Saturday, January 9, 2021: Annual Business Meeting – for MNSAR members only.

Saturday, February 13, 2021: Washington Day Luncheon – SAR & SR – open to all.

Program: The MNSSDAR will provide an overview of the Bicentennial and the little known history of Fort Snelling.

Booth meetings will be held at Jax Cafe unless your are otherwise notified.

AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Friday August 20, 1779



AMERICANS OVERWHELM FORT AT PAULUS HOOK

New Bridge, New Jersey – Inspired by the success at Stoney Point Major Henry Lee led a night attack of the British stronghold at Paulus Hook, New Jersey, garrisoned by 250 British forces commanded by Major William Sutherland. Yesterday's attack at Paulus Hook, Lee's command suffered 2 killed, 3 wounded, and 7 captured while the British incurred over 30 killed and wounded as well as 159 captured.

In the spring of 1776, Brigadier General William Alexander, Lord Stirling directed that a series of fortifications be built along the west bank of the Hudson River opposite New York City. Among those that were constructed was a fort on Paulus Hook. That summer, the garrison at Paulus Hook engaged British warships as they arrived to commence General Sir William Howe's campaign against New York City. After General George Washington's Continental Army suffered a defeat at the Battle of Long Island in August and Howe captured the city in September, American forces withdrew from Paulus Hook. A short time later, British troops landed to occupy the post.

Situated to control access to northern New Jersey, Paulus Hook sat on a spit of land with water on two sides. On the landward side, it was protected by a series of salt marshes that flooded at high tide and could only be crossed via a single causeway. Upon the hook it-

self, the British built a series of redoubts and earthworks which were centered on an oval case-mate containing six guns and a powder magazine. By 1779, the garrison at Paulus Hook consisted of around 400 men led by Colonel Abraham Van Buskirk. Additional support for the post's defense could be summoned from New York through the use of a variety of signals.

In July 1779, Washington directed Brigadier General Anthony Wayne to mount a raid against the British garrison at Stony Point. Attacking on the night of July 16, Wayne's men achieved a stunning success and captured the post. Taking inspiration from this operation, Major Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee approached Washington about making a similar effort against Paulus Hook. Though initially reluctant due to the post's proximity to New York City, the American commander elected to authorize the attack. Lee's plan called for his force to overwhelm Paulus Hook's garrison at night and then destroy the fortifications before withdrawing at dawn. To accomplish the mission, he assembled a force of 400 men consisting of 300 from the 16th Virginia under Major John Clark, two companies from Maryland overseen by Captain Levin Handy, and a troop of dismounted dragoons drawn from Captain Allen McLean's rangers.

Departing from New Bridge on the evening of August 18,

Lee moved south with the goal of attacking around midnight. As the strike force covered the fourteen miles to Paulus Hook, problems ensued as a local guide attached to Handy's command became lost in the woods delaying the column for three hours. Additionally, a portion of the Virginians found themselves separated from Lee. In a stroke of luck, the Americans avoided a column of 130 men led by Van Buskirk that had sortied from the fortifications. Reaching Paulus Hook after 3:00 AM, Lee ordered Lieutenant Guy Rudolph to reconnoiter for a path across the salt marshes. Once one was located, he divided his command into two columns for the assault.

Moving through the marshes and a canal undetected, the Americans found that their powder and ammunition had become wet. Ordering his troops to fix bayonets, Lee directed one column to break through the abatis and storm Paulus Hook's outer entrenchments. Surging forward, his men gained a brief advantage as the sentries initially believed the approaching men were Van Buskirk's troops returning. Swarming into the fortress, the Americans overwhelmed the garrison and forced Major William Sutherland, commanding in the colonel's absence, to retreat with a small force of Hessians to a small redoubt. Having secured the remainder of Paulus Hook, Lee began to assess the situation as dawn was rapidly approaching.

Lacking forces to storm the redoubt, Lee planned to burn the fortress' barracks. He quickly abandoned this plan when it was found that they were filled with sick men, women, and children. Having captured 159 enemy soldiers and achieved a victory, Lee elected to begin withdrawing before British reinforcements arrived from New York. The plan for this phase of the operation called for his troops to move to Douw's Ferry where they would cross the Hackensack River to safety. Arriving at the ferry, Lee was alarmed to find that required boats were absent. Lacking other options, the men began marching north over a route similar to that used earlier in the night.

Reaching Three Pigeons Tavern, Lee reconnected with 50 of the Virginians who had become separated during the movement south. Possessing dry powder, they were quickly deployed as flankers to protect the column. Pressing on, Lee soon connected with 200 reinforcements sent south by Stirling. These men aided in repelling an assault by Van Buskirk a short time later. Though pursued by Sutherland and reinforcements from New York, Lee and his force safely arrived back at New Bridge around 1:00 PM.

Sources:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/battle-of-paulus-hook-2360200>