

MINNESOTA SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • www.MinnesotaSAR.org • AUTUMN 2022



MNSAR CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON

Minneapolis, MN – On October 15, 2022, 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. Jax Café prepared wild rice stuffed chicken and brussel sprouts for the group, with a vegetarian alternative of roasted ravioli for those desiring such. The guests enjoyed raspberry mousse for dessert.

President Christopher Moberg introduced all of the MNSAR officers present as well as each attendee. To close the meeting the assemblage acknowledged the service of their patriot ancestor.

American Eagle

New MNSAR Members

MNSAR Northland Area

Patriot Chest Presentations

Americanism Score Sheet

Organizing and Finding Ancestors

INSIDE THE MNSAR SALUTE...

If so, please inform the MNSAR at
the above address – Thank you.
Has your address changed?

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Sons of the American Revolution
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ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Organizing and Finding Ancestor Data

MNSAR Genealogist and Registrar, John Sassaman was the keynote speaker. He is almost always the first person that a prospective new member meets, and he puts in long hours assisting them with their applications. In fact, John creates proof document for each applicant that are genealogical works of art, each one worthy of publication.

John's careful work is the reason that the Minnesota Society has one of the lowest rates of pended new or supplemental applications nationally. But John is also very prolific. He has been the first line sponsor for over 200 applications, which is enough sponsorships to receive a Gold Liberty Medal at the National SAR Congress in Orlando, Florida next summer.

Sassaman projected sample proof documents

and provided many tips, challenges, and anecdotes that he has encountered helping prospective members with their applications.

MNSAR Bylaws

The MNSAR Board of Managers, and then the MNSAR members voted for and passed an amendment to the MNSAR Bylaws to include the Corresponding Secretary as part of the Executive Committee:

Section 20. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of Managers composed of the President, the Vice President, the Corresponding Secretary, the Recording Secretary, the Treasurer, the Registrar, and the Chancellor.

Americanism Score Sheet

The Americanism Score Sheet is a spreadsheet that measures how our society is performing in the areas of media

publicity, presentations, DAR/C.A.R. support, youth programs, public service programs, historic celebrations, grave marking, Color Guard activities, giving medals and awards, national society service, membership, and meeting attendance.

2021 was the first year that the Minnesota Americanism Score Sheet was submitted, and as a result, Minnesota won both the Allene Wilson Groves award and streamer and the President General's state society activities competition award.

During 2022 the MNSAR recorded 24 separate youth education presentations given by members, including:

- Maranatha Christian Academy students in Brooklyn Park,
- Civil Air Patrol Cadets and Schaeffer Academy students in Rochester,
- Children at the 4th of July Pancake Breakfast in Wayzata,
- Kids at the Recreational Council Cookout in Knife River,

- American Heritage Girls in Anoka.

Also, MNSAR members have provided presentations during our meetings, the color guard has participated in activities outside of our organization and many MNSAR members have participated in state, district or national SAR meetings.

250th Anniversary Events of the Revolutionary War in 2023

- March 12th will be the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the Virginia Committee of Correspondence to coordinate opposition to British Parliament.
- December 16th – Boston Tea Party

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PATRIOT CHEST PRESENTATIONS BY THE LIVING HISTORY TEAM

By Rich Howey

Now that Covid has somewhat relaxed its grip, the MNSAR living history team is doing Patriot Chest presentations. During the peak of the epidemic, schools and youth organizations were not seeking many guest presentations. But now that the epidemic has become more business-as-usual, we are getting more opportunities to do living history presentations.

Last spring, we did presentations at a few schools and even a Civil Air Patrol meeting. This fall, we have already done a presentation for an American Heritage Girls troop and have a school and a Trail Life troop on our schedule. The presentations have been about evenly divided between Rochester and the Twin Cities metro area. But we are willing to do them anywhere in the state.

At our most recent presentation, for an American Heritage Girl's troop in Anoka, we tried a new

approach. Normally, we just do a single presentation to the entire group. But, because the girls had a wide age range, it would be difficult to do that without boring the older girls or going over the heads of the younger girls. So what we did instead was break the girls up into three age groups and set up three presentation stations. I talked about uniforms and field music at my station and demonstrated many of the camp duty calls on my fife. Chris Moberg presented the flags and many of the artifacts in the Patriot Chest at his station. Phil Christensen talked about weapons including rifles, muskets, bayonets, swords, etc. at his station. One of the three age groups started at each of the three stations. After 30 minutes, they rotated to the next station. That way, we could talk to each group at an age-appropriate level. It worked quite well. We literally finished off the presentation with a

bang by loading and firing blank charges in a flintlock Brown Bess musket and a hunting rifle.

These living history presentations are probably the most publicly visible activities of the SAR. They really help us fulfill the mission of educating the public about the American Revolution. We would like to do even more of them. So if you know of any schools, youth organizations or even adult organizations that might be interested, please let me know at rh518ospm@gmail.com and we will see if we can get something scheduled.

In addition, those of us who do this find it to be an extremely rewarding activity. There is nothing quite like the look in a child's eyes when they understand something new that they were confused about before. If you think you might enjoy this, please consider joining us. As a member of the SAR, and especially if you reg-



ularly attend the society's meetings, you probably know more about the Revolution than you realize. You might find it very rewarding to share your expertise with others. Yes, it can be expensive to equip yourself with clothing and other gear, especially if you want to be truly authentic, but you can start small and add on as you go. We would particularly like to have additional soldiers in different types of uniforms and people in civilian clothing who could talk about different occupations of the time such as farmers, ministers, printers, hunters, trappers, blacksmiths, merchants, sailors, etc. Please let us know if you are interested and we will help you get started.

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NEW MNSAR MEMBERS

Member certificates and rosettes were presented to new members during the annual Constitution Day luncheon. Some of the new members who were present are pictured on the front of this newsletter. Below is a list of new members followed by their patriot ancestor:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Patriot Ancestor</u>
Todd Corbo	Archibald McDaniel
David Cody Craft	Achilles/Archelous Crafts/Craft
Gordon Archa Craft	Achilles/Archelous Crafts/Craft
John C. Cunningham	Enos Barnes Jr.
Earl J. Foster Jr.	John Points
Abraham John Franke	Paul Teeter
Benjamin Randall Franke	Paul Teeter
Dean Winston Franke II	Paul Teeter
John Allen Franke	Paul Teeter
Lawrence John Franke	Paul Teeter
Matthew Dean Franke	Paul Teeter
Micah Shaw Franke	Paul Teeter
Theodore Stanley Frank	Paul Teeter
Scott Fredell	Ephraim Kidder Jr.
William Armstrong Patterson Graham	William Graham
Timothy Fred Grover	Ebenezer Barnum
Dan Earl Pince Hall	ebediah Hubbard
Steven John Hanson	Daniel Holbrook II
David Lewis Hudgens	William Lewis
Conor Henry Larsen	Moses Little
Steven Ryan Nelson	John Conrad Sykes/Sykes/Six
Adam Edward Pagnano	Wentworth Dresser
Brian David Pagnano	Wentworth Dresser
Eric Steven Pagnano	Wentworth Dresser
Clarence James Parsons Jr.	Lemuel Taylor
John Joseph Regenold	Henry Kettner
Andrew Dale Schumacher	Wing Spooner
Michael T. Schurch D.C.	Ulrich Shirk
Earl Miller (Doc) Smith	John Cessna

ATTENTION MINNESOTA NORTHLAND AREA SAR MEMBERS!

On October 19th, several Duluth area compatriots met for the second time to discuss re-activating the former Duluth Chapter of the Minnesota SAR. A decision was reached to pursue re-activation. Any SAR members who are interested in being a part of this northern area chapter would be welcome.

If you are interested in joining with your Duluth area compatriots in reviving a Duluth chapter, please contact Craig Whiting at craig.whiting@usa.net

FIVE FACTS ABOUT THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

- The U.S. Constitution was signed by thirty-nine brave men on September 17, 1787 – 235 years ago.
- The original document was four pages long.
- The Constitution includes seven articles.
- There are 27 Amendments to the Constitution.
- The most recent one was originally proposed in 1789 and not ratified until 1992.

Next Meeting

The Minnesota SAR's annual meeting will be held at Jax Cafe on Saturday, January 14, 2023. This is a members-only event. Watch for detailed information to be mailed to you.

AMERICAN EAGLE



News of Yesterday Reported Today

Wednesday June 21, 1780

BIG FIGHT AT RAMSOUR'S MILL

Charlotte, North Carolina – Yesterday a stiff fight ensued between poorly trained American militia and a Loyalist force of comparable size at Ramsour's Mill, North Carolina. To call the fight there a battle would lend it a formality it did not possess. It was a clash of two armed mobs. But it was deadly nonetheless, and this encounter at which professional soldiers might sneer may have a significant impact on the British campaign in the Carolinas.

General Charles Cornwallis specifically instructed the North Carolina Tories to remain quiet until he was in a position to support them with the British army in his planned invasion of the province in early September. One of them was Lieutenant Colonel John Moore of the North Carolina Loyalist Volunteers, whose home was about six miles west of Ramsour's Mill. Moore had served with the British in South Carolina, and had left Cornwallis's column while it marched to Camden to deliver His Lordship's message to the Tories.

At the same time, the North Carolina Rebel militia leader, Brigadier General Griffith Rutherford, was in the Charlotte area with 700 men keeping an eye on British forces under Lord Raw-

don to the south of him in the Waxhaws. Learning of Tory gatherings to the west, Rutherford ordered Colonel Francis Lock to raise men and disperse the Tories. Lock had sent riders to various parts with a message for militiamen to gather at a place called Mountain Creek, sixteen miles from Ramsour's Mill, closer than Rutherford's men. By Monday the 19th Rebel bands totaling 270 men under Major Joseph McDowell and other militia leaders had converged on Colonel Lock's camp. Lock now had 400 fighters.

As Rutherford had reacted to Moore's return and activities, Moore now reacted to Rutherford and Lock. He directed Tories to join him on 13 June at Ramsour's Mill, and 200 men arrived that day. By 20 June 1,300 Tories had assembled, although one-quarter were without arms. They held a low ridge. The slope in front of them was largely open, providing a clear field of fire for over 200 yards.

The men were largely unorganized, undisciplined, and inexperienced. When the fighting started, they did largely as they pleased, too. The same description fits the Tory horde on top of the ridge. Rebel and Tory alike were mostly small farmers. Few if any had ever been in



battle. Neither side was in uniform and were dressed in the common clothes of the time and the place. To prevent casualties from their own troops the Tories had green twigs on their hats, and the Rebels put pieces of white paper on theirs.

The Rebels marched immediately, 400 against about 1,000 armed Tories. To guard against surprise, the Tories had placed twelve men as pickets along a road on the flat ground. Colonel Lock's force lined up with the mounted men in front and the footmen two deep behind them. Without order or system, they began to walk toward the enemy. The Tory picket guards, placed to prevent surprise, were apparently surprised. They fired and fled. The mounted Rebels pursued, across the flat and up the slope to within thirty paces of the

Tory line. That line had not been completely formed, and some panic ensued. When the Tories saw that the Rebel horsemen were few in number they recovered and delivered a fire so hot that the Rebel horse had to retire behind their foot soldiers, several of whom chose to believe that the issue had been decided, joined the mounted men in the rear, and never saw action. Some horsemen kept the malingerers company, but the others rallied and returned to the fight. The brunt of the action, however, fell on the Rebel foot, which kept advancing, although strung out in small, patchy groups for over 400 yards. There were no hard-eyed sergeants to keep these men in line, and in truth it was well that they advanced as they did, because there were riflemen on the Tory side capable of blasting big

gaps in solid lines of advancing troops, and it is most unlikely that the militia would have withstood such heavy losses in one fell swoop.

The Tories, emboldened by the flight of the mounted men, came some distance down the slope, but like the Rebels without order. As groups of Rebels arrived, filled the gaps, and formed more or less a straight line, firing by both sides became heavy. The Tories returned to their position on the ridge and were able to pour a heavy fire on the exposed Rebels on the slope, who fell back toward the bottom, pursued halfway by the Tories.

Small parties of Rebels, anxious to continue the fight but seeking better cover from the galling fire, worked their way to opposite ends of the slope and began turning both Tory flanks. This is an age-old tactic, and they probably acted instinctively. That they turned the Tory flanks simultaneously was certainly fortuitous. The Rebel center at the same time held firm. The Tories began retreating up the ridge to their left and ran into advancing Rebels. Now the fighting came to close quarters and became ugly. It was hand to hand. Rebels and Tories, Americans all, began bashing in skulls with clubbed muskets. Screams, shouts, and curses rent the air. The Rebels began to get the better of it. Some Tories discarded their green twigs and mingled with the Rebels to escape death or capture. Others started to flee across the ridge and down its back toward Ramsour's Mill. The Rebels pursued until they possessed the entire ridge. Incredibly, Lock's

small band, minus the faint of heart whose number we do not know, had driven almost 1,000 armed Tories off the high ground.

But it did not appear to be over. Beyond the mill and across the creek, a large body of Tories had assembled. The Rebels assumed that a counterattack was in the offing and frantically tried to organize a defense of the newly taken ground. They could only collect eighty-six men. Men were dragooned wherever they could be found, but the total came to only 110. An estimated 170 dead and wounded Rebels were strewn about the slope and ridge. Where had the rest gone? Captain Graham reported that some were tending their wounded friends and others "scattered during the action," which implies early departures. But given their almost complete lack of training and discipline, their inexperience, and the particularly savage nature of the fighting, the overall performance of Colonel Lock's command was valiant.

The situation was regarded as perilous, and Major Wilson and Captain William Alexander were dispatched to ride hard to General Rutherford and urge him to come quickly. The two met Rutherford's column about seven miles from Ramsour's Mill. Rutherford immediately ordered Major William Richardson Davie and his sixty-five dragoons, by his account, to start "at full gallop" and the infantry to "hasten on with all possible speed." Two miles down the road Davie met men coming from the battle who told him that the Tories had retreated,

but he pressed on. As it turned out he and his men were not needed, although Rutherford did send Davie and his dragoons "in pursuit of the fugitives with orders to clear that part of the country of all straggling parties."

Lieutenant Colonel John Moore, who had come home from fighting with the British around Charleston, proud in his worn regiments, had led the King's Friends to disaster. After the loss of the ridge he and other Tory officers proved themselves unable to salvage the situation.

A determined assault probably would have retaken the ridge. But the Tories decided that they had been beaten and worked out a trick to allow an unmolested retreat. They sent an emissary under a flag of truce to ask for suspension of hostilities so they could bury the dead and care for the wounded. Major James Rutherford and another Rebel officer met the emissary forward of the line so he could not see how few their numbers were. Rutherford boldly rejected the request and gave the Tories ten minutes to surrender. While this was going on John Moore told his men to scatter. When the officer with the flag returned only fifty remained, and they left almost immediately. Moore, with thirty men, returned to the main British army at Camden.

There were no official returns after militia clashes. We are dependent on participants whose reports often conflict with each other. The best estimate for Ramsour's Mill is that the Tory losses equaled the Rebels', which gives us a total of 140 killed

and 200 wounded. Three hundred and forty men scattered about. That was serious fighting, and the scene on the ridge and its surrounding slopes must have made a deep impression on the survivors. Fifty-six dead alone lay on the front side of the ridge where the hottest action occurred. The slips of white paper in the hats of the Rebels had made good targets, and some excellent riflemen among the Tories had scored several head shots. Limbs and skulls had broken under clubbed muskets. A few men had been hit so hard that gunlocks were imbedded into their heads. Under a tree two brothers lay dead. But the most melancholy scenes were reserved for the evening of the mayhem and the following day, when families of the dead and wounded, Rebel and Tory, came to search, to collect corpses and broken bodies.

Sources:

The Road to Guilford Courthouse
by John Buchanan,
John Wiley & Sons Inc.,
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Revolutionary War Almanac, by John C. Fredriksen, Infobase Publishing, 2006