

# MINNESOTA SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • [www.MinnesotaSAR.org](http://www.MinnesotaSAR.org) • AUTUMN 2023



## MNSAR CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON

Duluth, MN – On September 9, 2023, 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 at the Kitchi Gammi Club in Duluth, Minnesota. The luncheon was hosted by the newly formed Northland Chapter. The Kitchi Gammi Club served stuffed chicken with mashed potatoes, gravy and a vegetable medly. A vegetarian alternative was served for those that desired such.

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## ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON

MNSAR Compatriot and Minnesota Sons of the Revolution President and lifelong Duluth resident, Michael Stainbrook, offered greetings, which included a brief history of the Kitchi Gammi Club. After this, members of the Greysolon Daughters of Liberty Chapter of the DAR were introduced, including Vice Regent Linda Grover, Kathleen Cargill, and Gloria Bouschor. Compatriot McRoberts recognized past presidents, state and chapter officers, and other SAR members present.

### Awards

Compatriot McRoberts presented certificates and medals. Tim Grover, Chris Moberg, and Thomas Moore received supplemental certificates, and it was noted that John Sassaman had completed his 43rd supplemental. New members North Leonardsmith, Apollo Ives, and Alexander Ives received their new member certificates. Rick Smith received a State Medal of

Distinguished Service for his many contributions as treasurer, especially in simplifying the new membership application process.

Compatriot Smith then made several award presentations. As Chairman of the Eagle Scout Committee, he presented a Silver Roger Sherman oak leaf cluster and certificate to Craig Whiting, who qualified for the award by serving at least four years on a state committee. As the St. Paul Chapter President, Compatriot Smith awarded his wife a Lydia Darragh award for driving the Eagle Scout Competition trophy from Hastings to Jax Café during the February 18th meeting, as well as other support that she has provided her husband in his many SAR roles.

Compatriot McRoberts then presented the final award. Chris Moberg received a Patriot Medal for serving five years as VPG of the North Central District, as well as serving as past president of the MN

SAR.

### John Hallberg Jones

State Chaplain Michael Swisher read the obituary of our long time member, and past Secretary-Treasurer for over fifty years, John Hallberg Jones. He then gave a eulogy and led a memorial service.

Afterwards, Compatriot Swisher read a resolution to rename the Minnesota SAR Endowment Trust Fund. The members then voted on and approved that the MNSAR Endowment Trust Fund will now be titled the John Hallberg Jones Endowment Trust Fund.

### SAR National Congress

National Trustee Rick Smith gave a summary of the National Congress in Orlando, Florida. The motion to increase national dues by \$15 was passed, an office space remodel was approved using existing funds, and the International Society was given the right to be represented

by a Trustee. Compatriot Smith recounted his impressions as a first time Congress attendee, being struck particularly by the ritual of General George Washington's seal ring being used as part of the ceremony to install the new President General, as well as the pomp and circumstance surrounding the induction of a new class of Minutemen.

### Keynote Address

Compatriot Smith gave an interesting and well-received presentation entitled "Anti-Monarchists and Other Troublemakers," recounting his experiences and discoveries as he researched his own family history. Smith stated that he is a die-hard computer geek. He projected a computer slide-show and entertained his audience with stories he learned researching his ancestors.



## GENEALOGICAL JOURNEY

By John Sassaman

I am John Sassaman, the Minnesota Society SAR Genealogist and Registrar. Recently I hit a personal milestone of having 44 recognized SAR ancestors, and an additional 17 DAR ancestors registered through my mother's sister.

Of those applications, 25 were in the Pennsylvania Militia. To dive in further, four ancestors were Captains, one was an Ensign, one was a Lieutenant, one was a Second Lieutenant, two were Sergeants, one was a Court Martial man, and the rest served as Privates. One of my ancestors played the fife during the war. One of my Captains was wounded at the Battle of Long Island, being shot in the ear. His balance wasn't the same after the injury, so he served as a Teamster after that battle. Several ancestors were at the Battle of Brandywine, Princeton, etc. One Sergeant drove cattle from Reading to Valley Forge during the bitter cold of the Valley Forge Winter, supplying the troops with needed supplies. One of my ancestors served as a guard of German prisoners at the Reading, PA. camp. Captain Filbert was adept at training troops, and was encouraged to continue drilling units.

Personally, I am what is considered 100 percent Pennsylvania Dutch (Deutsch), as all of my ancestors were German speaking from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, or France (Huguenots). Not only that, my ancestors were "Pennsylvania German Pioneers", as noted in the Strassburger & Hinke volumes of the same name. My ancestors were Protestants, were encouraged to leave their country of origin, and arrived here before the Revolutionary War. A common phrase where I came from was "Dumb Dutchman", a derogatory phrase regarding our thick accents and our stubbornness. Many historians treated my ancestors contributions as negligible at best.

This further drove me on to discover more about what my ancestors did to help us gain our freedom from an oppressive Foreign Government. For instance, the village where I grew up had the first foundry in Pennsylvania, and it needed to be guarded during the Revolutionary War. So, service protecting munitions production was an important service. That same village was later an important stop in the Underground Railroad. The village name is

Pine Forge, named after the forge and the fact that there are many pine trees in the area. The importance of the area derived from the ample supply of Iron Ore and Coal veins close by. Plus, agriculture was very strong there.

I started this journey after learning that a few of my relatives attempted to join the SAR or DAR but their documentation was not in order, so their applications were rejected. Most of my genealogical work was from before Ancestry.com was a thing. Much of my work, therefore, involved communicating with the several Historical Societies, and county seats of government (registrars, etc.) where my ancestors lived in order to prove my ancestry and my ancestors service.

What are some of the basic skills I learned?

- Prove your ancestors residence and the residence of many of those in their fighting units.
- Spelling in the 1700's depended on the level of education of the person recording information.
- If you can't find your ancestors records, first see if you can find relatives whose spelling is more consistent.

Case in point. My Rhoads

ancestor was spelled about ten different ways, but his brother in law was spelled Heist, a name with meaning in German and in English. By researching Heist, I was able to find my Rhoads/Roth/Roht/Road, etc. ancestors records. I found that Berks County, PA records were more consistently spelled than records from Lancaster or York, PA. The further West a person lived, in general, the less consistent was the spelling. Wills are located in the county where the person died.

This is important. One of my ancestors resided in Berks County, PA, but died in Chester County as when he got old, he moved in with a son. I learned this information by joining a local Historical community on Facebook. A member happened to know where my ancestor was buried, and I was able to associate his will with the man. Previously, I hadn't even considered looking at Chester County wills.

Start with Census Records. They provide good hints, such as what state the parents were born and relationship of the members of the household.

My final advice is, don't give up, the journey is very interesting.

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## NEW MNSAR MEMBERS



Member certificates and rosettes were presented to new members during the annual Constitution Day luncheon. Below is a list of all the 2023 new members followed by their patriot ancestor:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Patriot Ancestor</b>
<b>Robert Clifford Housman</b>	Moses Gilman
<b>Ralph Beaumont Leonardsmith</b>	William Hincher/Hencher/Henshaw Jr.
<b>North Atwood Leonardsmith</b>	William Hincher/Hencher/Henshaw Jr.
<b>Jason Nicholas Albers</b>	Thomas Treat
<b>Timothy Fred Grover</b>	Jedidiah Hubbell
<b>Charles Ryken Johnson</b>	Henry Banta
<b>Bruce Philip Gleason</b>	David Boyd
<b>Darrin D. Riley</b>	James Woodmansee
<b>Cooper A. Corbo</b>	Archibald McDaniel
<b>Samuel Ellis Shaffer</b>	Daniel Poffenberger
<b>Benjamin James Shaffer</b>	Daniel Poffenberger
<b>Will Buechele</b>	James Benedict
<b>Robert E. Adams</b>	Abijah Adams
<b>Thomas Owen Moore</b>	Samuel Stanbury
<b>David Thompson</b>	Abijah Witherell
<b>Guy Russell Kight</b>	William White
<b>Alexander Eugene Ives</b>	Joseph Atherton
<b>Apollo George Ives</b>	Joseph Atherton

## 2024 DUES NOTICE

The State Society is not increasing dues until next year. At the Constitution Day meeting the Board of Managers voted to defer the increase; the recent price increases only affect application fees. However, the National Society dues increase is still in place and applies to 2024 renewals.

We encourage as many members as possible to pay their dues electronically. Members save the Society mailing costs by paying the dues promptly. Minnesota dues remain the same as in previous years, however, National dues increase will be in effect.

We will send out invoices – both electronic and paper – itemizing the amounts due. We send the electronic invoices first to all members with listed email addresses. Members who don't respond to the electronic invoices will receive paper invoices by mail.

Members Emeritus and Life Members will not be billed for dues, but we encourage them to donate to the State Society Endowment.

### Next Meeting

The Minnesota SAR's annual meeting will be held at Jax Cafe on Saturday, January 20, 2024. This is a members-only event. Watch for detailed information to be mailed to you.

# AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today



Tuesday, September 26, 1780

## BETRAYAL!

West Point, New York — Yesterday, General Washington learned the unthinkable — that General Benedict Arnold has betrayed him and the American cause. If Arnold's betrayal had not been thwarted, Washington and West Point might well have been taken by the British.

General George Washington had given Benedict Arnold his fullest trust and had placed him in command of West Point in New York. Washington alerted Arnold that he would pass through the Hudson Valley on the way to Hartford. On Monday morning Washington and his party made for West Point, pausing along the way to inspect the fortifications. When Lafayette reminded him that Mrs. Arnold was waiting breakfast for him in a mansion on the opposite side of the Hudson from the fort.

George Washington was somewhat dismayed not to find the Arnolds awaiting him at the breakfast table, until Colonel Richard Varick, Arnold's secretary, explained that the commandant had hastened across the river to prepare a reception for him. This explanation mollified the commander in chief, who began conversing with his staff. Upstairs, Peggy Arnold heard his clear, calm voice and she almost burst into a hysterical scream. No! No, no, no! She lay quivering on her bed with her face sunk in pillows, until she heard Washington

departing for West Point. Then she erupted: screaming, shrieking, raving, dashing about her bedroom with disheveled hair clad only in her scanty, revealing nightgown. A horrified Colonel Varick came rushing to her side. He sought to soothe her, but "She seized me by the hand with this distressing address and a wild look: 'Colonel Varick, have you ordered my child to be killed?'"

Peggy next begged to see General Washington. There was, a hot iron on her head that could be removed only by His Excellency. But Washington was across the river, surprised not to receive a welcoming artillery salute, and even more startled not to find any reception prepared or Benedict Arnold there in person.

But then Alexander Hamilton handed him the packet delivered by the Danbury courier, and when he broke it open and read the contents, he knew why. When Lafayette appeared, Washington cried out in a voice of anguish: "Arnold has betrayed us! ... Whom can we trust now?" His voice still breaking, he ordered Hamilton and McHenry to gallop to King's Ferry in the hope of



capturing the traitor. Then he returned to Arnold's headquarters, where he was taken to see Arnold's hysterical wife. Such was the nobility of this man that in the midst of the most despairing moment of his life, he tried to comfort the raving woman. But when Varick told her that Washington was there, come to take the hot iron from her head, she exclaimed: "No! That is not General Washington. That is the man who is going to assist Colonel Varick in killing my child!" Unable to console her, obviously upset, Washington left the bedroom and Peggy Arnold sank back upon her pillow.

That night a silent and, reserved Washington dined with his staff. "Never was there a more melancholy dinner," Lafayette wrote. Later a courier from Hamilton arrived bearing three letters sent ashore from

the British man-of-war, *Vulture*. One was from Robinson, defending Andre against the suspicion of spying, and the others were from Arnold to his wife and to Washington. Ever the gentleman, Washington sent Peggy's letter unopened upstairs, together with a note explaining that though it was his duty to capture her husband, he was happy to tell her that Arnold was safe. His own letter from the officer whom he had loved and trusted spoke hypocritically "of love to my country." Then he begged Washington's protection for his wife "as good and as innocent as an angel and incapable of doing wrong."

Washington now began to act. He had known for three hours of Arnold's treachery, but had done nothing except to send Hamilton and McHenry

on their vain errand. He had delayed probably because until he received these letters, he could not have known for sure if Arnold had actually fled, or was merely absent on some unexplained errand; or of how many accomplices Arnold had besides Andre. But now, in his eagerness to make West Point defensible against a possible attack by Clinton, he confirmed Hamilton's earlier suggestion to Nathanael Greene that he put the Continental Army on marching alert, relieved Colonel Livingston of command of the outposts just on the chance that he might have been a party to the plot, summoned all troops from the surrounding countryside to West Point and notified Arnold's second in command to prepare for an attack.

Two days earlier, while Washington was returning from Hartford, Major Andre, traveling under the pseudonym of John Anderson, slipped behind American lines to collect intelligence from Arnold, who handed him papers outlining West Point's troop strength and artillery, along with the minutes of a September 6 war council sent to him by Washington. Andre tucked these tightly folded papers into his boot for safekeeping. Arnold also gave him a letter designed to smooth his way past sentries, which read: "Permit Mr. John Anderson to pass the guards to the White Plains,

or below, if he choose. He being on public business by my direction." While returning to the British man-of-war *Vulture*, anchored in the Hudson, Andre was detained in Westchester County on September 23 by three American militiamen, who stripped him and unearthed the explosive documents. In vain, he tried to bribe his way to freedom. That Andre was elegantly dressed in mufti, outfitted in a purple coat trimmed with gold lace and a beaver hat, made him very suspicious. Unaware of the significance of the documents found on him, Lieutenant Colonel John Jameson conveyed them to Washington with the following note: "Enclosed you'll receive a parcel of papers taken from a certain John Anderson, who has a pass signed by General Arnold." Andre had asked to retain the papers, Jameson continued, but "I thought it more proper your Excellency should see them."

Early yesterday morning, Arnold sat down to breakfast where he met Lieutenant Allen and his soldier. Allen silently handed him Colonel Jameson's message. Arnold opened it, glancing vaguely around the room as though wondering what he had come there for. He began to read, his blue eyes beginning to glitter, the color draining from his swarthy face.

*"I have sent Lieutenant Allen with a certain John Anderson taken going into New*

*York. He had a passport signed in your name. He had a parcel of papers taken from his stockings, which I think of a very dangerous tendency. The papers I have sent to General Washington."*

Arnold glanced quickly at the second message, which explained that Mr. Anderson had been returned to South Salem. Thrown "into great confusion," according to Allen, Arnold told him to wait for an answer and limped rapidly into the yard to order his horse saddled, sending a servant down to the river to tell his barge crew to stand by. Then, still in "unusual agitation, he limped through the breakfast room and quickly upstairs to his bedroom.

Peggy was sitting up in bed, hungrily awaiting the arrival of some young officers with fresh peaches. In a desperate whisper, Arnold informed his beloved that all was lost. Peggy cried aloud in anguish. There came a low knock on the door and a deferential voice declaring, "His Excellency is nigh at hand." Peggy fell back on her pillow in a faint, and Arnold rushed out the door, almost bowling over the informant, clattering rapidly downstairs on his high heel and making for the stable yard at a limping run. Springing into the saddle from his good leg, he rode around the barn and almost cannoned into a quartet of Washington's dragoons. At once, his hand dropped to his horse pistol –

but the horsemen reined aside deferentially, and Arnold galloped recklessly down a steep incline to the river bank and his barge. There, inexplicably, though he was leaving everything he possessed behind him and could expect pursuit momentarily, Arnold, just as he had done when he left Canada wasted valuable seconds unbuckling his saddle and tossing it onto the barge. Then he went limping aboard and ordered his boatmen to shove off, hoist their sails and make for Stony Point. Arriving there, he told them to change course and head for *Vulture*, where he had "particular business of His Excellency." Confused, they hesitated – and in his alarm, Arnold, quickly persuaded them to obey by promising them two gallons of rum.

Although Washington sent Hamilton and McHenry in hot pursuit, Arnold had long since hopped onto the *Vulture* and found asylum with his British masters.

#### Sources:

*George Washington's War* by Robert Leckie, HarperPerennial, 1993

*Washington, A Life* by Ron Chernow, Penguin Press, 2010