

MINNESOTA SAR Salute



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MNSAR CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON

Minneapolis, MN – On September 14, 2024, 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 held at Jax Cafe. President Hagen welcomed all and discussed Color Guard hand salutes. The Color Guard posted the colors. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the SAR pledge, and the recitation of the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution, State Chaplain Michael Swisher gave the invocation and requested a moment of silence in honor of the late MNSAR Chancellor Brendan Tupa. The assemblage enjoyed luncheon, each ordering their own entree from Jax Cafe's menu.

DOUBLE ISSUE
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The Suffolk Resolves and its
author Joseph Warren
American Eagle
C.A.R. Presentation
Remembering Robert Tupa
Constitution Day Luncheon
Highlights

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Minnesota Society
Sons of the American Revolution
718 Vermillion St.
Hastings, MN 55033-2133





KEYNOTE SPEAKER ROBERT (RICK) VANCE SPEAKS ABOUT THE SUFFOLK RESOLVES, JOSEPH WARREN, AND COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE MEMBER, MARINER JOHN GLOVER

Ever since the end of the French and Indian War in 1763, the Parliament and King George III in Britain had been trying to repay their debts for the war from taxes collected in America and more importantly to deny the self-governance of the colonies, exerting their absolute power to tax and regulate the people of the colonies in America.

The history of Massachusetts from 1765 through 1774 was a series of British taxes and liberty deprivations, each resisted by the colonists, resulting in brief respites only to see another round of tyranny spring up again. Each worse than the last.

The Committees of Correspondence began in Boston in 1772 led by Samuel Adams and other leaders in Boston including Dr. Joseph Warren and John Glover with resistance to British tyranny and progressive reduction of human rights that essentially was becoming a military dictatorship. Committees of Correspondence spread amongst the 13 colonies when the Virginia House of Burgesses formed its own committee of correspondence in March 1773.

From March to June of

1774 the British created five acts to derive payment for the lost revenue as a result of the Boston Tea Party and to exact iron fisted control over the colonists in the region. The British called these acts the Coercive Acts or The Restraining Acts and the Suffolk County people called them the Intolerable Acts.

The Port Bill and the blockade of the harbor was massively significant because it restricted trade and the carriage of goods.

Lord North expected the Port Bill would cause Boston to fall alone but it had the opposite effect that spurred New York, Providence, and Philadelphia to propose the Continental Congress. In three weeks after the bill was introduced on May 10th “the Continent as ‘one great Commonwealth’ made the cause of Boston its own.”

Vance went on to talk about the Suffolk Resolves, authored by Dr. Joseph Warren at the direction of Samuel Adams and signed September 9, 1774, in great detail:

- First it says they honor the king but then outlines the violations.
- They will not obey legal authorities.
- Absolves those who defy

authority and demands debt be settled out of court.

- Instructs those who have collected monies not to pay.
- Sets a deadline and consequences for holding a position.
- References fortifications of Boston Neck and seizing of gunpowder as well as the implications of the Quebec Act to create a militia to practice every week – the start of the famous Minutemen.
- The Past is behind us. Now going forward we will fight back.
- If you apprehend our people we will apprehend yours.
- Boycott British goods.
- Appoints a committee to source boycotted goods.
- Calls for a provincial congress.
- Will comply with the Continental Congress.
- Implores all to not start trouble.
- Sets up a system of communication in case of hostilities.
- Will deliver this message to Gov. Thomas Gage.

Upon the reading of the Suffolk Resolves by Joseph Warren on September 9th Paul Revere set out on the

11th and delivered them five days later to the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia on September 16th.

The Resolves were recognized by statesman Edmund Burke as a major development in colonial animosity leading to adoption of the United States Declaration of Independence.

From the time of the 1765 Stamp Act Dr. Joseph Warren contributed to the press, and when Samuel Adams left Boston in 1774 to attend the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Warren became the leading figure in Massachusetts political movements. He wrote the Suffolk Resolves of Sept. 9, 1774, and after the provincial Congress met in October, he became chairman of the Committee of Safety.

Vance also talked about Marblehead, Massachusetts, mariner-turned-Revolutionary War hero John Glover.

He and his men were instrumental for Washington’s army crossing the Delaware river at the Battle of Trenton.

Glover and his Marblehead seamen had proven their maritime skills on two previous occasions and were now known as the 14th Continentals: the Battles of Long Island and Pell’s Point.



C.A.R. MAKES PRESENTATION AT CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON



During the Constitution Day Luncheon President Hagen introduced the Senior President of the Minnesota Society of the Children of the American Revolution, Laura Roth. Senior President Laura Roth spoke about the C.A.R. and invited members to participate with them at the Fort Snelling Wreaths Across America event on December 14th. She then introduced her daughter, Emily Roth, President of the Minnesota Society C.A.R. President Emily Roth spoke about the national C.A.R. president's project to partner with the Tunnel to Towers Foundation to provide wounded first responders with mortgage free homes that are adapted to accommodate their injuries. Emily's state C.A.R. project is to support the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) "Housing for Heroes" project, which creates homes for veterans, such as the recently opened Arlington House in St. Paul. One video was shown that explained the national project while another video was shown that explained the state project.

President Hagen presented Emily Roth with a C.A.R.-SAR Bronze Medal of Appreciation. He also gave her medals to present to the two previous C.A.R. presidents: Rowan Wallin and Zachariah Vandermeuse-Siteki.

REMEMBERING COMPATRIOT BRENDAN TUPA

Brendan Robert Tupa, of Plymouth, MN, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family Thursday, May 23rd after a courageous and hard-fought battle with cancer. Brendan Robert Tupa was born April 27, 1977, at Grand Forks, North Dakota to Robert and Virginia (Kistler) Tupa. Brendan attended Holy Family School, South Junior High and Red River High School. He received a football scholarship to Jamestown College where he played football and wrestled. After receiving his Bachelor's degree from Jamestown College, Brendan attended the William Mitchell Law School in St. Paul, MN. He did an internship with Jesse Ventura in Washington, D. C. and another in Mexico City, Mexico. After receiving his Law Degree, he worked at several law firms before his last firm: Messerli and Kramer where he was a Shareholder Attorney. He was voted a top defense lawyer in Minnesota. Brendan married Cindy Hoggarth on December 6, 2004, in Aruba. They made their home in Plymouth, MN with their two daughters Elle and Reese. Brendan was a member of the Minnesota Bar Association, Defense Lawyers of Minnesota where he had recently been elected President of. He was also a member of the Presidential Families of America and the Sons of the American Revolution. Brendan was also active in Law and Politics. Brendan was "larger than life" and he loved traveling to all parts of the world. He loved time at his lake home and enjoyed all water sports especially "foiling" and was also surfing. He enjoyed snowboarding and called himself: "The Shredder". There wasn't any challenge or new experience he wouldn't try. His favorite quote was: "It's All Part of the Experience".



Brendan joined the Dakota SAR in 2000 and transferred to the MNSAR Saint Paul Chapter in 2002. As a member he completed five supplemental applications. In 2013 he took on the role of Chancellor.



CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS

MNSAR AWARDS

The Minnesota Society has received the following awards from the National Society Sons of the American Revolution:

- Genealogist and Registrar John Sassaman received a Liberty Medal certificate and an oak leaf cluster for an additional ten first line sponsorships of new member applications. As of December 31st, 2023, John Sassaman had been the first line signer on 215 applications.
- The King Eagle Scout contest participation certificate and streamer for Eagle Scout Chairman Rick Smith.
- The Franklin Flyer certificate for the largest percentage increase in Friends of the Library members for a state society of its size.
- The Minnesota Society received a Syracuse Award certificate for the most new chapters, as well as a first place President General's Activities Award certificate for the most complete implementation of SAR programs and resolutions for a state society of its size.

MNSAR President Hagen presented State level SAR awards during the recently held Constitution Day Luncheon. Compatriot

Robert Dunlop and Secretary Chris Moberg each received the Bronze Henry Knox medal for their donations to the John Hallberg Jones Minnesota SAR Endowment Trust Fund. Unfortunately, Compatriot Dunlop was not present to receive the award in person.

President Hagen also presented Living History Team leader Rich Howey with a Youth Education Medal.

UPCOMING 250TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

- October 10th is the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Point Pleasant in present day West Virginia.
- October 14th was when the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania adopted the "Declaration and Resolves" in response to the Intolerable Acts.
- October 20th was when the First Continental Congress adopted the "Articles of Association" to boycott trade with British merchants.
- October 22nd was when the First Continental Congress rejected Galloway's Plan of Union with Great Britain.
- April of 2025 will mark the

250th Anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

NSSAR CONGRESS REPORT

VPG Chris Moberg and MN SAR Trustee Rick Smith attended the National SAR Congress held from July 10th through July 16th in Lancaster, PA.

Much of the eulogy that was written by Duane Galles on the loss of John Hallberg Jones was repeated during the national memorial service, noting his long service to the Minnesota state society and to the national society, including his receipt of the Minuteman Award, the national society's highest honor.

During the congress sessions there were many greetings from local dignitaries, lineage societies, politicians, etc. The major Executive Committee actions of the past year included authorizing the museum construction, approving gold citizenship medals for dignitaries (starting with Tony Orlando), and approving an increase in fees as of September 1st. The fee increases required Congress approval. During the debate, Trustee Smith addressed the Congress and described prob-

lems that arose the last time National increased dues and suggested the avoidance of a similar level of chaos by preparing states and chapters for the increases in advance instead of sending a couple emails and delaying the updating of essential forms and documents. However, it was too late to stop the train or even adjust its course. The vote was 127 in favor to 124 against, with Trustee Smith indicating that he voted against the motion.

After some discussion about the financial difficulties reflected in the Treasurer General's report, Trustee Smith ended on a positive note. Merchandise sales were strong. Treasurer Smith concluded his report by indicating that there were only two contested elections for national general officer positions – the offices of Treasurer General and Registrar General.

Next Meeting

The Minnesota SAR's annual meeting will be held at Jax Cafe on Saturday, January 18, 2025. This is a members-only event. Watch for detailed information to be mailed to you.

AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Tuesday November 21, 1780

SUMTER WOUNDED AT BLACKSTOCK'S FARM

Uniiion, South Carolina – Hotly pursued, Gerneral Thomas Sumter and Colonel Elijah Clarke took 1,000 men to make a stand against 400 British dragoons and infantry under Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton at Blackstock's Plantation.

British Major General Chalers Cornwallis was fearful for the safety of the British post at Ninety Six, South Carolina, and sent more couriers, one after another, to hasten Colonel Tarleton's progress and keep him informed of the latest news of Sumter. To Brierly's Ferry on the Broad River Cornwallis dispatched the veteran Major Archibald McArthur and the 250-man 1st Battalion of Fraser's Highlanders (71st Foot) and eighty survivors of the 63rd Foot. Commanding the 63rd was young Lieutenant John Money, Cornwallis's aide-de-camp, whom His Lordship treated more as a son than a subordinate. Brierly's Ferry was about twenty-two miles southwest of Cornwallis's position with the main army at Winnsboro. Tarleton was ordered to join McArthur at Brierly's and take command for the pursuit of Sumter.

Fortune smiled on Sumter. Sometime in the early morning hours of 20 November a British soldier deserted from the 63rd Foot, stole a horse, rode to Sumter's camp, and revealed Tarleton's location, strength, and mission. Tarleton was trying to cut Sumter's access to the river

fords and drive him far enough south to where that tough New York Tory John Harris Cruger could sally with his garrison at Ninety Six and together with Tarleton and his regulars put a finish to the career of Brigadier General Thomas Sumter.

Sumter and his officers were faced with a difficult decision. They had upwards of 1,000 mostly seasoned Back Country militia. Tarleton had only 520 men. But they were all regulars, over 300 of them British Army regulars, and they were led by a commander who was all fighter, as feared as hated, and never defeated. Yet given Tarleton's reputation for rapid pursuit, to run was to invite being caught either strung out on the road or in the middle of a river crossing. Either could be disastrous. And even if they successfully evaded Tarleton, continual retreat would end their mission, embolden Tories, and discourage the Patriot militia. At a council of war the colonels were unanimous: find a strong defensive position, wait for Tarleton, and fight him when he arrived. It was a recommendation that suited Sumter's temperament, for like his adversary he was a born fighter. Colonel Thomas Brandon, who had followed Sumter's rival James Williams until Williams's death at King's Mountain, was on home ground and suggested that the place to fight was Captain William Blackstock's farm on the Tyger River. Leaving Captain Patrick Carr with a small detachment at the Enoree to give early warn-

ing of Tarleton's approach, Sumter rode north with the militia regiments to Blackstock's Plantation.

Sumter set up his command post on the wooded ridge to the right of the house and the road leading to the river; he kept the regiments of McCall, Bratton, and Taylor with him. The outbuildings around the house were not chinked between the logs, thus providing narrow but convenient openings for men firing from behind cover. Here Sumter placed Colonel Henry Hampton and his South Carolina riflemen. Below the ridge on which he had his command post were the regiments of Colonel Lacey and Colonel Hill. Sumter stationed Colonel Twiggs and his 100 Georgia riflemen opposite them on the left side of the road, along the stout fence in the upper part of the field in front of the house and outbuildings. Colonel Winn commanded the reserve stationed between Sumter's position and the house. They now had nothing to do but wait, and if the fight was to be on that day it had to come soon, for the shadows were beginning to lengthen.

Tarleton was pushing hard. In the late morning his scouts had found Sumter's trail leading to a ford at the Enoree, where Captain Carr waited with his detachment on the other side. Carr had with him some five Tory prisoners. The van of Tarleton's column appeared and immediately charged across the ford. Carr and his

force galloped off, leaving the prisoners behind, and before these unfortunates could identify themselves to the Legion dragoons they were cut down by slashing sabers.

About mid-afternoon it was apparent that the infantry and the artillery could not keep up, whereupon Tarleton did what we would expect: instructing the veteran Major McArthur to come on with his Highlanders and the artillery as fast as possible, Bloody Ban set his usual torrid pace with the Legion horse and the mounted infantry of the 63rd Foot. Not very far ahead of him Major William Candler of Georgia was returning from a foraging expedition and had just entered Sumter's lines when Tarleton's van came into view and was fired on by Rebel pickets. Colonel Thomas Taylor and his party, returning from his raid on the British supply depot at Summer's Mills, was not far behind Candler and came at the gallop with wagons loaded with flour and Tarleton's van at his heels. Taylor slipped into Sumter's lines with little to spare.

The sun was fading. With only one hour of light left, Tarleton was desperate not to allow Sumter to get across the Tyger. Even he, however, hesitated. He knew that he was greatly outnumbered, 270 to 1,000, with the artillery and the bulk of his infantry hours behind him. His soldier's eye for terrain must have told him that the ground also was not to his advantage. Sumter, on the other

hand, was confident. He knew that Tarleton's infantry and artillery was well behind, for a woman, Mrs. Mary Dillard, who lived on a farm six miles from Blackstock's, had seen Tarleton's advance column and had saddled a horse and galloped to Sumter's camp and told him the strength and composition of Tarleton's force.

Tarleton did not follow his usual style and charge pell mell at the Rebels on reaching Blackstock's, but he wanted to keep Sumter on his side of the river while awaiting the arrival of artillery and McArthur's Highlanders, and the manner in which he deployed invited Sumter's reaction. Tarleton formed on top of the hill that descended to the shallow stream, where the ground began to rise again to the Blackstock farmhouse and outbuildings on the opposite hill. He ordered Lieutenant John Money to dismount the eighty men of the 63rd Foot, cross to the right side of the road, and advance downhill until he reached Blackstock's field. Lieutenant Money formed his men, ordered bayonets fixed, and swept toward Colonel Twiggs's 100 Georgia riflemen stationed in Blackstock's field. Watching from his own high ground, Sumter countered by ordering Colonel William Few and Major Joseph Mcjunkin to take 400 men and go to the support of Twiggs by marching down the field, across the shallow stream, and attacking uphill against the 63rd Foot. They carried out the first part of their assignment, but they were out in the open and ahead of them disciplined British regulars with fixed bayonets were advancing steadily. About halfway down the field they halted and delivered a volley at too great a distance. Unharmed, Lieutenant Money and his eighty men swept forward with bayonets presented in a coun-

terattack that the Rebel militia would not meet. Twiggs's Georgians and the militia of Few and Mcjunkin retreated and could not be rallied until they passed Blackstock's house.

It was a sterling performance by Money and his little force. But in the euphoria of the moment Lieutenant John Money led his infantryman too far up Blackstock's field and came well within killing range of Henry Hampton's riflemen sheltered in the log outbuildings and firing through the spaces between the logs. At 200 yards Hampton's sharpshooters took the 63rd under fire. They followed the familiar Rebel tactic of aiming first at epaulets and crossbelts. Lieutenant Cope was shot dead. Lieutenant Gibson was also shot dead. Lieutenant John Money, as dear a son to Lord Cornwallis, sword in hand at the head of his charging line, was shot, knocked off of his feet, and put out of action with a very bad wound. Death rained down on the 63rd Foot. One-third of the privates fell but those stoic Englishmen would not back off and continued to contest the field.

Meanwhile, Sumter had galloped to Colonel Lacey's position on the American right and ordered Lacey to slip through the woods to Tarleton's flank and take the British Legion under fire. Tarleton and his troopers were still astride their horses on top of the hill watching the infantry fight on the opposite slope. Tarleton had made no effort to stop Money's impetuous advance. Intent on the action in front of them, neither Tarleton nor his men observed Lacey's stealthy movement through the woods. At a point fifty to seventy-five yards from the British cavalry Lacey's men opened up with buckshot. Twenty troopers were shot out of their saddles. But the situation was brought immediately

under control when Lieutenant Skinner bravely repulsed the detachment that threatened the flank by charging with the saber.

There remained, however, a worsening situation on the opposite slope. The 63rd needed help, and Tarleton gave it to them in his customary manner. The Legion bugle echoed over the little valley and the horsemen in column thundered down the hill behind Tarleton, galloped across the stream, and with sabers raised charged up the far hill. They were unable to dislodge the enemy, either from the log barn or the height upon his left. Tarleton was obliged to fall back. Lieutenant Skinner, attached to the cavalry, with a presence of mind ever useful in such emergencies, covered the retreat of the 63rd. In this manner did the whole party continue to retire, till they formed a junction with their infantry, who were advancing to sustain them, leaving Sumter in quiet possession of the field.

The best estimate of Rebel casualties is three killed and four wounded. Tarleton lost ninety-two killed and seventy-six wounded, or sixty-two percent of his command that engaged the enemy.

Of the Rebel wounded, however, one was Thomas Sumter, and it was serious. It happened after the shambles of Tarleton's cavalry charge, when the survivors of the Legion and the 63rd were stumbling back down the road, with the cries of the wounded and the shrieks of dying horses adding to the horror and confusion. Sumter, followed by his officers, rode down for a close look, probably to within fifty to eighty yards of the retreating British. A platoon of the 63rd, perhaps under the command of the Lieutenant Skinner covering the retreat, saw Sumter and his party, raised their muskets, and fired

a volley.

It is said that Sumter, seeing his danger at the last minute, twisted sideways, giving the Redcoats his right profile instead of his heart. He was hit by six buckshot. Five went into the side of his chest. The sixth hit him under his right shoulder, kept going and chipped his spine, and finally came to rest under his left shoulder. Sumter made neither a sound nor a movement to indicate that he had been shot. His sword was still gripped in his right hand. He and his surviving officers rode back to the command post on the hill. He dismounted, and still his officers were unaware that he had been wounded. Then Captain Robert McKelvey heard liquid spattering on fallen leaves, looked at Sumter and in the dim light left of the day saw blood running down the General's back and onto the ground. He exclaimed that the General had been wounded. Sumter told him to be quiet. He asked Colonel Henry Hampton, whose sharpshooters in the outbuildings had done such deadly work that day, to please take his sword from him and sheath it, as he could not move his right arm. Sumter then attempted to continue to direct the action, but he soon saw that he could not and asked Colonel Hampton to inform the senior colonel, John Twiggs of Georgia, to take command of the troops.

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