

MINNESOTA SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • www.MinnesotaSAR.org • SPRING 2025



MNSAR 136TH ANNUAL MEETING

Minneapolis, MN – The Minnesota Society Sons of the American Revolution held their annual meetings at Jax Cafe on January 18, 2025. Thirty five compatriots were in attendance.

The Society was called to order by President James Hagen who introduced all of the MNSAR officers as well as each attendee. The Color Guard posted the colors followed by the Pledge to the U.S. flag and the SAR Pledge. Chaplain Michael Scott Swisher delivered the invocation. A moment of silence was observed for compatriots Roger Kent Martin, Brendan Robert Tupa and Daniel Walter Latham who had passed away during 2024. The assemblage enjoyed luncheon, each ordering their own entree from Jax Cafe's menu.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



M I N N E S O T A

SAR Salute



MINNESOTA SOCIETY

MNSAR Membership

Corresponding Secretary Michael Schurch reported on membership. The membership count on 01 January 2024 was 229 and on 31 December 2024 230, including twelve Junior Members, six Dual Members and three Emeritus Members. Losses included two deaths, one transfer out, one resignation and 31 compatriots dropped because of non-payment of dues. Five of the dropped members have renewed their membership.

The median age of members was 64 years with eight members aged 90 years or greater. The median length of membership was seven years and there were four members with 50 or more years of membership. Once again, the Minnesota Society led the nation in the percentage of Life Members with 33.5 percent

New Member Certificates

Compatriot Schurch presented new membership certificates to David Hough, Nicholas Johnson, Stowe Kintzinger, Nelson Cooper, Mark Campbell and Christopher Allen. A supplemental certificate was presented to Marvin Jansma.

Minnesota Society Financial Report and Endowment Trust Fund

Treasurer Richard E. Smith reported 2024 receipts of \$10,439.57 and expenses of \$5,775.00. This left a net income of \$4,664.57. He reported total assets of \$49,854.65 in

2023, rising to \$53,578.13 in 2024.

An anonymous donor contributed \$4,825 to the state society in 2024. As requested, the money is being distributed evenly between the three state chapters. CDs were cashed out in the amount of \$15,750.45 and \$30,000 will be invested in a mixture of long and short term instruments focused on US Treasuries, which provides more liquidity than CDs.

Compatriot Michael Swisher reported on the John Hallberg Jones MNSAR Endowment Trust Fund, noting that the Trust had \$2,414.45 in interest available to distribute to the Minnesota SAR. For the sake of comparison, the Trust earned just \$1,049.09 in 2022 and \$1,835.25 in 2023.

Compatriot Duane Galles auctioned off two books in support of the Trust. \$40 was received for the Abraham Lincoln biography entitled "Differ We Must," and \$30 was received for the Franklin D. Roosevelt biography entitled "FDR."

America 250 Programs

On January 7th Compatriot Kevin Sullivan met with the Wayzata City Council to propose that the SAR, DAR, and C.A.R. coordinate the installation of a commemorative bench, paving stones, and new flagpole with a Betsy Ross flag at the Wayzata Depot Park. He will meet again with the Wayzata City Council on January 30th. The proposal comes at a good time, as the city is in the

planning stages of redoing the park. The bench will not cost the Minnesota SAR anything, as donors are already lined up. The flagpole and installation will cost around \$2,000. Engraved bricks cost about \$25 apiece and can be sold, resulting in no expense to the Minnesota SAR. Compatriot Earl Doc Smith suggested that the flagpole be lighted.

Several upcoming 250th anniversary events were listed. A motion was made and approved that the earnings from the John Hallberg Jones MNSAR Endowment Trust Fund be given to 250th Anniversary programs at the discretion of the society.

North Central District Zoom Events

Informal Zoom meeting events take place monthly and are open for all Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and Dakota SAR members. Compatriot Moberg, VPG of the North Central District SAR, described past presentations and announced the topic of upcoming Zoom events.

ROTC Medal Program

James Hagen reported that Silver SAR ROTC Medals and Certificates were presented at five of the seven ROTC units in Minnesota, Bronze SAR ROTC Medals and Certificates were presented at nine of the eleven JROTC units in Minnesota, and Bronze SAR Sea Cadet Good Citizenship Medals and Certificates were presented at two of Minnesota's three Sea Cadet

units.

Minnesota SAR members who made in person presentations on behalf of the society were: Michael Bradley, Dennis Croonquist, Scott Fredell, Jim Hagen, Michael Huttner, Christopher Pizinger, LtCol Dean Shepersky (retired), and Michael Stainbrook, Sr. As a result, \$256.36 was donated to the Minnesota SAR. This reimbursement for mileage comes from the James B. Ladd Trust, which was created years ago to reimburse the state societies in the North Central District for the cost of awarding ROTC and JROTC medals and certificates.

Eagle Scout Scholarship and Awards Program

Compatriot Richard Smith reported as chair for the Eagle Scout Program. The Eagle Scout Committee executes three tasks: administers the Eagle Scout Contest, issues SAR Certificates of Achievement to Eagle Scouts in Minnesota upon request, and serves as the point of contact for scouting-related activities. As the Minnesota winner of last year's Eagle Scout Contest, Jackson Kramer received \$400. Minneapolis and Saint Paul Chapter winners Noah Bachman and Matthew Higley each received \$100.

Thanks were given to the Eagle Committee members who reviewed the entries: Kerry Johnson (Vice Chair), Rich Howey, Craig Whiting, and Thomas Shaffer. The MNSAR sent seven certificates to Eagle Scouts in 2024.



SAR ANNUAL MEETING

Service Awards

During 2024, the MNSAR presented awards to the following people: Richard Howey – Youth Education Medal; Robert Dunlop and Chris Moberg – Bronze Henry Knox Medal for financial support of the John Hallberg Jones Minnesota SAR Endowment Trust Fund; John Sassaman – State Distinguished Service Award; Rick Vance – SAR Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation at the September meeting; Rowan Wallin, Zachariah Vandenheuse-Siteki, and Emily Roth – C.A.R.-SAR Bronze Medals of Appreciation for their service as Minnesota Society State C.A.R. President.

President Hagen also noted several awards received from National. John Sassaman received a Liberty Medal Certificate and oak leaf cluster. The MNSAR received a King Eagle Scout contest participation certificate and streamer, a Franklin Flyer Certificate for the largest percentage increase in Friends of the Library members for a society of its size, a Syracuse Award Certificate for the most new chapters for a state society of its size, and a First Place President General Activities Award Certificate for the most complete implementation of SAR programs and resolutions for a state society of its size.

President Hagen concluded with the Veteran's Awards Report, noting that Bruce Gleason received an SAR Military Service Award.

MNSAR Color Guard

Color Guard Commander, Steven Hyde reported that as well as posting the colors during MNSAR meetings, Color Guard members also participated in a Camporee and Memorial Day activity at Midland Hills Country Club in May. Craig Whiting and Jimmy Glassmann participated in a parade and cemetery ceremonies. Rich Howey played the fife at a Liberty Tree planting in Hastings. The Color Guard participated in the July 4th "Flying Pancake" celebration in Wayzata. President Hagen participated in Wreaths Across America at Fort Snelling.

Commander Steve Hyde announced his retirement as Color Guard Commander. The Color Guard subsequently held a brief ceremony in which command of the Color Guard was transferred from Steve Hyde to Terry Sater.

Living History Team

Compatriot Richard Howey reported that during 2024 the living history team delivered a patriot chest presentation at Providence Academy in Plymouth, Minnesota, and assisted with merit badge requirements at the Northern Star Scouting council-wide Camporee at Sterns Scout Camp in Sterns, Minnesota. Rich Howey provided fife music for the Fort Snelling Chapter DAR's Liberty Tree Dedication Ceremony in Hastings, Minnesota. Also, the living history team had the complete flag collection dis-

played at the Wayzata C.A.R. 4th of July pancake breakfast.

There are at least two presentations scheduled for 2025 so far: a patriot chest presentation for the Fort Snelling DAR Chapter (they may be interested in beginning a living history program) and another patriot chest presentation for a Scout Troop in New Ulm, Minnesota. The living history team anticipates a presentation at Providence Academy as well.

The living history team acquired four wooden crates that replace the plastic storage containers. These were made as an Eagle Scout service project by Scout Troop 207 in Rosemount Minnesota.

\$2,555.35 remains of the five thousand dollar donation that was given by Robert Dolle Jr. in 2022. One potential use of this money is as seed money if the Northland chapter wants to start its own patriot chest. Another potential use is to upgrade the uniforms/clothing of some of the members of the living history team so that they all have authentic materials rather than some having modern synthetics. This would add to authenticity but is quite expensive and could easily deplete the remaining funds.

Fellowship Committee

President Hagen reported that their meeting was held on December 9th, 2024. Eight locations were considered for MNSAR meetings. After discussions and comparisons, the top three choices were Ban-

quets of Minnesota, Jax Cafe, and the Lowell Inn.

The Fellowship Committee also discussed the following meeting improvements: have Color Guard members serve as greeters at regular meetings, give guidelines for speakers to follow, consider presenting awards at special meetings outside of regular meetings, streamline member introductions, set the speaker's time in the agenda, and have name tags for all attendees.

Chapter Meetings

Due to time constraints, Minneapolis and St. Paul chapter business was moved to the February 15th meeting, with the exception of nominations of officers.

Nominating Committee

Kevin Sullivan and Rick Smith was nominated to be state president and vice president. Mike Schurch stepped down from the corresponding secretary position but will continue to perform the duties of the role until a replacement can be found. Most of the officer positions will remain the same.

MNSAR Recording Secretary, Christopher Moberg, conducted the oath of office ceremony for the Minnesota Society, the Minneapolis Chapter, the Saint Paul Chapter, and the Northland Chapter officers. President Sullivan recited the SAR Recessional and the MNSAR Color Guard retired the colors ending the festivities of the day.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Minneapolis Chapter

The Minneapolis Chapter was called to order by President Robert Wayne Allison. Thomas Harris presented the Annual Financial Report, noting net income of \$1,543.96 as of 31 December 2024. Total assets equals \$25,529.74.

The Minneapolis Chapter will donate \$200.00 to the Lake Minnetonka Society C.A.R. and \$100.00 to the Hennepin History Museum.

Michael Huttner, Chairman of the Minneapolis Chapter Bronze Good Citizenship Medal Program reported that medals and certificates were presented in thirteen west metro high school students.

Northland Chapter

The annual meeting of the Northland Chapter was held at the Pickwick Restaurant in Duluth, Minnesota on 11 January, 2025.

The Minutes, President's Report and Treasurer's Report were presented, accepted and filed with the chapter secretary.

William "Bill" Soderlind, III was introduced and welcomed as a new member of the chapter. His patriot ancestor is Abraham Harding, Jr. Our 29th President, Warren G. Harding, is also a descendant of Abraham Harding, Jr.

In an effort to encourage interest and increase visibility of the chapter, John Glendenning has committed to sending Northland Chapter members periodic "This Day in Revolutionary War History" emails.

Saint Paul Chapter

The Saint Paul Chapter was called to order by President Richard Smith. The Minutes of the 20 January 2024 meeting were read by President Richard Smith, on behalf of Secretary-Treasurer Timothy Harris who was absent. The 2024 Treasurer's report was presented by President Smith indicating assets totaling \$6,886.74.

Seven Saint Paul area high schools participated in the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal Program and their students were presented with their medals the past May. Flag Certificates were awarded to five Saint Paul area businesses for regularly flying the flag on Flag Day, June 14.

Compatriot Timothy Harris is stepping down as Secretary-Treasurer after many years of service. Compatriot Richard Smith has accepted the nomination to become the Secretary-Treasurer of the Saint Paul Chapter.



WASHINGTON DAY LUNCHEON



Stillwater, MN – The Minnesota Society Sons of the American Revolution held their George Washington Day Observance and Luncheon meetings at the Lowell Inn on February 15, 2025.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Minnesota SAR State President Kevin Sullivan gave a brief tutorial on the use of the gavel, since he had been presented one by past president Jim Hagen at the annual meeting. After the explanation, President Sullivan proceeded to call the meeting to order with one knock of the gavel with a total of 31 compatriots and guests present. President Sullivan read the SAR mission statement. Then, the Color Guard, composed of compatriots Terry Sater, Rick Smith, Chris Moberg, Rich Howey, and Steve Hyde, posted the Colors. The Pledge of Allegiance and

the SAR pledge followed. State Chaplain Michael Swisher gave the invocation.

Among the highlights of the meeting was when James Hagen, the immediate MN-SAR Past President, announced that during his term as state president, he had extended permission for all previous state presidents to purchase Lydia Darragh Medals and Certificates to show appreciation for the support that their wives had shown them during their terms. Col Ronald McRoberts presented a Lydia Darragh Medal and Certificate to his wife Nancy, while James Hagen presented a Lydia Darragh Medal and Certificate to his wife Kay.

M I N N E S O T A

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2025 MINNESOTA SOCIETY SAR OFFICERS

The following compatriots were nominated and elected to serve the Minnesota Society and/or their respective chapters. Congratulations to all the compatriots who accepted service to the Minnesota Society, Minneapolis Chapter, Saint Paul Chapter and the Northland Chapter Sons of the American Revolution.

MINNESOTA SOCIETY SAR

President:.....Kevin Everett Sullivan
 Vice President:Richard Eugene Smith
 Corresponding Secretary:.....OPEN
 Recording Secretary:.....Christopher Willard Moberg, P.P.
 Treasurer:Richard Eugene Smith
 Genealogist / Registrar:.....John Charles Sassaman, P.P.
 Chancellor:William Raymond Johnson
 Historian/Newsletter Editor:Timothy Charles Harris, P.P.
 Librarian:.....Stephen John Vescelus
 Surgeon:George Floyd Smith, M.D.
 Chaplain:Michael Scott Swisher, P.P.
 Sergeant-at-Arms:Thomas Christopher Harris

Past Presidents are automatically members of the Board of Managers. Those not named above are:

Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D.	Hon. David S. Bouschor
Dennis Garvin Croonquist	William Leslie DeCoursey
James Fredrick Foster	Duane L. C. M. Galles, Ph.D.
James Everett Hagen	COL Ronald E. McRoberts
Christopher Willard Moberg	John Charles Sassaman
Larry Wray Sisk	Buford Allen Young

Board of Managers: (up to 20 members in addition to the above)

Charles Edward Boyles	Tracy Ashley Crocker
David Adriance Foster	Jay Thomas W. Franklin
Steven James Hyde	Marvin Lane Jansma
Hon. William Raymond Johnson	Larry Allan Lundblad, Ph.D.
John David McCallum	Robert Arthur Minish
Thomas Truxtun Morrison, Sr.	Randall Roger Nelson
Christopher John Pizinger	Aaron Hale Printup
LTC Allen Dean Shepersky	Rehn Douglas Smith
Stephen Paul Thompson	

S.A.R. Endowment Trust Fund: (three-year terms)

Trustee ending January 2026:Duane L. C. M. Galles, P.P.
 Trustee ending January 2027:Michael Scott Swisher, P.P.
 Trustee ending January 2028:COL Ronald E. McRoberts, P.P.

Nominated for Election at the NSSAR National Congress in Uncasville, CT, in July 2025

National Trustee for Minnesota: ..Richard Eugene Smith
 Alternate National Trustee MN:....Michael Schurch

MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER SAR

President:..... Hon. William Raymond Johnson
 Vice President: Robert Frederick Vance, Jr.
 Secretary-Treasurer:..... Thomas Christopher Harris
 Chaplain: Michael Scott Swisher, P.P.
 Board of Managers:..... Tracy Ashley Crocker
 Michael William Huttner
 Steven James Hyde
 Robert Edward Kahl, II
 Larry Allan Lundblad, Ph.D.
 Aaron Hale Printup
 Kevin Everett Sullivan

Past Presidents are automatically members of the Board of Managers. Those not named above are:

Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D.
 William Leslie DeCoursey
 Arthur Louis Finnell
 Duane L. C. M. Galles, Ph.D.
 Robert Wayne Allison

NORTHLAND CHAPTER SAR

President..... Craig William Whiting
 Vice President John Marion Glendenning Jr.
 Secretary Michael John Stainbrook Sr.
 Treasurer William Soderlind, III
 Chaplain Jonathan Patrick Stainbrook

SAINT PAUL CHAPTER SAR

President..... Thomas Wayne Shaffer
 Vice President Richard Howey
 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Eugene Smith
 Chaplain Thomas Christopher Harris
 Board of Managers..... Dennis Garvin Croonquist
 James Everett Hagen
 Christopher Willard Moberg
 Richard Eugene Smith



WHEN IS GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY?

MNSAR Treasurer, Richard Smith gave the keynote address at the George Washington Observance and Luncheon.

As researchers of our Revolutionary War ancestors we notice weird dates on many of their records. In fact, George Washington's birthday is different than the date in his birth record! His primary record shows his birthday as February 11th. Other records state February 22, 1731/32. Is George Washington's birthday the 11th or the 22nd? Why the slash in his birth year?

Over the centuries calendar dates became mismatched with celestial events. Phases of the moon were out of sync with monthly dates as were agricultural seasons with the equinox and solstice dates. Strong leaders were seriously displeased by the calendar dysfunction and decided a new calendar design was warranted. Eleven days were added because the old calendar got out of sync with the seasons.

Smith then talked about the history of the calendar. Julius Caesar became the Roman dictator in 49 BC. He inherited a dysfunctional calendar that was off by an entire season back in 190 BC. Caesar imposed a new calendar designed by scholars that began in 48 BC. The Julian calendar had an average of 365.25 days per year, very close to our modern calendar: same month names; same number of days (mostly); and a leap year every fourth year.

47 BC was the year before

Caesar brought in the Julian calendar. Indian Summer occurred in December. The next year, the calendar contained extra months to line it up with the seasons. 45 BC was the first year of the new calendar, and the next to last of Caesar's life. He never got to appreciate the calendar's success. It took 1600 years before inaccuracies bothered the authorities enough to reform the calendar again.

Our modern calendar, the Gregorian calendar, was first introduced in 1582 by the Catholic Church. The major reform was to change leap year calculations to better match the average year. While it spread over Europe, it wasn't immediately adopted by non-Catholic countries. Gregory XIII became Pope in 1572. He reformed the calendar in 1582.

The transition process for the Gregorian calendar starts with seasons off by ten days. The transition year chopped 10 days out of October. The new calendar behaved extremely well except in countries that didn't adopt it – like England. Much of Europe had converted to the Gregorian calendar, and the differing calendars caused pain when transacting business.

Great Britain adopted the "New Style" calendar in 1752, but the term Gregorian wasn't used. Celebrations, holidays and fairs retained numeric dates (e.g. Christmas on December 25th). Moveable dates still changed (e.g. Easter and dates related to it, usually related to lunar cycles).



The British transition looks identical to the Gregorian transition except for the almost two century delay and some technical details. The major change was to September of the transition year. September 1752 skipped eleven days.

For thousands of years, people have treated January as the first month of the year, and January 1st as New Years Day. The ancient Roman calendar started with the month of March. By the time Julius Caesar revised the Roman calendar, January and February started the year. Some religious and political leaders still preferred March, since Mars was the God of War, and Janus wasn't aggressive enough to start the new year. For the next two thousand years, different authorities promoted different dates for the "real" new year. In England, most people treated January 1st as new year's day,

but for legal purposes, the year really started on Lady Day, March 25th.

George Washington's birthday takes place before March 25, so it has the previous year's date. The year starting once in January and again in March bothered people. Many added a slash to reflect the ambiguity (February 22, 1731/32). The new style omitted this problem. Some people revised old style dates to the new style for convenience (February 22 1732). The date looks like it is a year away, but it is only eleven days. The month used to belong to a different year.

AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Sunday, December 3, 1780



GENERAL GREENE TAKES COMMAND

Charlotte, North Carolina – General Nathanael Greene arrived at Charlotte, North Carolina, assuming command of the Southern Department from the disgraced General Horatio Gates.

Who would replace Gates as commander of the Southern Department? Congress had first chosen Robert Howe, who was unsuited for theatre command and its political mine-fields; then Benjamin Lincoln, a good man badly placed; then Horatio Gates, a military bureaucrat self-deceived into fancying himself a warrior. Howe lost Savannah, Lincoln Charleston, Gates, South Carolina. One army had gone into captivity, another had been shattered. Congress decided it was time for another to make the critical choice and turned the matter over to General Washington.

On 14 October, the day after he received congressional authorization to appoint whom he wished, the great Virginian chose the man he had wanted instead of Gates, and because the situation in the South was so critical Nathanael Greene did not go home first to see his family and settle his affairs. He arrived in Philadelphia on 27 October to seek cavalry reinforcements and supplies from Congress. He received little of what he asked, and of clothing to cover half naked troops there was none, from either Congress or comfortable Philadelphia merchants. Before he continued his ride on 2 November

word had come of the victory at King's Mountain, which gave him breathing room. Baron von Steuben rode with him as far as Virginia, where the Baron stayed to forward reinforcements and supplies to Greene.

On the way south they stopped in Annapolis, where Greene begged for clothing. He repeated his pleas in Virginia to Governor Thomas Jefferson. What he received from Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia were protestations of poverty. Nathanael Greene and the army in the South could look to themselves for succor. He did, however, pick up in Virginia one of the unsung heroes of the Revolution. Lieutenant Colonel Edward Carrington.

For now, Greene ordered Carrington to continue the assignment Gates had given him. He was to survey the Roanoke River for safe passages and to expand the survey to include the Dan River, a tributary of the Roanoke just north of the Virginia-North Carolina line. When Greene reached Hillsborough on 27 November he dispatched two other officers on similar missions: the Polish volunteer Colonel Thaddeus Kosciuszko to the Catawba River and Brigadier General Edward Stevens of Virginia to the Yadkin. Greene wanted to know if these rivers as well as the Dan could be used for bringing supplies.

General Horatio Gates was in Charlotte with what passed for an army. Greene arrived on 2 December 1780. To describe

the two men as not close would be a gross understatement. It could have been an awkward moment, but both carried it off with aplomb. Greene behaved toward the beaten general with respect and kindness. Gates retained his dignity. Otho Holland Williams was there, and described their conduct as "an elegant lesson of propriety exhibited on a most delicate and interesting occasion." The following day Major General Horatio Gates issued his final order, handing over his command to Major General Nathanael Greene, and five days later the Hero of Saratoga turned his horse northward and began his long ride home.

On 3 December 1780 a living legend rode into Nathanael Greene's camp at Charlotte to report to his new commander. Rarely have two men of such common martial gifts had the opportunity to complement one another. Renowned from Quebec to the Carolinas, celebrated in one army and feared by another, his life a succession of dramas one of which would be enough for most men, Brigadier General Daniel Morgan of the Virginia Line was by far the Continental Army's finest battle captain. If one were to judge him by all who have led Americans into battle, he would have no superiors and few peers.

Morgan's physical condition prevented him from joining Gates until late September 1780, and by then Gates had suffered the debacle of Camden. When Morgan heard the

terrible news he was still suffering from wracking pains, and Congress had not yet acted on his promotion. Nevertheless, in this time of peril to the cause he departed almost immediately on the long ride to Hillsborough, North Carolina. He took along a spare horse to sell in order to meet his travel expenses. Congress also finally did the right and wise thing and promoted him to Brigadier General on 13 October 1780, although the members spent three months in study and debate before acting. He had been campaigning with the light troops between Charlotte and Camden when Nathanael Greene arrived.

The command to which Greene succeeded was in a pitiful state. On his arrival it numbered 2,307 men, of whom 1,482 were present and fit for duty. Absent were 547; of those 128 were on detached duty. Continentals from the crack Maryland and Delaware Lines numbered 949. They were the backbone of the army. But of the overall total, only 800 men were properly clothed and equipped. As small as his army was, there were not adequate provisions and forage for them in the immediate countryside and Greene therefore ordered General von Steuben in Virginia not to send him unarmed and unclothed men.

Source:

The Road to Guilford
Courthouse,
by John Buchanan,
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

M I N N E S O T A

SAR Salute



SHOREVIEW EAGLE SCOUT WINS MINNESOTA COMPETITION

Matthew Higley of the Northern Star Council Boy Scouts of America is the Minnesota winner of the SAR's Eagle Scout Scholarship and Awards Program. Higley, from Shoreview, Minnesota, was honored at the annual George Washington Day Observance and Luncheon where he received the Spreading Wings Bronze Eagle Trophy and a \$400.00 check as the Minnesota winner.

Higley's application, four generation ancestor chart and his patriotic essay were sent to National SAR headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky to compete with other state winners for a \$10,000 scholarship. \$6,000, \$4,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 runner-up scholarships were also chosen. His winning essay is printed below.



Field Medicine of the Revolutionary War

1,400 against 231,000. This is not the story of one of the countless underdog battles of the American Revolution; rather, this is the story of the selfless, vastly outnumbered medical practitioners who set out to defend the well-being of America's first army.

Their goal was to save as fast as God would allow. Only 140 of the 1,400 medical practitioners had formal medical degrees. All the rest learned by apprenticeship. Most had been taught theories but never practiced with live patients. Few people visited the doctor during peacetime, which provided little chance for hands-on experience. Our first physicians were young men, unprepared by civilian medical practice and their imaginations for the harshness of war. Military medicine was new and developed with a shortage of medications and basic supplies. Confronted with a logistical mountain and administrative failures, the practitioners

were split up to cover the expanse of troops between Massachusetts and Georgia.

Each regiment was to be staffed by a surgeon and several assistants. These small bands fought hard with what little they had. Musket balls provided fractures while bayonets inflicted deep lacerations. On top of these wounds came the ever-persistent sanitation issues among the soldiers in the camps. The British claimed the lives of 6,800 American soldiers. Dysentery, smallpox, and malaria claimed 17,000. However, the medical teams remained unfazed.

Full of good intentions, these understaffed and under-supplied teams of surgeons amputated soldiers without anesthesia or sterilization measures. Screams of pain and the sweat of frustration bombarded medics who wanted to do much more than their situation allowed. Prevention was the best and only treatment for the dis-

eases. Between amputations, doctors would constantly tend to sanitation conditions and disinfect what they could. Military physician, Lewis Beebe, journaled about times when he felt helpless, once writing, "to see Large barns filled with men in the very height of the smallpox and not the least thing, to make them Comfortable, was almost Sufficient to excite the pity of Brutus" (Norton). Yet, never would a complaint be heard amongst them. They were doing more than what was their duty. If they gave up, hope would be lost.

With visions of independence on the horizon, they persisted. Everyone held onto the hope that British supplies would eventually run out, thus giving the upper hand to the Continentals. Each wounded soldier provided an opportunity to perfect medical practices. The faster medics would work, the less blood would be lost, and the chances of surviv-

ing could rise. The cleaner the camp was kept, the less disease would spread, and fewer would be infected. Each saved soul gave hope that it could be done again. These efforts, never tiring, lasted for the seven grueling years of our Revolution.

When the Treaty of Paris was signed, when the long war was over, the medical practitioners returned to lives of civilian medicine. They continued to use all that had been learned to begin healing their newly formed nation. This was the life of the medical practitioners of the American Revolution. They were significantly outmatched; fresh to the world of war; doing no harm but instead fixing what harm had been done. All of their work provided a glimpse into the future of American medicine and the heroism associated with it.