

M I N N E S O T A

SAR Salute



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MNSAR COLOR GUARD AT ORONO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Orono, Minnesota – Orono parent and Orono High School alum Aaron Printup visited Orono Schumann Elementary April 19 as a representative of the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard. He visited the students in MAC (Multi-Age Classroom). The first- and second-graders are studying the United States. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance together, Mr. Printup spoke with classes about the Sons of the American Revolution, Children of the American Revolution and the importance of American flag etiquette.

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American Eagle

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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TOPIC OF THE DAY AT THE CONSTITUTION DAY LUNCHEON: “WHY THE PASSION FOR GENEALOGY?”



37 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. The total attendance was 53. Jax Café had prepared their signature Chicken Chardonnay for the group, with a vegetarian alternative for those desiring such, and a delightful Macadamia Mousse dessert.

National Society SAR Awards

John Charles Sassaman was awarded the Liberty Medal with two oak leaf clusters for being the top line signer on another twenty new members. The Minnesota Society has been awarded the Houston Chapter Award for the State Society that registered the highest percentage of new members as transfer from the Children of the American Revolution. Bruce Mueller, Senior President of the Minnesota Society Children of the Ameri-

can Revolution, was presented the Eleanor Smallwood Niebell award from the National Society Sons of the American Revolution to the Minnesota Society C.A.R., which recognizes the State Society C.A.R. whose newsletter was judged the best in the nation. The award was accompanied by a check for \$250.00. Mueller was in attendance (pictured left), to accept his award. He distributed copies of the C.A.R. newsletter, *The Minnesota Northstar*, to each member of the MNSAR and MNSR present.

Program

Tracy Ashley Crocker brought an interesting and delightful presentation detailing “Why the Passion for Genealogy?” Crocker is a member of the MNSAR and MNSR, as well as numerous other societies and is a nationally recognized Genealogist.

Crocker traces his ancestry back to Charlemagne or Charles the Great, who was King of the Franks from 768, King of the Lombards from 774 and Emperor of the Romans from 800. He united much of Europe during the early Middle Ages.

Crocker stated that genealogy starts with family, mentors and friends. He has met many friends during his 50 years of research. A genealogist will learn his family history, American history and European history along the way. One will learn about many historical events



such as wars their ancestor’s participated in, ships they took passage in when they immigrated, and places they migrated to.

Crocker started when card catalogs and microfilm on reels were used for research. With the advent of on-line research, genealogy has become one of the most popular hobbies in America. Putting the pieces together is a labor of love, and the family jig-saw is never complete.

Crocker expressed that each person has eight great-grandparents, 16 great-great-grandparents and 32 great-great-great-grandparents – Each generation doubling in number.

Crocker reminded his audience not to forget the mother’s

genealogy, which is more difficult to do but perhaps even more rewarding.

Crocker touched upon the subject of DNA calling it the new horizon.

Crocker also pointed out that we can be good ancestor’s to future generations by keeping birth, marriage and death certificates and keeping all records, chronicles and newspaper clippings. He reminded us to date all correspondence, and to be sure to archive family photographs – identifying the people, places and dates.

Dr. Geoffrey Bodeau, President of the Minnesota SAR, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the speaker.

Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, January 13, 2018: Annual Business Meeting for MNSAR members only.

Saturday, February 17, 2018: Washington Day Luncheon – SAR & SR – open to all. **Program:** “The Southern Campaign of the Revolution” presented by COL Ronald McRoberts.

The meetings will be held at Jax Cafe.



2017 MNSAR MEDALS AND AWARDS PROGRAMS

Minnesota Society ROTC Awards

Once again the Minnesota Society presented medals in all of the ROTC-JROTC units in the state. There are seven college units and twelve high school units.

The Minnesota Society expresses its appreciation to the following Compatriots for presenting the medals and certificates: MAJ Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D., Hon. David Sinclair Bouschor, Charles Edward Boyles, Michael Ronald Bradley, Dennis Garvin Croonquist, David Adriance. Foster, James Everett Hagen, Steven J. Hyde, Marvin Lane Jansma, John Hallberg Jones, Larry Allen Lundblad, Christopher John Pizinger, John Charles Sassaman, and LTC Allen Dean Shepersky.



ship, Character, Service and an appreciation of patriotism.

Flag Certificates

On Flag Day five Saint Paul area businesses were presented with flag certificates by the Saint Paul Chapter SAR for showing patriotism and love of country by flying the flag. This years recipients were:

- Grundhofer's Old-Fashion Meats, Hugo
- Interstate Companies, Forest Lake
- Jesse Johnson – State Farm Insurance, Forest Lake
- McCollough & Sons Inc., Forest Lake
- Tracker Boating Center Forest Lake

Minneapolis and St. Paul Chapters Bronze Good Citizenship Medals

The Minneapolis Chapter continued the program of Bronze Good Citizenship Medals in 2017. This chapter has one of the largest programs of any chapter in the country.

In 2017 we awarded the medal in 24 area high schools and one Naval Sea Cadets squadron. In all, it was a fine program once again.

Medals were also awarded to twelve St. Paul area high school students this year.

The criteria for the recipient of the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal is Scholarship, Leader-

MNSAR MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Secretary-Treasurer John Hallberg Jones presented certificates and rosettes to new members: Finnegan Gabriel McRoberts (accepted by Ronald McRoberts, grandfather), Arman Tagarro, Christopher Brite Williamson, who also accepted the certificates for his sons Mitchell Brite Williamson and Benjamin Mark Williamson, Christian James Snyder, and James Patrick Kelly, who also accepted certificates for his sons Benjamin James Kelly and William Francis Kelly. Certificates for those new members not present will be mailed. Certificates and stars for approved supplemental ancestors were presented to Michael Scott Swisher, Robert W. G. Allison, and James Everett Hagen (for three supplemental applications):.

NEW MEMBERS:

Member	Patriot
Finnegan Gabriel McRoberts	Elijah Barnes, Sr.
Arman Christian Tagarro	Cyril Carpenter
Michael Don Sanford	Zenas Northway
Sean Robert Kirby	John Wright
Christopher Brite Williamson	Charles Dorsey
Mitchell Brite Williamson	Charles Dorsey
Benjamin Mark Williamson	Charles Dorsey
Michael Waters Glaser.....	Glen Owen
Christian James Snyder	Ludwig Lewis John Stull
James Patrick Kelly	Joseph Hartwell
Benjamin James Kelly	Joseph Hartwell
William Francis Kelly.....	Joseph Hartwell

SUPPLEMENTAL PATRIOTS:

Member	Patriot
Michael Scott Swisher	Hezekiah Brown
Robert W. G. Allison	Hezekiah Holcomb
James Everett Hagen	Gerrit Ostrander
James Everett Hagen	Martinus Siver
James Everett Hagen	Adam Rath/Roth



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE FOR THE MNSAR

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Looking ahead we need to have increased participation in the activities of the Minnesota SAR. In the past decade our membership has more than doubled. But the vast bulk of the work is still being done by a small handful of members. We need more participation!

Bronze Good Citizenship Medal Programs

Both the Minneapolis Chapter and Saint Paul Chapter have these programs. For many years Tim Harris has handled the Saint Paul Chapter and John Jones has handled the Minneapolis Chapter. This involves contacting the schools in early January, getting the names of the awardees and dates of programs, preparing the certificates, getting the medals engraved, packaging and mailing each to the places involved. Over the years we have found that very few want someone to come and present the award, as they have many awards to present and programs are usually done in one 45-50 period, thus they do not want speeches. Both chapters need a new coordinator. Contact Tim Harris at 763-746-6580 or tim_harris@comcast.net and John Jones at 612-721-4275 or John@GoodNewsProductions.us.

Flag Certificate Presentations

The Saint Paul Chapter annually selects five businesses who daily fly the flag. On Flag Day, June 14th, they arrive at the establishment and present the certificates. Tim Harris has coordinated it. Contact Tim to take over that task.

ROTC and JROTC Awards Program

The Minnesota Society does this program. John Jones has been the coordinator for many years. This involves contacting the 7 ROTC and 12 JROTC units in the state in January, getting the date of their program, getting the name of the awardee, preparing the certificates, getting the medals engraved, packaging and mailing the materials to the unit. An important part is lining up a presenter for each program and advising the unit of the name of the presenter. We have many who are doing the presentations, and all who do them are enthusiastic about the program. Contact Jones to take over the coordinator task.

MNSAR Color Guard

This unit presents the colors at our meetings, appears in some parades and other events such as the CAR Pancake Breakfast in Wayzata on July 4th, has attended reviews and funerals to stand guard, presenting the flag at the swearing in of new citizens, etc. The Commander is Paul Theisen. Contact Paul at pstheis36@mainstreet.com or 320 351-6221. The unit is always looking for additional members. The Society can assist in getting the uniforms for participants. As we add members to the Color Guard we can add flags to be carried. We already have a musket and a drum. This is a program that brings great visibility for the SAR in the community.

CAR and DAR Liaison Committee

We need to add to this com-

mittee. Members should attend CAR and DAR events to promote SAR and assist in recruitment. Contact President Bodeau if you can assist. 952-240-9701 or gbodeau@gmail.com.

Delegates to National Congress

The MNSAR has very low participation of members attending the NSSAR National Congresses. At this time Minnesota has seven delegate slots. The State President is one. (The Vice President is automatically a delegate if the President is not able to attend). The National Trustee from Minnesota is automatically a delegate. Each state gets one delegate-at-large, and then we have four additional delegates based on our overall membership. We recognize that this kind of travel can be rather expensive, but the expenses are a charity deduction on your taxes, as SAR is a 501c3 IRS recognized organization.

Minnesota Society Hospital-ity Committee

It would be nice to have a Committee to handle the arrangements for our Washington Day and Constitution Day Luncheons. We would think that this might include arranging speakers,

Setting the menu, handling the arrangements with the restaurant, mailing the invitations to our members, calling in the number of reservations to the restaurant and creating name tags as with many new members we now need to get to know each other even better. Contact President Bodeau if you can assist.

Officers of the Minnesota Society

Simply stated, we need more involvement. There is a time commitment to this of course. An example is the office of Secretary-Treasurer. John Jones has done this job for over 45 years. We need to have someone younger to take over. This involves being the point of contact with the National Society and coordinating all the activity of the Minnesota Society. Major projects are the mailing of meeting notices, most particularly the dues notices. The heaviest activity is from September through March, as all three of our meetings are in that time period as is the dues collection and reports to the National SAR. Obviously with the heaviest activity being in that period, the commitment to the office means that winter vacations could be a problem. But not everyone takes them, so we ought to be able to find a replacement for this officer.

There are other offices, some of which seem to be "in name only" positions, but attendance at meetings can put you in line for the top slots. At the state level we have usually looked to those who have been Chapter Presidents, so the Chapters have this same problem.

Contact President Bodeau or Secretary-Treasurer Jones with questions, comments, etc.

Overall we have a great group of men in this organization. But we do need your help now to keep it moving forward.

AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Thursday May 21, 1778

BATTLE OF BARREN HILL

Valley Forge, Pennsylvania – On the eighteenth of May, General George Washington advanced General Lafayette, with twenty-one hundred chosen troops and five pieces of artillery to Barren Hill, about halfway between Valley Forge and Philadelphia, to reconnoiter British intentions, as well as to interdict British detachments foraging for food in the surrounding countryside. His orders gave him command over all outposts and skirmishing detachments, contemplated the contingency of an early evacuation of Philadelphia by the British army, and with caution as to prudence in taking his positions and risking doubtful movements, conferred large authority and discretion in the execution of his instructions.

It was practically a corps of observation, and it was the first really independent command of Lafayette, as a Major-General. The execution of his trust illustrates those peculiar traits of his character which had early attracted the favor of Washington, won his respect, and gradually deepened into an attachment almost paternal in its depth and endurance. The American Commander-in-Chief, however reticent of his opinions, rarely failed to read men. He read Lafayette. With singular enthusiasm, great purity of character and purpose, unswerving fidelity to obligation, and thorough contempt the mean or dishonorable, this young French gentleman, now Major-General, combined a quick sagacity, sound judgment

and quick execution.

A site for his camp atop Barren Hill was well selected. A steep, rocky ledge was on the right toward the Schuylkill River as well as to the front where his guns were placed. Captain Allen McLean's light troops and fifty Indian scouts were just below, near the Ridge Road, and pickets were still further advanced on the road and in the woods. To the left was a dense forest, and just on its edge there were several stone houses well capable of defense. Six hundred Pennsylvania militia under General Porter were posted on the Whitemarsh Road. The sudden retreat of this body without notice or reporting their action, very nearly involved his command in a conflict with more than double its force. At the forks of the two roads there was a stone church in a burying ground which was inclosed by a stone fence; and Lafayette established his headquarters close by.

General William Howe, eager to capture the Marquis de Lafayette and humiliate the Franco-American alliance, dispatched General James Grant and five thousand British troops to surprise the American camp at Barren Hill. This command marched early on the morning of May nineteenth by the Lime-kiln and old York roads, and very early the next morning passed Whitemarsh, where it changed direction to the left toward Barren Hill, with the design of cutting off Lafayette's retreat by Swede's Ford. General Grey with two thousand

men crossed the Schuylkill and marched along its west bank to a point about three miles below Barren Hill to be in readiness to act in concert with the other detachments. General Henry Clinton with a third division marched by Chestnut Hill, and up the Manatawny Road to make enclosure of Lafayette's command within their enveloping forces the more secure. The plan was skillfully conceived.

General Lafayette was notified that red uniforms had been seen in the woods, near the road from Whitemarsh to Swede's Ford, in his rear. His first impression was that they were close at hand. To assure himself, he immediately sent Captain McLane ahead into the woods with fifty Oneida warriors to scout and learn the real facts. He changed front immediately, occupied the church, burying ground and all strong points, and then "made a display of false heads of columns," as if preparing to advance promptly upon the enemy.

General Grant halted his advance guard to await the arrival of the whole division before engaging with the American troops. The British column then on the Ridge Road, also halted, and waited for assurance that the right had really reached Lafayette's rear; and this was to be determined by an actual attack.

A country road ran from the church directly under Barren Hill to Matson's Ford, which was very little further from Valley Forge than Swede's Ford. This road was entirely hidden from view by the hill. The Brit-

ish right rested at the crossing of the two principal roads to both fords and they were nearer to Matson's Ford than Lafayette was; but supposed that they controlled all approaches.

General Enoch Poor was ordered to lead the retreat, and Lafayette brought up the rear. The troops retired in order and so promptly that the main body crossed the ford and occupied high and commanding ground. The British vanguard learned of the movement, and pressed on in pursuit. As the last troops crossed, a brisk skirmish ensued over the guns, which were the last to follow; but the retreat was perfected and the guns were saved.

General Washington had a distinct view of the British movement as it advanced, and fired alarm guns to warn Lafayette; but the wisdom, coolness, and promptness of that officer saved his command. The American loss was nine, and that of the British was reported as three. Lafayette relates the fact, that "fifty Indian scouts were suddenly confronted by an equal number of British dragoons," and that "the mutual surprise was so great that both fled with equal speed."

Sources:

Revolutionary War Almanac, by John C. Fredriksen, Facts On File, Inc., 2006

Battles of the American Revolution, 1775-1781, Including Battle Maps and Charts of the American Revolution by Henry Beebe Carrington Promontory Press, 1974

AMERICAN EAGLE



News of Yesterday Reported Today

Tuesday May 26, 1778

EXTRAVAGANT FAREWELL FOR SIR WILLIAM HOWE

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – On May 18, an elaborate feast, christened *Mischianza*, was organized in Philadelphia by Captain John Andre for the departing British commander in chief, General William Howe. *Mischianza* is the Italian word for medley, and an extravagant mixture it was, indeed. Its only redeeming feature was that it was paid for by wealthy field officers, rather than through the customary “borrowing” of Crown funds. It consisted of a tournament of knights for the favor of their ladies fair and a grand ball. Its theme was a kind of roccoco medievalism with Turkish accents, or at least what its authors believed to be thus, and took place in Mrs. Thomas Wharton’s fine mansion fronting the river.

Captain John Montresor’s unit of engineers constructed the lists and barriers, as well as two pavilions for the British and American Queens of Beauty at either end of the beautiful four-acre lawn. Each of these pavilions was attended by six damsels of honor in Turkish costumes. Twelve champions were to joust for the favor of these beauties. They were divided into Knights of the Blended Rose, wearing crimson-and-white silk and riding gray horses, and Knights of the Burning Mountain, in orange and black mounted on black steeds.

Captain Andre designed the ladies’ dresses: incredibly extravagant costumes with soaring headdresses sparkling with pearls and jewels, polonaises

– a sort of three-quarter drapery over a short skirt – of white silk with spangled pink sashes and spangled shoes, stockings and sashes for the Blended Rose and for the Burning Mountain, similar outfits except that their polonaises and sashes were black.

At four o’clock in the afternoon of May 18, under the protection of British warships on the Delaware River, the queens and their knights and all the notables, headed by Sir William Howe, the guest of honor, boarded decorated barges serenaded by military music and were rowed from Knight’s Wharf to the landing place at Old Fort. From there they proceeded along an avenue one hundred yards long, lined with soldiers in gay regimentals and underneath two triumphal arches, also designed by the indefatigable Andre, each of which bore a figure of Fame star spangled like the beauty queens and blowing from her trumpet the motto in French: “*Thy laurels are immortal.*” A herald then presented a laurel wreath to Howe and declaimed verses of praise – again by Andre – that, though perfect in rhyme and scan, were without pith or point.

Next there ensued the clash of arms as the knights started sham jousting with lances, swords and pistols. Subalterns in herald’s tabards proclaimed the victors, and the queens blushingly bestowed their favors. At this point the audience – variously thrilled or bored according to their mentality.

Next the assembly re-formed and proceeded to the mansion, where dancing began in the ballroom at six o’clock. Andre and his associate Oliver Delancy had made this splendid room gorgeous by painting garlands of roses against a blue-and-gold background. Nearly one hundred mirrors were fastened to the walls to reflect the brilliance of the scene, and as night fell servants in livery lighted a thousand glittering candles to magnify it. At ten there were magnificent fireworks above the lawn, and two hours later supper was served: a repast of four hundred covers and twelve hundred dishes, borne by twenty-four black slaves with silver bracelets around their muscular arms and silver collars around their necks – an unintended allusion to their chains noticed by no one – and toasts were proclaimed by the heralds to everyone of consequence, beginning with their majesties the king and queen. Finally, dancing was resumed until four o’clock in the morning.

Not everyone was enchanted or enthralled by the *Mischianza*, especially not the veteran officers, who were mortified by such an expensive and foolish extravaganza blossoming among suffering, privation and death. When a small boy asked a grizzled artilleryman what was the difference between the two orders of knights, he replied gruffly: “Why, child, the Knights of the Burning Mountain are Tom Fools and the Knights of the Blended Rose are damned fools. I know of no

other difference between ‘em.” And then, in an aside to his peers: “What will Washington think of all this?”

A few days later, on May 25, 1778 – three years to the day since his arrival in Boston aboard *Cerberus* – Sir William Howe sailed for home.

Sir Henry Clinton is now commander in chief of British military forces in America.

Howe could not escape the indictment of him, believed by most to have been written by Clinton himself:

“Had Sir William fortified the hills around Boston he could not have been disgracefully driven from it; had he pursued his victory at Long Island he had ended the rebellion; had he landed above the lines at New York not a man could have escaped him; had he cooperated with the Northern Army [Burgoyne] he had saved it, or had he gone to Philadelphia by land he had ruined Mr. Washington and his forces; but, as he did none of these things, had he gone to the Devil before he was sent to America, it had been the saving of infamy to himself and indelible dishonor to his country.”

Sources:

George Washington’s War
by Robert Leckie,
Harper Perennial, 1993

Revolutionary War Almanac,
by John C. Fredriksen,
Facts On File, Inc., 2006