

M I N N E S O T A

SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • www.MinnesotaSAR.org • WINTER 2017



MNSAR 128TH ANNUAL MEETING

Minneapolis, Minnesota – The Minnesota Society, and the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution held their annual meetings at Jax Cafe on January 14, 2017. Luncheon, from the menu, was served during the meeting.

The Society was called to order by President John Charles Sassaman. President Sassaman led the Pledge to the US flag and read the Pledge to the SAR. Secretary-Treasurer John Hallberg Jones gave the Invocation. President Sassaman was invested with the new travelling Society President’s Emblem which was later transferred to the newly-installed MNSAR president, Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D. (pictured). The Minnesota Society was then recessed and the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Chapters conducted their business. *Continued Inside...*

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MNSAR SALUTE...

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Minnesota Society SAR
 128th Annual Meeting

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American Eagle

.....

Now and Then –
 Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D. /
 William Trowbridge

.....

2017 MNSAR, Minneapolis and
 Saint Paul Chapter Officers

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Minnesota Society
 Sons of the American Revolution
 2700 East Minnehaha Parkway
 Minneapolis, MN 55406-3743





MINNESOTA SOCIETY SAR ANNUAL MEETING

Minneapolis Chapter

The Minneapolis Chapter was called to order by President Geoffrey R. Bodeau, M.D. A motion was made to forego reading the Minutes of the 9 January 2016 meeting as they were summarized in the Minnesota Society newsletter. Secretary-Treasurer Jones presented the Annual Financial Report, noting total assets of \$21,279.92 as of 31 December 2016.

Compatriot Jones reported that the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal was presented in 23 area high schools in 2016, and that we also had a presentation at a squadron of Naval Sea Cadets. Letters have already been mailed to all schools/units for the 2017 program. The Twin Cities Squadron Naval Sea Cadets had their ceremony one week ago on January seventh. The Minneapolis Chapter was represented by Steven Hyde.

Compatriot Jones spoke of the success of fund-raising projects and the giving of scholarships by the Lake Minnetonka Society C.A.R. Upon motion passed, the Minneapolis Chapter will donate \$100.00 to the Society.

Saint Paul Chapter

The Saint Paul Chapter was called to order by President John McCallum. Past President Thomas Harris presented the Annual Financial Report on behalf of Secretary-Treasurer Timothy Harris who was traveling and could not attend the meeting. The Saint Paul Chapter has assets totaling \$5,704.01.

Compatriot Harris reported that eleven area high schools participated in the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal Program and their students were presented with their medals the past May. Letters have been mailed to twelve area high schools to begin the program for 2017.

President McCallum reported that five Saint Paul businesses were presented with a flag certificate for regularly flying the flag on Flag Day, June 14, 2016.

MNSAR Membership

Secretary-Treasurer Jones reported on membership for 2016: Fourteen new members, one reinstated, two deaths, one transferred out and four resignations, giving a net increase of seven. 2016 started at 193 and ended at 201. In addition we have six dual members. Jones reported on statistics regarding birthdates and registration dates. He also reported on life members, citing our 56 living life members, probably the highest percentage of any state society.

Andrew Robert George was presented his certificate of membership and rosette. Robert Allison and Jacob Waters were presented certificates for supplemental applications.

Minnesota Society Financial Report and Endowment Trust Fund

Compatriot Jones presented the Annual Financial Report, showing net assets of \$42,609.55 as of 31 December 2016. He then presented the report of the MNSAR Endowment Trust. Donations to principal

during 2016 were \$3,490.00. The principal as of 31 December 2016 totaled \$36,034.33. The Trustees proposed that the 2016 interest of \$436.60 be used to pay the following donation items: Minnesota Genealogical Society \$35.00, Taylor Grave Flowers \$20.00, Preservation Alliance of Minnesota \$40.00, James Ford Bell Library \$50.00 and the balance of \$291.60 to the MNSAR Color Guard.

Minnesota Society Programs

Compatriot Sassaman reported on the Eagle Scout Program, indicating disappointment that only two Eagle Scouts entered the contest. Looking ahead the MNSAR Eagle Scout Committee will communicate with the Scout Leaders instead of the Scouts themselves. Upon motion passed, for the next year the MNSAR will offer a prize of \$200.00 for the first place winner and \$100.00 for second place, in addition to the standard certificate and patch.

Once again the Minnesota Society presented medals in all ROTC-JROTC units in the state. Letters have already been mailed to the twelve JROTC units and the seven ROTC units in Minnesota.

Minnesota Color Guard

Compatriot Paul Theisen presented the report on the MNSAR Color Guard. Secretary-Treasurer Jones read a fine letter from Adrienne Morrison on behalf of the Lake Minnetonka C.A.R. Chapter, commending our MNSAR Color Guard for their excellent work.

New Business

Many items were discussed in the hopes of getting greater participation by the members. Jones explained the delegate process for the NSSAR National Congress, indicating that Minnesota has seven delegates, but has not had more than two or three at any National Congress in perhaps 40 years. Ideas had been advanced regarding a digital newsletter, recruitment committee, Ladies Auxiliary, C.A.R. and D.A.R. Liaison Committee, Hospitality Committee, and additional participation in the ROTC Program and Bronze Good Citizenship Medal Programs. There was a discussion of proxy voting with the general consensus that it was not needed. Additional ideas of mentoring new members, a "big brother" approach, particularly asking new members, as their interest may be the strongest right at the beginning of their membership.

2017 Officers

The officers of the Minnesota Society, the Minneapolis Chapter, and the Saint Paul Chapter were installed by Secretary-Treasurer John Hallberg Jones. MNSAR Past President Sassaman transferred the Society President's Emblem to the newly-installed MNSAR President, Geoffrey Robert Bodeau.

President Bodeau read the SAR Recessional, the colors were retired and Bodeau declared the combined meetings of the Chapters and the Minnesota Society adjourned.



NOW & THEN

Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D. has been a member of the MNSAR since 1993. He was just elected president of the MNSAR. Geoffrey's mother is a member of the D.A.R. which peaked his interest in family history and the role his ancestors played in the early history of the United States. "History comes alive when you realize that your ancestors were really there." Patriotism is another reason he joined the SAR. Like many of our SAR brothers, his family has a long history of military service to the United States. Prior to the American Revolution, his ancestors and other relatives were members of the militias in New England. After the Revolutionary War many served in other conflicts, including the War of 1812, World War II, and Viet Nam. Bodeau's father served in the US Army. Geoffrey was on active duty in the US Air Force from 1989-1993, and was deployed overseas for Operation Desert Storm in 1991. His son, Johnny, is currently an Air Force officer serving at Cape Canaveral Air Force Base. "All of us in the SAR know of the sacrifices that have been made to keep our country strong and free," stated Bodeau.

Geoffrey and his wife Sandra have three sons, Thomas, John and James, all of whom are life-members of the MNSAR. Their daughter, Anne is a

member of the D.A.R.

Bodeau is a former Air Force Officer and Flight Surgeon. He was in the USAF Reserve from 1980-1989 and USAF Active Duty from 1989-1993. He holds the rank of Major.

Bodeau is currently a radiologist and medical director of nuclear medicine at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Medical Director of LifeScan Minnesota PET/CT Center in Edina and Medical Codirector of HeartScan Minnesota. He works mainly with diagnostic imaging of heart disease and cancer.

His patriot ancestor is WILLIAM TROWBRIDGE, who was born March 20, 1751 and died September 30, 1833, in Worcester, MA. In 1774 William Trowbridge was a soldier in a company of minutemen raised in his native town, commanded by Capt. Timothy Bigelow. On April 19, 1775, on the alarm of the invasion of the British troops to Lexington and Concord, Trowbridge volunteered as a private soldier and marched in this company under Capt. Timothy Bigelow, Lieuts. Jonas Hubbard and John Smith. They left Worcester near sunset going through Shrewsbury, Northborough, Marlborough, Sudbury, Weston, and Waltham, arriving at Watertown, a distance of more than forty miles, the next morning, after marching all night. Hav-

ing ascertained the retreat of the British, the company halted for refreshments, and then advanced to Cambridge. He did duty under Captain Bigelow until April 24, when an organization of the forces took place, and Captain Bigelow was appointed major, Jonas Hubbard was promoted to be captain and John Smith to be first lieutenant. Trowbridge then enlisted for eight months, or until the last day of December or the first day of January following, as a soldier in Captain Hubbard's company, Col. Jonathan Ward's regiment of infantry, and was stationed in a house in Cambridge near the Charles River. He and Captain Hubbard's company were among the first that broke ground for the military work called Fort No. 2, and he was employed in its construction. He did duty in this company until June 6, when, permission having been given for three from each company to enlist into the "train," as it was called. [This was "**The Noble Train of Artillery**," also known as the Knox Expedition, an expedition led by Continental Army Colonel Henry Knox to transport heavy weaponry that had been captured at Fort Ticonderoga to the Continental Army camps outside Boston, Massachusetts during the winter of 1775-1776. Knox went to Ticonderoga in November 1775, and, over the course of

three winter months, moved 60 tons of cannons and other armaments by boat, horse and ox-drawn sledges, and manpower, along poor-quality roads, across two semi-frozen rivers, and through the forests and swamps of the lightly inhabited Berkshires to the Boston area. Historian Victor Brooks has called Knox's exploit "one of the most stupendous feats of logistics" of the entire American Revolutionary War.] William Trowbridge enlisted on June 6, 1775, in Capt. Ezra Badlam's company of artillery, Col. Richard Gridley's regiment, in which he did duty as first corporal for two months. He was then promoted sergeant, and did duty as orderly until the term of service expired and the company was dismissed on January 1, 1776. He was stationed with the artillery just below the hill on which the meeting-house stood in Roxbury, and was there during the battle of Bunker Hill, with his company within range of the British cannon from Boston. He assisted General Knox in laying out the fortifications in Roxbury. Afterwards he was stationed in Brooklyn Fort until the termination of his service. The service above mentioned was all performed as a volunteer in the state troops of Massachusetts. He served in the whole, eight months and twelve days, viz.: From April 19, 1775, to June 6, 1775, as a private soldier; from June 6, 1775, to August 6, 1775, as corporal; and from August 6, 1775, to January 1, 1776, as sergeant. While acting as orderly of artillery, he received orders at headquarters with the adjutants of infantry. (US Pension Office Records)

AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Monday March 23, 1778

'BARON' VON STEUBEN RESHAPES WASHINGTON'S ARMY

Valley Forge, Pennsylvania – The American army at Valley Forge is bolstered by the arrival of a newcomer, Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin, Baron von Steuben, a soldier who liked to decorate himself with sonorous names. While Steuben could legitimately claim wartime experience, having served as a Prussian captain during the Seven Years' War and on the military staff of Frederick the Great, the baron title was bogus.

When he heard of the war in America and in the summer of 1777, went hurrying to Paris, where he met Benjamin Franklin. That worthy, always a shrewd judge of human flesh, was deeply impressed, as was the French minister of war, and thus, with a nice loan from Beaumarchais, he was able to arrive in Philadelphia in style. The American Ministers, Franklin and Silas Deane, embellished his credentials to make him more acceptable to Washington; on the spot, the unemployed captain was puffed up to the rank of a lieutenant general. Courtly, with a bluff Germanic charm – and a basic if not actually crude Teutonic sense of humor – he also impressed the delegates. He agreed to waive a salary temporarily and serve

only for expenses. He was not boastful of his military prowess or knowledge, like Charles Lee, but carried his credentials in his brain. So it was that the President of Congress, John Hancock, provided him with servants, a sleigh, a carriage, horses and uniforms and sent him on to Valley Forge.

In late February 1778 the self-styled baron with the fleshy nose, jowly face, and uncertain command of English (he resorted to French to make himself understood) showed up at Valley Forge, where his bemedaled figure made a huge impression. "He seemed to me a perfect personification of Mars," said one private. "The trappings of his horse, the enormous holsters of his pistols, his large size, and strikingly martial aspect, all seemed to favor the idea."

Steuben – he had as yet no rank – was shocked at the appearance of the American soldiers. He had found an army almost without hope. "The men were literally naked," he observed. "The officers who had coats had them of every color...made of an old blanket or a woolen bedcover. With regard to their military discipline, I may safely say no such thing existed." No unit was at full strength. Desertions – especially among the foreign



born – disease and death had depleted every unit. One company had shrunk from a hundred men to only one corporal. One regiment could muster only thirty soldiers. Their muskets were "in a horrible condition, covered with rust, half of them without bayonets," and those who had them used them chiefly as spits on which to cook their meat. Each regiment had its own idea of how to drill, camping as its colonel decreed without any sense of standard or order. There were more supply officers in the Continental Army than in all the armies of Europe, but no one actually kept records of arms, clothing equipment or ammunition. In the American belief that with no battles to fight, camp was an utter and useless bore, many officers and men went home for the winter. Men who had completed their service, carried their weapons and clothing home with them, contrary to army orders. Incredibly,

quartermasters were paid a percentage of the supplies they purchased – a license to steal if there ever was one! Such waste inevitably contributed to inflation and an unstable currency.

Steuben marveled that Washington's army had not melted clean away. No European army could have survived under such conditions. Yet, as he deplored the attitude and appearance of these ragged and undisciplined troops, he was deeply moved by the sardonic jocularity with which they made light of their miseries, and the depth of their devotion to the cause of freedom. He had never encountered such spirit before.

Steuben had insisted that he desired no command until he learned "the language and the genius and manners of the people" – in itself an insight of genius – and he saw at once that the whole problem was one of discipline: and that meant drill. If that fierce spirit of independence

could be controlled and harnessed like wild horses, what soldiers would emerge! But it was a month before he was able to compose a standard drill, chiefly because of the language difficulty. First he would write it in French, which would be translated into English by Du Ponceau and then into American, as it were, by Nathanael Greene and Alexander Hamilton. As Steuben remembered: "I dictated my dispositions in the night; in the day I had them performed." His drill squad was a model platoon of picked soldiers who would become the drillmasters for their own units in the Continental Army's fourteen brigades. Though all these men had been in battle, and therefore had the right to be considered veteran soldiers, Steuben began as though he were welcoming new recruits. The presumption was that they knew absolutely nothing about soldiering and were no better than civilians, and thus he started – oh indignity of indignities! – by telling them how to stand. Head up, chin in, shoulders back, chest out, stomach (or what was left of it) in, arms and hands rigid at the side. Next he demonstrated the twenty-eight inch stride and how they must step out left foot first upon the command, "Vorwaarts, march!" Then how to stop upon the command, "Halt! Vun-doo!" Then the various commands and changes of direction: "Doo der rear, march!" "Left oblique, march!" "Right vlink, march!" "Golumn left, march." As they marched he chanted cadence, "Vun-

doo-dree-four," which they took up themselves some of them deliberately mimicking Steuben's guttural accent, to his delighted surprise – that sing-song chant with its rhythmic power to bind men together as a unit sensitive to nothing but their leader's commands.

This was exactly what Steuben was doing, in the way of every drillmaster since Agamemnon: he was stripping his soldiers of every vestige or shred of individuality, making automata of them, taking them apart by denying every trait or like or dislike; then, once he had dissembled them as human beings, putting them together again as soldiers by instructions in the manual of arms, a complicated procedure with twelve different motions involved in loading and firing a musket. Here was the basic unlearning – a learning process that did take time and patience. It did at last have its rewards, as these shoeless men stepped out smartly or snapped their naked heels together with a soft thump, rather than a sharp click; swerved left on the oblique or right on the column pivoting off the right foot; or changed direction in a body to either flank.

Steuben was a born impresario, a show in himself, attracting hundreds of soldiers and officers drawn by his colorful polyglot combining three languages that made them roar with laughter. Best of all, he was making the parade ground – so often a citadel of boredom – a place of fun and laughter, with his infectious grin and his outra-

geous ability to curse fluently in three languages. Thus to Captain Walker: "*Viens, Valkaire, mon ami, mon bon ami! Sacre! Goddam de gauderies of dese badouts. Je ne puis plus.* I gan gurse dem no more!"

Within four weeks, the baron had worked a transformation. The rabble in arms could now march like any European soldiers and, best of all, could deploy and change formation under combat conditions. Steuben was himself surprised, and wrote: "My enterprise succeeded better than I had dared to expect, and I had the satisfaction... to see not only a regular step introduced in the army, but I also made maneuvers with ten and twelve battalions with as much precision as the evolution of a single company." He also discovered the difference between the European and American soldier. "The genius of this nation is not the least to be compared with that of the Prussians, Austrians or French. You say to your European soldier, 'Do this,' and he doeth it. But to an American I am obliged to say, 'This is the reason why you ought to do that, 'and then he does it.'" Unknown to the baron, while he was making soldiers out of free spirits, they were converting a Prussian autocrat to democracy.

Thus when his French aides, with his permission, invited a number of young officers to dine at his quarters, the condition, according to Du Ponceau, was that "none should be admitted that had on a whole pair of

breeches." In this, he continued, all those he invited "were very sure not to fail." Each guest brought his own ration to the "feast," and in the way of jolly comrades in arms of all wars, "we dined sumptuously on tough beefsteak and potatoes, with hickory nuts for dessert. Instead of wine, we had some kind of spirits with which we made 'Salamanders,' that is to say, after filling up our glasses we set liquor on fire and drank it up, flame and all. Such a set of ragged and at the same time merry fellows were never brought together!" The baron called the guests his "sansculottes." When an American officer who spoke no French inquired its meaning, his host with the customary impish grin and twinkling gray eye, replied: "Mittout pants."

George Washington had expected much from Steuben, but the miracle that Steuben had wrought was beyond his wildest hopes. In gratitude, when Thomas Conway resigned as inspector general, he recommended the baron as his replacement with the rank of major general. Also, as the winter turned to spring and the supply problem began to ease, recruits began to come in, perhaps drawn by the new spirit of professionalism animating the Continental Army.

Sources:

Washington,
by Ron Chernow,
The Penguin Press, 2010

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



2017 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 or the Saint Paul Chapter Sons of the American Revolution.

MINNESOTA SOCIETY SAR

President:.....Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D.
 Vice President:Dennis Garvin Croonquist
 Secretary-Treasurer:.....John Hallberg Jones, P.P.
 Registrar:.....Arthur Louis Finnell, P.P.
 Genealogist & Assist. Registrar: ..William Leslie DeCoursey, P.P.
 Chancellor:Brendan Robert Tupa, J.D.
 Historian/Newsletter Editor:Timothy Charles Harris, P.P.
 Librarian:.....Thomas Christopher Harris
 Surgeon:George Floyd Smith, M.D.
 Chaplain:Michael Scott Swisher, P.P.
 Sergeant-at-Arms:Jonathan Lee Gustafson

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

Hon. David S. Bouschor	James Fredrick Foster
Duane L. C. M. Galles, Ph.D.	COL Ronald E. McRoberts
Curtis John Oliver	John Charles Sassaman
Larry Wray Sisk	Marvin Eugene Stonecipher
Hon. Paul Kent Theisen	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
Marvin Lane Jansma	William Raymond Johnson
Larry Allan Lundblad, Ph.D.	John David McCallum
Robert Arthur Minish	Christopher Willard Moberg
Thomas Truxtun Morrison, Sr.	Randall Roger Nelson
Christopher John Pizinger	Aaron Hale Printup
LTC Allen Dean Shepersky	Rehn Douglas Smith
Stephen Paul Thompson	Stephen John Vescelus
Two Open Positions	

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

Trustee ending January 2018:Michael Scott Swisher, P.P.
 Trustee ending January 2019:John Hallberg Jones, P.P.
 Trustee ending January 2020:Duane L. C. M. Galles, P.P.

Nominated for Election at the NSSAR National Congress in Knoxville TN, in July 2017

National Trustee for Minnesota: ..Peter Arrott Dixon, P.P.
 Alternate National Trustee MN:....Duane L.C.M. Galles, Ph.D., P.P.

MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER SAR

President:.....Aaron Hale Printup
 Vice President:Steven James Hyde
 Secretary-Treasurer:.....John Hallberg Jones
 Chaplain:Michael Scott Swisher, P.P.
 Board of Managers:.....Thomas Truxtun Morrison
 Tracy Ashley Crocker
 Timothy Charles Harris

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.
 Hon. William Raymond Johnson
 Robert Edward Kahl, II
 Larry Allan Lundblad, Ph.D.
 Rehn Douglas Smith
 Hon. Paul Kent Theisen
 Larry Larson Warren

SAINT PAUL CHAPTER SAR

President.....Dennis Garvin Croonquist
 Vice PresidentDavid Adriance Foster
 Secretary-TreasurerTimothy Charles Harris
 ChaplainThomas Christopher Harris
 Board of Managers.....John Charles Sassaman
 Charles Edward Boyles
 John David McCallum

NEXT MEETING

The Annual George Washington Luncheon Meeting will be held at Jax Cafe on February 18, 2017. Our speaker will be COL Ronald Edward McRoberts, Ph.D. Past President MNSAR. His topic will be about the Battle of Saratoga. Watch for detailed information to be mailed to you.

Note: The cost of the meal is \$27.00.