

M I N N E S O T A

SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • www.MinnesotaSAR.org • WINTER 2018



MNSAR 129TH 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 13, 2018. Luncheon, from the menu, was served during the meeting.

The Society was called to order by President Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D. President Bodeau led the Pledge to the US flag and read the Pledge to the SAR. Our Chaplain, Michael Scott Swisher gave the Invocation. The Minnesota Society was then recessed and the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Chapters conducted their business.

Continued Inside...

**INSIDE THE
MNSAR SALUTE...**

Minnesota Society SAR
129th Annual Meeting

American Eagle –
British Evacuate Philadelphia

Now and Then –
Dennis Garvin Croonquist

Remembering James Gillespie
Hirsh

2018 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

Saint Paul Chapter

The Saint Paul Chapter was called to order by President Dennis Garvin Croonquist. A motion was made to forego reading the Minutes of the 14 January 2017 meeting as they were summarized in the Minnesota Society newsletter. Secretary-Treasurer Timothy Harris presented the Financial Report indicating assets totaling \$6,047.66.

Compatriot Harris reported that twelve 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 the same twelve area high schools to begin the program for 2018. The criteria for the recipient of the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal is Scholarship, Leadership, Character, Service and an appreciation of patriotism.

Five Saint Paul businesses were presented with a flag certificate for regularly flying the flag on Flag Day, June 14, 2017.

Minneapolis Chapter

The Minneapolis Chapter was called to order by President Aaron Hale Printup. Secretary-Treasurer Jones presented the Annual Financial Report, noting total assets of \$21,499.18 as of 31 December 2017.

Compatriot Jones reported that the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal was presented in 24 area high schools in 2017, and that the Minneapolis Chapter also had a presentation at a squadron of Naval Sea Cadets. Letters have already been

mailed to all schools/units for the 2018 program. The Twin Cities Squadron Naval Sea Cadets has their ceremony on 20 January 2018. The Minneapolis Chapter will be represented by Vice President 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.

Minnesota Society Financial Report and Endowment Trust Fund

Secretary-Treasurer Jones presented the Annual Financial Report. It showed net assets of \$44,678.29 as of 31 December 2017. He then presented the report of the MNSAR Endowment Trust Fund. Donations to Principal during 2017 were a record \$4,013.00. The Principal as of 31 December 2017 totaled \$40,047.33. The Trustees proposed that the 2017 interest of \$484.49 be used to pay the following donation items: Minnesota Genealogical Society \$50.00, Preservation Alliance of MN \$50.00, and the balance of \$384.49 to the MNSAR Color Guard.

MNSAR Membership

Secretary-Treasurer Jones reported on membership for 2017: We started 2017 with 201 members plus 6 dual members. In 2017 there were 22 new members, 1 Memorial member, 2 reinstated, 2 transferred in, 1 death, 1 transfer out, and 2 resignations. This brings the year-end total to 223 (plus the 6 dual

members).

Certificates and rosettes were presented to new members David Werts and Ethan Read, who also received for his young son Brayden Read. Michael Swisher received for the Memorial Membership filed for his grandfather Richard McGee. Supplemental Ancestor certificates were presented to Ronald McRoberts and John Sassaman. Other new member and supplemental certificates will be mailed.

Minnesota Society Programs

Compatriot Sassaman reported on the Eagle Scout Program, indicating disappointment that only one Eagle Scout entered the contest but it was deemed worthy of being forwarded as a State winner. Looking ahead the MNSAR will continue to communicate with the Scout Council Leaders instead of the Scouts themselves. Upon motion passed, we will pay the winner \$300.00, with \$200.00 also being donated to the Council he represents.

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. He is passing the Commander position to Aaron Printup and Steven Hyde to continue this excellent work. The Color Guard will be looking to replace several of the old flags and stands, and to getting

shoulder harnesses to assist in carrying flags in parades.

National Congress

President Bodeau commented on the NSSAR National Congress. Minnesota needs delegates to attend. Motion was passed authorizing the President to appoint delegates, who should contact him to advise their desire and ability to attend.

New Business

There was a general discussion of getting more activities and member involvement. Suggestions were made for a visitation to the Stephen Taylor Grave in Winona and a possible boat trip on Lake Minnetonka on the historic "Minnehaha".

A motion was passed to recommend to NSSAR that they develop a stronger relationship with the American Legion and VFW, with possible advertising in their national magazines.

Secretary-Treasurer Jones auctioned off two items with the proceeds going to the MNSAR Endowment Trust Fund: A ballad novel on the Battle of Kings Mountain (donated by Arthur Finnell) and an ornament commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

The colors were retired and with no further business appearing, President Bodeau declared the annual meetings of the Minnesota Society, Minneapolis Chapter, and Saint Paul Chapter adjourned.



NOW & THEN

Dennis Garvin Croonquist was born in Minneapolis and has been a Life member of MNSAR since 2011. He was elected Vice-President of MNSAR in 2017. Dennis' paternal grandmother, Cora, a school teacher, was the first one to pique Dennis interest in genealogy. She gave him a copy of the family's book, *Genealogy of the Condit Family from 1678-1885, 1916 revision*. The book listed his father Garvin as a descendant of Nathaniel Condit. It was fascinating to read and kept him interested in family history. He often ponders what life was like during his ancestors' time. Cora told him that he had more than one ancestor who served in the Revolutionary War. Dennis had heard of the D.A.R. but was unaware of how one could become a member of the SAR at the time and asked his father for more information. He had a treasure trove of information to share from both sides of the family. His paternal grandfather's parents were born in Sweden as well as his mother's parents.

Years later when he was studying chemical engineering at the University of Minnesota he picked up the genealogy bug again when he had the opportunity to study at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. There he researched his maternal grandfather's roots at the Landsarkivit in Göteborg

(Country Archives) and developed a love for Volvo cars. He found long lost relatives and developed lifelong relationships with them; visiting them in Sweden and hosting them here in the US. Back home at the University of Minnesota, he finished his B. S. degree in Chemistry and Scandinavian studies-Swedish language. He adds, "After graduation, I took a position at a Volvo dealership and thought it would be a short stint, but this February marks my 44th year at Borton Volvo as the IT & Parts Director."

He took up his quest for SAR membership with the help of his wife when she was posted at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. They made several trips to the D.A.R. headquarters and once they gathered all the proofs from the prestigious library, Dennis looked on-line and eventually contacted John Hallberg Jones by email. John got him the paperwork and was the Sponsor for his membership.

Dennis and his wife, Ann Mulfort, just celebrated their 35th anniversary last October. Ann is an archivist by education (MLIS Dominican University) training and experience, has taken many genealogy courses and is presently working on finalizing her D. A. R. membership.

Dennis's patriot ancestor is Nathaniel Condit who was

born on September 3, 1746 in Orange NJ. He enlisted on May 8th 1777 as a Private in the Captain Thomas Williams's Company, Essex County, New Jersey militia. He was promoted to corporal and then served under Captain Elijah Squire's NJ. militia, On September 24, 1777; he served at Newark under the command of Major Samuel Hayes. Corporal Condit was discharged on October 1, 1777 from Captain Williams Company, Colonel Philip Van Cortlandt's Regiment in Essex County, NJ. Condit re-enlisted June 7th, 1780 and served in an alarm at Connecticut and was discharged June 26th, 1780. On November 21, 1780 he re-enlisted and served in Newark before being discharged January 12, 1781. He died on October 2, 1805 at Orange, NJ.

He has one other patriot ancestor, named James Ackerman. Patriot Ackerman served in New York as a Private.

REMEMBERING JAMES GILLESPIE HIRSH

James Gillespie Hirsh of St. Paul died peacefully at his summer home in Ocean City, NJ, on August 28, 2017 surrounded by his family. He was 79 years old.

Hirsh was born in Philadelphia, attended Germantown Friends in Philadelphia, Princeton University, Penn Law School and received an MBA at the University of Minnesota. He worked for 28 years in the IDS/American Express Law Department. Jim served his country as a Captain in Princeton's ROTC and the Army Reserve.

For many years he was active on the boards of the Cass Gilbert Society and the Ramsey Hill Association of St. Paul. He was also a member of the SAR. He enjoyed exercising, travel, annual hikes in Europe with his friends, and sailing in Minnesota, New Jersey and Florida. Jim was a life-long learner. He was fluent in French and an avid reader.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Debra (Pierce) and children, Katherine (Robert Smith), Elizabeth (Chad Heider).

*Published in Pioneer Press
on October 8, 2017*



2018 MINNESOTA SOCIETY SAR OFFICERS

The following compatriots were nominated and elected to serve another year for 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:.....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:

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)

Robert Wayne Allison	Charles Edward Boyles
Tracy Ashley Crocker	David Adriance Foster
Jay Thomas W. Franklin	James Everett Hagen
Steven James Hyde	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

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

Trustee ending January 2019:John Hallberg Jones, P.P.
 Trustee ending January 2020:Duane L. C. M. Galles, P.P.
 Trustee ending January 2021:Michael Scott Swisher, P.P.

Nominated for Election at the NSSAR National Congress in Houston, TX, in July 2018

National Trustee for Minnesota: ..Peter Arrott Dixon
 Alternate National Trustee MN:....Dr. David Eugene Schrader

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 17, 2018. Our speaker will be COL Ronald Edward McRoberts, Ph.D. Past President MNSAR. His topic will be "The Southern Campaign of the American Revolution" Watch for detailed information to be mailed to you.

AMERICAN EAGLE



News of Yesterday Reported Today

Sunday June 21, 1778

BRITISH EVACUATE PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – There had been little, if any, rejoicing in the British Army at Philadelphia when Sir Henry Clinton succeeded Howe in the chief command. Although Sir William had failed to crush the Rebellion, he was still popular with the younger officers and especially the men, who were conscious of his bravery and his concern for their welfare. But Clinton, the cold, colorless careerist, could never have been popular in such a way. Thus it was remembered more against him that he had failed at Charleston than that he had succeeded at Forts Clinton and Montgomery and, with any help from Howe, might have saved Burgoyne.

In truth Sir Henry Clinton did not inspire loyalty. Judge Thomas Jones, the Tory chronicler, spoke of him as “haughty, morose, churlish, stupid and scarcely ever to be spoken with.” William Franklin carried the uncomplimentary caricature further: “The commander in chief is gallant to a proverb, and possesses great military knowledge in the field, but he is weak, irresolute, unsteady, vain, incapable of forming any plan himself, and too weak, or rather too proud and conceited to follow that of another.” Short and stout, with a full round face, large nose and tight and disdainful little mouth, he quarreled with his senior officers while keeping subordinates at a distance and sought solace in the bottle and the arms of easy women.

After Howe’s departure, Clinton had to face two difficult problems: what to do with the three thousand Philadelphia Tories who would become destitute refugees once he had evacuated the city and whether to obey Germain’s orders to proceed to New York by sea. On the first count, he knew that he certainly could not take all the Loyalists aboard the transports, and because he was not a very sympathetic man he was inclined to regard them as a nuisance, now that their comfortable homes and great estates were no longer of any use. He also seems to have considered advising them to make their peace with the rebels, now that Washington had proposed to Congress an amnesty through which they could swear allegiance to the new nation. Such was Clinton’s lack of understanding that he could not comprehend the Loyalists’ fierce rejection of such a course. They well knew that an official pardon would be but a fragile shield against the hatred of their neighbors. At the utmost, they would be tolerated, and if the war ended in a Patriot victory, they would be scorned as supporters of a traitorous cause.

But Clinton’s solution of this first problem of the Tories was made for him by his response to the second: whether to proceed to New York by land or by sea. The water route would expose Britain’s only army in America not only to storms or calms, but also to the Comte

d’Estaing’s fleet, which was approaching America with twelve ships of the line, a squadron of frigates and four thousand infantry. A storm could scatter Clinton’s ships so that Admiral Lord Howe could not possibly defend them all; a calm could so delay them that Washington might be free to attack New York. In the end Clinton decided to move his army by land across New Jersey by way of New Brunswick, while the ships carried his great guns and the Tories with their possessions.

Thus for the third time in nineteen months the sidewalks of Philadelphia were heaped high with the property of refugees: furniture, china and silver, clothing, paintings, even the equipage of the carriage houses, all to be transported to the waterfront or sold at auction. Every available wheeled vehicle was pressed into the service of this traffic of sorrow moving woefully to and from the wharves and warehouses. Although these unfortunate people, whose costly loyalty to the Crown never was fully appreciated, had been granted ample space for their goods and chattels, they were still confined to quarters below decks, and as the loaded transports dropped one by one down the river, there to anchor and await completion of the loading operation, they suffered from the mosquitoes and heat of a typical American tidewater summer. Once the evacuation fleet was in movement, Clinton’s

march by land began.

With the thoroughness and organizational skill that were Sir Henry’s chief abilities, he had prepared carefully for the departure. Redoubts were built at Cooper’s Creek, on the New Jersey side of the Delaware, to hold a beachhead to protect the troops arriving on that bank. From five to six hundred sailors spent a week ferrying the army’s five thousand horses and their wagons across the river, followed by the siege guns left in their fortifications until the night before the evacuation. Two nights earlier the shipyards were set afire, consuming nearby houses as well.

Each soldier carried four days’ cooked rations in his pack, while the wagons were loaded with twenty days of supplies. Although the distance to New York was only about ninety miles, it was over difficult terrain – what is called “cross-hatched” with highly defensible rivers and hills – occupied by what was now an almost totally hostile population. Progress as slow and careful as five miles a day could well consume all their supplies.

There would also almost certainly be the danger of Washington hovering on Clinton’s flanks, looking for that moment of unrivaled military opportunity: a fatal gap or confusion in the line of an army on the march.

Washington’s army now numbered about 11,800 men, including the sick, wounded and otherwise disabled. His es-

timate of Clinton's strength at about ten thousand was much too low. Clinton's forces were close to twice that number, although the disaffection of deserters at the departure of Howe had seriously depleted his ranks. Two battalions of Germans from Anspach were considered so unreliable that they were put aboard the transports, and many of the Hessian and British soldiers who had married local girls – especially the Germans, with their fondness for Pennsylvania Dutch belles – had “gone over the hill.” When the army marched to the embarkation point on the morning of June 18, 1778, Clinton commanded about fifteen thousand men.

This amphibious withdrawal – another highly dangerous military movement – was handled skillfully by Admiral Howe's fleet. A year before at Head of Elk, Admiral Howe had efficiently and with high hopes landed his brother's army; now, with the same skill but with some regret, he was withdrawing it from abandoned Philadelphia. By ten o'clock the last redcoat had reached the New Jersey shore, not too long before Light-Horse Harry Lee and his cavalry galloped down to the landing on the Pennsylvania side. That night Colonel Daniel Morgan rode through

the Quaker City proclaiming a curfew: all persons found abroad after midnight would be arrested.

Next day, on June 19, 1778, Benedict Arnold rode into Philadelphia as the military commander of the city and its environs. Still unable to mount a horse or to move erect except with the use of crutches, his wounded leg two inches shorter than the other, he had been compelled to come in a coach with his foot propped up on a pillow. Such confinement did nothing to detract from the splendor of his entrance, for his magnificent coach-and-four was easily the most elegant in the city as it rolled over the streets behind a parade of Massachusetts Continentals. Surrounding it were the high-spirited horses of his aides, resplendent in their braided uniforms, while other coaches containing his liveried servants followed.

Such display somewhat startled the thousands of ecstatic Patriots who lined the streets to welcome their liberators. Most of them had always associated elegance and luxury with those treacherous Tories, who, now that Clinton's army was gone, were deliciously at their mercy. It would be more seemly for a true Patriot to ride in a plain and open carriage.

Arnold was himself startled

to see that the faces of many of the welcoming Patriots were pinched with hunger. Then he was appalled at the devastation he beheld. The city's neat squares and commons had been churned into a mixture of mud, horse manure and debris. Whole blocks of houses in neighborhoods on the southern, western and northern edges of the city had been knocked down for firewood, and almost all fences had been similarly consumed. In the cemeteries, where horses had been exercised, the turf was torn up and gravestones were overturned, while churches were stripped of their pews and pulpits to heat both barracks and billet. All the furnishings of Independence Hall had been burned to warm the bodies of five companies of artillery stationed there, while above them all windows and shutters were nailed shut to contain American prisoners of war, and in the basement below, others were confined behind locked doors. In the now-infamous potter's field nearby were the long, shallow mass graves of some two thousand of the miserable Yankees who had died in captivity. Every street, it seemed, was lined with abandoned, broken-down vehicles standing among the rotting carcasses of horses that were still yoked to their traces.

But then, this horrid scene of sights, sounds and smells offensive to those three senses suddenly changed as though an angel's wand had been waved over it. Arnold's coach had entered what might be described as Torytown: a square mile enclave of handsome mansions, many of them built of red-and-black brick with classic pediments over the windows, surrounded by formal gardens and orchards and “commodious” living quarters that were once occupied by the slaves and indentured servants of the wealthy Quakers and Loyalists who lived there. One of these houses was occupied by Judge Edward Shippen, IV, scion of one of the oldest families in Pennsylvania, hereditary allies of that William Penn who had founded both the colony and its capital city.

On June 20 George Washington set his army in motion for the New Jersey hills, convinced now that New York, rather than the South, was Clinton's objective. As he left Valley Forge, surrounded by a guard of fifty troopers with drawn sabers, his head was still visible above theirs.

Sources:

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