

M I N N E S O T A

# SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • [www.MinnesotaSAR.org](http://www.MinnesotaSAR.org) • SPRING 2020



## 2020 Annual Washington Day Luncheon

February 15, 2020 – Minneapolis, Minnesota – 36 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 Washington Day Luncheon. The total attendance was 66. Jax Café had prepared their signature Chicken Chardonnay for the group, with a vegetarian alternative for those desiring such, and a delightful White Chocolate Macadamia Nut Mousse dessert.

SAR Interim Secretary-Treasurer Jones presented a rosette to Donald Jurgen who attended his first meeting. Jurgen is pictured with President Croonquist and the MNSAR Color Guard.

**INSIDE THE**  
**MNSAR SALUTE...**

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# THE COLONIAL WARS

## LESSONS LEARNED AND LESSONS NOT LEARNED

Compatriot, COL. Ronald McRoberts was the keynote speaker at the MNSAR Washington Day Luncheon. He stated that the American Colonial Wars were an extension of European Wars. He gave a brief history of each of the major Colonial Wars:

King Williams War (1680-1697) also known as the Nine Years War or the War of the Grand Alliance in Europe. He pointed out that France controlled Canada and were in alliance with the Algonquian and Wabanaki Indian Tribes while Great Britain and her North American Colonies allied themselves with the Iroquois Nation, bitter enemies of the Algonquians.

France's Indian allies raided Britain's northern colonies while Britain and her colonial militia unsuccessfully tried to take Quebec. Whoever controlled Quebec controlled all of French Canada.

The Treaty of Ryswick signed in September 1697 ended the war between the two colonial powers, reverting the colonial borders to the status quo. The peace did not last long; and within five years, the colonies were embroiled in the next phase of the colonial wars.

Queen Anne's War (1702-1713) was the second in a series of French and Indian Wars fought during the reign of Anne, Queen of Great Britain and was known as the War of the Spanish Succession in Europe.

Quebec City was repeatedly targeted by British colonial expeditions, and the Acadian capital Port Royal was taken in 1710. The French colonists and the Wabanaki Confederacy sought to thwart New England expansion into Acadia. They executed frequent raids in Massachusetts, including the Deerfield, Massacre in 1704, in which more than 100 captives were taken north to Montreal for ransom or adoption by Mohawk and French. By the end of the war, natives were successful in killing more than 700 English and capturing over 250 along the Acadia/ New England border.

The Treaty of Utrecht ended the war in 1713. France ceded the territories of Hudson Bay, Acadia, and Newfoundland to Britain while retaining Cape Breton Island and other islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Some terms were ambiguous in the treaty, and concerns of various Indian tribes were not included, thereby setting the stage for future conflicts.

King George's War (1744-1748) is the name given to the military operations in North America that formed part of the War of the Austrian Succession. The war took a heavy toll, especially in the northern British colonies. In 1745, British colonial forces captured Fortress Louisbourg after a siege of six weeks. In retaliation, the Wabanaki Confederacy of Acadia launched the Northeast Coast

Campaign against the British settlements on the border of Acadia in northeast Maine.

According to the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, Louisbourg was returned to France in exchange for the city of Madras in India, which had been captured by the French from the British.

The peace treaty, which restored all colonial borders to their pre-war status, did little to end the lingering enmity between France, Britain, and their respective colonies, nor did it resolve any territorial disputes. Tensions remained in both North America and Europe. They broke out again in 1754, with the start of the French and Indian War. Unlike the other Colonial Wars, the French and Indian War began in North America, which spread to Europe two years later as the Seven Years' War.

At the start of the war, the French colonies had a population of roughly 60,000 settlers, compared with 2 million in the British colonies. The outnumbered French particularly depended on the Indians. The War went badly at first for Britain and her colonies. The colonial militias were unwilling to travel long distances to far away battles. After William Pitt became Prime Minister of Great Britain he committed military forces and went into substantial debt to conduct the war.

The conflict in Ohio ended in 1758 with the British-American victory in the Ohio Coun-

try. Between 1758 and 1760, the British military launched a campaign to capture French Canada. They succeeded in capturing territory in surrounding colonies and ultimately the city of Quebec. France ceded Canada in accordance with the Treaty of Paris.

McRoberts went on to explain a lesson learned from these earlier conflicts: The American Militia learned wilderness fighting from the Indians but needed substantial help from British forces in pitched battle.

Britain's war debt led directly to the Revolutionary War. During the conflict the Americans lost the pitched battles such as Bunker Hill (1775), Quebec (1776), Charleston and Camden (1780). They won the battles fought using Indian tactics in wilderness-style fighting at Trenton (1776), Saratoga (1777), Kings Mountain (1780) and Cowpens (1781). With substantial help from the French they successfully ended the Revolutionary War in a pitched battle at Yorktown (1781).

Lessons learned: the colonists learned wilderness fighting but were not as good at it as the Indians – but were much better than the British. Lessons not learned: Militia enlistments were too short and the Americans relied on the militia too much.

*Source:*

*Author Harry Schenawolf*



# NSSAR NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT AND SPRING LEADERSHIP MEETING REPORTS

By Chris Moberg

Minneapolis, Minnesota – During the Washington Day Luncheon, as Vice President General for the North Central District, I delivered a report about the many programs of the Society, mentioning specifically the Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution invites all high school students (9th through 12th grades) interested in the American Revolution to participate in the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest. Years ago the MNSAR did participate in the oration contest. If anyone would like to pick up the program please contact me at [moberg.chris@gmail.com](mailto:moberg.chris@gmail.com) or visit <https://www.sar.org/education/youth-contests-awards/joseph-s-rumbaugh-historical-oration-contest>.

I also talked about the George Washington Endowment Fund. The George Washington Endowment Fund (GWEF) was created to establish a permanently restricted fund, the income of which would provide annual funding for support of NSSAR unfunded and underfunded committees and special projects. If you would like to donate to the SAR Education Center and Museum, George Washington Endowment Fund, or the Joseph S. Rumbaugh Oration Contest contact me at [moberg.chris@gmail.com](mailto:moberg.chris@gmail.com) or visit [www.sarfoundation.com](http://www.sarfoundation.com).

Louisville, Kentucky – The Spring Leadership Meeting of the SAR was held from Thursday, February 27 to Saturday, February 29, 2020 at the historic Brown Hotel. The first event that I attended was the Council of VPG's meeting on Friday morning. President General Manning was present and encouraged VPGs to work with the states in their district to promote new membership and increase member retention. In the afternoon, I attended a color guard meeting and rehearsed with the men's chorus. That evening, I had the honor of participating with the color guard in posting the colors for the banquet. After the dinner, there was a presentation by professor David Armitage on the topic of George III and the Law of Nations. Professor Armitage was the SAR visiting professor at King's College London for 2019.

On Saturday morning, I attended the donor recognition breakfast and the trustee meeting. Some of the items of business conducted at the trustee meeting included:

1. Approved application fee increases. For example, the regular membership application fee will increase from \$80 to \$100. Note that the cost per application for a genealogist is \$106. The cost of dues was not increased.
2. Shipping containers were

damaged upon return from the National Congress in Costa Mesa last summer. The insurance claim of \$3,000 against the shipping agent was denied. A motion was approved not to file a law suit, since the cost of the law suit would outweigh any benefit gained.

3. Approved seven near term building maintenance and appearance projects, with the total cost not to exceed \$30,000.
4. Approved a motion to build up the long term capital reserve fund for future repairs, replacements, and other building projects.
5. Approved the investment allocations that were proposed for various funds.
6. Approved a museum board recommendation for the de-accession of a donated Brown Bess musket that was found to have been restocked with a mixture of parts in the early 19th century.
7. After watching an impressive new video showing a walk through of the new SAR Education Center and Museum (available at [www.sarfoundation.org](http://www.sarfoundation.org)), the trustees approved the final design steps of phase 2 for the Education Center and Museum project. It is anticipated that the final phase (construction and build-out) will begin next year.

On Saturday afternoon,

I attended a trustee training seminar and rehearsed with the men's chorus. There was a banquet in the evening. After the meal, I joined the men's chorus in singing a number of favorite songs from past meetings. It was our last performance under the direction of Richard D. Brockway, and the songs were well received. Afterwards, there was a presentation by West Point Academy professor LTC Seanegan P. Sculley on military leadership in the Continental Army. Finally, I participated with the color guard in retiring the colors.

If you would like more information about the national meetings, feel free to contact me – [moberg.chris@gmail.com](mailto:moberg.chris@gmail.com)

## Upcoming National Events:

- May 30 – Grave Marking for Former National President General Sterling Mutz (1942) in Lincoln, NE
- July 11 – July 15 – National Congress in Richmond, VA

# AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Monday August 16, 1779



## TERRIBLE DAY FOR AMERICA'S NAVY

Penobscot Bay, Massachusetts – On August 13, 1779 British Commodore George Collier entered the Penobscot River with ten vessels and 1,600 soldiers, breaking the blockade there. American Commodore Dudley Saltonstall unceremoniously fled upriver and burned all his ships. Within three days Collier has eliminated the entire squadron of 43 vessels and inflicted 474 casualties for a loss of 13 men. Damage to Massachusetts alone is estimated at \$8 million.

In June 1779, a small British fleet landed two regiments of 700 soldiers on the Bagaduce Peninsula, in the upper reaches of Penobscot Bay. Intent on establishing a base from which they could operate more effectively against American privateers, ensure the extraction of valuable naval stores, and develop a refuge for displaced Loyalists, the British enlisted local support and began the construction of Fort George. Word reached Boston quickly, and over the ensuing month the largest American naval force of the war thus far, known as the Penobscot Expedition, was assembled.

An amphibious operation, the expedition consisted of 40 vessels, nearly 2,000 seamen and marines, 100 artillerymen, and 870 militia. Mounting 350 guns, the sizable fleet included



three Continental Navy vessels, three Massachusetts State vessels, one New Hampshire State vessel, eleven Massachusetts privateers, and twenty-two transports. The expedition was not, however, easily brought to fruition. Several vessels and their requisite crews were pressed into service, and although 1,500 militiamen from three Maine counties were expected to carry out the assault, only 870 unorganized, inexperienced, and ill-equipped troops actually turned out. General Solomon Lovell and Commodore Dudley Saltonstall shared joint-command, the former lacking extensive field experience and the latter inde-

cisive and obstinate. Lieutenant Colonel Paul Revere took charge of the artillery train. He didn't have much military training, but he had repaired the guns damaged when the British evacuated Boston. Exceedingly confident of the operation's success, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts underwrote the entire campaign and failed to consult any significant military authority. Nonetheless, despite being planned by civilians and carried out by part time soldiers, the expedition's various inadequacies escaped serious criticism, and the flotilla departed Boston Harbor amidst high expectations.

Reaching Bagaduce on 25

July, the Americans found only a modest earthworks situated in the peninsula's center, a couple of outlying redoubts, and the water approach to Bagaduce Harbor defended only by three armed sloops. Ultimately, the apparent mismatch proved deceiving, however, for the British enjoyed advantages of geography, experience, and efficient cooperation between land and naval forces. Over the next two days, the Americans captured a British battery on a small island at the harbor's entrance and began a series of ineffective attempts to dislodge the three sloops of war from their anchorage across the approach to the harbor. Shortly

thereafter, a difficult landing was effected under a formidable precipice on the southwestern shore of the peninsula known as Dyce's Head. Within hours, General Lovell and nearly 600 militiamen, doubtless stunned by their initial success, found themselves only a few hundred yards from the British fort.

The Americans' substantial momentum deteriorated quickly, however. Unable to convince Saltonstall to engage the vastly inferior enemy fleet and clear the way for the land forces to storm the garrison, Lovell and his inexperienced troops initiated a lengthy siege. Conversely, Commodore Saltonstall refused to attack the enemy fleet with any vigor, until Lovell had taken the bastion and one battery that overlooked the harbor. Only a waist-high earthworks when the rebel flotilla arrived, Fort George was unsuccessfully besieged by the American land and naval forces for over two weeks.

By 13 August, the poor-

ly coordinated siege of Fort George reached an end when the Americans found themselves pinned within Penobscot Bay by a newly arrived British relief fleet. Led by Sir George Collier and his 64-gun flagship *Raisonable*, the fleet carried approximately 204 guns, arguably inferior to the Americans' collective armament, but clearly superior in individual strength, experience, and fighting ability. The following day, despite having re-embarked the troops with reasonable efficiency, Commodore Saltonstall initiated a bizarre retreat as his 32-gun flagship *Warren* overtook the transports and headed up river.

Of the utter confusion that followed, general Lovell admitted that "...an attempt to give a description of this terrible Day is out of my Power." Coordinating an effective stand grew increasingly difficult over the ensuing days, as crews burned their vessels and took to the woods. A handful of vain at-

tempts were made to gather troops and make a stand, but eventually, as Colonel Jonathan Mitchell of Maine revealed, all the participants made off for home "...without any leave from a superior officer." Ultimately, all American armed ships and transports, save for at least one captured by the British, were destroyed along various portions of the river and upper bay, resulting in a great American naval disaster.

The expedition's transport vessels, slower sailing merchant sloops and schooners, met a particularly ignominious end after being left unprotected by the fleeing American warships. With wind and tide against them, most failed to ascend the river and were landed and burned by their crews to prevent capture.

The campaign, whose demise began in the earliest stages of its design, had ended in a spectacularly embarrassing turn of events for the state of Massachusetts. Ironically, British

General Francis McLean was prepared from the outset for the fort to be taken, as the American forces before him and his naval counterpart Captain Henry Mowat appeared overwhelming. To an American spy within Fort George McLean divulged that he expected the fort to be overrun and "...only meant to give them one or two guns, as not to be called a coward." As the siege progressed, however, he considered every passing day (with the Americans' continued inactivity), "as good as another thousand men." With only two regiments of 700 soldiers McLean defended the fort successfully, while, with three sloops of war mounting only 50 guns, Captain Mowat stymied Saltonstall's larger fleet.

Sources:

*Revolutionary War Almanac*,  
by John C. Fredriksen,  
Infobase Publishing, 2006  
<http://penobscot1779.tripod.com/PEhistory.htm>



## MNSAR COLOR GUARD REPORT



The Color Guard is the face of the SAR in public. Not only do they represent the organization, but they represent our ancestors who served in the Revolution and above all, the Color Guard represents the ideals upon which this great nation was founded.

The MNSAR has played an active role in the Wayzata C.A.R.'s Independence Day event for many years. In the past they have also posted the colors at citizen naturalization ceremonies. With only six active members it has been difficult to schedule naturalization ceremonies lately.

The MNSAR Color Guard asks others to join. SAR members, wives, sons and daughters are welcome to participate in period dress. The Color Guard can use characters in civilian dress to play the part of a Reverend or Selectman/Committee member, militiaman or camp follower. A family in persona would be wonderful. The MNSAR Color Guard will assist members in outfitting with period clothing and equipment.

The living history team of the MNSAR Color Guard has been invited back to Mound Middle School in May for an-

other round of presentations. Last year two SAR, two DAR and one CAR member conducted three one hour sessions to 90 plus students of the Mound Middle

School. The aim was to enhance their study of the revolution by providing living history recounts of life in the era and vignettes of the struggle. The MNSAR Color Guard has already been approached regarding more schools in the Twin Cities and as far north as Two Harbors.

The Patriot Chest provides hands-on replicas of period items to bring history alive to students. A grant through the National Society by a Colorado compatriot has helped equip the chest. The contents of the chest was on display at the MNSAR Washington Day Luncheon. The chest is incomplete and is still in need of several items. Contact MNSAR Color Guard Commander Steven Hyde: [Hydesteve@yahoo.com](mailto:Hydesteve@yahoo.com) or Craig Whiting: [craig.whiting@usa.net](mailto:craig.whiting@usa.net) if you would like to contribute.

During the Washington Day Luncheon MNSAR Color Guard Commander, Steven Hyde, welcomed new Color Guard member, Richard Howey, who was presented with a cockade for his hat.

## Supplemental Application Tips

Many MNSAR compatriots have stars on their neck ribbons. These signify Patriot ancestors other than the ancestor used to join the SAR. John Sassaman assists prospective members with new applications and MNSAR members with supplemental filings. Each application takes a minimum of several hours to process and validate. When filling out a Supplemental Application please keep the following tips in mind for a smooth process:

- The applicant must use a PDF form obtained from John Sassaman. Please do not use the online NSSAR website form. The PDF form must be filled out using Acrobat Reader – it is free and available for MAC and PC platforms.
- Date format is – dd mmm yyyy – 16 FEB 2020.
- Location format is Township/County/State abbreviation. For example – Minneapolis/Hennepin/MN or //MN if only the state is known.
- No books with family relationships and dates without proper proof documentation for said dates and relationships are acceptable. In general, indexes into proofs are not acceptable.
- For each generation where you are using an existing approved SAR application as your proof, state the SAR number followed by the Patriot ancestor's name. For example – SAR #12345 via ancestor John Doe. If this is not done John Sassaman will request that you send a copy of the approved application that you are quoting since he does not have a copy on file.
- If requested, John Sassaman can send you a document which lists the types of proof documentations that the SAR will accept. This is not typically sent for the supplemental application process.
- When documenting from a male to a female line, one must prove the female's married name and married to maiden name, and her to her parents generation. Too often John is getting documentation showing a married name and a separate document listing the female in her parents household, but no documentation tying the maiden name to the married name.

Please contact John Sassaman – [sassamanjohn@gmail.com](mailto:sassamanjohn@gmail.com) if you would like to file a Supplemental Application.





## HUTCHINSON EAGLE SCOUT WINS MINNESOTA COMPETITION

Jerome Hilgemann of the Northern Star Council Boy Scouts of America is the Minnesota winner of the SAR's Eagle Scout Scholarship and Awards Program. Jerome from Hutchinson, Minnesota, was honored at the annual George Washington Day Observation and Luncheon where he received the Spreading Wings Bronze Eagle Trophy as the Minnesota winner. His mother and father were also in attendance. Jerome'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 and \$4,000 runner-up scholarships will also be chosen.

His winning essay is printed below:



### Technology Had a Key Role in the American Revolution

Everyone seems to think technology is a product of the twenty-first century. Not true. Technology has been a cutting-edge factor throughout America's history. It was especially true during the American Revolution.

One of the most important technological advances from the era was the long rifle. Manufactured by Pennsylvania immigrants who learned the trade in Germany, the weapons were eventually given the name Pennsylvania Rifles. On a negative note, the rifles took longer to reload, were tougher to maintain, and more expensive. But the advantages were undeniable. Increased accuracy and distance were a huge plus and many historians have labeled it as the first sniper rifle. The tightly-packed bullet was the key. Its design proved to be a valuable battlefield asset. A grooved barrel also helped the cause. Its design helped move the bullet through the air to deliver a powerful blow. They were a major weapon in many

conflicts ranging from the Battle of Saratoga to the Battle of New Orleans. Pennsylvania Rifles were an important weapon because snipers could hit the British officers from a farther distance while keeping our soldiers at a safer distance from the British riflemen. Without the first sniper rifle, the war would have been much more difficult to win and would have cost considerably more American lives.

Another technological advance of the American Revolution came in the form of food preservation. Safe food handling helped change the tides of war drastically. During previous wars, food preservation was non-existent and soldiers had to rely on constant shipments of food and supplies. Tracking supply lines was also a simple and reliable way of tracking enemy troop movements. Due to food preservation advances, the British had a difficult time finding the supply lines. The British wrongly surmised the villagers were giving food to

the Colonial troops. Instead, the Americans had found a way to preserve the food and were able to keep more food with them so the supplies could last over a year. Preserved food also meant the American soldiers were not required to start as many fires, which often signaled their location to the British. Most of the food could be eaten cold and provided all the required nutrients while also keeping the soldiers hidden. The techniques eventually led to further developments in preservation, the most notable coming in 1812 when the first canning factory opened. Food preservation also aided in many of the conflicts after the American Revolution. Without a doubt, food preservation advancements have helped America become the strong country it is today.

A fact many people overlook is the first submarine ever used was in the American Revolution. Although not a new idea, the American colonies were the first to make submarines a reality. Using the name American

Turtle, the American submarine was commissioned to sink the British ships and devastate the strongest Navy in the world. Unfortunately, when American forces tried to sink the ships, they often failed because the bombs sunk before exploding and gave away key positioning. The submarine idea proved unsuccessful during the Revolutionary War but the Colonials were not deterred. They continued to work on the idea, made improvements and employed the strategy in later years. The improvements and advancements in technology have helped make America's Navy the best in the world.

New technology was extremely useful in the American Revolution. While it is often overlooked, downplayed, or forgotten, technological advances of the Revolutionary War saved lives, played a role in key battles, and helped turn the tide in America's favor.