



THE DRUMBEAT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE WASHINGTON STATE COLOR GUARD

December 2020 (4th Qtr. Oct, Nov, Dec)



[The Editor](#)



IN THIS ISSUE

[From the Commander](#)

[From the Deputy Commander](#)

[Native American Moment](#)

[State Color Guard Event Schedule](#)

[Regional Area Activity Highlights](#)

[Wanted & For sale](#)

[Revolutionary War Map \(National Geographic\)](#)

YOUR COLOR GUARD, THE FACE OF THE SAR

Message from the Commander

Compatriots,

Tis the Season of Thanksgiving, Reflection, and Seasonal Joy. As we take this time to reflect, remember to give thanks and gratitude to the blessings that you do enjoy. For many of us it may simply be our health, our family and friends. One thing that I am especially thankful for is being a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, having the opportunity to honor and revere my American Patriot ancestors. This reflection goes beyond the American Revolution, but throughout all conflict since that time and for the sacrifices that each of my progenitors made on my behalf. This is very personal to me as I am sure it is for each of you.



As a member of the Sons of the American Revolution I am grateful for the bond of brotherhood and respect that we have for one another. Through the Washington State SAR Color Guard, we have a special bond and comradery by working together to achieve our local chapter, our State, and the Nation SAR Society goals.

I am personally grateful for my association with each and every one of you and for your support.

In the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic we have many other things to be grateful for. We live in a time where we have modern communications to hold our Zoom meetings, communications about how the pandemic is affecting us locally, statewide, and nationally. Let us not forget that we have the great blessing of modern medicine to assist us in combating and hopefully to overcome this crisis. We are blessed with the first wave of vaccines are already on the road at this date.

I know many feel isolated, restricted, and the pandemic has affected our life-styles. Yet I am reminded that as one looks into the future on a new endeavor or challenge the road seems long and potentially dreary. This may have been the beginning of Military Service, Missionary Service, or some other activity that has taken you away from your family and loved ones. Now, years later, we may reflect on those times, on how we grew through those experiences and realize it was just a short space of time, a drop in a bucket.

During these trying times I wish to emphasis tolerance, patience, and brotherly love. This too shall pass. I too long to regain the associations of the WASSAR Color Guard members and get out and enjoy our activities.

On another note, 2021 National SAR Congress being held in Seattle is now upon us. Planning continues within the designated committees to ensure that the organization and format of the Washington State's responsibilities are covered. Regardless of where we are with the current COVID-19 pandemic and the social distancing orders by the Governor we cannot ignore our responsibilities to support the upcoming Congress. I made mention of the needs of the Color Guard in my last address and as planning unfolds it will become clearer on where our support will be required.

Respectfully Submitted, Neil A Vernon, WA State-SAR, Commander, WA State Color Guard.

The Native American Moment

By Stan Wills, Vice Commander, Washington State SAR Color Guard

The Iroquois Indians were excellent farmers. One of their villages had 100 acres of fruit trees. The Iroquois worshipped the three sisters, corn, beans and squash. The Iroquois produced three times as much crop off the same land as the Colonist. They planted corn in mounds with beans. The beans would grow up the corn stalk and replace the minerals in the ground that the corn depleted. The squash was planted near the corn stalk to provide a cover crop for the soil to keep it moist. They then planted a fish head in the mound for fertilizer.

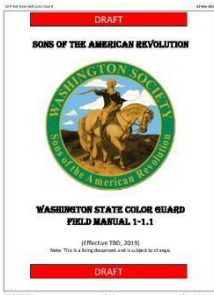


When the Europeans first encountered the Iroquois, they were not familiar with maize/corn. The Indians called it maize but Europeans called it "corn" meaning grain. Because Indians used it to make flour. The Indians were growing maize 1000 years before the Europeans arrived. The Indians would dry the maize by hanging it from the lodge ceiling. The peeled the husk back and suspended it from the husk.

In the 1500's the Iroquois met French explorers and gave them a deer skinned bag full of corn popped. This was often given to guest as prize. The Iroquois learned to cook corn by throwing the dry corn ears on fire or coals until it popped. It was then gathered from the ground and placed in the bags. It was not until the French traded copper pots for furs that the Indians learned to cook the corn in a copper kettle. We now call it "Kettle Corn". Dried corn was placed in a bag and pounded with a stone to make corn meal. This was used to make corn bread. This corn bread would last much longer than wheat bread. The corn meal was also made in to "parched corn soup" by boiling it with deer tallow or deer meat, fresh or dried. Corn was also boiled to make hominy. Deer fat or Bear fat was added to make it more palatable.

The Indians also discovered how to make sugar from maple syrup. The syrup was then poured over the popcorn to create what the French called "snow food". We call it today "Cracker Jack".

From The Deputy Commander



In an endeavor to consolidate several documents created over the past years, I have begun to compile a Field Manual as a guide for our Color Guard. At this point it is a living document and subject to change daily and even hour to hour.

I welcome your input and suggestions for items that should be added, removed, or corrected. It is available on-line at this [link](#).



Respectfully Submitted, [Dick Motz](#), WA State-SAR, Deputy Commander, WA State Color Guard.

Your Help Needed

HALBERD

AN EXCELLENT & RARE FRENCH & INDIAN/AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR COLONIAL AMERICAN PERIOD (NEW ENGLAND TYPE) PIERCED HALBERD w/ ORIGINAL SHAFT, ca. 1760

In overall very fine+/excellent and a high-quality example of an American Halberd. In complete condition with an approx. 13 1/2" x 18", finely wrought American blacksmith made, decoratively pierced, Halberd-type blade of fine quality Colonial American design with its pierced, leaf-form spear-point with reinforced tip and matching axe head with triangular form rear fluke. The finely sculpted and cut, smooth steel surfaces with extensive piercings of classic Colonial American (New England) form of, ca. 1750. The adornment consists of numerous circular holed/punch-type Piercings, finely cut openwork Diamonds and Daggers. Finely turned and chiseled base with its brazed, collar type socket and finely turned borders on its neck. The axe blade, en suite with a nicely sculpted and contoured, stylized crescent form blade and various decorative piercings. Retains choice, smooth steel surfaces with lightly toned, gunmetal gray age-patina, very fine and sharp cutting edges; and only some light signs of use and wear. Complete with its original, tapered, turned, hardwood haft/handle with choice, richly patinated and oxidized, smooth wooden surfaces with some expected minor handling-marks/abrasions. The top of the haft with two (2), nail-fastened, 8", rectangular langets. An extremely rare example of an excellent condition and complete Colonial American Period Decoratively Pierced Halberd, ca. 1750. Of classic mid-18th Century New England form and in a near excellent state of preservation. Virtually identical to examples from the famed Kienbusch Collection of Philadelphia, PA and to those pictured in Rodney H. Brown's: "American Polearms 1526-1865", G. C. Neumann's: "Battle Weapons of the American Revolution", "Sword & Blades..." and in G. C. Neumann & F. Kravic's: "Collector's Illustrated Encyclopedia of the American Revolution". Other such examples also found in the collection of noted Author/Collector William Guthman; and a similar example from his collection was sold as, Lot No. 204 at Bonhams Auction's: Sale Oct. 12, 2006. Overall length, approx. 80"



Historian General Bill Stone has been searching for and finding items for the SAR Education Center and Museum with great success for several years. To facilitate this the SAR has implemented an Artifact Donor Program wherein compatriots and families can purchase Revolutionary War artifacts and donate them to the SAR for the Museum Collection. You can see many of the items purchased and who donated them on display at National Headquarters and in a series of articles in the SAR Magazine.

One of the items Bill has found is a rare French and Indian/American Revolutionary War period Pierced Halberd with original shaft, circa 1760. He has negotiated the price down from \$10,500 to \$9000.

Through the generous donations of past National Color Guard Commanders and current National Color Guard Staff we have raised \$6,600 of the \$9,000 purchase price. We are currently \$2,400 short of the designated target. The Halberd is only on

hold by the owner at the discounted purchase price for another 5 months, so we need to move quickly on this while we can.

Under the Artifact Donor Program, we now have an opportunity to secure a rare item for the SAR Museum collection and make it something purchased and donated by the National Color Guard.

As most of you know during the revolutionary period Continental Line Officers often carried Spontoons and Sergeants carried Halberds. The following is extracted from an article on Spontoons and Halberds by David A. Norris.

"Pikes and most similar pole weapons disappeared from European armies by the early 1700s. After all, bayonets let each man convert his flintlock into a pike that fired bullets. Nonetheless, 18th-century officers and sergeants still carried archaic-looking bladed weapons attached to six-foot-long shafts that seemed more appropriate to the Middle Ages than the Age of Enlightenment.

Halberds and spontoons represented military rank just as much as epaulets, gold braid, or other insignia, with the additional

benefit of serving as emergency weapons in dire situations. In several surviving written orders, General George Washington insisted that Continental officers carry spontoons. At Valley Forge on December 22, 1777, Washington directed that each officer "provide himself with a half-pike or spear, as soon as possible." Washington did not want his officers to carry muskets, which he believed had a way of "drawing their attention too much from the men." He needed the officers focused on commanding their men, not distracted with loading, and firing a musket. Additionally, Washington believed that an officer with neither a firearm nor spontoon had "a very awkward and un-officer-like appearance."

The opportunity exists for you, the members of the National Color Guard, to help secure this rare and unique piece of our **Pro Patria! Command Staff, National Color Guard**

Revolutionary War history for the SAR Education Center and Museum with your donations.

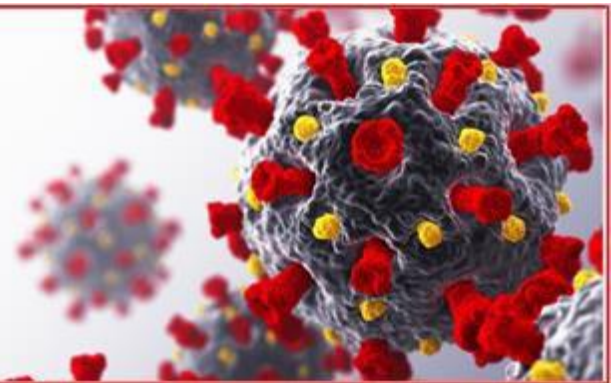
If you are interested in donating to secure this piece for the museum collection please send your check made out to "SAR," for whatever amount you can afford, to NSSAR Headquarters (Attn: Colleen Wilson) 809 West Main Street, Louisville, KY 40202 and put: 'Colonial Halberd' in the memo portion of the check.

You will receive a 'letter of receipt of a donation' for your tax records from the Museum Board and donations of \$100 or more will receive an SAR Museum Pin.

Thank You for your consideration of this exciting opportunity and for all that you do for the SAR day in and day out!

WA State Color Guard Schedule Of Events

**MOST SCHEDULED COLOR GUARD EVENTS
HAVE BEEN
CANCELED OR POSTPONED
DUE TO THE
CORONAVIRUS**
CHECK THE SCHEDULE FOR UPDATES



Regional Area Activities In Oct, Nov, Dec

Northern Region

Most activities have been canceled or postponed due to stay home, stay safe policy.

7 Nov: John Kraft, Mike Hutchins, and Bruce Bock of the GWC Color Guard were joined today by the Ann Washington DAR chapter at Maple Leaf Cemetery in Oak Harbor, WA to help plant flags on the graves of over 600 veterans in honor of Veterans Day.



In the group Picture:

(Back L-R) Kim Tomczak, Karenn Manatt, John Kraft, Mike Hutchins, Bruce Bock, Pam McCunn, Penny Platt

(Front L-R) Andy Kuntz, Debra Dassler, Pam Hutchins, Gail Barlow.



11 Nov: Oak Harbor Community 2020 Veterans Day Program.

The event which was pre-recorded and broadcast via [Facebook](#) and TV



Pictured right: Bruce Bock, Mike More, Michael Bendixson, John Kraft, and Mike Hutchins, Carried the Colors.



12 Dec: Flag retirement ceremony. The WA State Color Guard was specifically requested to participate in a flag retirement ceremony at the West Seattle Corporate Center. This was the first opportunity to perform this in Seattle.

The flag was about 30' by 50' made of cotton, damp and very heavy.



With a lot of pulling and tugging they finally got it under control and put away.

They then completed the retirement by raising the new flag in its place. What a sight to see!

It was a huge undertaking by the 6 members present, (l-r) **Neil Vernon, Dick Motz, Christan Ferrin, Craig Lawson, Nick Reichert, Jerry Bordelon.**



The retired flag was later delivered to the VFW for proper disposal.

Southern Region

Most activities have been canceled or postponed due to stay home, stay safe policy.

17 Oct: "They Voted" Marker Dedication. The marker was dedicated by the Daughters of the American Colonists (DAC) and the Daughters of the American revolution (DAR). The GRC Chapter provided limited support participation. All participating Color Guard members of the George Rogers Clark Chapter are now officially recognized as members of the Washington State Color Guard. At the next meeting, each will be presented with the official Color Guard pin to be worn proudly on their blazer.

- From L-R in the photo are:
 Kevin Saville*, GRC rifleman.
 Lee Thomasson*, American Flag
 Eric Olsen*, GRC Registrar.
 Laurie Dolan, Representative, 22nd district
 Arthur Dolan*, GRC Chapter President.
 Kim Wyman, Washington Secretary of State
 Jeanne Pettinger, DAC, Color Guard
 Dennis Case*, Rifleman.
 Joseph Coorough*, GRC historian.



*GRC founding membe

7 Nov: Auburn Salute to Veterans. This year Auburn's Salute to Veterans was something a little different. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, Auburn was unable to host a traditional parade. Instead, the celebration began with a procession that was by vehicle only. The route was 3 miles long giving both parade participants and spectators an opportunity to maintain social distancing. The State Society was represented by the flag trailer and veterans **Dick Motz & Jerry Bordelon** of the AH Chapter.



Eastern Region

Most activities have been canceled or postponed due to stay home, stay safe policy.

19 Dec: Wreaths Across America. Mid-Columbia Chapter participated in Wreaths Across America at Sunset Gardens Cemetery in Richland. This is one of their few public events this year due to the pandemic. The event included the Columbia River DAR Chapter and Civil Air Patrol. By necessity it was a more limited program this year, all outside with flag raisings and laying of wreaths on the graves of our Veteran Servicemen. Some members then went to nearby Resthaven cemetery to read the story and lay a wreath on the grave of Civil War Veteran William Hadden Johnston. Pvt. Johnston of Ohio, fought and was taken prisoner at Gettysburg, 2 July 1863. He was freed in a prisoner exchange but was captured again in Florida on 12 Aug 1864 and held at Andersonville, He died in Jan. 1938 in Richland, WA.

Mid-Columbia Chapter Members present were:
 (L/R) Luke Sowieralski, Fen Simmons, Conn Clark, Randal Roach,
 John Tipton, Larry Flint and Richard Roddy

Randal Roach places wreath



Western Region

Most activities have been canceled or postponed due to stay home, stay safe policy.

24 Oct: Presentation: Patriot Fred Gilbert of the (JPJ Chapter), supported the Michael Trebert Chapter of the DAR recognizing the First Veterans in Bremerton, WA. During the event General Washington presented Sgt. Gilbert a representative medal of thanks to all the first veterans. Patriot Gilbert portrayed his ancestor Sergeant John Gilbert of the 8th CT Line. The day consisted of a parade with Fife and Drum and presentations to local Port Angeles, WA students in grades 1 through 3. At the conclusion, George Washington and Sgt. John Gilbert handed out token event coins to all the students.



19 Dec: Wreaths Across America. The John Paul Jones Chapter was scheduled to place wreaths at Ivy Green Cemetery in Bremerton but the event was canceled at the last moment. Prior to this the wreaths arrived via Heartland Express. Thank you, Colleen with, for the delivery.

Thanks go out to Mick Hersey, Perry Taylor, Jen & Will Taylor, and Bill Wright for helping offload the 53 foot long Semi truck.

There were 810 wreaths, 90 cases offloaded in less than 30 minutes.

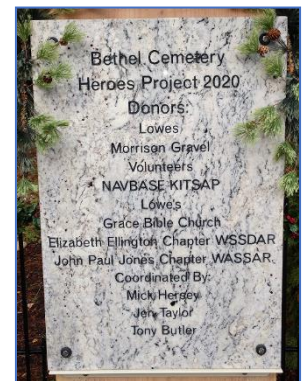


The wreaths were actually placed by the cemetery employees on the 19th. Wreaths were also placed at Miller-Woodlawn, Colby, Fraola, and Sedgwick cemeteries.

20 Dec: Wreaths Across America. The John Paul Jones Chapter participated the unveiling of a plaque (below right) for the Heroes project and WAA wreath placement at the Bethel Cemetery in Port Orchard.



Present for the event were, David Irons, Noah Chase, Mick Hersey, Neil Vernon and Michael Moore. It was a closed event with no ceremony.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA.ORG

From The Editor

Genealogy Research

(A version of this article appeared in the [March/April 2016 issue of Family Tree Magazine](#) Author: [Lisa A. Alzo](#))

When it comes to online genealogy research, it's easy to become a creature of habit. You may find yourself, every time you start a new research session, making a beeline for your favorite websites, such as [FamilySearch](#), [Ancestry.com](#), [MyHeritage](#) or [Findmypast](#). But plenty of other websites that aren't necessarily designed for genealogists can nonetheless prove useful. To help you break the habit of sticking with the same sites, we've come up with a list of 23 websites that can help you solve genealogy research problems, find valuable new resources and connect with cousins. Which ones should be next on your list?

[Link to website list](#)

A word of Caution!!!

I wonder if it is wise to promote the social media (Facebook, Google, Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter, YouTube). Case in point -I received a call from a real estate agent saying that we had viewed a property on Zillow and wanted to follow up!!! If you have Netflix, I highly recommend you see the documentary "/The Social Dilemma". It is very scary. One can actually see how the social media is turning this country upside down. I no longer use google, but instead use "DuckDuckGo", which does not store your history of searches. All good resources, but must be very cautious of where these sites take you.

Respectfully submitted, Kent Troy.

Worth Repeating - Security Risk!!!

Because of what I do with the SAR, I receive a lot of E-Mail messages. All too often they are from someone that has used a distribution list and placed it in the **TO: Box** when they sent the message. This causes all the Address in the distribution list to be displayed on the incoming message. **Not a good idea.**

A better way to address a message if sending to more than 3 or 4 people (distribution list) is to put the distribution list in the **BCC: Box**. This will prevent the display of confidential addresses to display if the message is forwarded on to someone outside of the SAR. **A long list of addresses in the open is hacker bait.** *The Editor*

Send	To...	NO!!
	Cc...	
	Bcc...	YES!!
	Subject	Message

Do you have a problem getting your medals to look right on your blazer?

Bob O'Neal has recommended a solution: [Military Image Maker](#) of Frenchtown MT. Several members have had their SAR and US military medals mounted by them. Outstanding communicators and workmanship. They understand SAR medal system. Each 'line' of medals is on a separate bar for vertical spacing. And if you need parts (in case of remounting due to having to insert a new mid-level medal) you can order the necessary ribbon drapes from the NSSAR Store at low cost. (Not on the web site but can be ordered.)

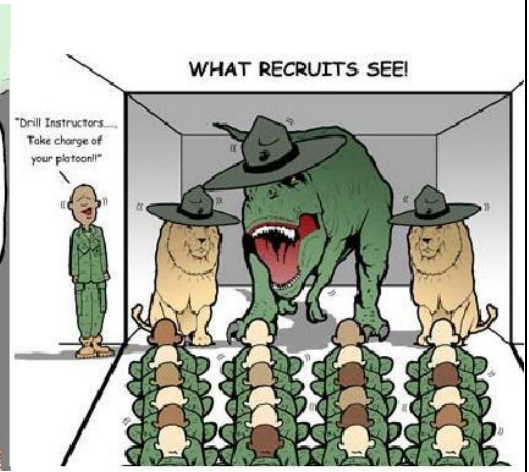
Other sources are: [Medals of America](#) & [Medal Medic](#).



Military Humor



Military Humor highlights is from the [Facebook group](#) by the same name



RESERVE RECALLS:

The Department of Defense issued orders today to S. Claus, recalling him to active duty, with a RNLTD of 24 Dec 2020.

Senior Chief Claus, known to use the alias “Saint Nicholas”, “Kris Kringle”, “Father Christmas”, or simply “Santa”, is a reservist, with 1,743 years of service. He specializes as a tactical operator of the next generation DEC-25B, Cargo Airborne Delivery (CAN DY) Carrier. The DEC-25B is contractor-modified and fully equipped with Cargo Antlered Navigation Equipment Sensors (CANES). It has also been retrofitted with eight high-powered, air-cooled Rangifer Tarandus carrot-fed generators. As a single seat cargo delivery platform, it is capable of vertical delivery of high-value items, take-off and landing without pilot-controlled lighting (PCL). These unique specifications, coupled with the additional Public Affairs skill sets possessed by Senior Chief Claus, classify the entire deployable package as a low-density, high-demand (LD/HD) asset.



Also recalled, were Chiefs Dasher and Dancer, Petty Officers 1st Class Prancer and Vixen, Petty Officer 2nd Class Comet and Cupid, Petty Officer 3rd Class Donner, and Seaman Blitzen. Seaman Apprentice Rudolph is also authorized to report for duty; however, he must first successfully complete his Phase II SERE Training, which he has failed three times due to a medical condition related to his nose.

Although the above Sailors are on orders for only 24 hours, it is anticipated that they will submit a travel claim for 24,901 miles at \$0.56/mile, using a POV. Suitable Government transportation is not available. As a special operations unit, each member is granted a high level of uniform flexibility, as well as relaxed grooming standards. Per diem has been modified to include large quantities of hot cocoa and cookies. Government travel card use has been authorized.



UNIFORMS & OTHER ITEMS WANTED/FOR SALE

Wanted:

Item	Size	Contact	Note

For Sale:

Item	Size	Cost	Contact	Notes
Japanese Training Rifle	6.5mm	\$195.00	Ken Roberts	For additional information on these items click here
41" octagonal barrel rifle, no markings	.32 Cal	\$275.00		
Winchester Model 290	.22 Cal	\$325.00		
Half Stock Percussion Rifle	.32 Cal	\$500.00		
Half Stock Percussion Rifle	.38 Cal	\$350.00		
Percussion Plains Rifle	.50 Cal	\$300.00		
Winchester Model 1894 (Commemorative Rifle)	30-30 Cal	\$520.00		
Winchester Model 1849 (Gold Spike Commemorative Rifle)	30-30 Cal	\$620.00		
H&R Guardsman Model 732	.32 Cal	\$295.00		
19 Century Power Flask		\$125.00		
2 Reproduction Powder Flasks		\$65.00 Ea.		
Brown Bess carbine, Pedersoli reproduction. Does not have the extra-large trigger guard found on a trade gun and is really a Brown Bess carbine or navy version.		\$850.00	Mike Hutchens	Trade gun with a serpent side plate installed on the left side of the stock
Reproduction Colonial folding table.		\$45.00 Ea.		2 available
John Paul Jones uniform		\$150.00	Mick Hersey	Hat with emblem, coat, pants & vest (no shirt)

If you have anything, you want or have for sale, please send information to the [Newsletter Editor](#)

Battles of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812:
2-Sided Map is available from the National Geographic Society.
[Link to order](#) (\$16.95).



The Washington Trail - Publication Schedule

Newsletter to be published four times a year (after each BOD meeting).

Edition	BOD	Period covered	Deadline	Published on
Winter (1 st Qtr.)	Jan	21 Dec to 31 Mar	No later than 20 Mar	31 Mar +/-
Spring (2 nd Qtr.)	Apr	1 Apr to 30 Jun	No later than 20 Jun	30 Jun +/-
Summer (3 rd Qtr.)	Jul	1 Jul to 30 Sep	No later than 20 Sep	30 Sep +/-
Fall (4 th Qtr.)	Oct	1 Oct to 20 Dec	No later than 15 Dec	20 Dec +/-

News from the Chapters. A section has been added that provides [media links](#) to the chapters that have them. This will provide access to the chapters from all that receive this Newsletter.

All articles/submissions are to be sent to the [Editor](#) no later than the above indicated dates.