

THE WASHINGTON TRAIL



THE WASHINGTON STATE SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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ALLAN WENZEL, EDITOR

200 YEARS AGO



150 YEARS AGO



Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815 Lee surrenders to Grant, Appomattox, April 9, 1865

(From My Grandmother's 1884/1889 Edition School History Text Book)

LAST HALF YEAR IN REVIEW

WASSAR President's Podium

This President's Last Report:

It has been a pleasure and a lot of work serving the Washington State Sons of the American Revolution for the last three years. I am looking forward to more time to do my own heritage and build a more complete history of my family for the grandkids. Plus I am building a Lancaster Flintlock Rifle, left-handed of course.

Teri and I have most certainly enjoyed traveling to all the different chapters and meeting so many of the members of our society. We have discussed on many occasions all the great people we have met and the interesting histories and ideas that so many members have. We have been lucky to be able, due to double duty, to enjoy the Oregon SAR as well.

Our latest travel foray took us to Spokane and I gave my "WWI, *The Birth of the Air War*" Power Point. It was the most fun I have had presenting that subject, as the members of the chapter were so interested in the subject, making it fun for me. I also attended the Seattle Chapter and the John Paul Jones Chapter since the first of the year. We have good growth and I see new and younger faces showing up at meetings. We need members and younger members as I have received an email from the Congress Planning Committee Chairman. He is going to enlist the Helms Briscoe Company to survey the Seattle/Bellevue areas for the 2021 congress. I am sure I just made you all "gulp" with that news. It is no cost to us, but if selected, we will be required to have about 50 or so volunteers for the event and provide funds for the Hospitality Reception. The reception will probably be at the Museum of Flight if Seattle is selected. I have already talked to the Museum about this and they can handle 500 guests easily.

We have a great new slate of new officers. Many have agreed to serve another term.

James Morris Lindley
WASSAR President, 2012-2015

Incoming President's Greeting

My fellow Compatriots,

It is my great honor to address you as the 74th person to serve as president of the Washington State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. I follow a long line of dedicated and faithful men who served well to ensure our Society would become what it is today. I have thoroughly enjoyed the various chapter and state offices I have held and I know this one will be no different. Congratulations to the full slate of state officers chosen by you. They are all fine gentlemen dedicated to furthering the mission of the SAR.

The most important work of the SAR takes place in our chapters. It is the chapters that conduct Youth Programs that teach our young men and women about the American Revolution, and it is the chapters that award and present Public Service medals and Flag Certificates. The work of the chapters gives us visibility in the community, and more importantly, it is the chapters that accomplish the goals of our society. Thomas Jefferson had it right when he wrote a letter to Samuel Knox on February 12, 1810 and said, "The boys of the rising generation are to be the men of the next, and the sole guardians of the principles we deliver over to them." Delivering those principles is our most important job.

I have set two initiatives. First, to encourage our chapters to increase the number of Public Service awards and youth activities and for chapters to submit a 2015 NSSAR Americanism Report on what they have done. It is through these programs that we touch the lives of our fellow citizens and help to perpetuate the vision of our founding fathers and mothers who established our great country. My next goal is for every chapter to achieve at least a 10% net gain in membership every year. Steady growth of our State Society is necessary to ensure that we continue to meet our objectives. We are very fortunate that we have several members who will do what is needed to help prospective members with their applications. Just think about this for a moment, if each one of us were to recruit just one new member this year WASSAR would have nearly 800 members!

As descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, we all share a common heritage and faith in the principles of freedom and patriotism. All Americans, past and present, have been and continue to be benefactors of our ancestors' courage and sacrifices. The "shot heard 'round the world" continues to reverberate. Let's keep it that way.

In Liberty and Patriotism,

Douglas H. Nelson

WASSAR President, 2015-

OFFICER REPORTS:

Vice President's Corner

The Pacific District Conference had over 80 people attending, the most attendees I can remember. The opportunity drawing for the 1777 Charleville Musket sold over 310 tickets and the patriot quilt over 56 tickets helping to offset cost of putting the Conference on. Washington State DAR Regent Carol Jean Gaffney, C.A.R. Senior President Jennifer Lundberg, Teri Lindley of the Ladies Auxiliary and Allan Gray of the War of 1812 Society all brought greetings. We had two workshops on chapter development and proving your lineage with the SAR presented by Al Pinkham and Bob Parrish respectively.

Doug Nelson
WASSAR Vice President

Secretary's Mutterings

Membership: In 2014 we started with an active membership of 361 and ended the year with an active membership of 380. Many other state societies are ending the year with net loses, so this growth in membership is heartening. Actually we received over 50 new compatriots but after subtracting those who have died, transferred, or just did not pay their dues we ended up with a net growth of 19.

First Annual Membership Meeting: When we incorporated last year we switched from electing officers via a mailed out ballot to electing officers by a meeting of interested members. Our first annual membership meeting to elect officers was held on Saturday April 25th at the Bellevue Red Lion Hotel. All members were mailed a letter containing the Nominating Committee report and other information about the meeting. I was heartened to see many of you there.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Secretary. From this position I get to see the work of all our chapters. We are an active, vibrant society keeping alive the spirit of patriotism and teaching future generations our history.

William (Bill) Ailes
WASSAR Secretary

Treasurer's Vault

Washington SAR Financially Sound

WASSAR is financially sound. We have money in the bank to support our many activities, and our annual budget is balanced.

On the revenue side, WASSAR receives 60% of its income from state dues, and another 22% comes from new member, supplemental, and reinstatement fees. We earn 11% of our revenue from dividends on our savings.

What may be surprising to you is that we generate the remaining 7% from donations and the sales of books (e.g. *Patriots Passed*) and medals (e.g. WASSAR Challenge Coin). Donations and these kinds of purchases are an important source of revenue for our programs and activities.

And what do we spend our money on? Almost 40% of our revenue supports our programs and contests (e.g. Knight Essay), new state chapters, and for awards and medals, our incredible Color Guard, donations to other organizations (e.g. CAR), and the Pacific District meetings.

The rest of our budget is for our administrative costs (e.g. insurance) and to reimburse our officers for their expenses. However, while we budget for their full expenses, many officers decline to submit some or all of their expenses, which has often allowed us to produce a budget surplus. This is great, but officers expenses can be high (e.g. trips to NSSAR meetings) and we want to make sure the money is there if an officer cannot afford to pay these expenses himself.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the WASSAR budget or finances (craiglawson@comcast.net). Thank you for your support.

Craig Lawson
WASSAR Treasurer

Registrar's Books

I became State Registrar in 2009 and since that time it has been a very active period for enrollment. Because all applications and supplementals pass through the State Registrar, I set up a record keeping system to track all documents and inquiries. Also I established a quick reference file for all applications back to 1895. There is a complete record of all new member contacts and applications submitted beginning in 2011.

After reviewing the State member roster for 2009 and 2010, it became apparent that at least one new chapter should be formed or planned for. A correlation and analysis of member zip codes, area codes and economic growth factors indicated that at least two new chapters would be needed.

John Paul Jones Chapter (Bremerton)

This chapter received its charter on *September 25, 2010*. After I sent out the first letter proposing a new chapter be organized, the word spread and, the applications increased dramatically. The first organization meeting was held on May 15, 2010. As it's first Chapter Genealogist, I sponsored the first twenty-five (25) new members. Thanks to good leadership, this chapter is one of the most successful in Washington. I am a charter member of this chapter.

Mid-Columbia Chapter (Richland)

This chapter received its charter on *March 1, 2012* and I am a charter member and it's first Chapter Genealogist. The first organization meeting was a success as we had fourteen (14) members and potential members present. I sponsored the first seven (7) new members. The local DAR chapters were very supportive.

George Washington Chapter (Mount Vernon)

This chapter received its charter on *January 12, 2013*, and I am a charter member of this chapter and it's first Chapter Genealogist, I sponsored the first fourteen (14) new members. There was a poor showing at the first organizational meeting, however this changed as the word spread.

Fort Vancouver Chapter (Vancouver/Battle Ground)

This chapter received its charter on *July 4, 2014* and I am a charter member and it's first Chapter Genealogist. We had a poor showing at the first organizational meeting with only five (5) members present. However, that changed as the word spread that there would be a new chapter in the Vancouver area. The problem here was that SAR members living in the Vancouver area attended meetings in Oregon. It was never our intent to entice these members to join this new chapter, but we do now have some transfers. I have so far sponsored nine (9) new members and five more applicants. This is a work in progress.

As the WASSAR Registrar/Genealogist and the chapter genealogist for five (5) different chapters in Washington, I have had the opportunity to sponsor and assist in the application process for more than eighty (80) Washington members.

John E. Ernest

WASSAR Registrar/Genealogist

FROM THE CHAPTERS:

Alexander Hamilton Chapter

The Alexander Hamilton Chapter is a healthy, active, and growing Chapter of the Washington state SAR. We have 88 members, with 14 more in the "pipeline." Our members continually demonstrate a willingness to reach out to the community by recognizing the achievements of JROTC/ROTC cadets, Eagle Scout members, and patriotic citizens who respectfully fly the Stars and Stripes in front of their homes and businesses. We also have a cadre of compatriots who, almost weekly, give presentations of "A Day in Colonial Life" to classrooms full of eager children. Our color guard is a driving force in advancing the cause of the SAR, as demonstrated by the many activities it is engaged in. Most recently, one of our AH Color Guard members has begun the process of assembling a "Fife and Drum" corps. We are confident his efforts will enhance the "Wow-Factor" of the Washington State Color Guard during parades and presentations. Finally, our Chapter is redefining itself by creating Chapter traditions which reflect more accurately on our namesake, Alexander Hamilton.

Paul Adan submission for Bob O'Neal, Chapter President

Cascade Centennial Chapter

Cascade Centennial Chapter got off to a fast start in 2015, setting short and long-term goals and objectives that exceed anything done by the Chapter to date.

At the beginning of the year, the Chapter's officers met to discuss their vision, desires and objectives for the coming two-year cycle. Each officer was challenged to examine the Mission of the Sons of the American Revolution, and to identify one major objective, in addition to that officer's normal duties and obligations, for which the officer would accept personal responsibility and provide personal leadership. The following short and long-term goals and officer commitments were established:

Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Scholarship: In the last calendar year, only one application was submitted to WASSAR for the Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Scholarship. Cascade Centennial Chapter set as its challenge goal to produce no fewer than ten (10) submissions to WASSAR within the next cycle. To that end, the Chapter met with the Director of the Chief Seattle Council and obtained his commitment to provide a list of the number of Eagle Scouts by Troop Number, to enable the Chapter to provide sets of materials to each Scout Troop for distribution to each Eagle Scout within the Troop.

Americanism Elementary School Poster Contest: Cascade Centennial Chapter set as its challenge goal to produce no fewer than ten (10) submissions to WASSAR within the next cycle. To that end, the Chapter contacted 140 homeschool organizations throughout the state of Washington to educate them as to the availability of the Scholarship. The Chapter is well under way to obtain submissions later this Fall.

Americanism Middle School Brochure Contest: Cascade Centennial Chapter set as its challenge goal to produce no fewer than ten (10) submissions to WASSAR within the next cycle. To that end, the Chapter contacted 140 homeschool organizations throughout the state of Washington to educate them as to the availability of the Scholarship. The Chapter is well under way to obtain submissions later this Fall.

Upper Level Constitutional Education: Cascade Centennial Chapter set as its challenge goal to create or to partner with an appropriate educational institution to create a program of education about the Constitution and the roots of the American experience. To that end, the Chapter contacted Hillsdale College (Oregon) to begin developing a relationship and to explore methods by which the Chapter can become a center in Washington of Constitutional education.

Service to Veterans: The Chapter established as one of its key objectives for the cycle to actively promote service to veterans within the community. In particular, the Chapter set as an obtainable, measurable goal, to have at least one of its members within the next two-year period obtain the SAR Service to Veterans Medal. Moreover, the Chapter devoted its April meeting to the discussion of the objective, and to learn about available service opportunities within the VA community. At least two members are well under way obtaining USS Stark Award points toward the 5000-point objective.

Wreaths Across America: The Chapter will again support the Wreaths Across America campaign in 2015, setting as its objective to be one of the 20 largest ceremonies (in terms of wreaths placed) in the nation. The Chapter will start its 2015 campaign with 1700 wreaths already committed and funded.

In March, the Chapter submitted its Partners in Patriotism Report to NSSAR, a copy of which is appended hereto or accompanied herewith, along with Proclamations from four of the six living Presidents of the United States, the Governor of Washington State, and the Mayor of Bellevue, and more than 200 photographs of the ceremony at Sunset Hills Memorial Park.

Speakers: The Chapter has had a stimulating panel of speakers throughout calendar year 2014 and year to date 2015. All meetings have been well attended.

In January, Harvey Hawks, a Docent with the Museum of Flight, gave a lecture on the Red Tails: The Tuskegee Airmen.

In February, Lorraine McConaghy, the Public Historian Emeritus of the Museum of History and Industry spoke on the Civil War Experience in the Pacific Northwest.

In March, one of the Chapter's own, Color Guardsman Greg Emerson, presented an engaging lecture on "Shadow Patriots: Espionage in the Revolution". He is considering making himself available to provide the lecture to other chapters on request.

In April, The Chapter's own, Dick Gonzalez discussed SAR's Service to Veterans medal, and the work required to achieve it, followed by a presentation by Jeff Honeycutt, the Development Director of the Puget Sound Veterans Affairs facilities. The focus was a detailed discussion on the many opportunities to serve veterans in the Pacific Northwest.

May's presentation will be by the Director of the USO in the Seattle area.

Of note, the Chapter is pursuing a relationship with the Smithsonian Institution to have experts of varying specialties related to the American Revolution provide speakers for the Chapter, and potentially for many other chapters nationwide, on a live or videotaped conference basis, by Skype.

The Pacific District Conference: Among other things, Cascade Centennial Chapter is hosting the Pacific District Conference. Prepaid attendance already appears to be setting records within the District. The Conference is expected to be lively, informative, and entertaining. Those who have not signed up are urged to do so at their earliest opportunity.

Friends of the Library: In providing leadership for the Chapter, Cascade Centennial's officers committed to setting an example for the Chapter. SAR determined that having a Library was important to the accomplishment of its mission. In support of that mission, Cascade Centennial's officers became donors to the Friends of the Library, and received their pins during the April meeting. No fewer than seven of the Chapter's members have received their Friends of the Library pins.

New Members: At least two new members have been inducted into Cascade Centennial Chapter, and a number of other applications have been submitted or are in the process of being submitted.

Supplementals: No fewer than thirteen Supplementals have been submitted, nine of which have been approved, and the others are awaiting determination. A number of others are in process. At last count, David Raese has received approval of 41 Supplementals, with others pending.

Community Relationships: Cascade Centennial Chapter has long understood that its growth and importance to the community will be proportional to the strength of its community relationships. To that end, the Chapter has cemented its relationships with the American Legion Post 161, VFW Post 2995, the Association of Washington Generals, Sunset Hills Memorial Park Cemetery, military commanders from every branch of service in the region, various civic organizations, University and High School ROTC and JROTC units, and businesses within the community.

The Chapter has committed itself to continue that process, making the Sons of the American Revolution a dynamic and growing force on the Eastside. As ever, our eyes are on the 2021 National Congress in the Pacific Northwest.

Greg Lucas, Chapter President

Fort Vancouver Chapter

About a year ago, several of us began talking about establishing a SAR chapter in Southwest, WA. We agreed that Battle Ground was a good location and in May 2014, we had the first meeting of interested participants. As a result, the Fort Vancouver Chapter of the SAR was officially chartered effective July 4, 2014 and we began regular meetings in September of that year. The chapter now has 12 full members and 5 dual members and there are 10 more currently jumping through the membership hoops, which has been, for most of our members, a long and tedious process.

The chapter now meets every third Saturday of the month (except during July, August and December,) at the Mill Creek Pub in Battle Ground. The pub has been gracious and receptive to our chapter, providing a spacious room, free of charge and making available a gourmet breakfast at reasonable prices. From its inception, the founders of the chapter have concentrated on establishing a brotherhood of members who will relate in meaningful ways to each other and the chapter has grown sufficiently that next September we will be featuring guest speakers.

Through the leadership of its officers, the chapter has deliberately refrained from getting involved in civic or charitable activities, centering first on establishing a solid base of comradeship. However, we have been involved in granting flag certificates and aiding the Alexander Hamilton Chapter by presenting ROTC awards.

All three of the chapter's primary officers are relatively new to the SAR and have never before served as a chapter officer. So it has been an interesting and educational experience for the three "newbies" to found a chapter. On the positive side, it has given us the opportunity to establish our own traditions. We can honestly say, "We've never done it that way before!"

Bob Anderson, Chapter President

George Washington Chapter

No report received from this Chapter

Eric Howard, Chapter President

John Paul Jones Chapter

The John Paul Jones chapter continues its work on the Kitsap and Olympic peninsulas. Our membership has steadily increased, and we count about 70 Compatriots in our ranks. Our Genealogist Ken Dunlap, with the assistance of Doug Nelson and Ross Abbott, is busy helping new candidates complete their family searches and applications. They are currently working with forty-nine potential candidates.

New compatriots for this period include Rodney Chase, Everett Ross, Kenneth Haywood and Eugene Tenney.

The Chapter celebrated Christmas at a Social on December 17th. For logistical reasons the new officers were installed by National Trustee Bob Doughty and State VP Doug Nelson. President: Conrad Plyler, Vice President: Dave Blevins, Secretary: Al Pinkham, Treasurer: Fred Gilbert, Genealogist: Ken Dunlap. Chaplain: Noah Chase and Historian: Tom Herwer, were installed in January.

At the January Meeting several awards were presented: Certificates of Appreciation and John Paul Jones challenge coins to 12 outgoing officers and coordinators. Chapter Distinguished Service Medal to Dan Weedin, Bronze Roger Sherman Medals to Treasurer Fred Gilbert, Eagle Scout Coordinator John Smith and Historian Tom Herwer.

In December, the Chapter placed wreaths on some 550 veteran graves in Ivy Green Cemetery in connection with Wreaths Across America. Several dozen Flag Certificates have been presented to local businesses and government entities.

The Chapter received Essays for the Eagle Scout Essay Contest, and the Enhanced JROTC Outstanding Cadet Award. All were very well done and were forwarded to the respective State competitions. The Chapter winner of the JROTC Award also won the Washington State Competition, and his essay will be forwarded to NSSAR.

We invite compatriots traveling on the Peninsula to join us on the fourth Saturday of the month at Ambrosia Catering in East Bremerton.

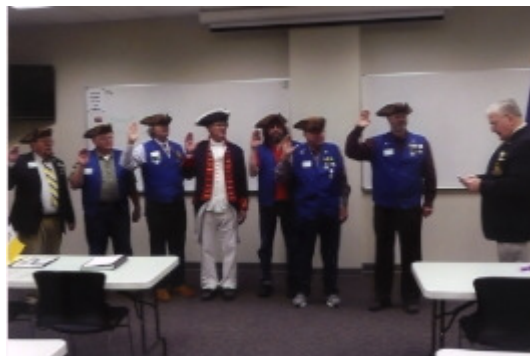
Conrad Plyler, Chapter President

Mid-Columbia Chapter

In January the Mid-Columbia Chapter swore in our new officers at the George, Washington town hall. In April Barry Moravek, Larry Flint, and I presented a Flag program to 18 prospective new citizens at Richland, Washington. We are actively participating in New Citizen ceremonies and Genealogical fairs in the Tri Cities. We have sworn in 4 new WASSAR members since January.



Compatriots: Flint, Smith, Wills, Fleming, Clark, Condit, Moravek, Pillar, and WASSAR President Lindley



Taking the oath of office



Berry Moravek, Stan Wills & Larry Flint with prospective new citizens

Stan Wills, Chapter President

Seattle Chapter

The December meeting was traditionally preempted by the Chapter's participation in the Wreaths Across America ceremony, held at the Lakeview Cemetery in Seattle.

The January meeting saw the swearing in to office of the new chapter officers: John Berg as President, Bill Griffith as First Vice President, Steve Rauzi as Second Vice President, Craig Lawson as Secretary-Registrar, Tony Abbott as Treasurer, Allan Wenzel as Historian, Neil Vernon as Genealogist, Richard Boyce as Chaplain, Stefan Kovalenko and Craig Lawson as Trustees.

At the February meeting Compatriot Allan Wenzel presented an open forum show-and-tell on some of the actual artifacts from history, which he has collected. Among the eight he brought and passed around were, a key from the Alcatraz prison, oak and copper disc from a beam and rivets of H.M.S. Victory, Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalger, and a gold nugget from the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush.



Key purchased at Alcatraz Prison



Oak and copper from a beam and rivet of H.M.S. Victory

Our March meeting had Chapter 2nd Vice President Steve Rauzi, with the assistance of his dad Grant, presenting a history trivia question-and-answer contest. The attendees separated into two groups of 7, the Red and Blue teams, or as was decided by the Red Team, the good guys and the bad guys. Teams were each in turn given questions to answer for points. It proved a good test of our combined knowledge (or lack of) on the Revolutionary War. Also, WASSAR President Jim Lindley brought the replica 1777 French Charleville musket and bayonet, and the Minuteman pictured Patriot quilt, both to be raffled at the Pacific District Conference, for us to see, so we could purchase the winning raffle tickets.

Our April meeting held three lengthy unfinished business items needing discussion. This limited our time for a normal presentation. Compatriot Wenzel was pressed into service to give a short one. Aided by Steve Rauzi and his laptop, photos were shown of over 20 movie actors who served in the United States and British Armed Forces during World War II. Some of these men were in the thick of battle and highly decorated for their bravery. Also, our Chapter was thrilled to have as guests at the meeting French SAR Compatriot, François Brilland de Laujardiere and Mariette Cassourret (the Vice-President and President of the Nantes-Seattle Sister City Association), both here on business. Francois's Patriot Ancestor was a French nobleman, and an Admiral in the Navy of Louis XVI who fought for his monarch on the side of the English colonists for their independence from George III. Tragically, he was beheaded in the aftermath of the French revolution of 1789. As François remarked (in French), "...so you see, he should have stayed in America!"

John Berg, Chapter President

Spokane Chapter #1

Why is the Spokane Chapter number one? Not because we are better than anyone else, it is because the Spokane Chapter is the first chapter formed in Washington State.

This has been a busy winter and spring. We had a booth at the Big Horn Sports Show in Spokane. Thousands of people saw our booth and many stopped to find out about SAR. Children who could answer simple questions about American History received a pencil or a flag. Many of those children return year after year to earn their reward by knowing something of our nation's history.



Stan Wills manning the SAR display booth

At the February meeting we were honored to have the Knight Essay Contest winner, from a Spokane high school, read his essay for us. An interesting note is that last year's winner was his older brother.



Gale Palmer, Chris Taylor and mother, and Bill Ailes

We participate in the ceremony to naturalize new citizens by handing out flags and with the DAR pins. Many of the new citizens wish to have their pictures taken with uniformed members of our color guard. These cherished photos become treasured souvenirs of their becoming citizens of the United State of America.

After poling members, we will try a new pattern of meetings beginning in September. Every third month we will have a Saturday brunch meeting, and in June we will continue to have a dinner meeting. On the other months we will continue our usual Friday luncheon meetings.

We are working with the Spokane City Council in trying to locate our Flag Museum into the soon to be renovated Riverfront Park.

It is an exciting time to be an SAR in Spokane.

William Ailes, Chapter President

COLOR GUARD EVENTS

WEST

No report submitted by the WASSAR Color Guard Commander.

EAST

Eastern Color Guard members, Keith Phillipy, Dale Ryan and Stan Wills took part in naturalization ceremonies in Spokane for New Citizens, 37 from 21 countries in December and 21 from 14 countries on January 21st.

Dale Ryan presented a Flag Certificate to the Spangle Service Club at Spokane on January 23rd, and Stan Wills gave a Flag program for 50 members of the Hamblen Church Senior Citizens Group in Spokane on February 10th.

Members Gale Palmer, Dale Ryan and Stan Wills Posted the Colors at the Old Town Idaho Elementary School Patriotic Salute to Veterans program on March 17th.



Stan Wills, Gale Palmer and Dale Ryan at the Old Town Idaho Elementary School Patriotic Salute to Veterans program

The Eastern Color Guard manned a SAR booth at the Bighorn Outdoor Adventure Show, at Spokane on March 21, 2015, at which, we asked children questions on the Revolution and rewarded their correct answers with pencils and U.S. Flags.

Members presented a Flag Program for 18 prospective new citizens at Richland on April 14th.

Stan Wills, Vice-Commander, WASSAR Color Guard

WASSAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS BUSINESS MEETING SUMMARIES

The January 29, 2015 meeting of the Executive Board, now referred to as the Board of Directors, was attended by nearly every member. It convened via conference phone call. Nominating Committee members were elected, as were members to audit the books. The main topic of business was to approve an operating budget for 2015. There were several additional expenses added prior to the taking of a vote. The 2015 budget is well above that of 2014. The largest increase going to the WASSAR Color Guard, raising it from \$800 to \$1500.

On April 25, 2015 the Board of Directors, meet briefly during the Pacific District Conference in Bellevue to elect the WASSAR Officers for 2015-2017, and to vote on a proposal to establish funding for a WASSAR Superior Service Medal, which has already been approved by the National Society. The Board of Directors rejected the funding for this medal. The Board also rejected funding to present JROTC medals to students stationed at U.S. military bases overseas. The newly elected WASSAR officers are: Doug Nelson (President), Chuck Wade (Vice President), Bill Ailes (Secretary), Craig Lawson (Treasurer), David Lasser (Registrar), Allan Wenzel (Historian), and Conrad Plyler (Chaplain).

PASSING OF COMPATRIOTS

Robert Hurlbut Bartleson of Spokane Chapter #1, passed from our ranks on December 2, 2014 at Spokane, Washington at the age of 98 years. He was admitted to SAR on February 17, 2006. His Patriot ancestor was Richard Lord Jones of Connecticut, who served as a fifer during the Revolution.

Duane William Pounds of the Seattle Chapter, passed from our ranks on February 19, 2015 at Shoreline, Washington at the age of 86 years. He was admitted to SAR on August 9, 2007. His Patriot ancestor was Michael Kuhn/Coon.

LOOKING FORWARD

UPCOMING EVENTS

*125th NSSAR Congress:
Friday, June 26, 2015 - Wednesday, July 1, 2015*

*United States of America's Birthday:
Saturday, July 4, 2015*

*Fall Leadership Meeting:
Friday, September 25, 2015 - Saturday, September 26, 2015*

OUR NEW COMPATRIOTS

Since last December 1st we have added the following new members to the WASSAR:

To the Alexander Hamilton Chapter: *Erwin Pace, Steve Turnock, and Bob Zache.*

To the Cascade Centennial Chapter: *Dwight Bew, Dave Liley, and Allan Osborne.*

To the Fort Vancouver Chapter: *Don Gladson, Greg Henderson, Vaughn Henderson,
Richard Swart, Neal Van Houten, and Tim Van Houten.*

To the George Washington Chapter: *Kevin Coyne*

To the John Paul Jones Chapter: *Rod Chase, Kenneth Haywood, Everett Ross,
and Gene Tenney.*

To the Mid-Columbia Chapter: *Greg Scott.*

To the Seattle Chapter: *Don Kraft, Eric Olson, Neil Vernon, and Lawrence Wright.*

To the Spokane Chapter #1: *Fred McMurray.*

Welcome To All The New Members!

AWARDS

LYDIA DARRAGH MEDAL

The newest medal in the SAR group of awards is the Lydia Darragh Medal, or probably more appropriately, the *President's Wife's Patience Reward Medal*.

This award was approved at the 2013 Spring Leadership meeting. It is one of the two medals solely the proprietorship of incumbent Chapter Presidents, State Society Presidents, District Vice President Generals, and National Society President Generals.

The purpose of this medal is to recognize the Lady that these men determine to have been the most helpful to him during his tenure of office. The particular lady must have been involved for a minimum of three years. Only one award is permitted each year, and should be presented publicly at an Annual Banquet or meeting. At which time a letter listing the recipient's qualifications and assistance is to be read.

There is a retroactive period of five years commencing in 2008 for past Chapter Presidents, State Society Presidents, District Vice President Generals, and National Society President Generals to make application for a qualified lady to receive the medal, but each individual must receive approval from the incumbent president.



SUBMISSIONS OF INTEREST

GENEALOGICAL INTEREST

THE LITTLE KNOWN CENSUS

By Allan Wenzel

All of us who have spent any amount of time engaged in genealogy know of the Federal Censuses for 1790-1940, which was taken every ten years. Many others of us also know of the various state censuses for 1865-1925, also taken every ten years. Although many states did not compile a state census, the number of the states, which did, is limited. And there are a few states and territories, which compiled censuses for odd years: New York and Kansas Territory for the early 1850's, and Washington Territory-State for 1885, 1887, 1889, and 1892, these being just a few examples.

But there is a third census, which few people know of. I came across its existence when engaged in the research for my book *Alpine On the Lake*, a history of a segment of Skagit County, Washington. The Federal Government began requiring a yearly census of the public schools students throughout the United States commencing in the later 1880's, and done by school district. At first all that was required were the names and ages of the students, their parent or guardian's names, and their address location.

On to these school district census pages commencing in the later 1890's were added the student's grade level, followed by the number of days spent at school during the year.

By 1905 the age of each student's parent or guardian with where these individuals were born was added. Not just a state or country, but also the town or county of birth. And in 1908 the complete birth date of each student replaced the age-in-years on the information sheet.

Included on the census report were the names of the teachers, the amount they were being paid, the amounts spent for classroom supplies, textbooks, desks, and to whom the reimbursements were made, even the names and amounts paid to workers who built the school house, furniture, or other work done.

These fascinating censuses were still being taken into at least the 1930's, and possibly they still are. But if they are still being taken as a Federal Government requirement, a state requirement, or as an individual school district requirement, the privacy laws prevent us from exploring them until which time they are transferred to an archive.

Not all of these school district censuses have survived in the United States. Those of Seattle, for instance, were destroyed when the school administrators decided these records reaching back into the 1880's were no longer of value and took up too much space. Rather than donate them to the University of Washington or the Washington State Archives the Seattle School District destroyed them. Many districts, however, transferred the documents to local museums and state archives. Those surviving records for northwest Washington State are housed in the Washington State Archives, at Western Washington University.

MILITARY-NAVAL INTEREST

By Allan Wenzel

America's Longest War

...No, it's not the war in Afghanistan. The news media continuously and erroneously refers to the war in Afghanistan as being the longest war in United States History. They are wrong! The longest war fought by United States Armed Forces was the Philippine Insurrection, which officially ran from 1899-1913, 15 years. It was very similar to the current war in Afghanistan, both fought as policing actions and against mostly Muslim terrorists. In 1899 the Filipino Muslims were named Moros, and used guerilla tactics. They were so fierce that the Army issued 38-caliber revolver was inefficient in stopping them. The Cavalry had earlier determined the 38 revolvers ineffectual against various Indian Nations during the Indian Wars on the United States frontier. Thus, the production of the power-punching 45-caliber semi-automatic pistol, model 1911, designed by John Browning and produced by Colt.

The United States Government considers all members of the Armed Forces who were engaged in military and naval operations in and around the Philippine Islands from early 1899 until July 4, 1902, as veterans of the Spanish-American War. It must be stated that a larger percentage of soldiers were killed during the Philippine Insurrection than have died in Afghanistan.

Five Custer men killed at the Battle of the Little Bighorn

Lieutenant Colonel (Brevet Major General) George Armstrong Custer was not alone when he and a large portion of the 7th Cavalry were killed in Montana June 25, 1876. Also killed were George's younger brother Thomas Custer (Captain, C Troop), their younger brother Boston Custer (Guide), their brother-in-law James Calhoun (First Lieutenant, L Troop), and their 18-year old nephew Audie Reed (Civilian).

Medal Of Honor

Thomas Custer is one of the very few men to have been awarded the Medal of Honor twice, for two acts of heroism during the Civil War.

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur and his father Lieutenant General Arthur MacArthur are the only father and son to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

General Collin Powell

Below is a question posed to then Secretary of State Colin Powell and his answer:

When in England at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of empire building by George Bush.

He answered by saying that: *"Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return."*

The conference room became very quiet....

PATRIOT BIOGRAPHY

Private Jacob Hauser

Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Soldier/Patriot

By Barry C. K. Moravek

My 4th Great-Grandfather, Jacob Hauser, was born 1 August 1764/65 in Brussels, Belgium. His father Martin Hauser was born in Basle, Switzerland in the 1730's, and was said to be a banker/financier. Martin died in the American Revolution at Fort Herkimer, New York in July of 1779. In Jacob's court testimony in 1833, he was a resident of the town of Sullivan, County of Madison, state of New York, age sixty-seven years old on the first day of August.

Revolutionary War Service

Jacob entered service...in the month of September or October in the year 1777 at Herkimer in the state of New York, he was enrolled in the militia into the company of Captain Frederick Getting? Belonging to the regiment of Colonel Peter Bellinger-Frederick Bellinger was Lieut. Colonel in said regiment. That after said enrollment he was called out into service and was stationed at Fort Herkimer in the state aforesaid where he was taken prisoner by the (Mohawk) Indians. This was in the month of July or August in the year 1778. That he was taken to Niagara and then to Canada--was with the Indians four years and nine months and then ran away (later recaptured for a time - according to the Houser Family History). His father was killed by the Indians at (Fort) Herkimer in 1779 in July and was scalped. His brother was taken prisoner at the same time. That (the) Indians took his father's scalp to Canada with his brother and then exhibited to him the scalp of his father and told him he would see his father again. They put the scalp upon the top of a staff and held it up to him. He was tomahawked by the Indians, three times, the scars are now visible on his head. This was at the Cayuga Lake. He then ran the gauntlet as it was called three times.

From a PORTION OF HAUSER FAMILY HISTORY (circa 1929-Syracuse, NY: He (Martin Hauser) came to America with his family about 1774, settled in Mohawk, N.Y. near Ft. Herkimer..Martin's scalp, being a double crown, was considered a great prize. The warrior who killed Martin (Hauser) was named Con-e-ser-a-ga. After scalping him, he shook his scalp in Jacob's face and said "See your Father, you damned Yankee." The boys were caught and held for several years. Jacob's Indian name was Hos-que-en-ta, meaning treetop. Jacob was a very swift runner and ran the gauntlet. His ears were slit around the rims and his nose punched for ornaments. After his return, he had the rims removed. Being a very swift runner, the Indians wanted to make him a Chief or Warrior.

A similar story to that above was orally passed down to me by my grandmother, Cora Sheffer Cummings from my Hauser/Hammond family line, which came to Michigan in the early 1850's and then on to Wisconsin. These stories were passed down to me in the 1960's and 1970's with a few other twists and turns on the story.

One of the stories I heard growing up was that Jacob indeed ran the gauntlet and was adored by one of the Mohawk Chief's daughters. The Chief's daughter (called by my family as a Princess) was allowed to put an old pot on Jacob's head just before he ran the last gauntlet, which saved his life. It was said that he married the Chief's daughter, one of many daughters, as the Chief had multiple wives and many daughters. Jacob may have had several (Indian) children. Jacob was not only a master at running but was able to pick up the Indian languages and dialects quickly. It is possible that one of Jacob's wives, Catherine, was also Mohawk. As I recall the story, Jacob was honored for his "swift" running abilities and that he learned many tongues.

Back to Jacob's Testimony: ...That he ran away from the Indians in the month of December in 1784 with a young lady from Virginia who had been with the Indians about two years by the name of Betsy Jones? Her sister had married a British officer by the name of David Servis who resided at Niagara. He (Jacob) took a horse, saddle, & bridle from the Indians. The young lady rode behind him on the horse.

...That in the spring he happened to come in contact with the Indian Chief whose prisoner he had been and was then delivered up as a prisoner to Colonel ____? That he remained at Niagara about one year and was a waiter for General Skuet? Colonel Hagot? Gave him a pass and he came home to Herkimer by the way of Lake Ontario and Oswego. Signed Jacob Hauser.

In my opinion it is highly unlikely that Jacob only had two children, who were born in 1806 and 1809. No doubt he has progeny in Canada and with the current DNA research; perhaps we will have some evidence of this in the future.

War of 1812

State of New York Onondaga County - On this 22 day of October one thousand Eight hundred and Fifty personally appeared before me a Justice of the peace within and for the County and State aforesaid Jacob Hauser and 85 years a resident of Cicero County of Onondaga State of New York who being duly sworn according to law declares that he is the identical JACOB HAUSER who was a private in the company commanded by Captain David Flemming in the 3rd Regiment of heavy artillery commanded by Col Alexander McComb in the War with Great Britain declared by the United States on the 18th day of June 1812 that he enlisted at Sacketts Harbor on or about the 18 day of March 1813 for the time of five years and continued in actual service in said war for the term of two years and 8 or 10 days and was honorably furloughed at Cooperstown by Capt. G. Grovesnor for all indefinite times on the last day of March 1815 on account of his being sick and was sent home....

Unfortunately the War of 1812 records are brief but I have little doubt that Jacob Hauser, my ancestor, could assist greatly in the War of 1812, if for no other reason, it appears that he was fluent in a number of Native American dialects and perhaps French, which was very important to the American cause against the British.

After many years, I finally found Jacob Hauser's approved Bounty Land Record, not in New York, and not in Saginaw Co., Michigan, but in Caro, Tuscola Co., Michigan.

On the 22 day of October 1850 the same Jacob Hauser, 85 years, a resident of Cicero, Onondaga Co., New York (a settlement of American Revolutionary soldiers) testified that he was a private in the company commanded by Captain David Flemming regiment of New York Militia and entered the service on the 18th Day of June 1812, that he enlisted at Sacketts Harbor on or about the 18th day of Mar 1813 for the time of five years...and was honorably furloughed at Cooperstown by Capt. G. Grovenor for an indefinite time on the last day of March 1815 on account of his being sick and was sent home. He (Jacob) claims to have been transferred in Aug. 1813 to Capt. Alexander Fanning's company and subsequently to Capt. Rufus McIntyre's company and in all served about two years when he was furloughed by Captain G. Grovesner for being sick. Geo R. Herrick Office of Court of Pensions April 25, 1851.

Patriot's Dream Comes True



John "Bud" Hawk, Medal of Honor

Written by Marion (Mick) Hersey

How many of us have a dream or a wish for something, but we wonder if it will ever come true. Well I am here to tell you that I helped fulfill one man's dream.

Last year I met a man that I grew to love and respect while passing out flag certificates for honoring the American Flag. Never would I of dreamed that I would play a big part in this man's dream.

That man was none other than our city and country's Medal of Honor recipient, SGT John D. "Bud" Hawk.

After presenting him with his flag certificate, we talked about the Sons of the American Revolution, he said he had always had an interest to be a member, but he was afraid it was too late in his life. We said we would assist him to honor his Patriot Ancestors. After going through his family's history we discovered a grandfather Isaac Lawrence on his Mother's side had fought in the Battle at Bunker Hill. He was eligible. So with the assistance of his daughter Marilyn Harrelson, we obtained all of the records needed to have him sign the application to become a member.

In August we were notified by our National Society that John D. "Bud" Hawk could be sworn in as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. Well as life has it, it does not always happen as we wish it to and "Bud's health took a turn for the worse. We no longer could have a ceremony for him, but would come to his house and have a small ceremony for the family. It was there that he expressed some of his other wishes, that of honoring his legacy as a teacher and educator as well.

John D. "Bud" Hawk passed away on 4 November 2014. I had the privilege of assisting in arranging to have his Memorial Service on the afternoon of Veterans Day. What a whirlwind of events in only eight months. He even had a portion of Brownsville Highway dedicated in his honor. It still did not fulfill his dream.

His dream was fulfilled this year when it was announced that not his Elementary school in Brownsville would be named after him, but the newest school in the Central Kitsap School District. Jackson Park Elementary School would become the John D. "Bud" Hawk Elementary at Jackson Park.



On 20 October I assisted 2 other WASSAR Color guard Compatriots along with the John Paul Jones Chapter President Ken Roberts present the school with their first American Flag in Honor of Patriot John D. "Bud" Hawk. We also assisted in setting up a display with his daughter Marilyn Harrelson of some of her father's photos, his last flag that flew at his house and a copy of the photo and citation that President Truman had read while he put the Medal around Bud's neck, and then she presented the school with one of her father's Medal of Honor Flags.



During the ceremony in the gym, we learned that the school mascot was the Patriot. So the dream of a Patriot to have a school named in his honor had come full circle. The new Patriots of Hawk Elementary will always have a true Patriot as their Mentor.



What's New with the Ladies Auxiliary by Jeri Lindley

As I write this update from the Ladies Auxiliary for the Washington Trail, I am pleased to report that we just finished assisting the Washington State Society with the largest Pacific District Meeting with 90 attendees, held in Bellevue, Washington at the Red Lion Inn. The conference was held April 24th and April 25th and our honored national guests were President General Lindsey Brock and First Lady Billie Brock. They were accompanied by Treasurer General Michael Tomme and his wife Cilla Tomme.

At the Pacific District Meeting, we again held a raffle/opportunity drawing and silent auction. I am happy to report that to date, the raffle/silent auction raised \$453, the Musket raffle raised \$1,180 and the Minuteman Quilt raised \$188 (after expenses for the quilt). For next year's meeting, Kathi Nelson and I are planning to do a dozen or so silent auction items, which would be more expensive, "bigger ticket" items rather than the smaller, less expensive raffle items that we have done in the past. Then, the Ladies Auxiliary will have more time in which to organize a fun luncheon/activity for the ladies who are guests at these functions. For example, perhaps we could auction a weekend trip for two to the George Washington Inn in Sequim in addition to auctioning nice gift baskets! Your suggestions and/or donations are welcome and encouraged!

Speaking of the ladies, Kathi Nelson, wife of new state President Doug Nelson of the John Paul Jones Chapter, is the new First Lady in Washington State. Kathi and I were so appreciative of Ronnie O'Neal and Barb Weedin for their help at this meeting! Also, a big thanks goes to Marge and John Qualls who donated four beautiful wine baskets for our silent auction!

At the Saturday evening banquet, I was honored to not only bring greetings from the Ladies Auxiliary, but to also pay tribute to the late Janice Doughty whom we lost last July. Jan was a tireless worker for the Ladies Auxiliary and the Pacific District. Our planning for this Pacific District Meeting reminded all of us of her valuable participation and leadership.

Due to the huge east coast snowstorm in early March, Jim and I were unable to get a flight to Louisville for the Spring Leadership Meeting so I have nothing to report from that function. However, we will be traveling to Louisville this summer for the 125th National Congress. Jim will be finishing his VPQ duties for the Pacific District and Cris Bisgard, MD, will be assuming the VPQ position as the nominee from the State of Alaska. Washington State will have great representation at this upcoming congress as John Berg, John Ellingson, Doug and Kathi Nelson, Greg and Cindy Lucas, Cris and Nonja Bisgard, as well as Jim and I, will be in attendance.

Eugene Melvin will represent the state of Oregon as the National Trustee. Jim will also represent the State of Montana as the National Trustee.



Spokane Chapter #1 member, Washington State Trustee and Minuteman John Ellingson, Sr., with some of the ladies, left to right, Kathi Nelson, Ronnie O'Neal and Teri Lindley at the Pacific District Meeting, April 25th, 2015

Thanks again to all who attended the Pacific District Meeting and I hope to see many of you at future events!

Warm regards,

Teri

What's New with the DAR

No submission received on time from the DAR

What's New with the C.A.R. by John Berg

The Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) in Washington State provides programs and activities for young people up to the age of twenty-two who meet similar qualifications as for DAR and SAR membership.

On Presidents' Day, the C.A.R. State Society and local societies participated in wreath-laying ceremonies at the George Washington Memorial Celebration at the University of Washington, along with the DAR, SAR, and other patriotic organizations. After the celebration, some of the members investigated the large troll under the north end of the George Washington Memorial Bridge, also known as the Aurora Bridge in Seattle.

The annual C.A.R. State Conference was held in March at the new Museum of History and Industry in Seattle. It was followed by a tour of the museum. At the conference the members elected new state officers for the coming year. Emma-Grayce Fleck of Forks was elected the C.A.R. State President, replacing Steven Johnson, who, while state president, was inducted into the SAR by then President General Joseph Dooley. Consideration is being given to holding the 2016 state conference in Forks, for those members who want investigate any history of vampires and werewolves in the area.

Compatriot John Berg, president of the Seattle Chapter SAR, is also the Senior State 1st Vice President for the C.A.R. He recently attended the C.A.R. National Convention in Washington, DC and reported that the 2015-2016 C.A.R. National project involves raising funds for the restoration of the large tent used by George Washington as his headquarters during the American Revolution. More information on the Washington State C.A.R. project will be provided in the next issue of the Washington Trails.

C.A.R. Senior State President Jennifer Lundberg, of Port Orchard, brought greetings from the C.A.R. the SAR Pacific District Meeting in Bellevue April 25th. Since the C.A.R. has an adult advisor, usually a DAR or SAR member, as a corresponding senior officer or chairman for every youth position, there are many opportunities for SAR members to provide mentoring to the youth who will become our future DAR and SAR leaders. Approximately 20% of the senior leaders in the C.A.R. are SAR members, which roughly equates to the corresponding total memberships of the SAR and DAR.

The Washington State C.A.R. also maintains a fund to assist its member state president to travel to the National Convention to be installed on the grounds of Mt. Vernon, Virginia, following the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of George and Martha Washington. For more information on the C.A.R., go to www.WaStateCAR.org.

*John Berg
Senior State 1st Vice President, C.A.R.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

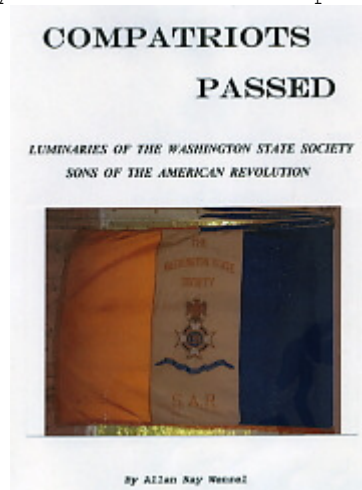
The publication deadlines for newsletter submissions are as follows:

Summer/Fall Issue by December 1st
Winter/Spring Issue by May 1st

NEEDED! Articles on your Patriot Ancestors and historical interests

Article submissions should be in Microsoft Word doc not Word docx, which isn't compatible with my program. You can also either type or cut and paste the text as an email. Photos need to be as jpegs, with identifying information (who, what, when, where). I reserve the right to alter and re-word officer and chapter submissions as space requirements necessitate. Send to: stsporto@q.com

Compatriots Past, Luminaries of the WASSAR, a book on 25 of our state society history makers, war heroes, and politicians. Copies can be purchased at \$10.00 each plus \$4.25 for packaging and postage, from Doug Nelson (doug1280@comcast.net) and Allan Wenzel (stsporto@q.com). Contact them directly for availability. Your Chapter may also still have copies available.



The General Society of the War of 1812, Washington State Chapter is new and accepting members. To date nearly every member is also a member of the WASSAR. For membership information contact: Allen Gray (cpm12@comcast.net).

General Society
of
The War of 1812



Information
for
Prospective Applicants

www.societyofthewarof1812.org



Most libraries and museums have small operating budgets. In order to meet expenses and grow the non-Federally funded facilities must rely on public and private donations. The *Friends of the Library* (FOL) was organized to assist our SAR Library in meeting its development objectives. The income generated from this fund is used to purchase non-budgeted items such as equipment, supplies, online services and new technology, as well as the purchasing of additional books and manuscripts to enhance and expand the current collection. Your \$25 *Friends of the Library* donation goes a long way in furthering SAR Library goals. All donators receive a 5/8-inch lapel pin as shown above.

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Mail to: National Society of the SAR
809 West Main Street
Louisville, KY 40202

(502) 589-1776
www.library.sar.org

Presented below is the Washington State Society's choice as the winning essay in the George and Stella Knight Essay Contest from among the Chapters in our state. This essay has been submitted to the competition at the upcoming National SAR Congress.

Valley Forge

By: Christopher Taylor

Senior at: Ferris High School, Spokane, Washington

America declared its independence on July 4th, 1776, but the years of battle with Britain that followed claimed many lives and found Revolutionary soldiers living in trying conditions. One such challenging situation was the winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. While the British wintered quite comfortably in Philadelphia that winter, General George Washington's Confederate Army underwent an ordeal that threatened its very existence.

During the winter of 1776, General Washington and his men had decided to stay in the field, contrary to common military practices. Usually during the winters, troops would find places to settle down and stay warm and recover from the past 8 months of fighting. As a result of Washington's decision to stay in the field the winter of 1776, he and his troops won some major battles including battles at Trenton and Princeton.

Some U.S. leaders wanted Washington to repeat his success during the winter of 1777. During the summer of 1777, Washington had nearly 12,000 members of the Continental Army and various state militias under his command. Washington knew his army was not strong enough going into the winter of 1777 to force the British out of Philadelphia. He began contemplating where he should strategically place his troops so they could be ready for battle in the spring and keep an eye on the British during the winter. After some consideration, Washington chose Valley Forge because it was close enough for him to watch Sir William Howe in Philadelphia and yet far enough away that he and his men would not be caught off guard by the British. Valley Forge, Pennsylvania was roughly twenty miles from Philadelphia and the high ground rising up from the Schuylkill River made this site strategically easy to defend.

Washington led his poorly fed and clothed army into Valley Forge on December 19, 1777. It had taken nearly a week for Washington's weary army to travel the thirteen miles from the previous camp at White March with all their horses, cannons, wagons and equipment. As Joseph Plumb Martin wrote, "the greatest part were not only shirtless and barefoot, but destitute of all other clothing except blankets. I procured a small piece of raw cowhide and made myself a pair of moccasins....the hard edges so galled my ankles, while on a march, that it was with much difficulty and pain that I could wear them afterwards; but the only alternative I had was to...go barefoot, as hundreds of my companions had to, till they might be tracked by their blood upon the rough frozen ground." The conditions were quite dire. There was a general lack of food, and nearly 3,000 soldiers lacked adequate clothing or shoes. The men initially set up their drafty tents in an attempt to ward off the cold winds, but soon set about building wooden huts to provide shelter from the winter conditions. The process was slow due to a lack of adequate tools, as well as sufficient food and clothing for the men, making it difficult to work in the cold environment.

As time progressed, it became clear that the war Washington waged that winter was not against the British, but against the weather, hunger, and supply shortages that soon took their toll on the army. That winter wasn't the coldest or the snowiest of the war, however the conditions the soldiers faced at Valley Forge caused immeasurable hardships and suffering. There was no general shortage of food in the country, however army supply chain problems and the unwillingness of surrounding farmers to accept 'worthless' Continental money when they could easily get gold from the British led to severe hunger and starvation conditions. Diseases such as smallpox, pneumonia, typhoid fever and dysentery took their toll on the men as well, with nearly 2,500 men losing their lives to exposure, malnutrition and disease that winter. Washington was deeply troubled by the suffering of his men, but found their strength to persevere admirable. He wrote in a letter to John Banister, "To see men...without shoes by which their marches might be traced by the blood from their feet...is a mark of patience and obedience which in my opinion can scarce be parallel'd." Washington pleaded with Congress to fix the supply line problems that were contributing to the conditions at Valley Forge. Slowly the problems were repaired and food and clothing began to make its way to the army once again.

In February 1778 a German soldier who had fought in the Prussian War, Lieutenant General Friedrich Wilhelm August Heinrich Ferdinand Baron von Steuben arrived at Valley Forge. He had offered to serve in the Continental army without pay and had previously written to General Washington, "My greatest ambition is to render your country all the services in my power and to serve the title of a citizen of America by fighting for the cause of your liberty." In reality, Steuben was an unemployed soldier who had never held a rank above captain, who had been sent by France with a fictitious rank and title to secretly infiltrate the Continental army. France had been providing the Patriots with money, arms and volunteers for some time and were becoming concerned that the lack of military skills within the Continental army would prevent it from effectively standing up to and defeating an experienced army from Britain.² While Steuben may not have been who he appeared to be, he was quite an experienced drillmaster and soon developed a plan to form a model military company. Steuben simplified the drill manuals and within a few weeks of tireless drills, had transformed the American troops into a disciplined organization and a much better fighting force. Despite all the odds, and despite the hardships, by the time the army left Valley Forge at the end of winter, they were even more determined than ever to carry on the fight for freedom.

Unlike the British army that was made up of trained and experienced soldiers, the revolutionary army was made up of carpenters, blacksmiths, farmers, masons, lawyers and teachers. Most of these men had no military expertise, but what they did have was a common desire and passion to stand up and fight for the hope of an independent America. This sentiment is clearly seen in Lieutenant Colonel John Cropper Junior's letter to his wife, "My country's call, the greatest of all calls, demands my presence with the army for a time, to pay for the blessings I have enjoyed and expect to enjoy under the auspices of liberty." George Washington's Continental army was at its most vulnerable, and almost perished during the winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge. Many people consider the six-month ordeal faced by the soldiers at Valley Forge as one of the defining moments of the Revolutionary War. Washington himself felt that the American victory was due to the men who endured the hardships during the winter at Valley Forge. The incredible will of the soldiers at Valley Forge to endure and survive against seemingly impossible odds later helped them defeat the British in the fight for American independence.

THE BALLAD OF COMPATRIOT STAN WILLS

By Allan Wenzel

It was in 1776,
When Stan took a stand,
In the name of freedom,
For his family and homeland.



Revolution came,
And Stan had to enlist.
Donning a uniform,
For he was amiss.



Winter snow,
Summer sun,
Stan held firm,
Until the war was won.



Defending his home,
On the frontier.
He was there to stay,
And he made that clear.



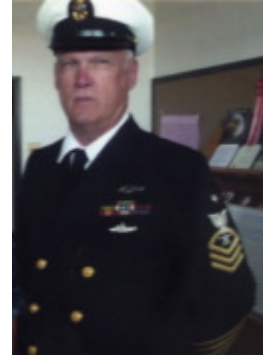
On our shores, in 1812,
British war drums beat.
At New Orleans,
They again met defeat.



To the enemies of freedom,
Lurking most unsteady,
Fear them not Compatriots,
For Stan stands ready.



If this little poem,
Gives you the chills,
Just remember,
Duty, Honor, Country is Stan Wills.



Stan is a retired Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer, past President of the Spokane Chapter #1, and President of the Mid-Columbia Chapter, and a member of the General Society of the War of 1812 in Washington State.

For those of you who have not yet purchased one of the NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION 125 Years Commemorative Medals I urge you to do so. This medal marking the 125th year of the SAR is a great companion to your membership medal. All Compatriots are entitled to wear it. You need to supply your National member number to purchase one. It bears a portrait of General George Washington in uniform, in stunning gold tone, and comes with a miniature medal for formal dress. Package price for both full size and miniature from the SAR store is \$30 plus \$7.50 postage.



LASTLY

Editor's Desk:

The Revolutionary War was fought for independence. We The People then had to do something with our newly won freedom. Since we were just a collection of separate colonies we became a country of separate but unified states.

Our first test as a new county, with a foreign power, was the Tripoli War (1801-1805). Our next test would prove more difficult and more important. The War of 1812, the '*second*' war for independence, was more accurately about who would own everything from the Great Lakes to New Orleans, the Mississippi to the Pacific. This war established the United States as a solidified country in the eyes of the world.

The Civil War was a war with ourselves; a test of our resolves, and it ended our role as a county of independent states and peoples and turned us into a singular nation.

The Spanish-American War turned our nation into an empire.

World War I was "the war to end all wars." It didn't. But it did end with leaving the United States as a new member amongst the Global Powers.

World War II ended with the United States being *the* supreme power on earth.

So, during this year of anniversary celebrations for the endings of the War Of 1812 and the Civil War we should celebrate the United States not becoming and remaining a county but becoming and remaining a unified nation.

Allan

From the Assistant to the Editor:

I'M A BORN-TAILLESS BREED, HERDING DOG.



YOU GOTTS SOME SHEEPS?

ELLIOT