

# *THE WASHINGTON TRAIL*



THE WASHINGTON STATE SOCIETY  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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ALLAN WENZEL, EDITOR



Washington Crossing The Delaware, December 25-26, 1776.  
Painting by Emanuel Leutze, 1851; 21.25 feet by 12.50 feet

## LAST HALF YEAR IN REVIEW

### *WASSAR President's Podium*

Greetings Compatriots,

We hope your Christmas season and the year 2016 are filled with good health and abundant blessings. 2016 promises to be a good year for the Washington Society SAR.

I have been honored to be your President this past year and attending the many functions at the State and National levels is certainly a rewarding experience. The part I enjoyed the most was attending chapter meetings and learning how similar but uniquely different each chapter is. I am impressed by the local efforts and the sincere devotion of our chapters to the cause and mission of the Sons of the American Revolution. I urge everyone to support your chapter officers as they perform their duties to make our society even greater. When they call for your help answer with a resounding "CAN DO."

Youth programs are the centerpiece of promoting an understanding of the American Revolution to students. These programs encourage young people to study the elements leading to the formation of the United States. For compatriots, it ties into our "remembering our obligations to our forefathers." Our state committee chairs are working hard to promote flag displays, to recognize Eagle Scouts, to encourage historical writing and speaking, and to encourage public interest in our national heritage. I am thankful for the efforts of these fine men who have taken on responsibility to promote efforts in our state.

Our July and October Board of Directors meetings were successful. We added the Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest for High School students and a new Medals and Awards Committee. A reminder that we have an election at our Annual Membership Meeting in April for two Trustees who serve as National Officers representing the will of the Washington Society membership.

A Big Huzzah to our State Color Guard and those members who marched in Blue Blazers and took first place in the category "Veterans Award for best non-motorized entry" at the 50<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day Parade in Auburn. This was a combined SAR/DAR/C.A.R. event. Wow! You make us all proud.

We have done, and continue to do, remarkable things for our country. But we cannot become complacent because our freedoms are not guaranteed. We cannot just hope our freedoms will be preserved. Just look at the recent terrorist attack in France! Benjamin Franklin said "He that lives upon hope will die fasting."

While planning your projects and programs for 2016, I encourage you to try something new...maybe explore a fall or spring National Society SAR leadership meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

Lastly, please pay your 2016 annual dues. While we had asked that you send chapter by Nov. 15, we can receive dues through December. Some of you may not be able to attend monthly chapter meetings and we understand that distances are sometimes long and family life and work take precedence. However, your yearly dues are used to promote our worthy objectives of education, history and patriotism. Remember, your dues payment supports the youth programs and the patriotic efforts of the Washington Society and the National Society, as well as maintain the operation of the local chapters.

Here's to a successful New Year for SAR!

*Douglas H. Nelson*

WASSAR President, 2015-

## OFFICER REPORTS:

### *Vice President's Corner*

As VP WASSAR, I am Chairmen of the 2017 Pacific District Convention. So, the date is April 20-22, 2017, at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia.

Chuck Waid  
WASSAR Vice President

### *Secretary's Mutterings*

The Board of Directors met twice in Ellensburg since the last newsletter. Among the highlights was a decision to participate in the oratory contest sponsored by our national organization. More information will be coming. Work continues on a Policy and Procedures Manual which should complete the necessary work from incorporation.

Annual Membership meeting. The annual membership meeting, held in conjunction with the Pacific District meeting is being planned, by the Oregon society, for April 23,2016 at the Portland, OR airport Embassy Suites hotel. I know of the following business to come before the meeting:

- Nomination of a National Trustee and an Alternative National Trustee
- A change to our by-laws which will permit the nominating committee to present more than one name for each position to be filled.

Every member in good standing will be notified, either by mail or e-mail, concerning the final details of the meeting, the wording of the proposed bylaw amendment and the report of the nominating committee concerning the nomination of a National and Alternative National Trustee.

A Moment of Personal Privilege Many of you know that on November 10<sup>th</sup> I had a total replacement of my right knee. The surgery went well as is the healing. Immediately after coming home from the hospital the big storm came through leaving us and almost 200,000 homes without power, heat, telephone, etc. Our standby generator kicked in but a part failed and it fried our furnace. Everything is now working and I am working hard on regaining the use of that knee. I have been running a contest to see who sent me the funniest get well card. The winner is Bob Doughty. Thanks Bob and all who have stepped in to pick up the necessary parts of this job so I can recuperate.

It is a pleasure to serve the Washington society as your Secretary.

William (Bill) Ailes  
WASSAR Secretary

## *Treasurer's Vault*

### **No Increase in WASSAR Dues in 2016**

Good news! WASSAR's finances are in good shape now that we have emerged from the painful step of ending the WASSAR Life Membership Program. Our society is financially stable and solvent. We have money in the bank to support our many activities, and our annual budget is balanced. And this means WASSAR dues are not increasing for 2016.

**Income:** We receive 60% of our income from state dues, and another 22% from new member, supplemental, and reinstatement fees. We earn 11% of our revenue from dividends on our savings. The remaining 7% comes from donations and the sales of books (e.g. *Patriots Passed*) and medals (e.g. WASSAR Challenge Coin). These donations and purchases are an important source of revenue for our programs and activities.

**Expenses:** Almost 40% of our revenue supports our programs and contests (e.g. Knight Essay), new state chapters, awards and medals, our Color Guard, donations to other organizations (e.g. CAR), and Pacific District meetings. The rest of our budget pays 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 given us a budget surplus. This is great, but officers expenses can be high (e.g. trips to NSSAR meetings and congresses) 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*

So far this year, we have had 30 regular applications, 2 junior applications and 38 supplemental applications approved.

Cris Bisgard  
WASSAR Registrar

## FROM THE CHAPTERS:

### *Alexander Hamilton Chapter*

*Alexander Hamilton Chapter meets the third Saturday of the month (except June-August)*

No report received from this chapter.

Bob O'Neal, Chapter President

### *Cascade Centennial Chapter*

*Cascade Centennial Chapter meets the first Saturday of the month (except July-September), at the Bellevue Red Lion Hotel, 11211 Main Street, Bellevue, at 9:00 AM.*

Cascade Centennial Chapter had a fast and productive year, which will end on a high note in its annual Wreaths Across America campaign, in which some 2700 wreaths will be placed on veterans' graves. Some of the highlights of the year are as follows:

#### **Speakers:**

The Chapter has had a stimulating panel of speakers since May 1, 2015. May's presentation was by David Leininger, the Director of the USO in the Seattle area. Mr. Leininger spoke on "Service to Veterans through the USO". In June, the Chapter hosted David Hausvauter, from "Friends of Willie and Joe", who spoke on military uniforms in the world wars. On October 3, 2015, VPG Cris Bisgard gave a compelling presentation on the "Committees of Safety during the American Revolution." Followed on November 7, 2015 by Albert Hall, who spoke on attributes of the French Revolution, in comparison to our own revolutionary experience.

#### **New Members:**

Due to the hard work, persistence, creativity, and sacrifice of the Chapter's Genealogist and VPG (whose name is being kept secret to keep him from being kidnapped by other chapters), Cascade Centennial brought its net membership up to 70, while processing a substantial number of supplementals. New membership is far in excess of 10% for the year, the Chapter's goal. One of the new members, Matthew Lucas, attended the National Congress as his first official event, being inducted during the President General's banquet.



**National Society President General Lindsey Brock (left) inducts Matt Lucas (center), brother of Greg Lucas (right).**

**Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Scholarship:**

Cascade Centennial presented certificates and scholarship packages to every Eagle Scout in Cascade's portion of the Chief Seattle Council, and was invited to attend each Eagle banquet on an ongoing basis, providing a table at which Eagle Scouts can receive such packets in the future. This is the first time in the history of the Chief Seattle Council that any outside group was invited to attend and participate.

**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.

**National Congress and Fall Leadership in Louisville:**

The Chapter sent no fewer than four members (three of whom also brought their wives) to the National Congress in Louisville. Attendees included VPG Jim and Teri Lindley, VPG-Elect Cris and Nonja Bisgard, Gregory and Cindy Lucas, and Matthew Lucas; joined by WASSAR President and his wife, Doug and Kathy Nelson. We created a significant presence in Louisville. Four of its members attended the Fall Leadership meeting: Jim Lindley, VPG Cris Bisgard, Allen Gray, and Bob Doughty. Allen Gray served as an "At Large" Judge of the Knight Essay Contest. The members sent reports from the field during "Leadership," that are available to any and all other chapters within the state upon request.



**Cascade Centennial Chapter members flank Spokane Chapter #1 (and State Society's #1 member) John Ellingson (Minuteman Medal): standing: past VPG Jim and Teri Lindley, and past VPG Bob Doughty. Sitting: current VPG Cris Bisgard and Allen Gray.**

Greg Lucas, Chapter President

*Fort Vancouver Chapter*

No report received from this Chapter

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 meets the fourth Saturday of the month (except June-August), at 9:00 AM, at Ambrosia Catering in East Bremerton.*

The John Paul Jones chapter is an active, vibrant group of Compatriots. Our membership has steadily increased, although not as rapidly as in former times, owing to the backlog at NSSAR. We count about 70 Compatriots in our ranks. Our Genealogist Ken Dunlap, with the assistance of Doug Nelson, is currently working with over 40 potential candidates.

New compatriots for this period include Paul Clifton, Kenneth Haywood, Quentin Gilman and David Pratt. Several supplementals were awarded.

At the May Meeting several community outreach awards were presented: Good Citizenship Medal to Mr. Dale Nitz for Veterans work, Heroism Medals to Kitsap Sheriff's Deputies Lont and Herrin, Eagle Scout Essay Award to Wyatt Antoine, NJROTC Outstanding Cadet Medal (Silver award for WASSAR winner) to Cadet LCDR Jonathan Cissell, Bremerton High School. At this same meeting, Pacific District VPG Jim Lindley presented three Roger Sherman Medals to Chapter members. The Flag Certificate and Trophy for WASSAR Flag Program Championship were also presented.

The Chapter presented Flag Day Proclamations to the cities of Port Orchard, Poulsbo and Bremerton. Flag Certificates were presented to the City of Port Orchard, Kitsap Bank, The Kitsap Regional Library and the Port Orchard Marina.

The Chapter sponsored and manned booths at the Northwest Colonial Life festival, at the Port Orchard 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, and at the Veterans Day Event at Kitsap Sun Pavilion. Chapter Members marched in the Black Diamond Labor Day Parade and the WASSAR unit won First Prize. Chapter members were attired in both period uniforms and in blazer and tie.

The Chapter plans to place 550 wreaths on 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 presented 6 Bronze ROTC medals to deserving Cadets at the 4 high schools we sponsor, and a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to the Runner-up Cadet in the WASSAR JROTC Enhanced Program Essay Contest.

We held 5 meetings during the period, each with an excellent program.

We invite compatriots traveling on the Peninsula to join us on the fourth Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM (that's 0900 for the Navy folks) at Ambrosia Catering in East Bremerton.





**Chapter President Conrad Plyler presents a Flag Certificate to Kathleen Wilson (Branch Manager) and staff of the Port Orchard Library. Chapter Flag Certificate Coordinator Mick Hersey and VP David Blevins look on.**

Conrad Plyler, Chapter President

### *Mid-Columbia Chapter*

*Mid-Columbia Chapter meets the third Saturday of the month, at various locations.*

No report received from this chapter.



**President Stan Wills**

Stan Wills, Chapter President



**Members of the Chapter**

### *Seattle Chapter*

*Seattle Chapter meets the second Saturday of the month (except June-August, and December), at the 13 Coins Restaurant, 125 Boren Avenue North, 9:00 AM.*

The Seattle Chapter finished the 2014-2015 SAR season with its May meeting. We discussed keeping our eyes open for a new location to hold our meetings, having been appraised of Paul Allen's desire to obtain the land on which the 13 Coins is built; knowing that he gets everything he wants from the Seattle City Council. We also discussed the proposal to have the Seattle Mayor proclaim a city flag day for June 14th. This was rejected as being a waste of time since the mayor is and the city has become a strong Socialist-Communist stronghold. Our Second Vice President, Steve Rauzi, gave an enjoyable presentation on his recent trip to London, England. We then adjourned for the summer hiatus.



In September the Seattle Chapter started the 2015-2016 SAR season with a very interesting presentation by our own Compatriot John Ernest on his Patriot Ancestor William (Billy) Talley. To a packed room John explained how by using his ancestor's pension application, and those of several of his ancestor's comrades and company officers, John was able to trace his ancestor's day-to-day military travels and engagements. Just because your ancestor doesn't list everything doesn't mean he did not take an active part in a particular event. By using a 'backdoor' approach John was able ascertain, with a very strong degree of certainty, the military history of his ancestor.

At our October meeting we were joined by WASSAR President Doug Nelson, who presented John Ernest with his eighth or ninth Liberty Medal. John Berg inducted new member David Washington, and discussed Bylaw changes, and announced the names of the officer candidates for 2016.

November's meeting brought election of officers for 2016, and a very interesting and informative presentation by our Compatriot Craig Lawson on the Calendar, it's developmental history, past, present and future.

John Berg, Chapter President

## *Spokane Chapter #1*

*Spokane Chapter meets second Friday of the month (except July-August).*

Why #1 in our title. It simply refers to the fact that the Spokane chapter is the oldest chapter in the Washington society. John Ellingson has an interesting program on the history of the Washington society and told us that nugget of history.

We continue to grow with almost one new approved application each meeting and many applications in the pipeline.

Our programs this year have focused on presentations by our members and learning more about the workings and programs of the SAR. We tried having a breakfast meeting in September and for a variety of reason attendance was poor. In February we will have a breakfast meeting and if it is a success then every third meeting will be a breakfast meeting.

The flag museum continues to outgrow it building and we are actively working with the Spokane City Council to find a better, more permanent home. The museum continues to be an attractive experience for visitors and residents of the area and a great advertisement for us. We continue to have more request for presentations to schools and other organizations and are recruiting more people to lead these presentations. This spring we will again have a booth at the Big Horn Outdoor Show. We have about thirty thousand people visit our booth. It is particularly attractive to children who get a small prize if they can answer a question about American history.

We will elect new officers in December and President Nelson will install them in January. Dale Ryan will be our new President and I am looking forward to a great year under his leadership.



Compatriots Dale Ryan and Stan Wills with newly sworn in United States citizens, September 17, 2015

William Ailes, Chapter President

## COLOR GUARD EVENTS

### WEST

No report submitted by the WASSAR Color Guard Commander.

### EAST

In August members of the Eastern Color Guard presented a Living history Program for 25 daycare kids at the Spokane Valley Learning Center.

Our September was busy. On the 12th we joined the DAR for the Constitution Week program at Manioto Park, at which, the Mayor of Spokane joined us. On the 17th Eastern Color Guard members took part in naturalization ceremonies on Constitution Day in Spokane. We presented Flags and pins to newly sworn-in citizens representing 34 countries. And, on the 22nd we were at the Honor Flight return festivities.

In October we, along with Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, joined the DAR in taking a part in a monument rededication ceremony at Medical Lake High School. Forty-one years ago a tree was planted and a stone monument placed in front, honoring B-52 crewmember Captain Donovan Walters. The bomber was shot down over Vietnam in 1972. He and two other crewmembers were killed, four missing, and three captured, one later dying. Captain Walters had attended the high school.



Stan Wills gives a presentation at the Flag Museum, October 2, 2015

Stan Wills, Vice-Commander, WASSAR Color Guard

### **WASSAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS BUSINESS MEETING SUMMARIES**

The WASSAR Board of Directors met on Saturday, July 25th at Ellensburg. There were several issues to be decided by the Board. One issue being, just who would decide which Compatriots would receive medals for service to WASSAR in the name of the Board of Directors. The WASSAR Executive Board (now Board of Directors) for many decades has traditionally been the designated determiner and awarder of NSSAR medals for services. The Board members could not decide whether they should do their job as the representing body for choosing individuals to be awarded a NSSAR medal, or if they should just pawn it off onto a committee comprised of a few specially chosen Compatriots who would be chosen by other specially chosen Compatriots. Not being able to decide if they should make the decision they placed that decision in the hands of a group of yet to be known non-Board members....

The Board also voted to change from using the relatively new *Standing Rules*, which was instituted as a supplement (or replacement?) to the WASSAR Bylaws, to using another new and different system, a *Policy and Procedures Manuel*.

In addition the Board voted to reword the WASSAR Historian job description Bylaw change proposed by the WASSAR Historian, from saving all records and documents as hard copies stored in files to saving everything as electrical impulses to be stored on who-knows-what? The Historian is not sure what he is to do with the books, magazines, photos, etc., and the *hard copy* awards certificates presented to WASSAR by NSSAR at the summer Congress....

On October 31, 2015 The WASSAR Board of Directors met again in Ellensburg.

The Board approved:

1. Establishment of a Medals and Awards Special Committee.
2. A State Registrar replacement and Assistant Registrar.
3. A Bylaw Change: for nominating 1-2 persons for each position.
4. Chapter Genealogist Training
5. New fees for Transfer-In Members, and New Members.
6. Scanning the 1895-2015 Applications for the Historian's Archives.
7. Sponsoring Joseph H. Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest.
8. The appointment of a DAR Liaison.
9. Having the Historian save each document in both hard copy and digital formats.

The Board postponed:

1. Adopting of a Policy and Procedures Manual.
2. Producing a 2016 WASSAR History Book.

## **PASSING OF COMPATRIOTS**

***Richard Lewis Heinmiller*** of the Alexander Hamilton Chapter, passed from our ranks on May 19, 2015 at the age of 78 years. He was admitted to SAR on May 15, 2008. His Patriot ancestors were David Andrews, Philip Ellis, Edward Garrett, Robert Gray, Ebenezer Hathaway, Martin Loomis, and Stephen Mullings.

***Lyle Nicholas Kell*** of the Cascade Centennial Chapter, passed from our ranks on June 14, 2015 at the age of 91 years. He was admitted to SAR on May 17, 2001. His Patriot ancestor was Ebenezer Fain, who was a Virginia Ranger. Lyle saw service on Okinawa during World War II, earning a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

***William Leo Robinson*** of the Mid-Columbia Chapter, passed from our ranks on August 1, 2015 at the age of 93 years, at Ephrata, Washington. He was admitted to SAR on January 17, 2013 into the Spokane Chapter #1 and transfer to the Mid-Columbia Chapter that same year. His Patriot ancestor was Private John Billingsley who served in the North Carolina Militia. William served in the United States Navy during World War II, as a Chief Motor Machinist Mate on a PT Boat in the South Pacific.

***Paul Roger Carson*** of the John Paul Jones Chapter, passed from our ranks on August 31, 2015 at the age of 82 years, at his home in Poulsbo, Washington. Paul was admitted to the SAR on November 27, 2012, through his Patriot ancestor Private Noah Greeley who served in the New Hampshire Militia. Paul added Supplementals for his Patriot ancestors William House of Connecticut, Thomas Mercer of Pennsylvania, and Levi Morrill of New Hampshire. Paul served in the United States Air Force from 1953-1960.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### UPCOMING EVENTS

*Wreaths Across America:  
Saturday, December 12, 2015*

*Birthday of Jesus Christ:  
Friday, December 25, 2015*

*WASSAR Board of Directors Meeting:  
Wednesday, January 6, 2016*

*NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting:  
Friday-Saturday, February 26-27, 2016*

### OUR NEW COMPATRIOTS

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

To the Alexander Hamilton Chapter: *John Dimmer, Emeka Egbuka, John Knight,  
Dale Looker, Keenan Ogilvie, Doug Osborne,  
and Jaron Spoja*

To the Cascade Centennial Chapter: *Bryan Ensley, Mark Griswold, Carol Harris,  
Greg Harris, Brandon Smith, and Jack Van Camp*

To the Fort Vancouver Chapter:

To the George Washington Chapter:

To the John Paul Jones Chapter: *Paul Clifton, Chuck Meacham, and David Pratt*

To the Mid-Columbia Chapter: *Ken Powe*

To the Seattle Chapter: *Bruce Harrington, David Washington, and Curtis Williams*

To the Spokane Chapter #1: *Rene Lebourhis*

**Welcome To All The New Members!**

## AWARDS

### THE ROGER SHERMAN MEDAL



The Roger Sherman Medal was approved at the Spring 2013 Leadership Meeting at Louisville, Kentucky, and is awarded to Compatriots who have rendered exceptional and or faithful service to their Chapter, their State Society or the National Society over multiple years. Thus it comes in three grades; bronze for service in a Chapter, antique silver for service with a State Society, and in gold for service with the National Society. Eligibility criteria can include: carrying out one's duties as an officer with exceptional zeal, or for service as an officer for two years, committee chairman for three years, or committee member for four years. Only active service should be taken into account for awarding this medal. Also, unlike the Distinguished Service Medals, Patriot Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal, the Roger Sherman Medal can be awarded multiple times. Additional awards are represented by an Oak Leaf Cluster worn on the ribbon. Each Oak Leaf Cluster can represent an additional two years or more of exceptional active service. The service is counted cumulatively rather than consecutively, and may not be added concurrently for multiple offices, committee chairmanships, or committee membership.

This Medal is named for Roger Sherman (born April 19, 1721, died July 23, 1793), who was an early American lawyer, politician, and founding father. He served on the Committee of Five who drafted the Declaration of Independence. He became a representative and senator in the new United States. And, he was the only person to sign all four great United States documents: the Continental Association, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution.

Roger Sherman had a large part in what is known as the "Great Compromise". In 1787 this combined the "New Jersey Plan" which proposed a one house national legislature where each state could cast one vote, and the "Virginia Plan" where representation would be based upon a state's population. The "Great Compromise" created the two- house legislature, one house having equal representation, and the other based on the population of each state. Roger Sherman was one of the unsung hero's who assisted in creating the documents forming this country.



# **SUBMISSIONS OF INTEREST**

## **GENEALOGICAL INTEREST**

### **Federal Land Patents**

By Allan Wenzel

The issuing of a Federal Land Patent was under the United States Government's Bureau of Land Management's jurisdiction. Federal lands were organized into a grid of townships and ranges having 36 sections each, all measured from a specified meridian. Each of the 36 sections was divided into four parts (quarter sections): north, south, east and west. A quarter section equaled 160 acres of land. Each quarter section was also divided into quarters, which when written, as an example, would appear as: NWNW 26 (the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 26). Land could be obtained by a sale purchase per acre (Cash Entry), by land improvement (Homestead), or by a Military Warrant Patent.

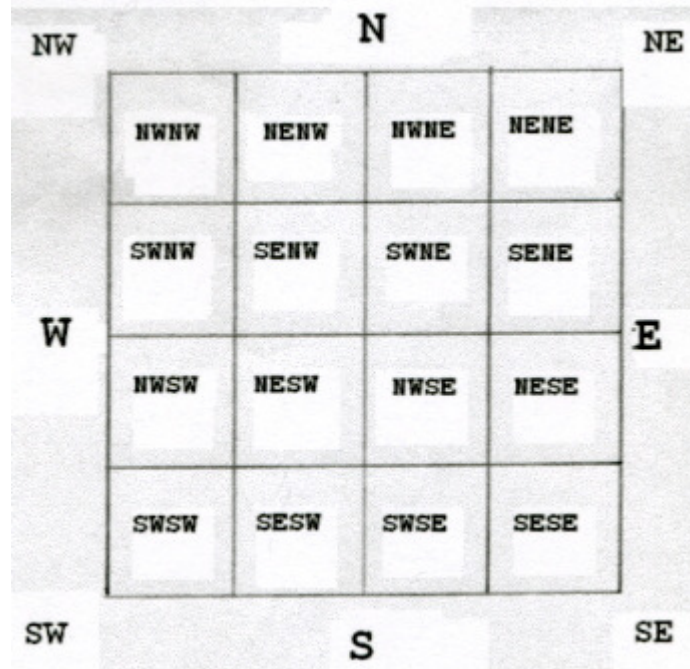
The use of the term "Lot" in land descriptions indicates that the parcel area was fractional or an odd-shaped tract of land not generally describable by conventional aliquot parts. Usually these are found in areas having a body of water or other physical discrepancy. Lots are sometimes expressed as "Lot 1" or "Lot 1a." If a lot is included in a description of land, it will be denoted in the aliquot parts as a one or two-digit number and may include a lower case alphabet letter. For example, "Lot 12a of the north-west quarter" is denoted as "12aNW" in the aliquot parts field.

The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed people to settle up to 160 acres of public land if they lived on it for five years and grew crops or made improvements, at which time they were issued a certificate of ownership. This land did not cost anything per acre, but the settler did pay a filing fee. This act is no longer in effect.

You can access these records on line at: [www.glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx).

After selecting a state, a county, and typing in either a full or just a surname the information will appear, containing the Accession number, owner's name, date ownership is granted, document number, state, meridian, township and range, aliquots, section number, and county. After clicking on the "Accession" number a complete image of all the information contained in the record will appear including the ability to click on "Land Description" and checking the Map button to see exactly where the land is located. A copy of the actual certificate granting ownership to your ancestor can be purchased from the Bureau of Land Management.

Example: Section #26 of 36 sections comprising a Township.



### 125 Year SAR Commemorative Medal

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 125<sup>th</sup> year of the SAR is a great companion to you membership medal. Only a member who was a dues-paying member between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014 may wear it. In addition, new members whose applications had been submitted during that time may also 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 antique 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. This medal will only continue to be available for limited time.



## MILITARY-NAVAL INTEREST

### THE HIGHEST RANKING SOLDIER OR SAILOR IS...

By Allan Wenzel

I first wrote this article over three years ago, before the article by President General Joe Dole on George Washington's elevation to General of the Armies of the United States was published in the SAR Magazine. As a result of this I have altered mine from its original, have expanded it, and present it with more explanation.

During the French and Indian War (1754-1760), and for a few years thereafter, Colonel of Colonial Militia George Washington longed for a commission in the regular British Army. He had chosen a career in the military, and to achieve this goal he needed to be recognized for his talents by the British. The British would eventually recognize Washington for his talents, but the commission in a regular army would come from the colonies.

During the Revolutionary War the Colonial Army, thence Continental Army, only had Brigadier and Major Generals, one and two stars Generals. In 1782 Washington was promoted to Lieutenant General (three stars) designated as being the senior soldier. With his becoming President the rank of Lieutenant General was mothballed and the senior rank in the army was again Major General.

In 1855 the rank of Lieutenant General was revived and bestowed on Winfield Scott for his wining the Mexican War (1846-1847). At the beginning of the Civil War Scott devised the Anaconda strategy, which would prove successful against the Southern States. He retired shortly after opening hostilities and with him went the three stars. As the war progressed and the numbers of soldiers increased so did the numbers of Major Generals. The rank of Lieutenant General was revised in 1864 and given to Ulysses Grant, and with it came the command of the Union Army. After Lee's surrender and the Civil War came to an end Congress awarded Grant his fourth star and the title General of the Army of the United States. He would be followed in turn by General William Sherman and General Philip Sheridan, as each being elevated to four stars and command of the Army of the United States.

After Sheridan's retirement the highest rank attainable reverted back to the two-star Major General. America's involvement in World War I once again revived the need by the United States to have more than just two stars leading American soldiers, this time in Europe. Originally Congress wanted Major General John J. Pershing to wear five stars so he would be equal to his counter-parts in the British and French Armies. But Pershing stated this would not be fitting since he was under their command. So he was appointed to a four-star grade with the title of General of the Army. In 1919 Congress in order to honor his service during World War I elevated his title to General of the Armies of the United States and issued him the service number 0-1. His in-line four stars were to be gold instead of silver, but this insignia was never approved, nor created and worn. In 1920 all the other senior Generals reverted back to their pre-war rank of Major General, except for Pershing.

Four-stars was once again reinstated in 1929, and awarded to then Army Chief of Staff Charles Summerall. The four stars would now accompany the position of Army Chief of Staff.

With the creation of the position of "Supreme Allied Commander" during World War II the United States, having officers in its ranks filling these slots, was faced with having to create a fifth star position in order to be equal to its allies who held the five star position of Field Marshal. No allied holder of the equivalent of five stars could be expected to take orders from someone holding only four stars. The new five-star title was designated to be General of the Army and Admiral of the Fleet.

Thus, on December 15, 1944 Admiral William Leahy (Chief of Staff, Joint Chiefs) officially became the first to wear five stars. He was followed the next day on the 16th by General George Marshall (Chief of Staff, Army), on the 17th by Admiral Ernest King (Chief of Staff, Navy), on the 18th by General Douglas MacArthur (Supreme Allied Commander, Southwest Pacific), on the 19th by Admiral Chester Nimitz (Commander in Chief, Pacific), on the 20th by General Dwight Eisenhower (Supreme Allied Commander, Europe), and on the 21st by General Henry Arnold (Commander in Chief, Army Air Corps). On December 11, 1945 Admiral William Halsey received his fifth star. The last to be awarded and wear five stars was General Omar Bradley when he became the first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, September 22, 1950.

During the preparation for the invasion of Japan in 1945 it became clear that the Supreme Commander of the force would be commanding five-star generals and admirals of the United States as well as those of allied nations. It was proposed to create a six-star rank, having the insignia identical to the five star pentagon shape bearing the sixth star in the middle, with General Douglas MacArthur being the recipient. The proposal was dropped on August 18, 1945, four days after Japan surrendered due to "lack of necessity for such a rank."

General MacArthur was again considered for this promotion in 1955. Congress considered a bill authorizing President Eisenhower to promote him to the rank. However, the Army Judge Advocate General informed MacArthur that to accept the promotion, now that he was retired, would reduce his retirement pay and benefits attributed to his active duty Five-Star General rank. MacArthur informed Eisenhower that he wished to decline the promotion.

As a part of the 1976 bicentennial celebrations, in an effort to recognize, commemorate and solidify the position George Washington has in United States history, both Houses of Congress recommended on January 19, 1976 that Lieutenant General Washington be promoted, and further declared that no officer of the United States Army should outrank him. The resolution states:

"Whereas Lieutenant General George Washington of Virginia commanded our armies throughout and to the successful termination of our Revolutionary War; Whereas Lieutenant General George Washington presided over the convention that formulated our Constitution; Whereas Lieutenant General George Washington twice served as President of the United States of America; and Whereas it is considered fitting and proper that no officer of the United States Army should outrank Lieutenant General George Washington on the Army list; Now, therefore, be it *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That (a) for purposes of subsection (b) of this section only, the grade of General of the Armies of the United States is established, such grade to have rank and precedence over all other grades of the Army, past or present. (b) The President is authorized and requested to appoint George Washington posthumously to the grade of General of the Armies of the United States, such appointment to take effect on July 4, 1976."

On October 11, 1976 President Gerald Ford approved the resolution and signed an Executive Order posthumously promoting George Washington to the grade of *General of the Armies of the United States*, as the senior officer of the Army.

Now for the Navy: ADMIRAL GEORGE DEWEY

George Dewey gained fame and promotion from his stunning victory at the Battle of Manila Bay, Philippines, during the Spanish-American War. On May 1, 1898 Commodore (one star) Dewey sunk or captured the entire Spanish Pacific fleet and silenced the shore batteries, with the loss of only one life, and all within six hours. Nine days later, on May 10th, he was promoted to Rear Admiral (two stars). On March 2, 1899, by an act of Congress, Dewey was promoted to the rank of Admiral (four stars).

On March 24, 1903 Dewey was elevated to the rank of *Admiral of the Navy*, being retroactive to March 2, 1899. With the title also came a new rank insignia for his collar, shoulder boards and sleeves, different from those worn by a Four Star Admiral.



Uniform, collar and shoulder board insignia design worn by Dewey as Admiral of the Navy.

When the five-star rank of *Fleet Admiral* was established (1944) during World War II, the Department of the Navy specified that the new rank of Fleet Admiral would be junior to Dewey's rank of *Admiral of the Navy*, which became viewed as a six-star rank. However, as there has never been an Admiral of the Navy and a Fleet Admiral serving at the same time, the six-star rank status has not been totally confirmed. But it does exist in title and special uniform insignias. He is the senior officer of the United States Navy.



Fleet Admiral: collar, sleeve and shoulder board

No insignia accompanied the legislation posthumously promoting Washington to *General of the Armies of the United States*, only the title.

Washington is still a Lieutenant General by insignia and General of the Armies of the United States by title. Pershing is a Four Star General by insignia and also having the title of General of the Armies of the United States.

Since General John J. Pershing holds the exact rank in title but he also without special insignia the United States should designate the six-star pentagon configuration and present this insignia posthumously to General George Washington.



Admiral George Dewey has special uniform insignia, awarded only once, and having the elevated title of Admiral of the Navy, a title and insignia designated by the Navy as being higher than the title and five star insignia of a Fleet Admiral. Thus, Dewey is the top-ranking member of all the Armed Forces of the United States.

#### **Trivia**

In 1901 Admiral of the Navy George Dewey was elected as an honorary member of the **New York Society of the Cincinnati**. He was also a full member of:

**Sons of the American Revolution** (membership number 2920)

**Sons of the Revolution**

**General Society of the War of 1812**

**Order of the Founders and Patriots of America**

**Society of Colonial Wars**

**Society of American Wars**

**Military Order of Foreign Wars.**

**Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States**

**Naval Order of the United States**

John Tyler (1790-1862), 10th President of the United States (1841-1845) as of 2013 had two grandsons still alive and in their 80's.

#### **Medal of Honor**

In the last issue of the *Washington Trail* I stated that the only father-son holders of the Medal of Honor were the MacArthur's. Compatriot Craig Ferguson, of the Mid-Columbia Chapter, brought to my attention that the Theodore Roosevelt's, Senior and Junior, also both hold the Medal of Honor. President Teddy Roosevelt receiving his in 2001 for his charge up San Juan (Kettle) Hill in 1898 during the Spanish-American War. And, his son, Brigadier-General Theodore Roosevelt Junior, receiving his in 1944 for his leading the first wave of troops at Utah Beach during the Normandy landings on D-Day. Both awards were posthumously presented. Thanks Craig.



## **PATRIOT BIOGRAPHY**

### **JAMES ANDERSON**

Revolutionary War and War of 1812

By Allan Wenzel

James Anderson was born in 1762, in Donegal Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the second son of Thomas Anderson and Mary Wilkins. James was named for his grandfather, James Anderson. His grandfather was born in Skye, Scotland, graduated from the University of Glasgow, and ordained a Presbyterian Minister November 17, 1708. He sailed to Virginia on March 6, 1709, arriving at the Rappahannock River on April 22, 1709. He moved to New Castle, Delaware in 1713, to New York City in 1716, and to Donegal Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania between late September 1726 and August 1727, establishing Presbytery ministries at each of the places he resided.

At the age of 14 James enlisted in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania, as a Private, in Captain John Kelly's Company, Colonel Potter's First Continental Regiment (re-designated the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment on January 1, 1777), for three months service during the American Revolution, and was stationed at Pennington, New Jersey.

Shortly there after his regiment moved south and James participated in the Battle of Trenton (December 26, 1776), when General George Washington crossed the Delaware River during a bitter cold blizzard, surprising and defeating the Hessian German mercenary troops under Colonel Von Rahl. During this engagement James was wounded by a flying splinter shot from off a log, a part of the bridge he was standing on. This bridge led into Trenton and his regiment occupied it, blocking the retreat of the fleeing Hessians. This ultimately led to their surrender. James having been wounded and only 14 was returned home.

In 1778 James volunteered, at Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, for one year of service, as a Private, in his uncle Captain John Wilkins' Company, Colonel Butler's Regiment. In 1780 he again enlisted, for one year, at Carlisle, as a Private, in Captain Lusk's Company, Colonel Butler's Regiment. During this period of service he was stationed at Carlisle and assigned as a dispatch courier between New Jersey and Delaware for the regimental commander. He served for various periods up to the surrender by British General Cornwallis on October 19, 1781.

In 1782 James migrated to the Kentucky Territory, where in February or March 1783, in Fayette County, he was married to Letty Jane Bradshaw (born November 24, 1767, in Virginia, died circa 1855, in Powell County, Kentucky), the daughter of James Bradshaw. James fathered nine known children. From the time of his marriage until his death he lived in Montgomery and neighboring Clark County, Kentucky.

James served during the War of 1812. He was a member of Captain Holmes' Company, Army of General Hull, which invaded Canada in July at Sandwich (Windsor), Ontario. He stated that he took part in the skirmish at Brownstown (August 5, 1812) and Twenty Mile Creek, and was captured at Sandwich when General Hull surrendered Fort Detroit on August 16, 1812, becoming a prisoner of war until paroled. He returned home, and immediately enlisted as a Militia Captain in command of the 7th Company, in the 2nd Regiment of Kentucky Riflemen, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William Jennings. The Regiment was mustered at Frankfort and the troops rendezvoused at Cincinnati, Ohio before joining General William Henry Harrison's army at Fort Saint Mary's in Ohio.

On September 21, 1812, Colonel Jennings was ordered to proceed down the Auglaize River with his Regiment and establish an intermediate supply Fort from which he could escort provisions to the Regiment's Commanding General, General James Winchester, at Fort Defiance at the juncture of the Auglaize and Maumee Rivers. After advancing 30 miles, Colonel Jennings saw signs of Indians, and his spies reported the enemy was confronting General Winchester at Fort Defiance. He halted on the west bank of the River and began building the new Fort, which was completed in mid-October of 1812 and named Fort Jennings. The Fort was comprised of a small stockade with blockhouses surrounded by pickets enclosing about an acre. Its location (present day Fort Jennings) was an eleven and a half days walk from Cincinnati, Ohio. Supplies were sent to the Fort by river raft and pirogue.

With the fort completed, life became routine and monotonous for the Kentuckians who wanted some action. Colonel Jennings sent a foraging expedition, under Captain William Jones to the Indian towns of Upper and Lower Tawa on the Blanchard River. Finding the towns deserted, Jones' Company feasted on the remaining food supplies then burned the towns and all the remaining foodstuffs before returning to Fort Jennings.

In late December 1812 General Winchester began a march to the Miami Rapids encampment along the Maumee River toward present day Toledo. From here he advanced to the River Raisin in Michigan in an attempt to recapture Frenchtown (Monroe, Michigan). On January 18, his men drove off a smaller Canadian and Indian force and recaptured the American town (First Battle of Frenchtown). However, his men were attacked four days later by a combined British-Indian-Canadian force under British Colonel Henry Procter (Second Battle of Frenchtown). Winchester himself was captured and imprisoned in Canada for more than a year until released in a prisoner exchange. Having lost hundreds of his soldiers in the initial assault, he agreed to a conditional surrender of the remainder of his troops in exchange for "a pledge of protection" for those soldiers captured by the Indians, including Kentucky Militia Captain Henry James and twenty of his 2nd Company militiamen of the 7th Regiment. Despite Procter's pledge, on January 22, 1813, the Indians slaughtered 68 seriously wounded American captive soldiers in what is referred to as the *Massacre of the River Raisin*.

Colonel Jennings and the bulk of the 7th Regiment had been sent just south of Frenchtown at Fort Meigs along the Maumee River and then to Put-in-Bay on Lake Erie in northern Ohio. By the end of March 1813 Colonel Jennings and his 7th Regiment, including Captain James Anderson's Company, had returned to Kentucky, having completed their six-month enlistment.

James applied for a pension November 26, 1832, at the Rockcastle County Kentucky courthouse. He died August 18, 1837, in Clark County, Kentucky. His widow Letty applied for a widow's pension May 4, 1843, while living in Montgomery County, Kentucky. On March 3, 1855 the U.S. Government approved a Bounty Land Warrant of 160 acres of land for James' war service issuing it to his widow. It's unknown at this time in which cemetery James' grave is located.

## THE BEVERLY WILLS MEMORIAL GIRL SCOUT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

On the 40th Anniversary of my marriage to Beverly she passed away. As a DAR member she attended ceremonies with me when I presented Boy Scout, JROTC and ROTC awards. One time after I presented an Eagle Scout award she asked why didn't we honor Girl Scouts who completed the "Gold Star" (GSA equivalent of the BSA Eagle Scout)? I did not have an answer for her. At the next DAR event she attended she asked the DAR why they didn't have an award for Gold Star girls. They too had no answer. After Beverly passed to honor her memory I established a fund, giving a \$250 scholarship to the outstanding Girl Scout in the entire Eastern Washington District who had completed the "Gold Star." I let the District Commander select the recipient, having it be based on the impact of her community service. I put aside \$2000 for the scholarship fund and I asked Beverly's DAR Esther Reed Chapter to manage the funds and present a Good Citizenship Certificate with the scholarship. We routinely add more funds, including donations from many of you my SAR Compatriots. I had hoped the DAR would get on board and start a program like the SAR Eagle Scout award and even match the funds. That has yet to happen. But I continue to honor the "Gold Star" girls.

Donations can be sent to:  
Stan Wills  
40250 Doerschlag Road E.  
Sprague, Washington 99032  
Attn: Beverly Wills Scholarship



**Stan Wills presenting Gold Star Girl Scout McKenna Jones the Beverly Wills Scholarship, May 9, 2015. McKenna, the third recipient to be honored with this scholarship, spent over 300 hours of community service raising \$9000 for this monument to be placed at the Veterans Administration Cemetery at Medical Lake, Washington. The monument honors fallen comrades, and is located next to the Patriot Tree (background), which the SAR planted two years ago. Stan met McKenna when she was a Sea Cadet. She has been a Girl Scout for 11 years, and is now a college freshman in Montana.**

## *What's New with the Ladies Auxiliary by Jeri Lindley*

*As I compose my final update about the Ladies Auxiliary for the Washington Trail, I am delighted to "pass the torch" for future newsletter articles and dues billings to our delightful First Lady in Washington, Kathi Nelson, wife of State President Douglas Nelson. Kathi worked tirelessly with me to make this last Pacific District Meeting a wonderful success and she brings new energy and enthusiasm to our Auxiliary. I look forward to assisting her with Auxiliary functions in the future!*

*In late June, Jim and I traveled to Louisville for the 125th Sons of the American Revolution National Congress. Also attending this function from Washington State were Doug and Kathi Nelson, Greg and Cindy Lucas, Cris and Nonja Bisgard, John Ellingson and John Berg. Attending from Oregon State were Ken Betterton and Eugene Melvin. Matt Lucas from Virginia, brother of Greg Lucas, was inducted into the Society by outgoing President General Lindsey Brock at the President General's banquet. Cris Bisgard, also representing the state of Alaska, was installed as the new VPG for the Pacific District by incoming President General Tom Lawrence at the Installation banquet. Ladies Auxiliary functions included a business meeting with the election of new officers and guest speaker Kelly A Ryan, PhD, talking about "Creating a Chaste Republic: Efforts to 'Clean Up' Sexuality in Massachusetts 1780-1820 Republic". First Lady Billie Brock hosted the First Lady's Tea at the Cathedral of the Assumption following the Memorial Service. The Ladies Luncheon was held at the lovely Audubon Country Club and we listened to an informative lecture about Daniel Boone.*

*The Executive Board of the Ladies Auxiliary, along with the membership in attendance, voted to donate another \$10,000 to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. All gifts enable the National Society Sons of the American Revolution to continue its goal of becoming the foremost repository of Revolutionary War era documents and artifacts. The Ladies Auxiliary is able to donate these funds because of the tremendous fundraising efforts of the organization.*



Pacific District at the National Congress this past summer in Louisville, Kentucky.  
Back, left to right: Matt Lucas, Doug & Kathi Nelson, Eugene Melvin, Cindy & Greg Lucas, Ken Betterton.  
Front, left to right: Jim & Teri Lindley, John Ellingson, Nonja & Cris Bisgard.

*Warm regards,*

*Teri*

*What's New with the D&R*

*No submission received from the D.A.R.*

*What's New with the C&R*

*No submission received from the C.A.R.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

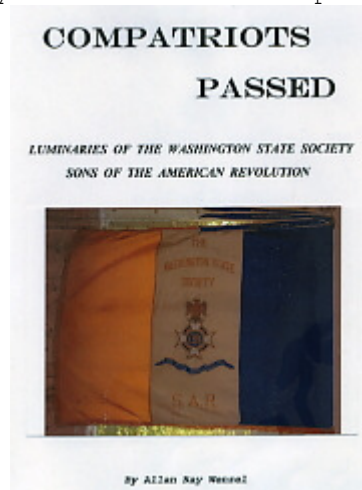
### The publication deadlines for newsletter submissions are as follows:

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](mailto: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](mailto:doug1280@comcast.net)) and Allan Wenzel ([stsporto@q.com](mailto: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](mailto:cpm12@comcast.net)).

General Society  
of  
The War of 1812



Information  
for  
Prospective Applicants

[www.societyofthewarof1812.org](http://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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809 West Main Street  
Louisville, KY 40202

(502) 589-1776  
[www.library.sar.org](http://www.library.sar.org)

## LASTLY

### Editor's Desk:

Just a short comment on the inevitable \$10 Bill (*appeasement*) face-lift change: None of the proposed women nominated to replace Alexander Hamilton has done what those whose images currently grace our currency from the \$1 to the \$100 dollar bills have done. Each of these men had an instrumental part in the history of designing and developing, saving, and preserving the United States of America. If you want to replace a Founding Father with a woman find one who did something equal to these seven men: from: the Revolution (Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Franklin), the War of 1812 (Jackson), and the Civil War (Lincoln, Grant). But there aren't any women whose accomplishments equal these men. If this statement upsets those in our ranks who are Socialists, tough! It seems that every time I turn around our country is appeasing some group of people, either living in this country or in another country. The United States doesn't have to appease anyone.

Allan Wenzel

### From the Assistant to the Editor:

**ON DECEMBER 26, 1776 AT TRENTON MY PATRIOT ANCESTOR  
BIT A HESSIAN ON THE BUTT.**



**AND,  
HE WAS IN THE BOTTOM OF THE BOAT AT GEORGE'S FEET  
WHEN THE GENERAL CROSSED THE DELAWARE.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**ELLIOT**