



PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

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NEWSLETTER NO. 27

FALL 2004/WINTER 2005

George Washington's Birthday Event



"Little Patriots"



*Samuel Elliott Woerner
Son of Robert James Woerner*

The Pennsylvania Society is planning its annual celebration of George Washington's Birthday for Saturday evening, February 19, 2005. Lincoln Hall at the Union League of Philadelphia has been reserved and the John Lewis Orchestra will be joining us once again with music for cocktails, dinner and dancing.

Under the leadership of Committee Chairman, Edward Kellogg, and Historian, James Marvin, arrangements have been made to display two ceremonial swords that belonged to General Anthony Wayne. The evening will be an ideal opportunity to view two of our society's treasured artifacts that have been on loan to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia.

Invitations were mailed after the New Year. Guests are welcome. Please consider encouraging our younger members and prospective members to attend.



*James Paul Woerner, III
Son of Robert James Woerner*

New Citizens Ceremony

The PSSR participated in a special New Citizens Ceremony on Thursday, November 18th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Ceremonial Courtroom (1st floor), Federal Courthouse at 6th & Market Streets, Philadelphia.

Our own PSSR and Board member, Judge Thomas O'Neill, officiated at the ceremony and invited a guest speaker for the event, Dr. Thomas M. Devlin - retired head of Biochemistry from Hahnemann University.

Members of the Color Guard were present for this event. Cake and punch was served after the ceremony and Banjo Joe provided musical entertainment.

2005 ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER April 14, 2005 THE UNION LEAGUE 4:00 PM

The Society requests your presence at our 2005 Annual Meeting and Dinner. Please plan to attend to review the year's events and to socialize with both old and new friends.

ABBREVIATED MEETING INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS SPEAKER COCKTAIL HOUR DINNER

The Colors and Standards will be presented by the Color Guard led by Captain Richard D. Smith.

The Board and the Society look forward to seeing you there!

George Washington Commemorative Ornament



Celebrating the Society's 100th commemoration of Washington's Birthday Party, George Washington Commemorative ornaments (pictured here) were presented to all those who attended last February's event. The Society Office has continued to receive orders for the ornaments that were left from the original order. These make a lovely all year round display gift. There is only a limited supply of the ornaments left in inventory. The cost of the ornament is \$20.00 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling. If you are interested in purchasing an ornament, please forward your request to the Society Office by calling Barbara at 215-545-1888 or emailing secretary@amrev.org.

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*Judge O'Neill extends congratulations to Ludmilla Kulligan from Russia as he hands her a certificate of citizenship to the United States during the New Citizens Ceremony on November 18, 2004*



*Jim & Nancy Sanborn, Ann & Lanny Patten, Carol & Al Feather*

### **2005 Musket Ball at the Merion Cricket Club**

The Merion Cricket Club hosted the annual PSSR celebration of the Saratoga - Yorktown anniversaries, commonly referred to as the "Musket Ball".

The Cricket Club was a new location for this year's event. In addition to the new location, we also had a new Orchestra, G-Force, which brought great reviews from all who heard them. This event, for some, marked the start of the Holiday Season, and this year was no exception with full subscription from our PSSR members and the special "Fall Surprise" won by a lucky member and guest.



*Steve Mark & Marsha Smith*



*Presentation of the "Colors" to PSSR President Leroy Lewis, III by Captain Richard Dana Smith*



*Mrs. Leroy M. Lewis, Jr., Ann Chipman & Bob Scammell*

## Response to High Risks in the Middle East

*President Leroy M. Lewis, III*

It saddens me to feel it necessary to respond to the latest article in the Drumbeat by the Chairman of the National Preparedness Committee and the immediate past General President of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution. This article is the second article written by RADM Lunney and, according to the Managing Editor, Ed Rust, is apparently approved by the Officers of the General Society responsible for the publication of the Drumbeat. I want to be clear that the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution does not subscribe to the opinions expressed in RADM Lunney's article, nor does it have any official opinion relative to President Bush's conduct of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

Let me say at the outset that I really don't care what the Committee on Preparedness' politics are. My complaint is not that this committee and its chairman aren't entitled to deeply-held, personal opinions on Iraq and the Administration's foreign policy. My concern is that this clearly political opinion piece can be construed to be the opinion of the General Society and, by implication, a viewpoint that is supported by the State Societies. I have to say that I have received many e-mails from our State Society members in opposition to the opinions expressed in this article and wondering why the Drumbeat is being used as a forum for anyone to air their personal political opinions.

As a legal matter, the Pennsylvania Society has a 501(c)3 exemption from Federal income taxation, and historically the Board of Managers has studiously avoided commenting on current political affairs, or passing resolutions that comment on current political affairs on the national level. The Board of Managers has taken strong positions relative to matters affecting our mission, especially when it comes to preserving historical sites and monuments involved with the American Revolution. Through inaction, I know that our Board of Managers does not want to create the predicate for the IRS to remove our tax free foundation status. In part, this is one of my reasons for penning this response as the President of your Society repudiating the Committee on Preparedness' articles.

However, these kinds of articles also tend to polarize our membership in an area where we needn't be polarized. Neither liberals nor conservatives own the American Revolution. Why should we inject this kind of divisive opinion article into our publications?

There are plenty of newspapers, newsletters, radio talk shows, and television stations that are oriented towards airing political opinions. Do we really need the Drumbeat to be yet another venue of this sort?

In addition, the article does nothing to ground the committee's thoughts in the American Revolution, the Patriots who fought in that war, or any other ostensible link to our Society's purpose. At best, this committee simply thought it would be a good idea to present their alarmist view of the conduct of our nation's foreign and military policy for yet a second time. I should emphasize that I'm not interested in a "donnybrook" over this issue. But, I believe that the Managers who assemble in Kansas City in October need to discuss the appropriate bounds for the material that should be included in articles that appear in the Drumbeat. I will freely admit that I don't happen to like the liberal slant of RADM Lunney's article. But, I would be equally critical of an article that was equally as unbalanced to the right.

The role of the General Society should be to encourage our members to read about foreign policy or current military affairs, and our articles should present a balanced view of affairs, which means acknowledging with civility that there are opposing views that also have legitimacy and explaining both with an even hand. We should encourage our members get involved with the political process and exercise the right that our ancestors fought for them to have without stumping for one candidate or another.

Alarmist material straight from the Democratic Party talking points (or the Republican Party talking points for that matter) are inappropriate material for our publications and should be avoided. And, I think that the appropriate role for a society, whose ancestors fought a war at great personal cost, is to be supportive of the troops in the field as they work to accomplish their mission. To me, constant criticism, incessant predictions of our eventual military failure, and questioning of the honor and integrity of our President and his Administration only gives comfort to our enemy. I have to say that if this article is truly the opinion of our General Society Officers, I am most disappointed

## First City Troop Leads PSSR's Let Freedom Ring Ceremony In Harrisburg, PA

A low altitude fly-over by military jets, the delivery of a copy of the Declaration of Independence by a mounted detachment of the historic First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry and patriotic music by an Army band and famed Show Troupe of the United Service Organizations (USO) highlighted this year's Let Freedom Ring ceremony at the State Capitol complex here on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

The festivities culminated at precisely 2:00 p.m. with the ringing of a replica of the Liberty Bell by veterans of World War II from across the Commonwealth, led by Major (Ret.) Richard Winters, who became a national symbol of courage and resolve following the broadcast of the recent HBO mini-series, "Band of Brothers." In homage to the new World War II monument in Washington, DC, thirteen veterans of that conflict, including six who participated in the D-Day invasion of Normandy in 1944, participated with Major Winters in the ringing of the Liberty Bell.

The ceremony began just prior to 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon with a selection of patriotic music by the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Band in Soldiers and Sailors Grove on the east side of the Capitol Building. Shortly thereafter, a mounted detachment of First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, the oldest continuously serving unit in service to the Nation, delivered a copy of the Declaration of Independence to the Master of Ceremonies, Curt Cheyney.

A keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Ray Raymond, MBE, FSRA, Political Officer from the Office of the Consulate General of the United Kingdom. Dr. Raymond's presentation, warmly received by the assembled audience, focused more on the similarities between Americans and their British brethren rather than differences, and how these similarities led inexorably to the American Revolution.

After selected readings from the Declaration of Independence by members of the First City Troop, as the Liberty Bell was rung, A-10 "Warthog" close air support fighters performed a breathtaking fly-over of the Capitol complex, to the delight of spectators. Following the fly-over, members of the First City Troop, with support from the Marksmanship Training Unit of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, fired a 13-gun salute from the elevated balconies of the Capitol.

*Continued next column*

Members of the World War II Roundtable led the participants and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, and representatives of the Gold Star Mothers led the assemblage in a "Prayer for Those Who Have Made the Ultimate Sacrifice."

Notable participants in the ceremony included the Honorable Catherine Baker Knoll, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Major General Jessica Wright, Adjutant General to the Governor of Pennsylvania, as well as several other civic and military leaders of the Commonwealth. Thousands of spectators participated in the ceremony and several other special events around the State Capitol complex over the Independence Day weekend.

For more than 200 years, citizens and patriots have memorialized the signing of the Declaration of Independence by ringing bells, the most well-known of which is the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. Let Freedom Ring honors those who helped achieve our country's independence during the American Revolution. The Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution and its Color Guard began stewardship of the event in 1969. Richard W. Thorington, then President of the Society, said at the time, that "Let Freedom Ring" was established to "revive the spirit of patriotism" and to provide "a dignified ceremony which will have important meaning for millions of Americans who love their country and have faith in its future."

Although this celebration was initiated in Philadelphia, birthplace of our nation's freedom, it has truly become a nationwide event. In accordance with the U.S. Congressional Resolution Number 25, bells across the country are rung thirteen times at exactly 2:00 p.m. (E.D.S.T.), in honor of the thirteen original states that the signers of the Declaration of Independence represented.

In Harrisburg, the Let Freedom Ring Ceremony was planned and executed by the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry at the direction of Governor Ed Rendell, and under the auspices of the PSSR. The success of the celebration in Harrisburg was due primarily to the planning and hard work of Lieutenant Ed Gobora (Officer in Charge), Cornet Joshua West (Alternate Officer in Charge) and Troopers Pat Suter and Ryan Noyes. The Governor, as well as the leadership and many of the members of PSSR, planned and participated in the concurrent ceremony in Philadelphia.

*Continued next page*

The First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry was formed in 1774 as the Light Horse of the City of Philadelphia, a volunteer mounted militia made up of businessmen, financiers, ship owners and others involved in the commercial life of the Colonies. The Troop was soon involved in the long battle for independence, performing reconnaissance, delivering payrolls to the beleaguered patriots at Valley Forge, escorting General George Washington during battles in Princeton, Trenton, Brandywine and Germantown. The gentlemen of the Philadelphia Light Horse were professional men, shipowners, importers, or traders, generally of conspicuous prominence in the affairs of the day. The membership was not to confine itself to public or civil life, for many were to hold commissions in the Continental service and in the Army and Navy of the State. The Rolls of the Troop ever since have been enriched by outstanding individual records in all branches of military life.

A number of social organizations played an important part in forming the new cavalry unit. The oldest of these was the Schuylkill Fishing Company, a club that numbered many Troopers among its officers. Other organizations from which the Light Horse drew its members were the Schuylkill Company of Fort St. Davids, the St. Andrew's Society of Philadelphia, the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, and the Society of the Sons of St. George. The Gloucester Fox Hunting Club had a special influence. The "round black hat bound with silver cord and buck's tail" and the dark brown short coat faced and lined with white worn by the Trooper of the Revolution were similar to the hunting coat and cap in which its club members rode to hounds. Captain Samuel Morris was Gloucester's first president and Captain Robert Wharton its last, and twenty-five Troopers were among its members during the War.

After nearly 230 years, the mission of the First City Troop has changed little. The Troop, and its members serving under other standards, has participated in every major conflict to which America has sent its forces. In the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, the Troop is known as Troop A, 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry, and is still headquartered in Philadelphia. In 2002, the Troop was activated and deployed to Bosnia, returning in the spring of 2003. More than a score of City Troopers and their comrades in Troop A, 1-104<sup>th</sup> Cavalry are scheduled to be deployed to combat duty in Iraq in 2005.



*Sam. Morris*

Samuel Morris (1734-1812)

*Captain of First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, 1775 to 1786. Annually and unanimously elected governor of the "State in Schuylkill" for 46 years, Annually elected first president of Gloucester Fox Hunting Club, 1778 until his death. Noted for the cheerfulness of his disposition, the benevolence of his heart and the blandness and dignity of his manners, and familiarly known by the appellation of "Christian Sam"*

## Annual Church Service

This year's annual church service will take place at the Lititz Moravian Church on Sunday April 24th. The Moravian Church is one of the smaller bodies in the world today. It lays claim to being the oldest organized Protestant church, being a "protesting church" sixty years before the Reformation. It was founded in 1457 in Bohemia and was the outgrowth of the teaching of John Hus, a Bohemian reformer and martyr.

The Lititz Moravian Church was organized in 1749, it was then known as the "Warwick Country Congregation." Previous to 1749 some local farmers had been "awakened" by the preaching of itinerant Moravian ministers. Also, a school house had been erected in 1746 to which a Moravian minister and his wife were appointed as teachers.

The congregation is located on a farm of 491 acres which had been given to the Moravian Church in 1756. The following year, a village was laid out in streets and lots on this land. The name Lititz was given to the new community to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the year (1456) when King Podiebrad of Bohemia befriended the followers of John Hus, the reformer, and invited them to make his castle "Lititz" their headquarters.



*A highlight of the Let Freedom Ring ceremony in Harrisburg was a reenactment of the delivery of the Declaration of Independence in July of 1776. Captain Lawrence J. Field, commander of the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry, guarded by a mounted escort of City Troopers, delivered a copy of the Declaration to the Master of Ceremonies in front of the State Capitol complex.*



*With traditional martial pomp and circumstance, participants at the Let Freedom Ring ceremony in Harrisburg in July paid homage to the Nation's founding fathers and the patriots who gained freedom for the thirteen original colonies to establish the United States of America*



*Members of the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry provided a Color Guard for the 2004 Let Freedom Ring ceremony in front of the Pennsylvania State Capitol complex in Harrisburg. The colorful event drew several hundred spectators to the square adjacent to Soldiers & Sailors Grove on the east side of the Capitol building*



*There are dozens of members of the First City Troop who are also members of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution. In the foreground is A. Bevan Cummin, First Sergeant of FTPCC and a member of PSSR since 1994. With him is Captain Lawrence J. Field, Commander of FTPCC and a PSSR member. FTPCC planned and managed the event in Harrisburg, under the auspices of PSSR, while the Sons focused on events on Philadelphia*



*More than 50 members of First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry and A Troop, 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry, Pennsylvania Army National Guard participated in the PSSR-sponsored Let Freedom Ring ceremony in Harrisburg in July, including (from left): Master Sergeant Nicholas Bowden, Corporal James Emlen, Treasurer William Wrabley, Adjutant Thomas Farley and Trooper Stephen Rodgers, most of whom returned to the U.S. in 2003, following the unit's historic peacekeeping deployment to Bosnia.*



*For residents, visitors and participants alike, the highlight of the 2004 Let Freedom Ring ceremony in Harrisburg on July 4th, was the ringing of a "Liberty Bell" by U.S. Army Major (Ret.) Richard Winters. The World War II hero of Bastogne, who became a national celebrity after the production of HBO's "Band of Brothers," struck the bell 13 times to honor the original colonies who banded together to fight for freedom from the British Empire late in the 18th Century.*

- IN MEMORIAM -



Robert Pugh Diffenbaugh (#3343) Died 12/15/04  
 William Boyd Feller (#5912) Died 6/9/04  
 William Wonderly Fidler (#3784) Died 5/19/04  
 William Gherky Killhour (#6035) Died 12/4/04  
 Walter Bowden Pearce (#5258) Died 12/20/03  
 Lewis Harlow Van Dusen, Jr. (#3967) Died 11/16/04  
 Henry Harris Wilton (#4121) Died 5/14/04  
 Francis Warren Barkley (#5096) Died 3/17/03

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This Newsletter is published by the  
**Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution**

*Newsletter Committee*

Philip Schuyler Pyne, Editor

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Members are invited to submit articles for inclusion in the newsletter to the Society office. Photographs cannot be returned.

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Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution  
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**2005 Calendar of Events**

- 19 February     George Washington Birthday  
Union League of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, PA
  
- 14 April         Annual Meeting  
Union League of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, PA
  
- 24 April         Annual Church Service  
Lititz Moravian Church  
Lititz, PA
  
- 2 May             New Citizens Reception
- 17 November    US District Court, Ceremonial Courtroom  
Philadelphia, PA
  
- 15 December    Philadelphia, PA
  
- 4 July             Independence Day Brunch  
Society Hill Sheraton  
Philadelphia, PA
  
- Let Freedom Ring Ceremony  
Independence Hall  
Philadelphia, PA
  
- 22 October       Saratoga - Yorktown Anniversaries  
Philadelphia Cricket Club  
Philadelphia, PA
  
- \*\*\*\*\*
- 2nd Thursday of Each Month     Board of Managers Meeting  
Union League of Philadelphia

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