



PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

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Picture captions on page 3

2008 Musket Ball

Come join the festivities as we celebrate the Allies' victories at Saratoga and Yorktown. The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution will return to the elegant yet intimate Merion Cricket Club in Haverford, Pennsylvania on October 18th to hold its annual Musket Ball.

Upon arrival, members of the Society and guests will enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. A sumptuous dinner and decadent dessert are planned. Dancing to the entertaining and lively Scott Romig Band will round out the evening.

Invitations have already been mailed and last year's event was a sellout. The cost is \$125 per person and \$62.50 for youngsters of 40 years and under. Don't be left out! To avoid disappointment, send in your subscription today. You may also call the P.S.S.R. office at 215-545-1888 and pay with credit card.

—Ben R. Wolf, Committee Chairman



A New Flag is Flying at Rock Ford

The Lancaster County Chapter of the P.S.S.R. recently donated a reproduction of the flag carried by General Edward Hand's First Continental Regiment. The flag will be flown at General Hand's Lancaster home, Rock Ford Plantation.

Dr. Paul H. Ripple, the chapter historian and a General Hand re-enactor, presented the flag to Samuel C. Slaymaker III, the director of Rock Ford Plantation and also a chapter member.



Dr. Paul H. Ripple and Samuel C. Slaymaker III display the regimental flag of General Edward Hand.

In June 1775, nine companies of expert riflemen from Pennsylvania, two from Maryland, and two from Virginia formed a battalion to be commanded by Col. William Thompson of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. When the Continental Army was reorganized on January 1, 1776, the Battalion was renamed the First Continental Regiment of Foot. The direct command of the First Continental Regiment was given to Lieutenant Colonel Edward

Hand in March 1776. In a letter dated March 8, 1776, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Hand described the First Continental Regiment standard. It is believed that the flag was created shortly after this date. The extract read:

(Flag continued on page 7)

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LET FREEDOM RING

General President Davis has referred to *Let Freedom Ring – the Nationwide Ringing of Bells* as one of the “jewels” of the General Society. Friday, July 4, 2008 was the 40th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Society’s stewardship of, not only the home ceremony at Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell Center, but also the promotion of the event nationally. In 1969 when the P.S.S.R. took over *Let Freedom Ring*, then-P.S.S.R. President James W. Thorington said that we established *Let Freedom Ring* “to revive the spirit of patriotism and to provide a dignified ceremony that will have important meaning for millions of Americans who love their country and have faith in its future.” With over 800 satellite ceremonies and thousands of bell locations around the world now involved, we estimate that approximately 100,000 people take part. Some of the more interesting satellite ceremonies include:

—The ceremony at the Betsy Ross House sponsored by the Flag House chapter of the D.A.R. received excellent local television coverage and at least 6 television stations around the country picked it up.

—San Antonio, Texas television covered the Alamo ceremony for the first time.

—Senator Orrin Hatch was the main speaker at Hill Air Force Base chapel in Roy, Utah.

—Centralia, Missouri had its 46th annual ceremony; the first was the week after passage of Joint Resolution 25 in 1963.

—For the first time Hartford television covered the ceremony at the old State House in Connecticut.

—Survivors of the “Day of Infamy” rang the bell of the U.S.S. Arizona at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

—Florida television covered the ceremony at the Liberty Bell Memorial Museum in Melbourne, Florida.

Bill Dutcher and his committee organized our annual luncheon with approximately 140 attendees at the Sheraton Society Hill. The Color Guard, led by Captain W. Steven Mark, and the Old Barracks Fife and Drum Corps from Trenton, NJ led the parade to Independence Square for our local ceremony. Patriotic music was provided by the Gospel Choir of St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. Speakers included President Fenstermacher, Ralph Archbold as Benjamin Franklin, Cynthia MacLeod, superintendent of Independence National Historical Park. A park ranger in colonial dress gave a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence.

At 2 p.m., President Fenstermacher together with the Honorable Michael Nutter, mayor of the City of Philadelphia, Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod and President Donald Ward of the Society of Descendants of Signers of the Declaration of Independence conducted the bell tapping ceremony with 8 children who are direct descendants of the signers. You can see this ceremony on the home page of our website www.let-freedom-ring.org. This year’s marvelous pageant owes much to the leadership of Leif Zetterberg, Vice

President of the P.S.S.R. and Chairman of *Let Freedom Ring* and his committee.

The tapping of the Liberty Bell was the signal for all the bell ceremonies around the country to join in including all the ships of the Navy, the Merchant Marine and Coast Guard, and thousands of other sites. We continue to receive great support from other organizations including the S.A.R., D.A.R., C.A.R., V.F.W., the American Legion and the scouting organizations.

As the only Congressionally-mandated celebration on Independence Day we, as members of the Sons of the Revolution, can be justifiable proud of our role in conducting and promoting *Let Freedom Ring – the Nationwide Ringing of Bells*.

—Winchell S. Carroll

Pictures on page one: 1. Society President Ronald W. Fenstermacher, Jr., joins Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter at the Liberty Bell Pavilion. 2. Color Guard Captain W. Steven Mark leads the parade to Independence Hall. 3. Color Guard members Francis J. Bowden III and Jonathan H. FitzGerald. 4. Ralph Archbold as Benjamin Franklin. 5. Participants in the Let Freedom Ring Ceremony

Members in the Military

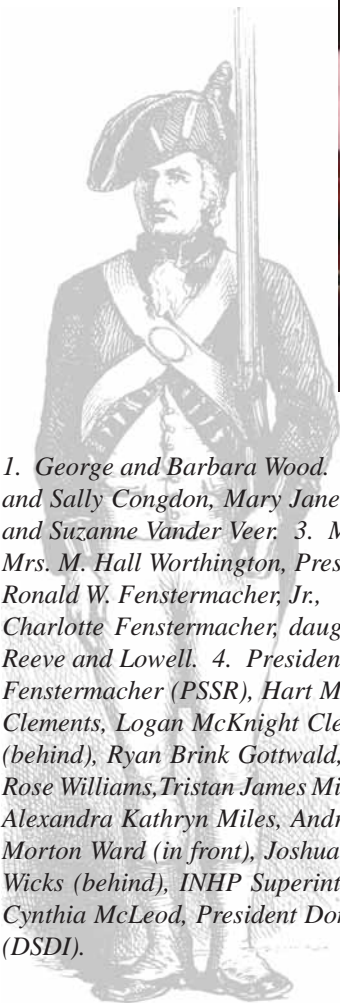
The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution recognizes the long tradition of military service to our country, beginning with our Revolutionary War ancestors and continuing to the present day. The following P.S.S.R. members are believed to be currently deployed on active duty:

Master Sergeant. Nicholas Bowden	Egypt
Jason Byron Burke	Iraq
Master Sergeant Andrew C. Colket	Egypt
First Sergeant A. Bevan Cummin	Egypt
Captain Anselm T. W. Richards	Egypt
Lieutenant Joshua R. West	Egypt
Jeffrey James Wood	Iraq
Lieutenant Robert Townsend Wright	Afghanistan

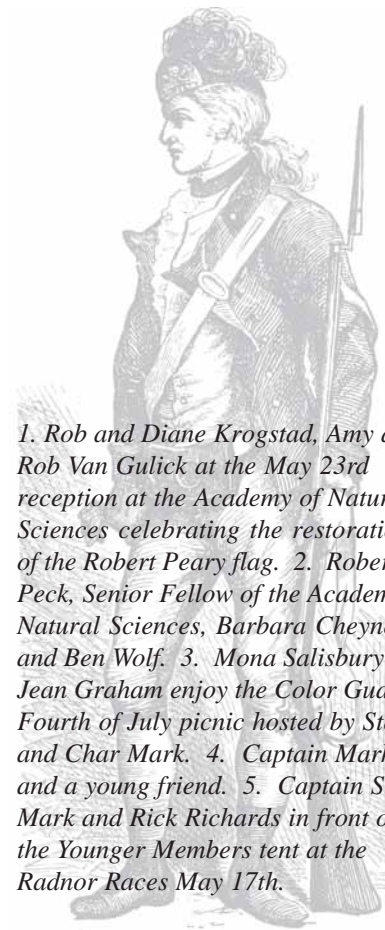
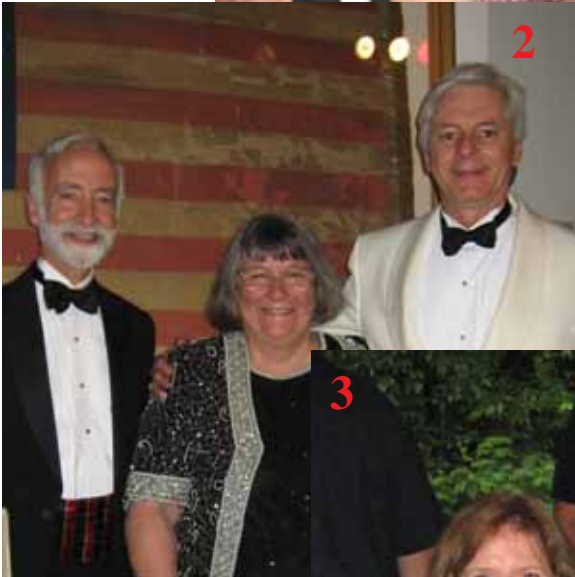
Members of our Society are asked to submit additional names and ranks of active duty P.S.S.R. members along with any updates, corrections or comments to Barbara Dickenson and Elaine Collins at secretary@amrev.org.

—David M. Humphrey

More on the Fourth of July . . .



1. George and Barbara Wood. 2. Jim and Sally Congdon, Mary Jane Morris and Suzanne Vander Veer. 3. Mr. and Mrs. M. Hall Worthington, President Ronald W. Fenstermacher, Jr., Charlotte Fenstermacher, daughters Reeve and Lowell. 4. President Ron Fenstermacher (PSSR), Hart Mayhew Clements, Logan McKnight Clements (behind), Ryan Brink Gottwald, Emma Rose Williams, Tristan James Miles, Alexandra Kathryn Miles, Andrew Morton Ward (in front), Joshua C. Wicks (behind), INHP Superintendent Cynthia McLeod, President Don Ward (DSDI).



1. Rob and Diane Krogstad, Amy and Rob Van Gulick at the May 23rd reception at the Academy of Natural Sciences celebrating the restoration of the Robert Peary flag. 2. Robert Peck, Senior Fellow of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Barbara Cheyney and Ben Wolf. 3. Mona Salisbury and Jean Graham enjoy the Color Guard Fourth of July picnic hosted by Steve and Char Mark. 4. Captain Mark and a young friend. 5. Captain Steve Mark and Rick Richards in front of the Younger Members tent at the Radnor Races May 17th.

... and from the Color Guard

Evacuation Day

Evacuation Day celebrates the various dates the British military evacuated different American cities during the American Revolutionary War. Some cities celebrated Evacuation Day as a holiday: In the City of New York, Evacuation Day was celebrated on 25 November 1783, the date British commander, Sir Guy Carleton, and General George Washington agreed upon for the evacuation of British troops. In Boston, Evacuation day was celebrated on 17 March 1776, coinciding with St. Patrick's Day. For Philadelphia, Evacuation Day was celebrated on 18 June 1778, when the British troops abandoned Philadelphia.

The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution was founded in 1888 and, from its onset, the PSSR summer social event was a celebration Evacuation Day on 18 June. This PSSR tradition lasted well into the early 20th century. The Society booked a private train from Reading Terminal and went to such places as New Hope and Germantown. On 20 June 1908, 100 years ago, over 200 PSSR members went to Valley Forge by train to dedicate the statue of General Anthony Wayne. There, they were given exclusive rights to use the grounds of U.S. Senator (1908-1910) P.C. Knox, the site of General Henry Knox's headquarters during the memorable months of 1777-1778.

On Evacuation Day in 1778, following nearly nine months of occupation, 15,000 British troops under General Sir Henry Clinton withdrew from Philadelphia, the former U. S. capital. The British captured Philadelphia on 26, September 1777, following General George Washington's defeats at Brandywine and the Battle of the Clouds. British General William Howe made Philadelphia, former seat of the Continental Congress, the focus of his campaign; however, the Congress had deprived him of a decisive victory by moving its operations to York, one week before Philadelphia was taken.

While Howe and his officers spent the winter enjoying the luxury of the city's finest homes, the Continental Army froze and suffered appalling deprivation at Valley Forge. However, an infusion of capable European strategists, including von Steuben, Lafayette, Baron de Kalb, Tadeusz Kosciuszko, and Casimir Pulaski, aided Washington in the creation of a well-drilled force capable of fighting the British.

The British position in Philadelphia became untenable after France entered the war on the side of the Americans. To avoid the French fleet, General Clinton was forced to lead his British-Hessian force to New York City by land. Loyalists in the city sailed down the Delaware River to escape the Patriots, who returned to Philadelphia the day after the British departure. U. S. General Benedict Arnold, who led the American forces that reclaimed the city without bloodshed, was appointed military governor. On 24 June, the Continental Congress returned to the city from York, Pennsylvania.

In time, Evacuation Day lost much of its meaning, passing largely into memory during World War I, when the United States found

itself allied with England. It became, what we would now call, "politically incorrect" to celebrate British defeat. An added irony for the date of Philadelphia's Evacuation Day is that on 18 June 1812, President James Madison signed a declaration of war against Great Britain, formally marking the beginning the War of 1812, often referred to as "America's Second War of Independence".

—Lanny R. Patten

Ten Crucial Days

PSSR provides major funding for NJN's
Ten Crucial Days: The Road to Liberty

After successive defeats and retreats, General George Washington's reputation as a military leader was evaporating and the Revolution was in the throes of despair. On 14 December 1776, British General Sir William Howe officially closed the campaign in New Jersey. In a bold move, George Washington and divisions of his Continental Army crossed the ice filled Delaware River on Christmas night from Pennsylvania to New Jersey, just north of Trenton. The next morning, 26 December, he surprised and defeated the Hessian garrison at Trenton. Although a relatively small battle, the results at Trenton inspired new confidence in the Revolution.

Ten Crucial Days: The Road to Liberty, highlighting Washington's Christmas Eve crossing of the Delaware River and the Battle of Trenton, was first aired in 2007 on December 25th and December 28th in 2007. Since then, more than 80 other PBS stations have voted to air it on their stations in December 2008.



The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and its Color Guard provided NJN with \$50,000 in major funding for the special half-hour production of *Ten Crucial Days* (additional funding was provided by J. Seward Johnson, Sr. 1963 Charitable Trust; Holly Beach Public Library Association; F. M. Kirby Foundation; and Norman B.

Tomlinson, Jr.). The Society and the Color Guard are prominently featured on screen and in spoken narrative for more than 10 seconds at the beginning of the film.

Ten Crucial Days: The Road to Liberty is available in DVD for purchase through NJN Video at njn.net or by calling (609) 777-5093. Cost is \$19.95 plus \$5 for shipping and handling.

—Robert J. McNelly, Special Projects Committee Chairman



IN MEMORIAM



<u>Name</u>	<u>Pa ID</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Elected</u>
Harvey Bartle, Jr., M.D.	5537	1-3-1909	6-4-2008	1-13-1983
H. Richard Dietrich	4559	5-12-1938	8-30-2007	12-13-1962
William Slaymaker Kinzer, Jr.	4693	1-21-1942	7-23-2008	11-10-1966
John Edward Krout	4727	1-5-1920	4-16-2008	5-11-1967

(Flag continued from page 2)

“Every Regiment is to have a Standard and Colours. Our Standard is to be a deep green ground, the Device a Tyger partly enclosed by toils attempting the pass defended by a hunter armed with a spear in white, on crimson field the motto “*Domari nolo*”.

The First Regiment’s flag was on a deep green silk background of three pieces with the center cut out of the middle piece for the canton. In the center of the canton’s crimson field of silk was painted the scene of a hunter, armed with a spear, and a tiger enclosed by netting. Not mentioned in Hand’s letter, the hunter’s spear is not white, and above the scene are the letters “P.M. 1st. Rt”. This is believed to translate to “Pennsylvania Militia, 1st Regiment. The motto “*Domari Nolo*” is Latin for “I refuse to be subjugated”.

During the course of the Revolution, the regiment served in each of the thirteen colonies and its banner was carried at the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Monmouth and Yorktown. Hand was never vanquished on the battlefield. Late in the war, George Washington elevated Hand to major general and made him adjutant general of the Continental Army. At war’s end, Hand returned to Lancaster, resumed his medical practice, served in Congress and built his plantation. He died at Rock Ford in 1802. He was 58.

The original regimental standard is in the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg.

--Peter L. H. Byrne

ABOUT THE BOARD

The Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution is made up of 38 elected members and former presidents, presided over by the current president of the Pennsylvania Society. Elections are held each year in April at the Annual Meeting on a slate created by the Nominating Committee of the Board. Board members are elected for a three year term. Officers are re-elected each year with the exception of the president who also serves a

three year term. However, some members agree to serve for multiple years. The Board meets at the Union League of Philadelphia on the second Thursday of each month, except for July and August, at 4 p.m. Various committees of the Board organize programs and events throughout the year with oversight from five vice-presidents. Any Society member with an interest in board membership is encouraged make it known to any current member of the Board.

—Lanny R. Patten, Secretary

This Newsletter is published by the
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Coleman Sellers VI

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

Calendar of Events 2008-2009

18 October Musket Ball
Merion Cricket Club
Haverford, PA

19 November New Citizens Ceremonies
10 December U.S. Courthouse
Philadelphia, PA

21 February Washingtons Birthday Party
The Union League
Philadelphia, PA

3 May Annual Church Service
Valley Forge Military Academy Chapel
Wayne, PA

Monthly Events

2nd Thursday of Each Month
Board of Managers Meeting
The Union League of Philadelphia

3rd Monday of Each Month
Finance Committee Meeting
Philadelphia Club

Please consult the P.S.S.R. website www.amrev.org for current details

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