



PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

www.amrev.org

NEWSLETTER NO. 26

Spring 2004

Let Freedom Ring Surprises!

Let Freedom Ring is bringing many surprises this year. One, as previously published, is the ceremony taking place in Normandy, France on July 4th. Another is the arrival of the Tall Ships on June 30th and their request to take part in the Let Freedom Ring Ceremony with the USS Battleship New Jersey.

It doesn't stop there! There will also be a spectacular ceremony held simultaneously in Harrisburg conducted by the First City Troop of Philadelphia, in representation of Governor Rendell's role as the national spokesperson for Let Freedom Ring.

And then comes the biggest surprise of all!!! For those interested in knowing what that is, you will need to check the Let Freedom Ring website, www.let-freedom-ring.org. After entering the site just press "national ceremony" and go into "events". Updates will appear on a weekly basis and the biggest surprise will be announced on June 28th. If website capability is not at hand, call the Society Office on June 28th to receive information about what's coming.

Hint: Keep the evening of June 30th open on your calendars and be ready to be part of the welcome for our Society's biggest surprise yet.

**Remember to mark
June 30th
on your calendar!!!**

Society Receives \$25,000 Funding

In an effort to enhance promotion of the Let Freedom Ring Ceremony nationally in 2004, the Society applied for funding to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Edward G. Rendell, Governor of Pennsylvania, has continued to be an avid supporter of the ceremony. As the 2004 National Spokesperson, Governor Rendell is working along with the committees and the Society Office to create new paths of promotion for the future.

In addition, the Let Freedom Ring Ceremony and National Promotion committees, along with the Society Office, are diligently working with Greater Philadelphia Tourism & Marketing Corporation (GPTMC) and Mary Bomar, Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park (INHP) to enhance the 2004 ceremony.

Promotional materials are being sent out across the country to all state governors, selected radio stations, SR presidents, PA Fire Departments, and patriotic magazines to name a few.

GPTMC and INHP will be working, along with Let Freedom Ring, to place information on their respective websites about the ceremony and how participants can register their satellite ceremonies on the new Let Freedom Ring website.

It's Here!!!

www.let-freedom-ring.org

They Are Back!!!

"Little Patriots"



Christopher, Franklin & Gerret Church



Bela Backfan Guerster

2004 Annual Meeting

On Thursday, April 11, 2004, the PSSR members could be found in the Union League's Lincoln Hall attending the 116th Annual Meeting, while listening to President Leroy M. Lewis, III, list the achievements from the year 2003. President Lewis' key highlights were a very successful Triennial, growing the relationship with the General Society, increased training of the new Board members, and continued growth of Let Freedom Ring. The new office was described as an active site for numerous committee meetings and other business functions.

A 50 year award was presented to James W. Marvin, Jr., for his membership in the PSSR. Winchell S. Carroll was given accolades for his financial commitment as well as his involvement with Let Freedom Ring.

Former Board members were thanked for their distinguished service including John S. Shirk, Theodore Clattenburg, Jr. and Herbert K. Zearfoss. New Managers welcomed to the Board for 2004 were Edward R.W. Kellogg, James H. Martin, Thomas N. O'Neill, Jr., Philip S. Pyne, Peter L. Byrne, John H. Bowman, William H. Dutcher, III and J. Gillmur Tyson, III.

After the conclusion of the meeting, the Color Guard, under the direction of Captain Richard Smith, retired the Colors. Members then enjoyed refreshments and the opportunity for fellowship with old friends, including meeting new PSSR members. New Board members were congratulated as well. An excellent dinner was enjoyed by all.

We encourage all members to attend the next Annual meeting in April 2005.

House, Senate Pass Washington-Rochambeau Bill

The United States House and Senate have passed the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Heritage Act, moving the 600-mile route a step closer to being listed on the National Park Service's registry of historic places. The route, which passes through the Hudson Valley, was the path taken by the troops of George Washington and French General Rochambeau as they traveled together to fight the British in Yorktown, Virginia.

The legislation will commission the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the route, including sites in Verplanck where the French army camped. The study would identify the route's relationship to the American Revolutionary War and how it can best be preserved.

U.S. Rep. John B. Larson of Connecticut said he became involved in the preservation of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route in February at the request of a constituent from Bolton, Hans DePold, who is the Bolton Town Historian. DePold asked Larson to take the lead in Congress on obtaining support for the preservation project from Members of Congress in other states along the route.

The entire 600-mile route travels through Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia. During the American Revolutionary battle of 1780, George Washington's army dwindled to less than 3,000 men and desperately needed assistance. Fortunately, 5,000 troops from the French expeditionary army landed in Newport, Rhode Island, led by General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, to assist General Washington.

In July, after Larson introduced the legislation, the French Ambassador to the United States, Francois Bujon de l'Estang sent a letter of thanks to Larson for his legislative initiative and commended him for "paving the way to a proper commemoration of an important page of the shared history of our nations."

Also in July, Larson held a press conference at the Webb Deane Stevens Museum on Main Street in Wethersfield, CT, which was the location of one of the final meetings that Washington and Rochambeau had before traveling to Yorktown. Joining Larson that day were representatives of the Connecticut Historical Commission, the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Committee, and the Sons of the American Revolution.

The ultimate goal is to have the route added to the National Park Service registry of historic places in time for the 225th anniversary of Washington and Rochambeau's march to Yorktown, which was the decisive battle in the American Revolution.

CONTENTS Featured Articles

Let Freedom Ring 1
Annual Meeting 2
Washington's Birthday Party 3
Annual Church Service 4
Lancaster County News 5
National Constitution Center 6
Normandy Liberty Bell 7
Younger Members Committee 8
Message from the President 9
Washington Portrait 10
In Memoriam 12
Calendar of Events 12

(continued....)

George Washington Limited Edition Gift

When planning this year's George Washington Birthday Party everyone tried to make this an extra special event. Why? This was the 100th Anniversary of this event. How many organizations can really celebrate 100 years of an event. Everyone went to work to add a few specials to the event.

First in the plan: Since it was the 100th Anniversary and George Washington's birthday, why not bring the "Father of Our Country" to the party for all to see? Thus began the first phase of this plan for the party. Fred Peltier, Historian, called the Michener Museum where the Society's Rembrandt Peale portrait is on loan, and explained that GW would be taking a weekend off and coming to a special party to celebrate his birthday, and the 100th Anniversary of this event for the Society, and would be on display for the attendees to view.

Second in the plan: What can we give as a commemorative gift? During the Christmas season, Shirley had received a gift of an ornament of Washington from another organization. Upon review, the committee decided to design its own ornament and illustrate the Rembrandt Peale portrait. Off went David Peltier to the Michener Museum where he took over 50 digitals of the portrait, while Shirley was digging up a good logo quality as needed by the designer to use. When all materials were gathered, they were emailed to ChemArt, designers of the White House ornaments.

When ChemArt's creative design team saw the materials, and especially David's vast collection of digitals, the Society was honored to have had the designer of the White House ornaments request to do the design. Next came the design process and then seeing the proofs. Proofs came in looking great. Consideration was definitely given for this special commemorative gift to be used in possibly two ways: 1) as a Christmas ornament, or: 2) as something that could be set on a shelf, desk, etc. for all to see, all year round, thus giving way to requesting an easel to go with the gift. President Lewis felt the boxes should be enhanced for the occasion and the ornament was engraved on the back commemorating the event for future history.

Proofs were approved and the waiting process began. Next came a call from ChemArt and their representative telling Shirley that the first of 250 ornaments had come off the assembly line. ChemArt themselves were ecstatic with the end product to the point they considered the Society's George Washington ornament to be one of the best they had ever produced.

Then came the delivery day and 250 ornaments were delivered and



"George Washington Commemorative Ornament"
designed from the Rembrandt Peale portrait of Washington

the first box was opened for inspection. Upon first examination, the proofs were very good, but the final product proved to be far better than the Society could ever have expected. Some committee members involved in planning the party got to preview the ornament ahead of time, but all that had the preview just said, "Wow!"

Barbara and Shirley inspected 250 boxes of ornaments to check that each was as perfect as the previous and that all contained easels. The ornaments were then placed into cellophane wrapping with balloons attached that became the centerpieces for the party. Members and guests could see through the cellophane and immediately curiosity arose. What is in the boxes on the tables? James Congdon, Chairman, explained to the attendees that they would be opened during dessert and a blue dot could be found at a place setting on the table, indicating who would be responsible for opening the centerpiece. Oooh's and Ahhh's could be heard in the Union League Ballroom as members and guests opened their gifts and again said, "Wow!"

All in all, the 2004 George Washington Party was one of the best ever sponsored by the Society, with a new menu, a chance to see the Society's portrait of George Washington, donated by Dr. Muckle to the Society, and a special edition commemorative gift for the attendees.

A picture of the limited edition ornament has been placed on the website, but due to the reflection of the ornament the picture doesn't really do it justice. There are only a limited number of the ornaments left and they will be sold to Society members for \$20 each plus shipping and handling while the supply lasts.

What a lovely gift to give a family member, new member, or friend anytime or at Christmas! A sample of the ornament can be seen in the Society Office.

One Hundred Washington Parties

Nearly two hundred PSSR members, their spouses and guests assembled in the ballroom of the Union League of Philadelphia on 21 February 2004 to celebrate one hundred years of Washington's Birthday Parties as organized by the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution. Sparkling star-shaped blue and gold balloons rose from the center of each table echoing the décor of the 1904 event that records indicate took place in the Assembly Room of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

The Society's guests enjoyed a cocktail hour in the League's magnificently renovated Banquet Room followed by the Color Guard's parade of flags, led by Captain Richard D. Smith, Sr. The colors were presented to Society President Leroy M. Lewis, III, as he prepared to honor our first president by unveiling the Society's newly restored "Porthole Portrait" of George Washington. Our Vice Presidents presented the traditional toasts before the assemblage settled into their seats to enjoy a dinner of Veal Saltimbocco and Baked Alaska.

Joining the Society in the patriotic celebration were Mary Bomar, Superintendent of Independence National Park, with her husband Milton; General James M. Skiff, Commander of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and his wife Lori; and Colleen McCauley, President of the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter II, accompanied by her husband, Sean. Newly elected members, Judge Thomas O'Neill, Jr. and Donald Ward, received white rose boutonnieres as a token of welcome to our Society.

As the meal drew to a close, Committee Chairman, Dr. James B. Congdon, provided a short history of Washington Parties during the Pennsylvania Society's first decades, and described details of the gala event that took place one century ago. A designee at each table was then instructed to unwrap the centerpiece at each table that contained commemorative miniatures of the Washington Portrait as souvenirs for all guests.

Dancing followed the meal and ceremony. Music provided by the Jon Lewis Orchestra filled the room with melody until the last merrymakers abandoned the dance floor as the clock neared midnight.

2004 Annual Church Service

The Old Zion Lutheran Church, located on North Broad Street, was the site for this year's annual church service. This Annual Service of Worship of Our Lord is also in remembrance and gratitude for the men at Valley Forge, which, by their service and sacrifice sustained and achieved our freedom. We also remembered with thanksgiving those of our members who rested from their labors during 2003.

The Reverend Heinrich Schmutzler, Ph.D., along with a wonderful soloist, organist and two trumpeters were gracious to host the Society. PSSR Chaplain, William P. Proctor, members, spouses, widows, and guests stood as the Color Guard processed the Colors down the two outer aisles to the front of the sanctuary to begin the service. Assisting in the services was President Leroy M. Lewis, III, President Emeritus Curtis P. Cheyney, III, and Committee Chairman W. Murray Gordon.

A reception immediately followed the church service and was held at the National Liberty Museum, located at 321 Chestnut Street, where attendees enjoyed a superb catered buffet offered by the Museum. In addition, all four floors were opened to those who gathered for viewing the impressive art work as well as enjoying the company of one another.



*New Board Member
Judge Thomas N. O'Neill and wife Jeanne*

Lancaster County Chapter News

Lancaster County Chapter Annual Meeting May 2nd

The Lancaster County Chapter held its Annual Meeting at the Lancaster Country Club on May 2, 2004. Fifty-four members and guests attended, including State Society President Leroy Moody Lewis, III and President Emeritus Curtis Paul Cheyney, III, Esq. The Chapter elected the following Officers and Executive Committeemen at Large:

Officers

Regent	Arthur Doniphan Old
Vice Regent	John Harlan Moore, Sr.
Secretary	Peter Laurence Hill Byrne
Treasurer	John Ward Willson Loose
Registrar	John William Gareis, M.D.
Chaplain	George Marshall Kent, Sr., M.D.
Solicitor	Michael Howle Ranck, Esq.
Historian	Paul Harnish Ripple, M.D.

Executive Committee

Class of 2005	John Clark May, M.D. John Stager Shirk
Class of 2006	John Herman Bowman, M.D. Silas Kendrick Eshleman, III, M.D.
Class of 2007	Douglas Wadsworth Gibson James Henry Martin

The guest speaker was Captain Edward A. Davis, USN (Retired). Capt. Davis, piloting a A-1 Skyraider, was shot down over North Vietnam on his 57th combat mission. He spent the next seven years as a prisoner of war. Capt. Davis is a 1962 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. His decorations include three Silver Stars, Legion of Merit with Combat Citation, four Bronze Stars with Valor, five Air Medals, two Purple Hearts, three Navy Commendation Medals with "V" Device, and numerous campaign, unit, and meritorious service awards. Capt. Davis' presentation combined history, personal experiences as a POW in Viet Nam, and humor with a serious message.

Let Freedom Ring Website

As Let Freedom Ring increases in size around the country, so do the demands on the office. There are many features on the new website that make it very public-user friendly. First being that a person only interested in Let Freedom Ring doesn't have to travel through the Society website, www.amrev.org, to get to information about let Freedom Ring or just to sign up as a satellite ceremony.

The new site is said to "pop" which we are told is very good when it comes to website descriptions. The biggest advantage is a person interested can sign up on the built-in database and stay linked for years down the line. The participant can re-enter the site to update information each year by identifying their own password for future use. The new site also enables a participant to print their own certificates ahead of time to be presented at their ceremony. This is a feature that the office could not accomplish because of the other demands of the local ceremony at the Liberty Bell and the quantity to be sent out.

All information for the Society's website has been transferred to the new site with some new features added. A merchandise page with the annual Let Freedom Ring T-shirt is there but can now also include other merchandise if the committee wishes to do this. A page for satellite ceremony pictures is also available. The newest feature is "email a friend an invitation" right from the site. The new website has the capability for someone to email a friend to the Philadelphia ceremony or for a participating satellite ceremony to also email some friends to that ceremony - one way to save on postage, a phone call, or buying an invitation.

The Society looks forward to the new Let Freedom Ring website being more user friendly and allowing all related ceremonies to reach their full potential.



Normandy Liberty Bell

National Constitution Center Honors PSSR

On Wednesday, May 19, 2004, the National Constitution Center (NCC), by a public ceremony and unveiling of the wall of donors, honored the PSSR and its Color Guard, together with all those whose financial efforts produced this national treasure. As a founding "Delegate", the PSSR and its Color Guard are named by engraved presentation on the inside wall of the lobby of the NCC, known as the Founder's Wall. We are the only historical and patriotic society to be so honored.

The PSSR and the Color Guard are set apart on a preferred list of donors whose contributions over the years have exceeded \$100,000.00. These grants and pledges include a remarkable bit of insight and foresight by the Society when \$25,000.00 was extended as "seed money" through the past and current leadership of the Board of Managers. Building on the earlier foundation, your Society, with its Color Guard, continued to support the NCC through programming and giving, including the printing and distribution of the pocket-size Constitution in partnership with the NCC; the cost of which was credited and recognized towards the total of all our giving. Participating at the ceremony was Governor Ed Rendell, President & CEO Robert Sengel and several other dignitaries and contributors whose efforts capped a \$185 million campaign for funds to complete the development, construction, and an endowment for the educational work of NCC.

Attending on behalf of the PSSR and its Color Guard were President Emeritus Cheyney, President Lewis and Captain of the Color Guard Smith. The Society, by its participation, not only demonstrated support for Philadelphia, its history in the Revolution, and for the men whose service achieved our independence, but also demonstrated leadership to other organizations in Philadelphia that the NCC is truly a national treasure with state-of-the-art exhibits and educational facilities to provide and educate the world on our extraordinary American Revolution history and ultimately its Constitution. The NCC opened on September 17, 2002 after beginning its construction on September 17, 2000, the 213th anniversary of the day the U.S. Constitution was signed.

In addition to the Society's recognition on the Founder's Wall as a Delegate the Society has a prominent appointment to the Historical Programming Committee, a sub-committee of the Board of Directors. The designated representation will be by appointment of the Board of Managers and Officers of the Color Guard.

Captain's Corner

NEW MEMBERS' RECEPTION

In the mid-90's our current Captain of the Color Guard was Chairman of the Society's Membership Committee. During that period he instituted an annual reception for new members and their ladies that was designed to introduce them to the members of the Board of Management.

Thanks to the generosity of the Color Guard and its Executive Committee a New Members' Reception was held at the Union League in March. We had a great turnout and it gave both the new members and our Board a chance to get to know each other better.

OTHER COLOR GUARD ACTIVITIES

The Color Guard performed at all of the Society's functions since New Years. They presented the colors at the 100th Washington's Birthday Party in February, the Annual Meeting in April and at the Valley Forge Commemoration Annual Church Service in May. Also in May, Captain Richard Dana Smith, Sr., and William Hawley Dutcher, III, carried flags at the Governor's Let Freedom Ring press conference at the Liberty Bell Center.

The Color Guard's Shad Dinner was held again in May at the Gulph Mill Golf Club. A highlight was the annual golf tournament won this year by Coleman Sellers, VI.

Finally – on a personal note – the Captain's son Dana – Richard Dana Smith, Jr. was promoted to Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor held by Troop 31. Richard's other Son, Jason, is also an Eagle Scout.



The PSSR Color Guard

Normandy Liberty Bell

Let Freedom Ring Goes Worldwide

On July 4, 2004, at 8:00 pm Normandy time, a new bell will join the thousands of other bells taking part in Let Freedom Ring. This bell, an exact replica of the original Liberty Bell, was authorized by the Regional Council of Lower Normandy to honor the 60th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy. Patrick Daudon, who developed the concept of a Normandy Liberty Bell, pointed out that the last time the Liberty Bell was attempted to be rung was when Philadelphia's Mayor Samuel hit the bell with a rubber mallet on a nationwide radio broadcast on the evening of June 6, 1944. The bell was struck 19 times – one for each letter in the words "Liberty" and "Independence".

In an effort to duplicate the original sound, as well as the appearance of the original Liberty Bell, the Council hired a French foundry, Cornille-Havard, and a Baltimore-area company, Direct Dimensions, for the project. Direct Dimensions created a digital 3-dimensional model of the bell that has since been donated to the National Park Service so that it could be used to create a replica of the Liberty Bell should the need arise. The Normandy Liberty Bell was cast on May 19th, removed from its mold on May 23rd and installed at the Council's offices in Caen. Their offices are in a restored abbey, the Abbey aux Dames, founded by William the Conqueror in 1080. The bell was dedicated at a colorful ceremony on June 4th.

Earlier, thanks to a member of the Society, John Ellsworth Sholl, the PSSR learned about the project. We sponsored a news conference at Conversation Hall in Philadelphia's City Hall on May 13th. The press conference was attended by several members of the Society including President Leroy Moody Lewis, III, who spoke about Let Freedom Ring and the fact that the Regional Council has agreed to take part in Let Freedom Ring on Independence Day, making it truly an international event.

The French invited Mayor Street to attend the dedication. While he was unable to accept their invitation, he did send officials to represent the City.

The Normandy Liberty Bell will eventually be installed in one of the American cemeteries near the landing grounds at Normandy Beach.

John Ellsworth Sholl

Jack Sholl, a WWII veteran, is a member of the Society who lives in Palm Desert, CA. Born and raised in Philadelphia he entered the University of Washington after the war where he rowed competitively. He returned to Philadelphia to join IBM and continued his passion for rowing. He took early retirement in 1984 and moved to the Palm Springs area where he took up a second career as a consultant until 1992.

Approaching the age of 80, Jack demonstrates a high level of energy and patriotism. About five times a year he returns to Philadelphia to row with his buddies in a group called the "Golden Eight". Back in 2000 he decided to volunteer as a "docent" at Independence National Historical Park. Since then he has run up nearly 2,000 hours in volunteer time – for the last two years at Independence Hall and the new Liberty Bell Center. He says that it has sharpened his knowledge of American history and given him the chance to meet thousands of wonderful people.

Last December he led a special tour of Frenchmen at the Liberty Bell Center. He learned that they were there to measure the Liberty Bell because the Regional Council of Lower Normandy had authorized a foundry, Cornille-Havard, to cast an exact replica of the original Liberty Bell in honor of the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Jack reported this to the PSSR office which, in turn, led to our involvement with the Normandy Liberty Bell.

Jack plans to continue working at INHP as long as his health will permit. In the meantime his 2 sons and grandson have become members of the Society.



Jack Sholl and the French Delegation

National LFR Recruitment Receives Boost

Lanny Ray Patten, Chairman of National Recruitment for Let Freedom Ring, reports that our recruitment has received a major boost from other organizations. Never before have we had the pre-event publicity we have received so far this year and we still have more to come.

Clearly, the most important has been the personal involvement of Governor Ed Rendell and the grant he arranged from the Commonwealth's Department of Community and Economic Development. His press conference on May 20th at the Liberty Bell Center announcing that he would be Let Freedom Ring's national spokesperson drew three TV stations and a radio station. He has also arranged for the Commonwealth to have its own Let Freedom Ring commemoration on the steps of the Capitol in Harrisburg sponsored by another organization – the First City Troop. The Governor also put up a page on the website of his daily newsletter concerning his press conference.

The Regional Council of Lower Normandy's new Normandy Liberty Bell has led to substantial press coverage for Let Freedom Ring including TV coverage of the press conference here in Philadelphia as well as a feature story about the Bell in the Inquirer.

The SAR continues to support our efforts by including our press releases and advertisements in its publications. For the fourth time in the last five years the SAR will include a Let Freedom Ring ceremony as part of their national congress, which is in Pittsburgh this year. For the first time the President General of the DAR has supported DAR members being involved in recruiting Let Freedom Ring sites and participating in their own ceremonies. The DSDI continues to support LFR in the 13 original colonies.

Several organizations including the Independence Hall Fund, the Independence National Historical Park, the Greater Philadelphia Tourism & Marketing Corporation and the Commonwealth's tourism organization have added information to their websites including links to our new website, www.let-freedom-ring.org.

Comcast Newsmakers interviewed President Lewis for 5 minutes concerning Let Freedom Ring and the Normandy Liberty Bell. It will run three times a day on CNN Headline News for two weeks beginning June 4, 2004. The increased budget and greater number of members on the committee together with major assistance from the PSSR office have allowed us to have a more aggressive direct mail campaign. While we will not know our final results until well after Independence Day we do know that we have recruited several significant new sites including several battleship and aircraft carrier museums, Princeton University, Honor America in Melbourne, FL and the City of O'Fallon, MO – one of the largest Independence Day celebrations in the country.

Finally, all those who have looked at our new website have been very complimentary.

Younger Member Committee

On May 15th the younger members hosted a tailgate spot at the annual Radnor Hunt Races. The weather was hot, but clear. Son's members and their families enjoyed a great day of steeple chase horse racing, good company and cold refreshments.

The tailgate spot shared responsibilities with the junior committee from the Radnor Races. The theme of this year's Picnic Area was "Great Sporting Events". Our tailgate theme was the Tour de France. Although we did not win a prize this year, a good time was had by all.

New members attending the New Members Reception on March 11, 2004:

Richard W. Chappell
Peter Reichner Hill
A. Benjamin Leavenworth
Hon. Thomas N. O'Neill, Jr.
Eric J. Reinhold
James H. Sanborn
Donald C. Ward

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[www.let-freedom-ring.org](http://www.let-freedom-ring.org)  
*"Has Arrived"*

## President's Comments

Let Freedom Ring in Philadelphia, with tremendous amount of support from Governor Rendell, National Spokesperson, and Mary Bomar, Superintendent of the Independence National Historical Park, and the Pentagon, is growing rapidly this year. In the context of offering him the National Spokesmanship and explaining that Let Freedom Ring was flourishing everywhere except in Philadelphia, the Governor asked what he could do to assist, and set forth to produce the radio and TV spots for this year's Let Freedom Ring.

Our National Speaker on July 4th will be Vice Admiral Timothy Keating, Director of Operations - the Pentagon. Admiral Keating was the recipient of the General Society's Modern Patriot Award at the 2003 Triennial.

Locally, this year the Society is also getting support from the Greater Philadelphia Tourism and Marketing Corporation. They are working with us on Press Conferences that will be used to alert the public to something special we have planned for this year.

On July 4th the venue is going to change. Instead of being behind Independence Hall, all planning now is on the assumption that we will be in front of Independence Hall, using the same stage and seating as the Liberty Medal Ceremony. This will dramatically change the scope of Let Freedom Ring as there are 3,000 audience seats to fill.

The agenda for the event includes the following: Philadelphia Boy's Choir, Marine Silent Drill Team, Nathan Hale Fife and Drum Corps, Pennsylvania State Policeman Kevin Pierce, a Flyover, General President Hall Worthington, Kay Seamayer returns to sing "Let Freedom Ring", 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment, four children Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence; one from Pittsburgh and three from Virginia, and our Color Guard.

For the first time, there will be simultaneous bell ringing ceremonies across the state in Philadelphia and Harrisburg sponsored by the First City Troop, as well as one sponsored in Pittsburgh by the Sons.



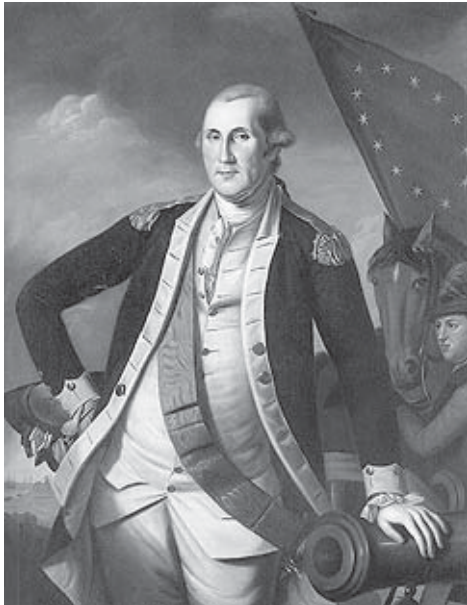
*Philadelphia Boy's Choir*



*Marine Silent Drill Team*



*Governor Ed Rendell*



### Charles Willson Peale's George Washington Sells for \$6,167,500

When Charles Willson Peale's portrait of George Washington as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army sold for 5.3 million euros to an American dealer at a small sale in the south of France in June 2002, the French press reported that it was the most expensive painting sold in France that year. It was consigned by descendants of Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau (1725-1807), who led the 6000 French troops who joined Washington's forces in the Yorktown campaign.

The news made the owners of a similar painting brought back to France by Chevalier Francois-Jean de Chastellux, who was Rochambeau's chief of staff, wonder what their painting was worth, and they contacted Christie's office in Paris.

Eric Widing, who heads Christie's American paintings department, said he flew to Paris last June to take a look. He told the French family it appeared to be a bona fide Charles Willson Peale. After the Comte Louis de Chastellux died a few months later, his heirs consigned their picture to Christie's for sale. On May 18 it sold for \$6,167,500 (includes buyer's premium) to an American private collector. The underbidder on a phone was a museum, according to Widing.

The price is an auction record for the artist and a record for any American portrait, eclipsing the previous record of \$4.07 million paid at Sotheby's on December 5, 1985, for Rembrandt Peale's portrait of his brother Rubens with a geranium.

When the Peale Washington appeared on the cover of Christie's May 18 catalog many wrongly thought it was the very picture that had been sold in France nearly two years earlier to a consortium of three dealers: Thomas Colville of New Haven, Connecticut, who went to the sale and did the bidding, and his partners, New York City dealer Stuart Feld of Hirschl & Adler, and the late Vance Jordan. Hirschl & Adler showed the painting at the 50th Winter Antiques Show in January.

The scene in the background of both the Rochambeau and Chastellux pictures depicts the battle of Yorktown. The two portraits have similar histories. In fact, they likely traveled back to France on the same boat. When the hostilities were over and Chastellux and Rochambeau sailed home from Annapolis in early in 1783, each probably had a Peale portrait of Washington carefully rolled up in his luggage.

There are slight differences between the two paintings. There is more space around the groom and a longer cannon in Rochambeau's picture, and there is a white cockade on Washington's hat in the Chastellux painting. They are the same size, 50" x 40", but in different French period frames.

Peale completed his first full-length version of Washington as the confident commander on the battlefield between January 20 and February 1, 1779, painting it from life when Washington was in Philadelphia. It was commissioned by the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania for its council chamber in 1779 to commemorate the victories of Princeton and Trenton, which appear in the background. That painting now hangs in the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

Peale painted many other versions, full-length and three-quarter length, most of them with the battles of Princeton and Trenton in the background. Eight in public collections were listed in Christie's catalog. (The fine essay in the Christie's catalog is unsigned, but Widing said it was written by Martha Willoughby.) Peale charged 30 guineas for the full-length figure and 16 guineas for the three-quarter length.

As Peale received commissions for these pictures he updated Washington's uniforms, and so the pictures can be dated by changes in military insignia. The Rochambeau and Chastellux paintings were begun in 1780 and updated in 1782, with the battle of Yorktown painted over the battle of Princeton.

(continued...)

Chastellux probably saw the full-length portrait of Washington when he traveled to Philadelphia in the fall of 1780 when it hung in Congressional Hall. In his travels in North America in the years 1780, 1781, and 1782, published in French in 1787 and in English in New York in 1827, Chastellux remarked on the general's "noble and easy attitude which is natural to him; cannon, colours, and all the attributes of war form the accessories of the picture."

Chastellux, stationed with the French forces in Newport, was the first French officer from Rochambeau's army to meet with Washington. Fluent in English, Chastellux often acted as interpreter, and the two men developed a close friendship. In June 1781 the French army broke camp and headed for Westchester County, New York, to join Washington's army. When word came that Admiral de Grasse with his French fleet was headed for Virginia, the French and American armies headed south. Washington, Rochambeau, and Chastellux rode ahead of the troops. Their stay at Mount Vernon while en route from Baltimore to Williamsburg was the first time Washington had visited his estate since he took command of the Continental Army six years earlier.

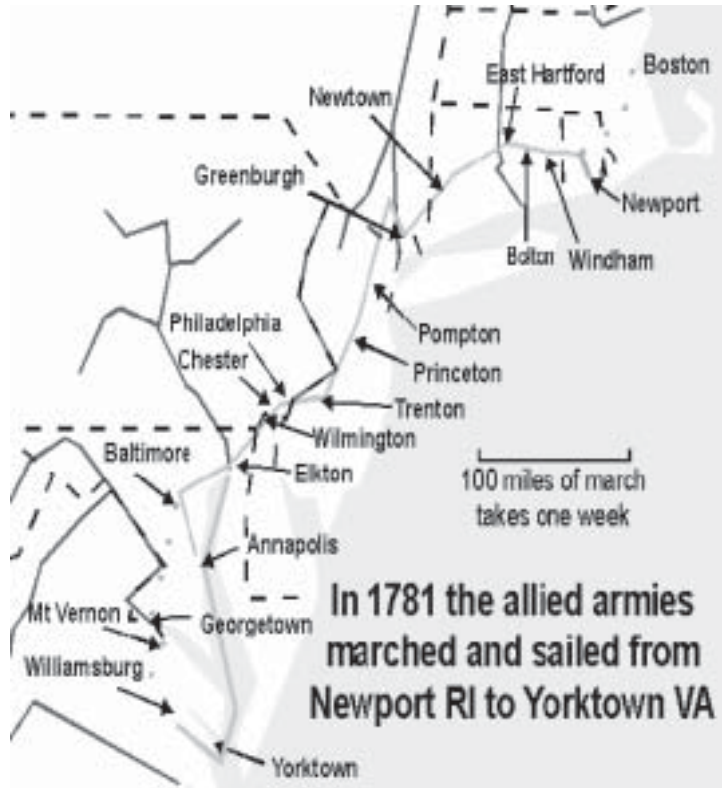
The American and French armies surrounded Cornwallis, who was entrenched in Yorktown. Another French fleet arrived from Newport and joined de Grasse in preventing Cornwallis's troops from escaping by sea, and the British general surrendered. It was the decisive moment in the Revolutionary War. Rochambeau and Chastellux are prominently pictured in James Peale's Washington and his Generals at Yorktown, which features the French ships in the background just as in the Washington portraits.

After he led the French army on their march back north from Williamsburg to Baltimore, Chastellux spent the summer of 1782 in Philadelphia. That is when Peale painted a portrait of Chastellux, now, at the Second Bank in the collection of the National Park Service. When Chastellux picked up his Washington portrait in December 1782, after he returned from his tour of Massachusetts, Peale had painted a view of Yorktown over the view of Princeton in the background.

Some say James Peale, who visited Yorktown soon after the siege and recorded the landscape and fortifications, may have painted the background scene.

According to Chastellux family tradition, the painting was a gift from Washington, but that might not be true. A similar story came down in the Rochambeau family, but a letter written by Peale to Francois Barbe-Marbois, secretary of the French legation, asks whether Rochambeau had left 16 guineas for him in payment.

Soon after Chastellux's sudden death from a fever in October 1788, his wife gave birth to a son, Alfred, who inherited the portrait. Alfred and his wife had no children, and the painting descended through collateral descendants to the consignors.



*Washington Rochambeau Route*

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## REMINDER

**Remember to check the calendar on page 12 for your Society's 2004 upcoming events and plan to attend.**

**- IN MEMORIAM -**



|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Alfred Kutz Althouse, Jr.      | #4972 |
| Edward Earl Chandlee, Jr.      | #4265 |
| Ralph Thomas Davy              | #4323 |
| William Wonderly Fitler        | #3784 |
| Joseph Crawford Henderson, Jr. | #3653 |
| Jay Randall Keefer             | #5569 |
| Benjamin H. LeBoutillier, Jr.  | #3564 |
| Paul Steigerwalt Lefever       | #5757 |
| Josiah Bartow McCall           | #4288 |
| James Constable McGusty        | #5555 |
| J. Permar Richards, Jr.        | #4498 |
| Michael Miller Riter, V        | #3785 |
| Allan David Sanson             | #4563 |
| John Joyce Sayen, M.D.         | #3272 |
| William Whittemore Torry Shinn | #5520 |
| Park Weed Willis, III          | #4152 |

**Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution  
*Newsletter Committee***

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| Dan Murphy             | Jack Loose             |
| Tom Foster             | Tom Showler            |

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

**2004 Calendar of Events**

|             |                                                                           |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 July      | Independence Day Luncheon<br>Society Hill Sheraton<br>Philadelphia, PA    |
|             | Let Freedom Ring Ceremony<br>Independence Hall<br>Philadelphia, PA        |
| 18 November | New Citizens Reception                                                    |
| 15 December | US District Court<br>Ceremonial Courtroom<br>Philadelphia, PA             |
| 23 October  | Saratoga - Yorktown Anniversaries<br>Merion Cricket Club<br>Haverford, PA |

**2005 Calendar of Events**

|                            |                                                                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 19 February                | George Washington Birthday Party<br>Union League of Philadelphia<br>Philadelphia, PA |
| 14 April                   | Annual Meeting<br>Union League of Philadelphia<br>Philadelphia, PA                   |
| *****                      |                                                                                      |
| 2nd Thursday of Each Month | Board of Managers Meeting<br>Union League of Philadelphia                            |

Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution  
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