



PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

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WINTER 2010

G.S.S.R. Triennial in California

The General Society of Sons of the Revolution held its 40th Triennial in Glendale, California, September 24 to 27, 2009. The California Society hosted an enjoyable weekend of social activities and serious meetings.

The headquarters hotel for the Triennial was the Hilton Hotel, situated in Glendale with a panoramic view of the surrounding mountains. Members of the California Society greeted the delegates and guests as they arrived and distributed welcoming packets and a souvenir "challenge coin" specially minted for the Triennial.

Early arrivals had the opportunity to visit the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on Thursday afternoon. In the evening, the attendees were taken to the American Heritage Library and Museum and headquarters of the Sons of the Revolution in California, with an al fresco buffet and music and opportunity to browse through the library's extensive genealogical collections.

Friday morning, General President Paul Davis convened the Triennial Meeting. After discussion of the meeting guidelines, the officers and committees reported on their activities during the preceding three years. During that period there were 520 new members, and 310 removed from the rolls through death, resignation, or other causes, resulting in a membership of 4,981. There was extended discussion of the authority of the General Society and the state societies, with the consensus that our General Society is a confederation of states with significant independence. After lunch, the second business session approved amendments to the

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SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTION The Battle of Bennington



The Battle of Bennington Monument, Bennington, Vermont (built 1887-1891)

This article was prepared by Peter Morgan Adams and Thomas Richards Kellogg, both members of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and the Pennsylvania Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America. Both men have connections with the town of Bennington, Vermont. Mr. Adam's father, Kirt A. Adams, and his mother, Barbara Morgan Adams, had between them nine ancestors that fought in the Battle of Bennington. Both parents are natives of Bennington. Mr. Kellogg also has several ancestors and relatives who were in the battle including the regimental commander of the Berkshire Co., Massachusetts militia in the Battle.

Bennington was the first white settlement in the territory now known as Vermont. It is situated in the southwest of Vermont, only about a half hour's drive from Williamstown, Massachusetts to the south and Albany and Troy, New York to the west. At the time of the Revolution, Vermont was claimed both by New York and by New Hampshire and was not one of the thirteen colonies which approved the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. It formed an independent republic known as the Republic of Vermont and remained independent until about 1790 when it became the fourteenth state, the first state to join the union after it was formed. According to the records of the State of New York, the Green Mountain Boys (commanded by Colonel Seth Warner at the Battle of Bennington) were, in fact, a New York Continental Line regiment also known as Warner's Additional Continental Regiment. This was the only Continental Army regiment which fought in the battle. The other units were state militia.

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President's Message

The Society has had three major events since the last newsletter: the 40th Triennial; the Musket Ball; and the New Citizens ceremony.


The details of the Triennial are reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, but I want to take this opportunity to thank the delegates who represented the Pennsylvania Society: G. Clayton Ames III, Curtis P. Cheyney III, Ronald W. Fenstermacher Jr., Stephen W. Holt, James W. Marvin Jr., Robert J. McNelly, Andrew J. Salisbury, Coleman Sellers VI, Robert R. Van Gulick Jr., Richard L. Walkup, Mark C. Ward and Ben R. Wolf. The participation of the Pennsylvania delegates during the meetings provided the leadership necessary to have overwhelming majorities on almost every vote. Their comments during the meeting were succinct, directly to the point, and without the unnecessary personal commentary that has crept into recent General Society communications. Our delegates helped elicit the information that the other delegates needed to make informed decisions, and the Society can indeed be proud of the representation they provided.

Vice President Ben R. Wolf chaired the Saratoga-Yorktown dinner in October, and once again Ben and his committee put on an excellent evening of dining, dancing and good fellowship (despite a rainy start). It was a fitting celebration of the American victories at Saratoga in 1777 and Yorktown in 1781. My thanks to Ben and his committee, Peter M. Adams, Eric E. L. Guenther Jr., Edward R. W. Kellogg, Coleman Sellers VI, Theodore E. Wiederseim III and Harvard C. Wood IV.

John Blickensderfer and Benjamin Leavenworth chaired the New Citizens ceremony and reception in December. There is an excellent report on the event in this newsletter, including some highlights from the "mission statement" that John and the committee wrote. This is a great statement of the history and significance of this event.

With the close of 2009, I also want to thank Barb Dickenson and Elaine Collins for continuing to keep our office running smoothly. Their dedication to the Society keeps our programs and events on track, and they pro-

ANNUAL CHURCH SERVICE AT ST. DAVID'S



The St. David's Episcopal Church in Wayne will serve as the setting for this year's Annual Church Service, to be held on Sunday, April 25, 2010. This service is held in remembrance and gratitude for the men at Valley Forge who, by virtue of their sacrifice, helped our Nation achieve its freedom. We also will remember with thanksgiving those Society members who rested from their earthly labors during 2009. Following the church service, we shall gather at the Aronimink Golf Club for cocktails and dinner. Please highlight this event on your calendars. Invitations with full details will be mailed to the membership prior to the event.

—Wm. Murray Gordon, Committee Chairman

vide wonderful support to all of our committee chairmen.

For those of you still paying attention, here comes my usual end-of-the-column request: We have great committees and great fun planning the Society's events! Getting involved is as easy as calling the office or sending me an e-mail (bcfrick@msn.com).

—Benjamin C. Frick, President

ANNUAL MEETING

The 122nd Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Society will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2010 at the Union League. The meeting for members only will begin at 5:00 p.m. and feature the traditional Color Guard presentation of colors, a business meeting and election of officers. It is followed by social hour and a buffet dinner. New members will be recognized. Please circle the date and plan to attend.

—Lanny R. Patten, Secretary

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G.S.S.R. Triennial, continued from page 1

Bylaws to provide a processing fee for supplemental applications and to change the composition of the Executive Committee. There was also an amendment to the Constitution approved which affirms that the power of the General Society to admit state societies does not include the power to expel those societies.

After the conclusion of the second session, everyone boarded motor coaches for a Friday evening rush-hour commute to the Jonathan Beach Club in Malibu. Although long, the ride provided an opportunity to see Los Angeles and to visit with members from other states. We arrived at the club at the perfect time for a glorious California sunset. The Tennessee Society hosted the reception, which was followed by a buffet dinner. After dinner, entertainment was provided by comedian Evan Sayet. Some members even had the opportunity to walk out on the beach and wade in the Pacific Ocean. After

arriving back at the hotel, rumor has it that Pennsylvania Society members had the energy to gather in the roof top bar at the hotel despite a long day of activities.

Saturday morning began with the third business session. After opening comments by General President Davis about the preceding day's meetings, there was the report of the Nominations Committee and several nominations from the floor. Terry L. Davenport from the Tennessee Society was elected the new General President. Congratulations are extended to the following Pennsylvania members who were elected: General Secretary Curtis P. Cheyney III, General Chaplain G. Clayton Ames III, General Captain of the Color Guard Richard D. Smith, Sr. and member of the Nominating Committee, W. Steven Mark.

One of the last items of business was to admit the new Delaware Society, and we wish them the best as they begin their new society. We are also proud that Pennsylvania

member Coleman Sellers VI has been elected Vice President of the Delaware Society. The meeting ended mid-day allowing everyone a free afternoon to explore the beaches, mountains, restaurants, bars, and shops of Glendale and the greater Los Angeles area.

Saturday evening the California Society hosted the traditional formal banquet at the headquarters hotel. General President Davis thanked his officers on the completion of their terms, and then installed the new General President. The keynote speaker was eleven-term Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, a former speech writer for President Reagan and a member of the California Sons of the Revolution.

Sunday morning dawned, and due to the cancellation of the traditional closing sherry, the attendees were soon on their way home, hoping for short security lines at the airport and luggage arriving at the right city. Our thanks go out to the California Society for hosting a successful Triennial.

Washington's Birthday

The Washington's Birthday Ball, honoring the 278th anniversary of the birth of President George Washington, will be held in Lincoln Hall at The Union League of Philadelphia on Saturday, February 2, 2010. Dress is black or white tie, with orders and decorations.

Invitations will be mailed in early January 2010. Subscription deadline is Friday, 12 February 2010. Tables seat ten; however, tables for twelve may be reserved by confirming the seating arrangement with all parties in the group and then in writing to the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution office.

Reservations are \$125 per member or guest and \$62.50 per person aged 40 or under. Self-pay parking will be available at the Midtown Central

Parking Garage located on Sansom Street across from The Union League

Reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will begin at 6:30 p.m. The Color Guard will parade the Colors at 7:30 p.m. and dinner with wine will be served at 8:00 p.m. A cash bar will be available after dessert. Dancing to The Serenaders will follow dinner.

Please join the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution in 2010 when we will celebrate the 278th anniversary of the birth of the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and our first President, George Washington!

—David M. Humphrey, Committee Chairman

The weather could not have been worse—rainy, cold and dreary—but the Merion Cricket Club in Haverford was warm, welcoming and beautifully decorated on the evening of October 24th, lending a festive air to this year’s Musket Ball. Once again the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution celebrated the Allies’ victories at Saratoga and Yorktown with pre-holiday merriment.

The evening began with cocktails, tasty hors d’oeuvres and jovial conversation. Once guests had entered the ballroom, the Color Guard Eagles, lead by Captain W. Steven Mark, presented the colors in honor of President Benjamin Frick. Toasts to the Allies, our troops and the President of the United States were offered by the P.S.S.R. vice presidents. The Cricket Club outdid itself, serving an elegant dinner as P.S.S.R. members and their guests danced to the entertaining and lively music provided by the popular and talented CTO 5th Avenue.

The Merion Cricket Club has been selected for the 2010 event, and Saturday, October 9th has been reserved.



If you missed this fantastic evening in 2009, you can mark your calendars in advance so you will not be disappointed next year.

—Ben R. Wolf, Committee Chairman

Pictured: 1. Gill Tyson and Eleanor Peterson. 2. Timothy and Louise Games. 3. Lanny and Ann Patten. 4. Coleman Sellers and Roxanne Hay. 5. Captain Mark and the Color Guard Eagles.



Photos by Amanda Muckle

New Citizens

On December 15, 2009, Bill of Rights Day, the New Citizens Committee of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution participated in the naturalization ceremony for 118 new citizens from 52 countries at the Federal Courthouse at Sixth and Market Streets in Philadelphia. The ceremony was presided over by the Honorable Michael M. Baylson, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

In recognition of Bill of Rights Day, Scott F. Cooper, Esq., Chancellor-Elect of the Philadelphia Bar Association, encouraged the new citizens to participate fully as citizens in all civic activities including voting in elections. The response to the Court on behalf of the new citizens was delivered by Mr.

Jeffery J. Fehlenberg, formerly of Germany. Mr. Fehlenberg cited the long tradition of constitutional government in America beginning with the oral constitution of the Iroquois Nation dating from the twelfth century and more recently continuing with the United States Constitution and its Bill of Rights.

Following Mr. Fehlenberg's remarks, Judge Baylson introduced Mr. Benjamin Frick, President of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution who stated that today's event was a continuation of a tradition of hosting receptions for new citizens on Bill of Rights

Day that was started by the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution in 1957. Each ceremony is attended by approximately 150 new citizens and their families. The P. S. S. R. provides each new citizen with a copy of the United States Constitution and a miniature American flag. They also receive a printed program that recognizes the role the Society plays in this event. The memory of this day will be forever etched into the consciousness of each new citizen there, and the program will for many be preserved as an important family document.



President Frick greets new citizen.

This 52 year tradition takes place on Law Day in May and Bill of Rights Day in December. Bill of Rights Day commemorates the addition of the

Bill of Rights to the U. S. Constitution in 1791 as an essential condition to obtaining ratification by all thirteen colonies. The celebration of Bill of Rights Day not only anchors the actions of the founding fathers to the continuing and unbroken impact these actions have on the laws governing the United States of America but also to the unbroken chain of new citizens who swear to uphold the laws established so long ago when all participants in the new nation simultaneously with its founding became citizens of the United States of America.

—John M. Blickensderfer, Committee co-Chairman

LANCASTER CHAPTER NEWS

On November 9, 2009, the Lancaster County Chapter held its regular fall meeting at the Stauffer Mansion in Lancaster. Thirty-three Chapter members and guests attended. The evening's program, *The Armistice and its History*, was presented by Mr. Michael Smith.

Mr. Smith discussed the actions and events that led to World War I, including Germany's Triple Alliance with the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Italy; the Triple Entente of England, France, and Russia; the assassination of the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand; Austria's declaration of war against Serbia; and the subsequent Russian and French declaration against Austria in support of Serbia.

The armistice of 1918 marked the end of the "Great War". Armistice Day was celebrated every November 11th until 1954 when then-President Eisenhower proclaimed the day as Veterans Day, commemorating all veterans of the Civil War, Spanish-American War,



Michael Smith

World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. In 1971, Congress moved the commemoration to the second Monday in November. In 1981, the commemoration was returned to November 11th. Two thousand nine is the 91st anniversary of the armistice.

At the conclusion of Mr. Smith's discussion and a question and answer period, Regent Frantz gave a brief summary of a recent newspaper article about Revolutionary War General "Mad" Anthony Wayne. Afterwards, the attendees enjoyed light refreshments. The next general meeting of the Chapter will be the annual meeting in May 2010.

—Peter L. H. Byrne, Chapter Secretary

Battle of Bennington, continued from page 1

Every region has its favorite Revolutionary War battle. The favorite in Vermont is the Battle of Bennington. Anyone who has occasion to visit the region of southern Vermont and New Hampshire, northwestern Massachusetts or the upper Hudson River in New York should visit Bennington. There you can see a huge granite obelisk commemorating the battle along with statues of General Stark and Colonel Warner. There is also a museum with a number of relics from the battle including what some believe to be the original of the familiar Bennington battle flag. This flag has an arc of stars over the number 1776 on a blue field. It has thirteen stripes with a white stripe at the top rather than a red stripe as is usually the case.

Bennington was in the northern district, the American forces of which were commanded in 1777 by General Philip Schuyler and General Horatio Gates. In the summer of 1777, the British forces under General ("Gentleman Johnny") Burgoyne were in the process of executing a plan to seize control of the northern district through a march down the Hudson River toward Albany. Burgoyne planned to come down from Canada and unite with General Clinton's army coming up the Hudson, thereby cutting off the New England colonies from the others. The American Army had a considerable amount of horses, food and gunpowder stored at Bennington. The British decided to try to capture Bennington and take possession of the American supplies for their own use. For this purpose General Burgoyne dispatched two Hessian mercenary regiments commanded by Colonel Baum and Colonel Breymann. In addition, some Canadians and Indians accompanied these forces. There were some Indians from the Stockbridge mission on the side of the Americans.

Word of the attack reached the Americans. The Vermont Committee of Safety asked for assistance from New Hampshire which sent a brigade under the command of Brigadier General John Stark of New Hampshire. He was placed in command of the American forces that were to attempt to thwart the British move. General Stark was a militia leader of New Hampshire who had previously been an officer in the Continental Army. He was the originator of New Hampshire's motto, "Live free or die." His forces consisted of New Hampshire and Vermont militia, Col. Warner's Green Mountain Boys, and militia from Berkshire County, Massachusetts commanded by Colonel Benjamin Simonds (an ancestor of Mr. Kellogg's). The muster roll from the northern militia district of Williamstown was never signed by anyone. However, it is said that about 100 residents of that district of the town responded to the alarm and went off to fight in the battle. Artillery fire from the battle could be heard in Williamstown

which is more than 25 miles away.

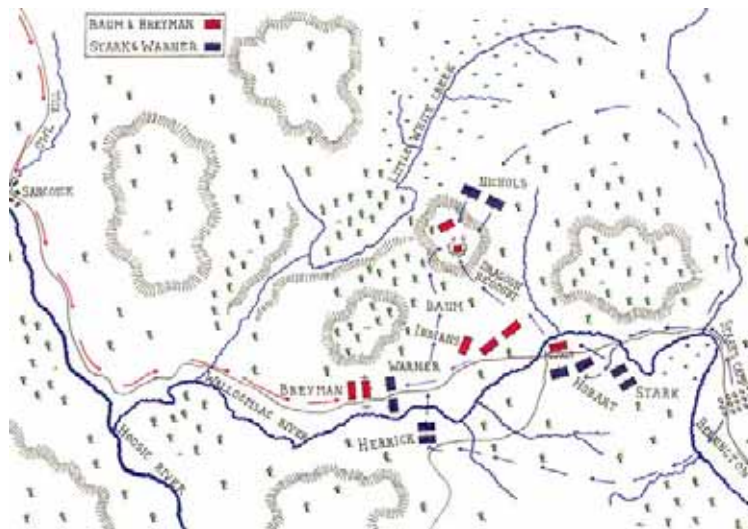
In the middle of the day of August 16, 1777, the Americans met the British forces and a ferocious battle commenced. Colonel Nichols and Colonel Herrick were sent to the rear of the right and left wings of the enemy force. They were to join and make an attack. After the firing began in the rear, General Stark moved forward against the enemy front and the fighting became general. He is quoted as saying of the battle: "It was the hottest I ever saw, it was like one continuous clap of thunder." A large number of Hessians were killed, wounded or taken prisoner. Colonel Baum was wounded and died a few hours later. The American casualties were light. The actual battle took place in what is now an easternmost portion of the State of New York, just over the present New York-Vermont state line. Baum's regiment was routed and the battle thought to be over when Colonel Breymann's regiment of about 650 fresh troops appeared. Things were going better for the British troops but the sudden arrival of Colonel Warner's Continental Regiment helped save the day. The Hessian prisoners were taken to Boston through Williamstown, Massachusetts, loosely guarded. It is said that a Hessian, Johann Hintersass, escaped, built a house in Massachusetts and changed his name to Henderson.

Colonel Breymann's regiment was not enough to turn the tide, particularly since the Berkshire County, Massachusetts militia had arrived and joined the militia men from Vermont and New Hampshire as well as Warner's Continentals, some of whom came down

from Manchester in time to help turn the tide of battle. By the end of the day, the British troops had been totally defeated and many British prisoners were marched east to Boston.

This battle is considered a successful prelude or even first phase of the Battle of Saratoga in which the northern British Army under Burgoyne surrendered to General Gates, resulting in another total defeat of the British. The significance of the Battle of Bennington was not only a military victory. It showed foreign powers, particularly France, that the American Army could stand up against the foremost military power in the world and win significant victories. The victory at Bennington is considered one of the factors which influenced the French government to intervene on behalf of the Americans and support the American cause.

Mr. Adams is directly descended through his mother from Benjamin Morgan. Benjamin and his brother, Joseph, both fought in the battle and their younger brother, Caleb Morgan was a spy for the patriots. He would infiltrate the British camps and while eating food that the soldiers would give him, he would listen to their conversations and





IN MEMORIAM



<u>Name</u>	<u>Pa ID</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Elected</u>
Dixon A. Barr	6139	1-14-1932	10-15-2009	6-8-2006
Henry Corneau Beck	3588	9-30-1913	8-18-2009	6-12-1941
Frank Stout Deming	4513	8-12-1927	6-18-2009	5-11-1961
James Jefferson Duncan	5701	6-19-1929	5-27-2009	9-15-1988
William Robert Gillette	5416	4-22-1961	9-20-2009	12-12-1974
George Jones Lincoln III	4473	10-28-1926	10-15-2009	6-9-1960
Nathaniel Ramsey Pennypacker	5193	6-14-1921	8-2-2009	2-13-1975
Mark Saville	3996	5-25-1924	3-9-2009	12-14-1950
C. Dexter Schierenbeck	5053	2-11-1921	10-5-2009	5-10-1973

then report back to the Continentals what he heard. Another of his ancestors was Obadiah Dunham, married to Lucy Gillette of Huguenot descent. He was a doctor and assisted the wounded in the battle, thereby saving many lives. Mr. Adams is also descended from William Oviatt, a captain of militia, whose efforts influenced the outcome of the battle, and from Joseph Barber and James Bushnell who both fought in the battle.

A history of Williamstown states that all able-bodied men from the town went to nearby Bennington as part of the Massachusetts militia and fought in the battle. These militiamen would have included the following ancestors of Mr Kellogg's: Benjamin Simonds, Samuel Kellogg, Absalom Blair and Daniel Bacon, Jr. Kellogg was a member of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress and a Representative in the General Court of Massachusetts from Williamstown. Blair was an officer in the Massachusetts militia. Bacon was the brother of Kellogg's wife, Chloe. Bacon was killed in the battle. Mr. Kellogg is collaterally related to Capt. Michael Dunning who was a member of Seth Warner's Additional Continental Regiment (the Green Mountain Boys) and who can be represented in the Society of the Cincinnati-New York.

We are certain many members of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution have done their own in depth research into their ancestors' involvement in the War for Independence. We hope that, by providing this brief overview of our own personal history, we might inspire others to follow in this path. There is no history like your own history, and therefore we believe it is important to preserve the memory of our ancestors as it provides us all with a better understanding of the people and places of the American Revolution.

—Peter Morgan Adams and Thomas Richards Kellogg

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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

2010

20 February Washington's Birthday Ball
The Union League of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

4 July

Independence Day Celebration
Society Hill Sheraton and
Independence Hall
Philadelphia, PA

15 April Annual Meeting
The Union League of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

25 April Annual Church Service
St. David's Episcopal Church
Wayne, PA

Monthly Events

Second Thursday of Each Month

Board of Managers Meeting
The Union League of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

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

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