

REPORT OF THE GENERAL HISTORIAN
GENERAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE REVOLUTION
2009–2010

TO: President General And The General Board Of Managers

SUBJECT: Annual Report, 2009–2010

DATE: 13 September 2010

The following is the Annual Report of the General Historian of the General Society Sons of the Revolution. It covers the period of July 2009 to June of 2010.

1. The Alabama Society lost its long-time member Colonel Henry deLeon Southerland Jr., past General Society Regional Vice President and former Alabama Society President. This society had slipped into inactivity this year, but some 15 Alabamians are members-at-large of the General Society, and look forward to a revival of the Alabama Society.

2. The Arizona State Society regularly contributed to various genealogical libraries, and on behalf of the Society, President William Hearter donated to the Arizona State Genealogical Library a number of such books.

3. The California Society held its annual luncheon on 30 January 2010 at the Annandale Golf Club in Pasadena. At this time, the Society elected its new slate of officers and directors, including Douglas R. Boyd Sr., president, and Samuel Ferrell, secretary.

On 15 February 2010 the Society hosted the Annual George Washington Open House and Dessert Buffet at the American Heritage Library and Museum. “In a gastronomic salute,” the Society served Early American drinks and confectioneries, including General Washington’s favorite Fish House Punch (but see the Georgia Society’s proffer of General Washington’s real favorite, Chatham Artillery Punch).

The Society held its 2010 Independence Day Luncheon at Annadale Golf Club on Saturday, 10 July 2010. Molly Schutzenberger, California State President, Children of the American Revolution, extended greetings on behalf of her organization and reported on the July Fourth LFR Bell Ringing Ceremony, which took place at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. Dr. Roger McGrath received the Society’s Distinguished Service Award. He spoke to the audience on “The American Rifleman in the Revolution.”

4. The District of Columbia Society placed a wreath at the Mount Vernon tomb of President George Washington on the anniversary of his birth, Monday, 22 February 2010. This continued the tradition begun many decades earlier by the Society and always welcomed by the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association. The DC Society is one of the few organizations allowed entry into the tomb for placement of a wreath. Society President Thomas Tanner and Past President Peter Dixon, event planner, led the program, and a luncheon followed at the Mount Vernon Inn.

5. The Florida Society held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, 10 October 2009, and Mitchell Bush, the new General Vice President of Region III was in attendance. A new slate of officers was elected, including James Warner Lohmeyer, president. The Sam Adams Chapter was also represented at this meeting. The Society voted \$250 towards the Founder's Project.

On Saturday, 27 March 2010 the Society held its Annual Meeting for 2010 at The Capital Grille in Fort Lauderdale. Followed by lunch and a presentation by Florida Counselor David Mitchell, Society Counselor David Mitchell paid a fitting homage to George Washington, telling how Washington created his Cabinet, even though the Constitution had made no provision for one. Also, Washington set the precedents for the State of the Union Address and used his Cabinet to advocate to Congress the Executive Branch's position on important issues.

6. The Georgia Society sent four delegates to the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution's 40th Triennial session at the Hilton Hotel Los Angeles North Glendale in Glendale, California, 24–27 September 2009. Mitchell Bush of the Georgia Society was elected vice president of Region III of the Sons of the Revolution (and thus to the General Board of Managers of the Sons of the Revolution), Hon. W. Jackson Winter Jr. of the Georgia Society was elected to the Nominating Committee of the General Society, and G. Smith was re-elected General Historian. The general president cited W. Jackson Winter, Christopher Frame, and Robert Towns of the Georgia Society with Presidential Commendations, and presented the Georgia Society a plaque to commemorate its exemplary growth in membership. In addition, the Georgia Society tentatively agreed to host the next Triennial session (2012) in Savannah.

In the early morning hours of Friday, 9 October 2009, members of the Society joined with other patriotic groups at the Visitors' Center in Savannah. They then marched in grand procession, proceeded by drums and fifes, up the hill following the route of the Franco-American attack on Spring Hill Redoubt, which occurred at that location 230 years earlier. Following this photogenic journey into Revolutionary War history, member William McIntosh, dressed in a Revolutionary War uniform as his ancestor General Lachlan McIntosh, laid a wreath at the Spring Hill Redoubt Monument. This marker had been dedicated on this spot by the Georgia Society 98 years earlier. After the ceremony, the members enjoyed a catered breakfast at the Whistle Stop Cafe across the street.

On Saturday, 12 December 2009 the Georgia Society held its annual oyster roast. About 40 members, wives, and guests attended this event, held in the pavilion at the golf course at Hunter Army Air Field in perfect weather for consuming oysters and wine—cold, rainy, and miserable. Past President G. Smith provided the entertainment by giving the history of each of the Society's Revolutionary War flags, followed by the stirring Toast to the Colors.

On Friday, 19 February 2010, the Georgia Society held its Annual Meeting, during which time it heard memorials presented to its departed members and elected new officers for the ensuing year. A light lunch followed this meeting, which was well-attended.

That same evening, the Society held its traditional banquet at the home of the Savannah Yacht Club on the Wilmington River. Some 120 members and their guests attended this black-tie affair. As a special treat, Colonel Charles Davis Jr. made his secret concoction of Chatham Artillery Punch—General George Washington's favorite since his visit to Savannah in 1791—available to those in attendance. Georgia Society Lufburrow presented chapter charters to General Nathanael Greene Chapter President Bob Evans to John DeVane Chapter President Bobby Towns, the latter dressed out in full Scots kilt and Prince Charlie. General Historian G.

Smith gave an interesting description of the new State Society Flag. The featured speaker was Dr. Graham Boettcher, curator of the Birmingham (AL) Museum of Art, who made a presentation on the collected paintings of General George Washington.

As stated, the Georgia Society has two chapters, General Nathanael Greene Chapter in Atlanta, and Colonel John Devane Chapter in Athens. The Atlanta Chapter, headed by Chapter President Robert S. Evans, held its fifth annual General Nathanael Greene Birthday Luncheon on 22 August 2009 at the Capital City Club in Atlanta. In memory of his Revolutionary Ancestor, William Lord, Paul East, chapter registrar, presented to the chapter a gavel, striker block, and holder, all of which he carved from a beautiful piece of cedar wood. Georgia Society Past President G. Smith had supplied this special piece of cedar from a location “close to Mulberry Grove Plantation,” home of General Greene following the close of the Revolution. In addition, the Chapter received its new Yearbook and set of by-laws. Dr. Greg H. Nobles, professor of History at Georgia Tech, presented a lecture entitled, “The Battle Over Benedict Arnold’s Wagon: Quartermaster Greene Confronts the Question of Corruption.” Thirty-four members and their guests enjoyed the Capital City Club’s “Taste of the South Buffet.”

The Greene Chapter began publishing its first newsletter in November of 2009, and held its Annual Black Tie Chapter Anniversary Dinner on 20 March 2010 at the Piedmont Driving Club.

The Athens Chapter also had an eventful year, highlighted by its Annual Banquet, at which time officers of the Georgia Society presented its Chapter flag to Chapter President Bobby Towns.

Stephen R. Lufburrow is the president of the Georgia Society, and Clifton Lee Kennedy is the secretary.

7. The Indiana Society, which had been founded in 1896, boasted over 200 members by 1929, including the governor of the state, a state supreme court justice, the secretary of state, and many other state and local government and corporate officials. However, in that latter year the Society merged with the Sons of the American Revolution in the State of Indiana. After this merger some 30 members continued a few more years in the Sons of the Revolution. However, this Society became inactive in 1932.

On 23 September 2006, with assistance from the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution, the Indiana Society of the Sons of the Revolution reactivated. Fifteen attended the organization meeting at the Woodstock Club in Indianapolis, and the Society incorporated itself. By the close of 2006 the Society had 29 organizing members. There are now 37 members.

The Society has held meetings for the general membership twice a year and a board of managers meeting once each year. The locations of these meetings have included the Woodstock Club in Indianapolis, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Offices of Kent Baker in Indianapolis (Indy Racecar owner), Auburn, Kokomo, South Bend, Decatur, and Winona Lake. In particular, the Society held its spring meeting in South Bend, at which 27 members and guests participated in a tour of South Bend Replicas, a manufacturer of replica Revolutionary War period ordnance.

The Society held its first black tie meeting on 19 September 2009 at the Woodstock Club in Indianapolis. It held membership drives in June of 2009 and 2010 at the “Back to the Days of Kościuszko,” an annual re-enactment festival in Warsaw, Indiana, at which hundreds attended. The Society had a tent featuring its new Sons of the Revolution banner and a display of

Revolutionary War weaponry. Members of the Society distributed membership brochures and information to interested prospective members.

8. The Kentucky Society held its annual meeting on 17 April 2010 in Lexington. Society President Louis Carmichael invited General Vice President-Region IV David L. Rutherford to speak at the luncheon, held at the Idle Hands Country Club.

9. The Louisiana Society met with General Vice President-Region IV David L. Rutherford at the New Orleans Country Club on 12 May 2010. President Harry Kelleher Jr. spoke on recruiting and retention.

10. The Maryland Society held its annual President's Reception on 6 November 2009 at the Philpot House, home of the Green Spring Valley Hunt Club. One month later, the Society held its fifth annual George Washington Brunch at the Engineers Club in downtown Baltimore. John Marshall, Manager of Guest Relations at Mount Vernon, was the featured speaker.

11. The Michigan State Society made no report.

12. The Minnesota Society held its annual Constitution Day memorial to commemorate the consolidation of the object of the War for American Independence.

On 13 February 2010—under a welcome sun—the Society met to its annual Washington Day luncheon. Following this luncheon, at which members of the Sons of the American Revolution joined in the festivities, the Hon. Dan McElroy, current Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and former state Commissioner of Finance and Chief of Staff to the governor, spoke on Minnesota's current economic prospects and challenges.

On 11 July 2010 the Kansas City Chapter celebrated its 115th anniversary and Independence Day, as well. This event took place at the Grand Street Café. The featured speaker was Claude Harkins, who made a presentation entitled, "George Washington: Was he Predestined to Become the Father of our Country?"

Duane L.C.M. Galles is secretary of the Society.

13. In July of 2009 the Kansas City Chapter of the Missouri Society heard author Diane Magness speak on the Missouri-Kansas border conflicts preceding the War Between the States. The St. Louis Chapter held its Modern Patriot Award Dinner on 4 December 2009 at the Racquet Club-Laude, honoring Sanford N. McDonnell, chairman emeritus of McDonnell Douglas Corporation.

Recognition of Washington's Birthday took place on both sides of the state. On 20 February, the George Washington Birthday Celebration Planning Committee organized a luncheon at the Ritz Charles in Overland Park. Dr. Alan Bearman, assistant professor of history at Washburn University, was the featured speaker. He described the unique roll religion played in forming this country and in governing our nation. Claude Harkins presented a display of Revolutionary War artifacts, including a shoe buckle worn by Washington and a 13-star flag sewn by a Continental while being held captive by the British. Meanwhile, the St. Louis Chapter sponsored its annual George Washington's Birthday Celebration at the Westborough Country

Club. This featured Paul Nygard, history professor at St. Louis Community College, who made a performance as Washington, himself.

14. The New Jersey Society, established on 4 December 1883 and now in its 127th year on 30 June 2010 reported a busy year. The Society held its one formal, Annual Meeting on President's Day, 15 February 2010, at Trenton, New Jersey. This year, being an even-numbered year, the meeting was the occasion for the election of officers and members of the Board of Managers. Also during this meeting, the Society took part in its traditional worship service at historic St. Michael's (Episcopal) Church, attended its business meeting at the Old Barracks Museum, and enjoyed a reception and lunch with author Donald Johnstone Peck as speaker at the Trenton Masonic Temple.

During this meeting, the new state offices were installed, including President George James Hill.

In addition, the Society also held several informal gatherings and participated as a co-sponsor of meetings with other lineage societies. It held a workshop on Long-Range Planning in conjunction with the Board meeting in March, followed by a luncheon. In response to news that the governor's proposed budget had not provided funding for the Old Barracks Museum, the Society formed a Task Force to Save the Old Barracks. It plans to continue support for the Old Barracks, both financially and by members' activities.

15. The New York Society had a busy year. On 22 September 2009 the membership attended the Society's Nathan Hale Commemoration at the Statue of Nathan Hale in City Hall Park. The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York joins each year with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to co-sponsor this event. The color guards of the Sons of the Revolution and of the Veteran Corps of Artillery participated. Included in this particular ceremony were children from Public School 124 and representatives from The Yale Club and the Nathan Hale Homestead.

On 23 November 2009 the Society celebrated the 226th anniversary of Evacuation Day with a dinner held in Fraunces Tavern Restaurant. This annual event commemorates the day the British Army left New York City, 15 November 1783, they having occupied the city for seven long years. On the night of the actual evacuation George Clinton, governor of New York, honored George Washington with a banquet in Fraunces Tavern. During that banquet those in attendance offered 13 toasts, beginning with "The United States of America" and ending with "May the Remembrances of this Day be a lesson to Princes." These same 13 toasts were offered at the dinner in 2009. William M. Sanders, Executive Director of Portraits of Patriots, was the featured speaker.

On 4 December 2009 the Society held its Annual Meeting in Fraunces Tavern Restaurant, during which time it elected officers for the ensuing year.

On 25 January 2010 the Society attended its Tallmadge Day Stated Meeting to commemorate the birthday of Frederick Samuel Tallmadge, whose generosity enabled the New York Society to acquire Fraunces Tavern. Naturally, this dinner meeting took place in Fraunces Tavern Restaurant. Gerald M. Carbone, author of *Nathanael Greene*, was the guest speaker, and his topic was his latest book, *Washington: Lessons in Leadership*.

On 18 February 2010 the Society and some 125 guests held its 133rd annual George Washington Birthday Ball at the elegant Metropolitan Club in New York City. The guest speaker

was Dr. John M. Templeton Jr. and additionally was the recipient of the Distinguished Patriot Award for 2010. Those present danced to the Paul Errico Orchestra.

On 21 February 2010 the Society held its Annual Church Service to commemorate the birth of George Washington and in memory of the Society's members who had died during the past year. This took place at the Chapel of St. George. The Sons of the Revolution and the Veteran Corps of Artillery displayed the Colors.

On 26 April 2010 the Society held its Family Night Stated Meeting Dinner to commemorate the 235th Anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord. At this meeting the Society presented the 2010 Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award to Alex Storozynski for *The Peasant Prince, Thaddeus Kościuszko and the Age of Revolution*, published by Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press. Mr. Storozynski was the guest speaker for the evening. The Society presented an Honorable Mention Award to Andro Linklater for *An Artist in Treason, The Extraordinary Double Life of General James Wilkinson*. In addition, the Society presented a Special Recognition Award to Mary Donovan for *George Washington at Headquarters, Dobbs Ferry*. Those Society members celebrating their 40th or 50th anniversary of Society membership also received special recognition.

On 21 May 2010 New York Society board member and General Society Treasurer, Philip Coombe III, presented the Knox Trophy to Cadet Nick Reisweber at the Awards Convocation Ceremony at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

On 14 June 2010 the Society held its Flag Day Parade in downtown Lower Manhattan. This parade began at City Hall Park and concluded with a ceremony outside of Fraunces Tavern. Winners of the Flag Day Essay Contest entitled "What the American Flag Means to Me" were Adelina Bracero, Grade 4, Immaculate Conception School; and DeSean X. Bell, Class 5-326, PS 57, The James Weldon Johnson Leadership Academy. These children read their essays at the ceremony and each received a plaque and a U.S. Savings Bond. In addition, the Society presented their schools with a plaque and a check.

On 18 June 2010 New York Society board member Steven P. Trusnovex presented the Captain Gustavus Conygham Award to Midshipman Alex Osigian Probst at the Awards Convocation at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York.

Also on 14 June 2010 the Society held the John Austin Stevens Commemoration ceremony at Green-Wood Cemetery to honor the centennial anniversary (actually, 21 June) of the death of Sons of the Revolution Founder John Austin Stevens. Through the leadership of Dr. Laurence Simpson, the Society purchased and inscribed a memorial headstone, which was placed near the family vault in Green-Wood Cemetery.

In addition, the Society reports that from 15 September through 15 December 2009 the exhibition "Magna Carta and the Foundations of Freedom" was on display. The current exhibition at Fraunces Tavern Museum "Revolution and the City" opened on 10 July 2010. Visitation at the Museum, including the number of school tours scheduled, has increased greatly, and the evening lectures are well attended.

16. The North Carolina Society held its luncheon meeting in celebration of George Washington's birthday on 27 March 2010, having been forced by unforeseen events produced by Mother Nature to move the date. In fact, the Society's President Jeffrey Lambert concocted a labyrinthine and convoluted explanation about the differences in the Julian Calendar and the Gregorian Calendar, or some such. General Society President Terry Davenport attended the

celebration, and presented his vision for the General Society. Society member Daniel Hopping, a gunsmith, celebrated his induction as a new member with a display of some of his classic work.

On 29 May 2010 Society President Lambert and Past President Frank Horton represented the Sons at the 230th Anniversary ceremony of the Battle of the Waxhaws, South Carolina—“Buford’s Massacre.”

17. The Pennsylvania Society Color Guard provided Fraunces Tavern Museum with funding for the restoration of *Washington and Members of Congress Leaving Christ Church* (following the memorial service for those lost in the victory at Yorktown, 1781). To date, the Color Guard has underwritten five Dunsmore Gallery restorations for the Fraunces Tavern Museum.

The Society held its 105th Washington Birthday event (in the Society’s 122nd year) with a formal dinner dance at the Union League of Philadelphia. Some 200 people attended and enjoyed the traditional Color Guard presentation of 50 colorful, historic flags. Society President Benjamin C. Frick recounted Parson Weems’ famous Cherry Tree Story.

The Society held its 122nd Annual Meeting at the Union League on 15 April 2010. President Frick presided. The secretary remarked on the Society’s history of special projects, that most recently being the restoration of the Washington Standard for the American Revolution Center (ARC), which the Society jointly funded with its Color Guard.

On 25 April the Society met for its Annual Church Service commemorating the Valley Forge Encampment at St. David’s Episcopal Church, site of General Anthony Wayne’s burial place in Wayne.

In other news the Society purchased the letter of transmittal that accompanied the Congressional gold medal awarded to General Anthony Wayne to commemorate his victory at Stony Point, New York. The Society also owns the medal itself, it being kept on display at the Philadelphia Mint.

18. The Rhode Island Society, accompanied by their wives and guests, gathered to celebrate Independence Day on Saturday, 4 July 2009. The members met at the William Ellery grave site in the Newport Common Burial Ground at 9 o’clock that morning to witness the Newport Artillery Company fire a musket salute to Ellery. From the grave site, the company proceeded to Washington Square, where everyone enjoyed the traditional July 4th Band Concert. The members distributed flags and copies of the Declaration of Independence booklets. Following this, CDR Walter Whitley read the Declaration of Independence, following which the Newport Artillery Company fired a 21-gun salute. Afterwards, the company gathered at the White Horse Tavern for luncheon.

On Saturday, 29 August 2009, the Society held its annual meeting and dinner at the Atlantic Beach Club in Middletown, Rhode Island. Following a brief business meeting, at which officers for the ensuing year were elected, the members enjoyed their dinner. Afterwards, James A. Wermuth, Founder and Executive Director of the John Clarke Society, spoke to the Society on Rhode Island’s Royal Charter of 1663. After this presentation, the Society presented awards to several of its members.

On Monday, 22 February 2010, the Society members, joined by their wives and guests, met at the Redwood Library in Newport to celebrate the birthday of George Washington. Following this ceremony, the members gathered at the LaForge Casino Restaurant for luncheon.

At the close of the meal, the officers recalled those leaders responsible for defending our freedom from British rule, and gave toasts to their memory.

Frank S. Hale II is president of the Rhode Island Society, and F. Bruce Westgate is secretary.

19. The Tennessee Society, which included a full nine-member delegation, received the honor of having one of its own, Terry L. Davenport, elected president of the General Society at the 40th Annual Triennial Session of the General Society, held in Glendale, California, in September of 2009. At this session, the Society received the Richard Farmer Hess Award for large societies.

The Society has had an active year. It participated in the “Let Freedom Ring” ceremonies in Hamblen County, Anderson County, and at the state capitol in Davidson County; the July 4th parade at Gatlinburg, and the Lusk gravesite memorial service in Bradley County (Lusk having been a fighter at Kings Mountain). In addition, the Society participated in the Over Mountain Victory Trail march, retracing steps of the Over Mountain men to their memorable victory at Kings Mountain; attended the Egyptian Exhibition at the Alabama State Museum; and took part in Veterans’ Day parades at Knoxville and Clinton and the Veterans’ Day ceremony at the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center in Townsend.

The featured speaker at the assembly for the rededication of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in early September was Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander, a descendant of Captain Thomas Rankin of the American Revolution and a member of the Society.

The Society held its Christmas gathering and sing along fest; sponsored Christmas at David Hall Cabin in Anderson County. It held its 27th annual George Washington banquet, annual meeting, and fund raiser auction at the East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville. Some one hundred attendees enjoyed the meal and an exciting show from entertainer Rick Revel of West Tennessee. Mr. Revel portrayed George Washington, and dressed as the general, he performed songs and acted out the president’s life story. This meeting featured the installation of new Society officers, including President David Whaley.

The Society made presentations at the Aquarium in Gatlinburg and on Flag Day at three locations; took part in the Memorial Day parade and the re-enactment of the Burr-Hamilton duel in Anderson County; held a memorial service for the five Conway brothers who served during the American Revolution; held its Summer Banquet at Club LeConte in Knoxville; participated in two celebrations at Marble Springs, home of General John Sevier in Knoxville; made a presentation to the Colonial Dames in Nashville and to 436 students in five school districts relating to America’s Revolution; established the SouthWest Fort Festival in Roane County; and note that 90% of all of these events involved members wearing period dress.

20. The Virginia Society held an old-fashioned oyster roast at Fort Pocahontas on 14 November 2009, with a total of 54 Society members, family, and guests in attendance. They enjoyed good company, beautiful scenery along the James River, and classic Virginia fare: roasted oysters, barbecue, cornbread, and cold drinks. As in Georgia’s oyster roast, the weather was perfect—politely stated as “inclement.”

The Society held its annual George Washington Birthday Dinner at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond on Saturday, 20 February 2010. Over 240 members and guests attended the black-tie event, described as an “unapologetically patriotic” celebration of Virginia’s own George Washington. The Virginia Military Institute Pipe Band provided the prelude to the evening’s events, followed by the posting of the colors. Members Lewis A. Pitzer and Andrew

C. Pitzer made a special presentation of a reproduction of the flag of the 3rd Virginia Regiment in honor of their ancestor, General Andrew Lewis of Virginia. Colonel Banastre Tarleton had captured the original flag at Waxhaws, South Carolina, on 29 May 1780, it remaining in the Tarleton family for 226 years.

The guest of honor at the event was Commander Paul E. Galanti, USN (Ret.), who spoke about his service as a Navy fighter pilot in the Vietnam War, and his capture and interment from 1966 to 1973 at the infamous Hanoi Hilton.

21. The West Virginia Society, founded on 19 April 1894, has installed its new officers, including President James Allen Rahr.

Respectfully submitted:

GORDON B. SMITH
General Historian, General Society Sons of the Revolution