

The Liberty Tree

The official newsletter of the Sons of Liberty Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

Vol. 27
Nos. 8 & 9

Nov. & Dec.
2008

Our Commander-in-Chief's Guards Retiring the Colors at the American Cemetery, Normandy, France

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 20th, 2008

Social Hour 4:00 p.m. Dinner 5:00 p.m. (not pot luck)

Hosted by

Colonel John and Mary Ellen Mohler

7 Richland Place, Pasadena, California 91103

Telephone: 1-626-795-5643 -- Email: mary.ellen.mohler@usa.net

Reservations required: RSVP by December 14th.

Directions:

The I-210 to West Mountain Street/Seco Street; turn West to Lincoln Avenue. Right on Lincoln Avenue. At first intersection go straight ahead onto Forest Street for one block to Westgate Street. Left on Westgate Street until it ends. Left onto Richland Place. Please note that we can only park on one side of the street. You can park in the driveway. Please don't hesitate to call if you need more directions.
See map on page 2

Happy Thanksgiving

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

Named Best Chapter in the SAR - 1983, 1989, 1995, 1996, 2002 & 2003

Named Best Newsletter in the SAR - 1983, 1985, 1989, 1992, 1994, 1999 & 2002

Visit Our Web Site at: www.Sons-of-Liberty-SAR-org

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President David M. Hayball
18336 Keswick Street Reseda, CA. 91335-2044
1-818-705-6850 - dlhayball@aol.com

First Vice President - Douglas H. Bradley
1012 Macy Street, La Habra, CA 90631
1-562-694-5455 - dhbradleys@aol.com

2nd Vice President & Color Guard Commander
Melvin M. Harrell
P.O. Box 3334 Running Springs, CA 923820-3334
1-909-867-9858 - melvin@patriot1776.com

Secretary Donald N. Moran
17651 Arlington Pl, Tehachapi, CA 93561-5300
1-661-823-9227 - dmoransar@att.net

Treasurer David W. Eaton
5200 Irvine Blvd, #283 Irvine, CA 92620
E-mail: dweaton@sbcglobal.net

Registrar - Berni K. Campbell
31333 East Nine Dr. Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
1-949-443-1333 - BKC211@Juno.com

Chaplain - The Reverend Victor M. Springer
1420 Santo Domingo Ave, Duarte, CA 91010
1-626-358-3831 - vmspringer22@verizon.net

Historian James Q. Bradley
1918 E. Rio Verde Dr. West Covina, CA 91791-2759
1-626-331-8994 - jqbrad@msn.com

Chancellor & Vice Cdr, Gregory M. Gujda
13691 Gavina Avenue #551 Sylmar, CA 91342-2669
1-818-362-5388 - greg.gujda@disney.com

Genealogist - Kerry Davidson
1409 Sandia Avenue West Covina, CA 91790-3309
kj davidson@aol.com

Surgeon - Dr. Francis P. Powers
Post Office Box 20623 New York, N.Y. 10021-0072
E-mail: doc30.30@verizon.net

Web Master - GARY BOHANNON
5839 Ingvaldsen Place
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739
Email: Gary@garybohannon.com

Trustees of the Permanent Fund

Wm. Scott Campbell - Term: 2006-2009
David W. Eaton - Term: 2007-2010
James C. McHargue - Term 2008-2011



Meeting Notice

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15TH, 2008 - 12 NOON

Speaker: **LT. COLONEL DAVID SMITH**

Topic: **BAGHDAD, IRAQ**

COLONEL SMITH RETURNED FROM IRAQ THIS PAST SEPTEMBER AND WILL BE PROVIDING THE CHAPTER WITH A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION.



LT. COLONEL DAVID G. SMITH

To be held at:

The Tam O'Shanter Inn
2980 Los Feliz Blvd., Los Angeles

\$20.00 per person. The ladies and guests are always welcome



The Liberty Tree is the official newsletter of the Sons of Liberty Chapter, SAR. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not that of the Chapter, State or National Society. Donald N. Moran, Editor, 17651 Arlington Place, Tehachapi, CA. 93561 - - 1-661-823-9227 - - Email: dmoransar@att.net. Virginia Emrey Patten, Assistant Editor. Linda Moran and Jim Bradley photographers.



Our Chapter has five Compatriots in uniform and we wish to formally thank them for their service.

Lt. Col. David Smith, USAF - (Edwards AFB, California).

Major Mason Dula, USAF - (Middle-East),

Capt. Eric Fourroux, USA - (Iraq),

Sergeant Major William Fitzgerald, USMC - (Okinawa)

2nd Lieutenant Sean D. Hayball, USA - (Fort Huachuca, Arizona)

COMPATRIOTS IN THE NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Douglas Bradley	11/03
Keith Owings	11/05
David Eaton	11/10
Kenyon DeGreene	11/12
Michael Malek	11/23
Bruce McKenzie	11/24
William Bush	11/28
Job Dula	11/29
Kyle Davidson	11/01
Michael Cullen	12/04
Gregory Fisher	12/04
Robert Winthrop	12/05
Vincent Thompson	12/05
Kerry Davidson, Sr.	12/10
Winston Willaims	12/10
Scott Campbell	12/15
James Bradley	12/19
Talen Stephens	12/24
William Brite	12/30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Kenyon & Maria DeGreene
Married: 11/08/1973 -- 35 years
- Thomas & Maria Walsh
Married: 11/08/1997 -- 11 years
- Frederick & Dorothy Phillips
Married: 11/28/1978 -- 30 years
- Jon & Noella Dula
Married: 11/29/1975 -- 33 years
- William & Grace Miller
Married: 12/01/1942 -- 66 years
- Jack & Nancy Tice
Married: 12/17/1955 -- 53 years
- David & Gina Laughlin
Married: 12/18/1993 -- 15 years
- Michael & Tiffany Branda
Married: 12/20/1987 -- 21 years
- Thomas & Christina Emrey
Married: 12/22/1996 -- 12 years

- John & Francis Stephens
Married: 12/22/1979 -- 29 years
- Michael & Limina Malak
Married: 12/23/1978 -- 30 years
- Howard & Carroll Soper
Married: 12/23/1989 -- 19 years
- David & Virginia Boyle
Married: 12/27/1952 -- 56 years
- Robert & Julie Sexton
Married: 12/28/1984 -- 24 years
- Floyd & Sue Shadwick
Married: 12/28/1967 -- 41 years
- John & Debra Bartle
Married: 12/29/1990 -- 18 years
- Eric & Pamela Fourroux
Married: 12/29/1999 -- 9 years
- Daniel & Theresa Smith
Married: 12/30/1983 -- 25 years



CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEDAL AND MASSING MEDAL

The Chapter's membership medal and the Massing of the Colors medal are now available. We now have a limited quantity so if you are interested, see the order form on page 11 of this issue of the Liberty Tree.



THE SONS OF LIBERTY CHAPTER MEDAL **THE MASSING OF THE COLORS MEDAL**

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Name	1	2	3	4	5
Nicholas Anduze	✓				
Michael Biferno	✓	✓	✓	✓	
John Borncamp	✓				
Dino Cardone	✓				
Andrew Clayton	✓				
Chistian Corsini	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joseph Corsini	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scott G.N. Crowell	✓				
John Darnall	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Jay Dupre	✓				
Michael Gillespie	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Daniel Harrell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jonathan Harrell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michael Harrell	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gary Alan Harris	✓	✓	✓		
Joshua Hayball	✓	✓			
Bradley Hill	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bob Jacobs	✓	✓			
John Lundstrom	✓	✓			
John Mohler	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Christopher Pickens	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Daniel P. Pickens	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Slay	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ray Simison	✓	✓	✓		
Michael Squires	✓	✓			
John Stites	✓				
Daniel Wilson	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Matthew Wilson	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Legend

- (1) Worksheet sent to applicant
- (2) Worksheet received
- (3) Genealogical work in progress
- (4) Application in preparation
- (5) Application at Nat'l for approval

Berni K. Campbell
Registrar



MARCHING THROUGH HISTORY

On October 11th and 12th Guardsmen from the Harbor, Riverside, Redlands and Sons of Liberty Chapters combined forces, participated in this years *Marching Through History*.. held at Prado Regional Park, Chino. The event was a huge success.

We were awarded "*Third Place*" for our recreation of General George Washington's field headquarters. First place went to the Roman Legion, about 20 strong, who deserved the recognition - their encampment was right out of the ancient Roman Empire, and they even were speaking in latin! Our Allies, Morgan's Rifles took second place. Compatriot Ken Walker participated with them, along with his wife, P.J.



Participating were: Karl Jacobs from the Harbor Chapter, David Diefendorf, Erik Diefendorf, Charles Frye, Col. Will Langford, Richard Maynard, Richard Towne from the Redlands Chapter, Melvin Harrell, Don Moran, and their 'camp followers' Kathy Melvin, Linda Moran from the Sons of Liberty Chapter, and Roger Cooper from the Riverside Chapter. composite.



During the two day encampment literally hundreds of 'visitors' stopped by and learned a bit about the American Revolution. We are always delighted with not only the anticipated questions, but those wanting to know more about George Washington. It's well worth participating.



The men of the Guard taking a break. On Saturday, they confronted the British 23rd and 33rd Regiments in a recreated Battle of Guilford Court House - the Brits won. On Sunday the Battle of Cowpens was recreated, with Morgan's Rifles portraying themselves and we the Continental Line and we won!

THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY OF PARIS

As we reported in the last issue of this newsletter, the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution requested as one method of celebrating the 225th Anniversary of the Treaty of Paris, which acknowledged our independence from Great Britain, was to have our local municipalities issue proclamations commemorating this important event.

We asked, His Honor/Compatriot Jeffrey Prang, Mayor of West Hollywood for one from his city. A copy was reproduced on page five of the October "The Liberty Tree". As Mayor, Jeff probably asked one of his aides to undertake creating the Proclamation, and obviously, his requests are instantly complied with as we received it within a week. But, the Mayor, being a typical member of the Sons of Liberty Chapter, SAR, went that extra mile. He had the California Legislature Assembly create one for the Society. It arrived, framed and under glass. It is significant, in that few States have complied with this request.

Our thanks to Jeff and his staff. In the next issue of The SAR Magazine you will probably read about the group of SARs that journeyed to Paris, France with President General David N. Appleby for ceremonies commemorating the signing of the Treaty. He was accompanied by a large delegation and a full SAR color guard, many of them uniformed as members of the Commander-in-Chief's Guards. This was accomplished by members of the Guard, here in California loaning out their uniforms. Unfortunately, none of our Guardsman made the trip, but we were indirectly represented by the "Guard".

Back in 1983, during the 200th Anniversary of the Treaty of Paris, three members of the Chapter, James Bellah, Roger Robertson and Don Moran, and wives, Mary Lou Robertson and Linda Moran did attend.

At the time, the SAR could only deploy a five man color guard. It was embarrassing, and one of the reasons our Don Moran got the National Color Guard established. We now field a proper color guard to National and International events.



CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Assembly

RESOLUTION

By the Honorable Mike Feuer
43rd Assembly District, Relative to the 225th anniversary of the

Treaty of Paris

WHEREAS, When the first rays of daylight broke on the Lexington Green on April 19, 1775, "the torch kindled toward the world" was first in British soldiers and American patriots ignited the War of American Independence; and

WHEREAS, On July 4, 1776, delegates to the Second Continental Congress declared that "these colonies are, and of right ought to be Free and Independent States" and, in support of that declaration, mutually pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor; and

WHEREAS, General George Washington led an army of American patriots who lacked everything but courage, doubtless every battle and adversity, and persevered for eight long years to secure "liberty of liberty for themselves and their posterity; and

WHEREAS, The liberty of our nation was rescued often by the ingenuity of France's King Louis XVI and Spain's King Carlos III and served by the daring of Europe's elite military officers, including La Fayette, Rochambeau, von Soubert, Pulaski, Gravel, and others; and

WHEREAS, The surrender of British forces under the command of General Lord John Cornwallis at the Battle of Yorktown on October 19, 1781, to the allied forces under the command of General George Washington and General Comte de Rochambeau set the stage for peace initiatives abroad; and

WHEREAS, Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay to represent the United States, and David Hartley was appointed by Great Britain's King George III to negotiate terms to the peace; and

WHEREAS, On September 3, 1783, the peace commissioners of the United States and Great Britain signed a Treaty of Peace in Paris which recognized American independence and boundaries and declared "the intention of both parties to 'forget all past quarrels, animosities and differences' and 'secure to both perpetual peace and harmony'; and

WHEREAS, Great Britain also signed Treaties of Peace in Paris on September 3, 1783, with France and Spain and, provisionally, with the Netherlands to bring a cessation of hostilities between those nations; and

WHEREAS, Marking the 225th anniversary of the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 2008, the people of California remember and pay tribute to the courage of the American patriots and proudly subordinate themselves to the principles of human rights, individual freedom, and equal protection under the laws of a just and democratic society; now, therefore, be it

Remembered by Assembly Member Mike Feuer, that he share the special attention of the public to the 225th anniversary of the Treaty of Paris, and encourage the Sons of the American Revolution for their efforts to educate and preserve the heritage of the American Revolution and those who served.

Members Resolution No. 2167
Dated this 3rd day of September, 2008

Mike Feuer
Honorable Mike Feuer
43rd Assembly District

George and Martha Washington's Christmas

Christmas in the 18th Century was different in many respects than the Christmas we know today. It was primarily a religious holiday with the primary celebration being the church service. Various European cultures had different customs and over the years here in America many were combined creating what we know today. In George and Martha Washington's time, the holiday was usually a time for visits between friends and relatives, parties, and some public celebrations. In the Washington's day, Christmas was celebrated for twelve days, ending on January 6th.

Many have written about the Washingtons and Christmas but much of it is greatly embellished and characterized through 21st century eyes. Based on George Washington's correspondence, his journals and financial records, we can put together an accurate picture of what Christmas at Mount Vernon was like - - generally it was typical of most Virginians. These were far simpler than 21st century Americans would feel comfortable with. Religious services were a part in the holiday at Mount Vernon. The Washingtons they would attend church on Christmas day in town.

Decorating for the Christmas holiday was the order of the day. These decorations were generally what nature provided during the winter. Evergreens, berries, clusters of mistletoe, sprigs of holly and flowers grown indoors in the form of wreaths and sprays. Numerous candles placed in windows were also quite common. Naturally the extent of the decorations would depend on the finances of the home owner. The Washingtons did not leave any record of their use of Christmas decorations, but based on the practice of the day, they certainly participated in the time honored tradition.

In Washington's diaries we find that in 1770, Christmas was on a Tuesday and in the morning the General took his family to Church at nearby Pohick. Washington served as a vestryman there for twenty-three years, and he, George Mason and George Fairfax served on the building committee. After the

long service he and his family returned to Mount Vernon in time for dinner. 1771 and 1772, were similar. During his first year as president, Washington attended St. Paul's Church in New York City on Christmas day, and later a number of prominent citizens came to see Martha Washington at her regular weekly public reception. Unfortunately, Washington did not record the day's activities for other years, so we can assume the Washingtons would have celebrated in the same manner.

While George and Martha clearly preferred to spend Christmas with family and friends, they themselves were seldom the guests of others at Christmas. As stated the surviving records are incomplete, except for the years of the French & Indian and Revolutionary Wars, when George Washington was campaigning with the army, The only Christmas he spent at away from Mount Vernon was in 1769. When Washington was a member of the House of Burgesses and elected to bring his family and spend the fall and early winter in the Virginia colony capital, Williamsburg. While George Washington attended to the business of running the colony, Martha and her two children

amused themselves in the city. Martha frequently visited her sister at Eltham Plantation. On December 22nd, Washington and the family left Williamsburg and travelled to Fredericksburg, where they spent the Christmas holiday at his sister's home, at Kenmore. His sister, Elizabeth "Betty" had married Fielding Lewis, Sr. and their property backed up to Washington's mother's home. The Washingtons left Fredericksburg and arrived at Mount Vernon on the 28th at dinner time.

Unfortunately, very few letters written by Martha Washington have survived. One letter to her granddaughter describes the Washington family's usual Christmas celebration. During George Washington's presidency, Nelly Custis spent the winter of 1795-1796 living with her mother. Martha, living in Philadelphia at the time wrote her and apprised her of the social activities in the then nation's Capitol. (we have



not corrected Martha's spelling) *"The President and my self are much obliged to you my dear for your good wishes to us & we have spent our christmas at home as we always have done"*

In the peaceful years prior to the Revolutionary War, the Washingtons looked forward to having house guests - - relatives and close friends staying with them over the holiday. Another of Martha's surviving letters, written in 1774, wherein she wrote a friend, expressing her disappointment that she had not spent the holiday at Mount Vernon: *" . . . I should have been very glad to have seen you hear this christmas if you could [could] have spared so much time out of town"*

In June of 1773, Patsy Custis Washington had died and left the family in deep mourning. Perhaps Martha wished for the company of a young women.

On December 26th, 1786 George Washington wrote his former Aide-de-Camp, Colonel David Humphrey's who was a frequent visitor to Mount Vernon: *" . . . Altho' I lament the effect, I am pleased at the cause which has deprived us of the pleasure of your aid in the attack of Christmas pies . . ."*

It appears that guests at Mount Vernon, were encouraged to make themselves at home and often took part in typical seasonal activities enjoyed by the Washingtons. 18th century hospitality was extended to most anyone who came to the door. As a result the Washingtons played host to a great number of guests, many of them unknown to them. Those who arrived at Christmas joined the family in their entertainments. A guest recalled that after breakfast, *"if there were guests (and it was seldom otherwise), books and papers were offered for their amusement; they were requested to take good care of themselves. . . ."* Another guest, in 1781, who visited Mount Vernon wrote: *" . . . Your apartments are your home, the servants of the house are yours, and whilst every inducement is held to bring you into the general society in the drawing room, or at the table, it rests with yourself to be served or not with everything in your own chamber. . . ."*

Visiting men generally participated in the various outdoor sports enjoyed by Washington. The most popular was of these was the fox hunt. Washington's diaries note that fox hunts were conducted during the Christmas season, twice in 1768, and three times in both 1771 and 1773. In the entry of January 2nd, 1772, Washington noted that three men, Montgomerie, Piper and Harrison (probably Robert Harrison who served as an Aide-de-Camp to General Washington during the war - having been referred to as a long time friend) went hunting along with neighbor Bryan Fairfax, and according to George Washington *"Found both a Bear & Fox but got neither"*

Another family that we find spending the Christmas Holiday with the Washingtons was the Digges of Warburton Hall. The Digges family lived on the Maryland side of the Potomac within in sight of Mount Vernon. It has been reported that the families actually communicated with flags or lights.

Dinner was the major social event of each day. Few records have survived regarding what was served, however, numerous letters comment on how delightful was the food served at Mount Vernon. Typically, there are few records on what was served for Christmas dinner. Those dishes served would be quite foreign to us today. We do know that one Christmas favorite was Christmas Pie. Today we think of a pie as usually twelve inches in diam-

eter and generally a dessert. In a November 1786 letter written by David Humphreys wherein he apologized for his being detained and not being able to participate in the coming Christmas celebration at Mount Vernon. He wrote: *"The Rendezvous of my Regt. is at Hartford, where I may probably be the greater part of the Winter. Tho I shall not have the felicity of eating Christmas Pies at Mount Vernon, I hope & trust my former exploits in that way will not be forgotten"* On December 26th George Washington wrote him that they had *"had one [a pie] yesterday on which all the company, tho' pretty numerous, [there were at least nine people present] were hardly able to make an impression. . . ."*



CHRISTMAS AT MOUNT VERNON, VIRGINIA



Martha Washington did have some cookbooks and in one there is a recipe for Christmas pie: "First make a good standing crust, let the wall and bottom be very thick; bone a turkey, a goose, a fowl, a partridge, and a pigeon. Season them all very well, take half an ounce of mace, half an ounce of nutmegs, a quarter of an ounce of cloves, and half an ounce of black pepper; all beat fine together, two large spoonfuls of salt, and then mix them together. Open the fowls all down the back, and bone them; first the pigeon, then the partridge, cover them; then the fowl, then the goose, and then the turkey, which must be large; season them all well first, and lay them in the crust, so as it will look only like a whole turkey; then have a hare ready cased, and wiped with a clean cloth. Cut it to pieces; that is joint it; season it, and lay it as close as you can on one side; on the other side woodcocks, moor game, and what sort of wild fowl you can get. Season them well, and lay them close; put at least four pounds of butter into the pie, then lay on your lid, which must be a very thick one, and let it be well baked. It must have a very hot oven, and will take at least four hours."

Cake is often mentioned as being served during the Christmas season. These were probably quite similar to cakes we serve today, including decorative icing. Martha Washington's recipe for a "great Cake," which she sent to her granddaughter Martha Parke Custis. This cake was typical of the kind served in Virginia at the time and was a rich fruit-filled cake. The recipe reads: "Take 40 eggs and divide the whites from the yolks & beat them to a froth then work 4 pounds of butter to a cream & put the whites of eggs to it a Spoon full at a time till it is well work'd then put 4 pounds of sugar finely powder'd to it in the same manner then put in the Youlks of eggs & 5 pounds of flower & 5 pounds of fruit. 2 hours will bake it add to it half an ounce of mace & nutmeg half a pint of wine & some fresh brandy."

A popular part of the celebration then, is the same as now, the singing of Christmas carols. Some of today's favorites were favorites then. "Joy to the World" (written in 1719), "God Rest

You Merry Gentlemen" (medieval), "The First Noel" (medieval), "Lully Lullay - The Coventry Carol" (1534), "The Holly & Ivy" (medieval).

During the pre-Revolutionary War period, it appears that the Christmas visitors were frequently the same people. On January 6th, 1760, the Washington's one year anniversary of their marriage, Martha was ill with the measles. In spite of this they entertained their neighbors and close friends, George and Sally Fairfax and three other unnamed gentlemen. Ten years later, again on January 6th, three members of the Fairfax family and an unnamed man celebrated the Washingtons tenth anniversary. The same number came to the anniversary dinner in 1770 and 1771. In 1773, again on January 6th, Colonel Fairfax and fourteen guests attended. According to the General's diary in 1775, six people including four from the Digges family attended the anniversary party. It is thought that this consistency in attendance at Mount Vernon would apply to the Christmas celebration.

At Mount Vernon, not only the Washington family, celebrated Christmas but so did the hired staff and the slaves. The preserved records clearly show that the work force received a four day holiday from work. These four days off did not include the household staff, and we do not know how Washington compensated them for the extra effort. The household servants including the kitchen staff, were required to provided services that could not be suspended. Wash-

ington changed their daily work schedules to provide them as much free time as possible. He did this on each Sunday, therefore it is safe to assume it applied to the Christmas holiday as well. Martha's granddaughter, Nelly Custis Lewis described in a letter to a friend how the rescheduling worked: "... The Genl [General] rode every day to his Farms & returned at 2 o'clock generally-dressed & dined at 3 every day, except Sunday-2 o'clock was the hour on that day, to accommodate his servants with a long afternoon ..."

The Mount Vernon plantation was divided into several 'farms', with each having their owns managers, called overseers, who provided Washington with detailed reports on



CHRISTMAS AT MOUNT VERNON WAS A FAMILY AFFAIR

the activities taking place, including work assignments. The Overseer for Ferry Farm reported on the last days of 1785 that the men had been: "employed since the Hollidays making Horse pens." Although misspelled, the word Hollidays, is plural inferring that the work force had multiple days off.

Contrary to popular opinion, not all the labor at Mount Vernon was accomplished Slaves. Hired workers, mostly of European extraction were employed and appear to have been given the same holidays as the slaves.

In the spring of 1787, George Washington hired a new gardener, Philip Bater. A contract was written regarding his employment, specifying the number of holidays he would have off. Washington was aware of Bater's like for liquor. This contract concerning Christmas demonstrates George Washington had a sense of humor:

"In Consideration of these things being well and truly performed on the part of the said Philip Bater the said George Washington doth agree to allow him . . . four Dollars at Christmas, with which he may be drunk 4 days and 4 nights; two Dollars at Easter to effect the same purpose; two Dollars also at Whitsontide, to be drunk two days . . ."

With the days of the holiday established, the work force at Mount Vernon were excused from their daily chores, would celebrate with abandon, frequently getting out of hand. While serving as President, his nephew George Augustine Washington wrote in 1790, that he wanted to take a vacation to Berkeley plantation, the home of the Harrisons. He complained that the amount of work that still had to be done. He wrote: ". . . I shall now delay untill after Christmas as I should not wish to [be] absent at that time as I always observe at that time much attention is necessary to preserve order and [p]revent abuses . . ." A few days after Christmas he again wrote the General: ". . . Christmas being a time that requires more attention than any other to preserve order in a large Family I thought [it] prudent not to absent myself during that time . . ."

The consumption of spirits during holidays was quite common among the lower classes and the slaves Julian

Ursyn Niemcewicz (1758-1841) a Polish poet, playwright and statesman, and a strong supporter of our constitution, visited George Washington at Mount Vernon in 1798. He wrote that he saw the slaves of the plantation entertaining themselves: ". . . there were about thirty divided in two bands playing at the bar. They were springing and gamboling as if they were at rest all through the week. . ."

When on holiday, the work force at Mount Vernon, received gifts of money or liquor at Christmas, an old English tradition. Within the financial records maintained by George Washington we find the entry "one Gall'n. Whiskey, costing three shillings, was given to the Negroes at Xmas". This small amount of liquor indicates it was probably confined to the household and kitchen staff, as it certainly was not enough for the entire work force.

The giving of gifts was commonplace. In the newspapers of the day you will find advertisements placed by shopkeepers recommending appropriate gifts. These suggestions included little books, toys and sweets. However, the practice of giving gifts was different than it is today. Parents or masters gave gifts to their children or dependents, which included servants, slaves and apprentices. The recipients of these favors did not reciprocate. Nor, were gifts exchanged between peers.

At Christmas of 1768, one of the overseers, Israel Morris, was given one pound and ten shillings and another man, Mike, who may have been a slave, received ten shillings,

On December 24th, 1787, for Christmas fifteen shillings were distributed to the servants. The next year, three of Mount Vernon employees, a tailor, a shoemaker, and a "Dutchman" (?) were given three shillings each, George Washington's long time secretary Tobias Lear received twelve shillings, and two slaves, Peter and Giles, each received six shillings.

During the second year of his presidency, while in Philadelphia, the "watchman" was given a Christmas gift of five dollars.

Unlike most Virginians, George Washington



A QUIET CARD GAME WAS ONE OF WASHINGTON'S FAVORITE PAST TIMES



was well travelled. His service as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, and then his two terms as President where he had to have observed many different local customs. Some of which he probably adopted. Christmas gift-giving was one of the methods of celebrating the holiday.

The first two years of his presidency, the Capitol was in New York City. There Washington would have seen the more liberal style of celebration of the Dutch and their influence. There is no surviving evidence that Washington adopted any of these "foreign" customs, with the exception of giving gifts to those who were not members of the family or servants, but those that performed other services. On the New Year's Day of 1791, Washington gave one dollar "to a printer's Boy for a new Year's Gift". On the same day, he gave a like gift to another printer's boy. A printer's boy was a boy who delivered the newspaper.

The German influence on Christmas was extensive.

Much of what we living in the 21st century do today originated with them. These traditions were completely unknown to the Washington family. The first recorded use of a Christmas tree in Williamsburg was 1842, when a German faculty member, Professor Charles Minnegerode at the College of William and Mary set one up.

Stockings filled with treats were hung by the fireplace, was a tradition of the Dutch Saint Nicholas Day. Originally it was the children's wooden shoes that were filled with the treats, but later, stockings were substituted. But these traditions were not accepted by the Anglican or Quaker parts of the country.

The celebration of the Christmas holidays at Mount Vernon was a happy time, and brought together family and friends and were enjoyed by George and Martha Washington. Merry Christmas.

Donald N. Moran



THE LADIES MOUNT VERNON ASSOCIATION FAITHFULLY CREATES CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AS THEY APPEARED IN GEORGE AND MARTHA WASHINGTON'S TIME.

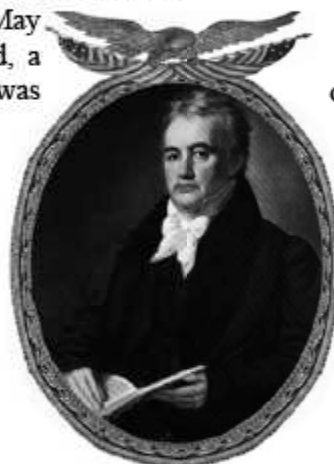


OUR INTERESTING ANCESTORS - JOHN PINTARD

John Pintard was born in New York on May 18th, 1759, a descendant of Antoine Pintard, a Huguenot from La Rochelle, France. John was orphaned in his first year when his father, John, a seagoing merchant, and his mother, Mary Cannon, died on a voyage to Haiti. He was raised by his uncle, Lewis Pintard, and attended grammar school at Hempstead, Long Island, under his uncle by marriage, the Reverend Leonard Cutting.



John attended the College of New Jersey (now Princeton), but left school to join the patriot forces when the British attacked New York. He went on various expeditions to harass the enemy, but returned to school to receive the degree of A. B. in 1776. He wrote an account of the evacuation of New York when it was



JOHN PINTARD (1759 - 1844)
ANCESTOR OF
COMPATRIOT KERRY DAVIDSON

occupied by the British that same year. He served as deputy commissary of prisoners at New York under his uncle Lewis where his duties were to examine and relieve the wants of the prisoners. On November 12th, 1784, he married Elizabeth Brashear, daughter of Col. Abraham Brashear of Paramus, New Jersey. Col. Brashear was an ardent patriot and a close friend and confidant of General George Washington at Morristown.

John inherited a legacy from his maternal grandfather, John Cannon, which allowed him to go into the China and East India trade. Like his father and his grandfather before him, John served as an alderman to the City of New York. He was rated one of New York's most successful and prosperous merchants, however, he lost his fortune in 1792 by

By: Kerry Davidson

engaging with William Duer in Alexander Hamilton's scheme to fund the national debt. John had personally endorsed notes for over a million dollars and was imprisoned for the debt. He lived in Newark, New Jersey for eight years and declared bankruptcy in New York. He never recovered his old fortune, but his position and respect in the community enabled him to contribute generously to the projects he sponsored.

In 1803, Pintard went to New Orleans to renew his fortune but decided not to settle there. He returned to New York and filed a very favorable report of the French colony with Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin and Minister to France James Monroe, another relative by marriage. Pintard's report was instrumental in convincing Thomas Jefferson to purchase the Louisiana Territory.

Pintard's great work was as a promoter and New York Governor DeWitt Clinton was always ready to enlist his support in any enterprise. He served as first city inspector for many years after 1804. In 1805 he began the efforts which became the present free school system in New York. He was also active in the movement that resulted in the building and completion of the Erie Canal. Pintard surveyed the plans for the streets and avenues in upper New York City. He was authorized by the Corporation of New York to issue fractional notes during the War of 1812. He was secretary of the Mutual Assurance Company from 1809 to 1829. From 1819 to 1829 he served as secretary of the New York Chamber of Commerce and as treasurer of the Sailor's Snug Harbor from 1819 to 1823.

John Pintard was a founder of the New York Historical Society and the Massachusetts Historical Society, and is considered the father of historical societies in America. He also served as manager of the New York lotteries and was first Sagamore of the Tammany Society when it was a benevolent organization.

A deeply religious man, Pintard was one of the chief supporters of the General Theological Seminary and founded the American Bible Society. He was vestryman for the Huguenot Church of New York City for thirty-four years and his translation of the "Book of Common Prayer" from English to French is still used today. In 1822, the degree of LL.D. was conferred on him by Allegheny College.

On a curious note, John Pintard is considered by some to be the person who sparked the creation of the popular image of Santa Claus in America. The most famous member of the New York Historical Society was Pintard's cousin Washington Irving, who made much of St. Nicholas in his 1809 book

"Knickerbocker's History of New York", which was actually published on St. Nicholas Day. Pintard had previously introduced St. Nicholas as the symbolic patron saint of the Historical Society, which held annual dinners on December 6th, St. Nicholas Day. For the Historical Society's St. Nicholas Day dinner in 1810, John Pintard commissioned the publication of a broadside containing a picture of St. Nicholas in the

form of a rather stern, magisterial Bishop, bringing gifts for good children and punishments for bad ones. Two weeks later, and presumably in response to Pintard's broadside, a New York newspaper printed a poem about St. Nicholas. Clement C. Moore, a member of Pintard's church, joined the New York Historical Society in 1813, and in 1820 wrote the now famous "A Visit from St. Nicholas (*The Night before Christmas*)."

According to scholars who have investigated this subject, before Pintard's interventions there had been no evidence of Santa Claus rituals in the state of New York.

Encumbered by blindness in his later years, John Pintard died at the home of his daughter, Louise Pintard Servoss, in New York on June 21st, 1844.



THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ESTABLISHED BY JOHN PINTARD



JOHN PINTARD'S SAINT NICHOLAS BOARDSIDE THAT ENCOURAGED CLEMENT MOORE'S POEM.



Meeting Minutes For October 18th, 2008

The Sons of Liberty Chapter, SAR held it's October 18th, 2008 meeting at the Tam O'Shanter Restaurant. President David M. Hayball presiding. Attending were: Gary Bohannon, Douglas Bradley, Jim Bradley, Berni Campbell, Scott Campbell, John Darnell, Kerry Davidson, Lowell Downer, Glenn Gujda, Melvin Harrell, David Hayball, Jim McHargue, Don Moran, Lt. Col. David Smith-Vic Springer. Guests were: Mary Campbell, Terry Fernell, Kathy Harrell, Cale Jamieson, Linda Moran, Zelma Simon, Damien Smith and Anne Springer and guest speaker George Mark.



OPENING CEREMONY

The Invocation was given by the Rev. Victor Springer, The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Don Moran and the Pledge to the SAR by Berni Campbell.

PROGRAM

George Mack, who teaches American History, was nominated by our Chapter, and selected by the State Society to be sent to the Valley Forge Teachers Program. George described the program, and presented a slide show of the tour through the southern states. His remarks were very informative and it is obvious we sent the right teacher!

SEPTEMBER 20th MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the September 20th, 2008 meeting were distributed. It was moved by the Scott Campbell and seconded by Jim McHargue to accept the minutes. The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The Treasurer's report was distributed with a balance in our checking account of \$336.73. Secretary Don Moran explained that \$605.00 had been issued to the National and State Societies for new member application fees, and that checks from the applicants are being deposited. It was moved by Glenn Gujda and seconded by Vic Springer to accept the report. The motion carried.

PERMANENT FUND REPORT

The report of the Permanent Fund Trustees was distributed. The combined total of the Chapter's Permanent Fund is \$53,250.22. It was reported by Jim McHargue that the recent problems with the stock market

should be affect our investments.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR

Registrar Berni Campbell gave the report, with 23 applications in various stages of completion, with 7 of them having been sent to State or will be shortly.

CHAPTER MEDALS PROPOSAL

Compatriot Don Moran reported that the medals are being struck and displayed them. Several of our compatriots that had pre-ordered them were proudly wearing them. Many favorable comments were made regarding their appearance.

PRESIDENT DAVID HAYBALL PRESENT-



ING GUEST SPEAKER GEORGE MACK THE CHAPTER'S "MASSING OF THE COLORS MEDAL", THE FIRST ONE EVER PRESENTED! GEORGE, IN ADDITION TO BEING A TEACHER, IS THE LEADER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR REENACTMENT GROUP, THE BRITISH 23RD REGIMENT OF FOOT, THE ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS. HE ALSO RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION.

TREATY OF PARIS PROCLAMATION

Secretary Don Moran reported that National SAR requested we procure a

municipal proclamation regarding the 225th anniversary of the Treaty of Paris. Compatriot Jeffrey Prang, Mayor of West Hollywood complied and it has been forwarded to National. He also arranged for one from the State Legislature which was displayed. A special thanks to Jeff.

OUR HISTORY ARCHIVES WEB SITE

Our Web Master, Compatriot Gary Bohannon provided us with the latest very impressive statistics on the activities on our web site. Thousands have been accessing our articles and some have added links to it on their web sites.

RESIGNATION

Secretary Don Moran resigned as a Trustee of the Permanent Fund, advising that the recent developments and increased regulations of the IRS require more expertise then he possesses. He requested that former President James McHargue, a retired IRS Agent be appointed as his replacement. President David Hayball made the appointment. Ratification of the appointment was made by Don Moran, seconded by Scott Campbell, and was unanimously approved.

BENEDICTION

The closing benediction was led by the Rev. Victor M. Springer.

CLOSING RITUAL

The closing ritual was led by President David M. Hayball.

There being no further business before the Chapter, the meeting was adjourned.

Donald N. Moran, Secretary





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The Liberty Tree

October 2008

COMING EVENTS MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 15TH, 2008

Speaker

LT. COL. DAVID SMITH

topic:

COLONEL SMITH HAS
RETURNED FROM A TOUR OF
DUTY IN BAGHDAD, IRAQ AND
WILL BRING US A FIRST HAND
ACCOUNT OF THE SITUATION
IN IRAQ.



To be held at the
Tam O' Shanter
2980 Los Feliz Blvd
Los Angeles, California

YOUR 2009 DUES ARE DUE



ALONG WITH YOUR OCTOBER ISSUE
OF THE LIBERTY TREE YOU WERE
SENT YOUR 2009 DUES NOTICE. WE'D
APPRECIATE YOUR REMITTANCE BE-
FORE THE COLLECTION DEADLINE OF
DECEMBER 1ST, 2008

2008

- Nov. 7th & 8th ---- State Meeting
- Nov. 15th ---- Monthly Meeting
- Dec. 20th ----- Christmas Party
2009
- Jan. 17th ---- Installation of
Officers Luncheon
- Feb. 21st ---- Monthly Meeting
- Feb. 22nd ----- G. Washington
Massing of the Colors
- Mar 21st --- Monthly Meeting
- April 17th- 18th - State Meeting
Irvine, CA
- Apr. 18th --- Monthly Meeting
- May 16th --- Monthly Meeting
- June 20th --- Monthly Meeting
- July 4th - 8th - Annual Congress
- Atlanta, GA
- Oct. 3rd & 4th ----- Marching
Through History