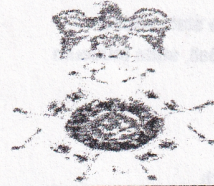


Sons of the American Revolution



HARRIS FERRY CHAPTER - PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY

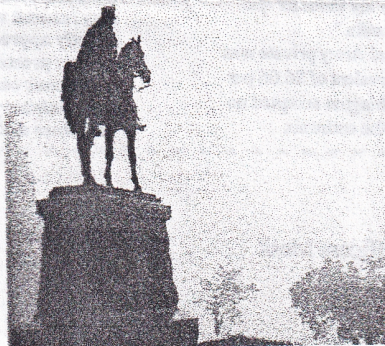
Washington's Birthday Meeting

The Washington's Birthday Meeting of the Harris Ferry Chapter will be held Sunday February 20, 2000 at the Commissioned Officers' Mess, U.S. Navy Support Station, 5450 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg.

The Meeting will be held jointly with the Harrisburg Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The featured speaker will be the new Dauphin County District Attorney, Ed Marsico.

Reservations for the \$12 per person event are due February 17, 2000. Checks should be made payable to the Harris Ferry Chapter-SAR. Send them to Walker V. Hoak, Treasurer, 107 N. 34th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109-3605. You may phone 545-3888 with any questions.

A reservation coupon is on the rear of this newsletter.



Valley Forge by Eric Bugaile

SAR Almanac is a publication of the Harris Ferry Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, 306 Maple Road, Middletown, Pa. 17057
Edwin R. Miller, Secretary
Eric Bugaile, Editor

Pringle is the 35th President

John A. Pringle of 2100 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill is the Chapter's new president. He succeeds David Hartman of West Hanover Township in the post. Pringle takes over as the chapter prepares to celebrate its 60th anniversary on May 9, 2000. He was installed at the 59th annual meeting on December 5, 1999 in Mechanicsburg.

Hartman, president for two years, is recovering at home from a mild heart attack suffered in January.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

For 2000

Chapter President

John A. Pringle	737-2594
Vice President	
Fred M. Cardene Jr.	975-0122
Herbert H. Braden	964-1802
Secretary	
Edwin R. Miller	944-7364
306 Maple Road, Middletown, Pa. 17057	
Treasurer	
Walker V. Hoak	545-3888
Chancellor	
Charles H. Stone, Esq.	774-3035
Chaplain	
Robert T. Coleman	732-1110
Publicity	
Eric C. Bugaile	568-0898
Registrar	
David E. Hartman	489-2825
Genealogist	
Robert L. Maley	671-1272
Board Members	
Richard H. King	568-8114
William S. Marshall III	938-1792
Willis R. Friese, Jr.	865-0184
Richard N. Rice	533-3496
LTC Oscar H. Stroh	599-5117



Power Transfer

John Pringle, left is congratulated by past president David Hartman at the chapter's Annual Meeting in December.

Activities Agenda 2000

February 20- Washington's Birthday Program

April 29- Chapter Board meeting

May 9 -Chapter's 60th Birthday

June 14 - Flag Day Program, 13 star flag flown over the state capitol

July 4 - Independence Program, ringing of the Liberty Bell, state museum

Sept. - Constitution Anniversary Program with the DAR

Sept 30 - Chapter Board Meeting

Nov. 18 - Chapter Board Meeting

Dec. 14 -bell tolling commemorates Washington's death

Dec. --Annual Meeting



George Washington: Greatest Character of the Age

Dec. 14, 1999, marks the 200th anniversary of the death (from a throat infection) of the nation's foremost hero. Its about time his achievements once again find ii central place in American history and society.

When it comes to the genuine heroes of American history, academia seems to know no bounds. Radical revisionist historians have effectively written what they arrogantly dismiss as DWEMs (dead white European males) out of contemporary "social studies" books. Political correctness has run amuck, ignoring and often denigrating even George Washington. For example, the authors of United States History reduced him to a "man of ordinary talents ... not completely successful as a military man nor as a president."

This is their verdict on a man who arch-enemy English King George III called "the greatest character of the age" and who was praised by German military genius Frederick the Great for leading the Continental Army to victory. Congress thought his deeds so great that it declared him "General of the Armies" in 1976. Yet today, American society elevates undeserving and superficial individuals to the status of hero. "The qualities Washington possessed just aren't as appreciated as they were laments James Rees, director at Mount Vernon, Washington's Virginia home. "I suppose it has to do with the end of the great-man theory in history ..."

To find unstinting praise for Washington nowadays, one must consult references of old. No less

an authority than the 1968 edition of Encyclopedia Britannica had this to say about the commander-in-chief of the Army of the United Colonies: It is unquestionable that Washington's strength of character, is ability to hold the confidence of army and people and to diffuse his own courage among them, his unremitting activity and his strong common sense constituted the chief factors in achieving American victory. While Washington is justifiably famous for enduring the winter at Valley Forge and his brilliant actions at Bostons Dorchester Heights, Trenton, Princeton, Monmouth and Yorktown, he is less well-known for developing his winning character traits during the French & Indian War (1754-1762). He endured 78 (days in the wilderness where an Indian shot at him "not 15 steps away," had four bullets shot through his coat at the same time two horses were shot out from tinder him, watched hundreds of men butchered in battle and defended 350 miles of frontier with a minuscule force of provincials, all by the age of 23.

"In this defeat (Maj. Gen. Edward Braddocks infamous massacre on the Monongahela in 1755), Washington displayed the combination of coolness and determination, the alliance of

unconquerable energy with complete poise, which was the secret of so many of his successes:" concluded the Encyclopedia Britannica.

As Rees points out, "He was one of the five most famous Americans from the age of 23 on." That fame goes well beyond being one of the best generals in U.S. history or an insightful statesman who molded 13 disparate colonies into a united nation. The mere feat of assuring the establishment of a republic got him elected to the Hall of Fame For Great Americans.

Rees says he also was "the most influential architect in 18th century America, bar none." As the nation's premier farmer, Washington invented farm equipment and improved soil conservation and crop growing techniques, too.

But to the men who served under him, modesty was his most enduring trait. He fought for their rights as veterans and recognition of their sacrifices. He even confessed: "I have often thought how much happier I should have been, if, instead of accepting a command under such circumstances, I had taken my musket upon my shoulder and entered the ranks."

A Continental Army private was paid the equivalent of \$6.66 per month. Washington accepted no pay, during the entire six

grueling years he lead the Army. Men who had enlisted for the wars duration were

furloughed "without a farthing (a British monetary unit equal to 1/4 of a penny) of money in their pockets." Before the Revolution ended, he created the first American military medal the Badge of Military Merit "to cherish a virtuous ambition in his soldiers."

More important, Washington gave credit where it was due. "We must give gratitude to those men who have rescued us from the jaws of danger," he said, "and brought us to the honor of independence

Leave a Legacy

There is no greater cause than preserving the

memory of our ancestors, troops and patriots who founded this great country.

The SAR is dedicated to preserving that memory perpetually.

Think of your chapter in your yearly contributions to charitable organizations and when planning your will. Any amount will be greatly appreciated to help us promote programs that honor our Revolutionary War ancestors and Founders.

RESERVATION-Washington's Birthday Meeting

Noon, Sunday, February 20, AT THE U.S. Navy Commissioned Officers Mess

TO: Harris Ferry Chapter, c/o Walker Hoak, Treasurer (Tel. 545-3888)

107 N. 34th St. Harrisburg, PA 17109-3605

Enclosed is a check payable to the "Harris Ferry Chapter, SAR" in amount of \$_____ for _____

Luncheons at \$12.00 each for the Annual Meeting.

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

NAMES of Guests: _____