

M I N N E S O T A

# SAR Salute



THE MINNESOTA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NEWSLETTER • [www.sar.org/mnssar](http://www.sar.org/mnssar) • WINTER 2010

## MNSSAR 121ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



*Allen Dean Shepersky, Stephen Paul Thompson, Arthur Louis Finnell, John Charles Sassaman received membership certificates or supplemental certificates during the annual meeting.*

Minneapolis, Minnesota – The Minnesota Society, and the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution held their annual general meetings at Jax Cafe on January 9, 2010. Luncheon, from the menu, was served during the meeting.

The society was called to order by President James Fredrick Foster. The colors were presented by Hon. Paul K. Theisen, Commander of the MNSSAR Color Guard. Compatriot Bill Thomas led the Pledge to the U.S. flag and read the Pledge to the SAR, and Compatriot COL Ronald McRoberts gave the Invocation.

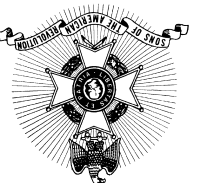
The Minnesota Society was then recessed and the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Chapters conducted their business.

*continued inside...*

**INSIDE THE  
MNSSAR SALUTE...**  
.....  
MNSSAR 121st Annual General  
Meeting Held at Jax Cafe  
.....  
Minnesota Society SAR  
Officers for 2010  
.....  
American Eagle

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Minnesota Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
2700 East Minnehaha Parkway  
Minneapolis, MN 55406-3743





# MNSSAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## Saint Paul Chapter

With the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the meeting of the Saint Paul Chapter was called to order by Secretary-Treasurer, Timothy Harris. Noting that the Saint Paul Chapter has a much smaller treasury than the Minneapolis Chapter, two Saint Paul Chapter members made generous donations equaling \$350. During the Minnesota business meeting Compatriot Jones led an auction of a SAR blazer patch and six bicentennial medallions from the estate of Charles Albert Stuck, with the proceeds of \$135 going to the Saint Paul Chapter.

Saint Paul Secretary-Treasurer Timothy Harris reported that ten of the usually twelve area high schools participated in the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal Program in 2009 and their students were presented with medals the past May.

On Flag Day, June 14, 2009, five Saint Paul businesses were presented with a flag certificate for showing their patriotism and love of country by regularly flying the flag.

## Minneapolis Chapter

The Minneapolis Chapter was called to order by President Robert Kahl. Minneapolis Chapter Secretary-Treasurer Jones reported that the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal was presented in 26 area high schools in 2009, and that the Minneapolis Chapter also had presentations at two squadrons of

Naval Sea Cadets. Letters have already been mailed to all schools/units for the 2010 program. In addition a letter was sent to Insight School of Minnesota inviting their participation.

The Minneapolis Chapter will donate \$100 to the Lake Minnetonka Society C.A.R.

## Minnesota Society Membership

Secretary-Treasurer Jones reported on membership. During 2009 we had eight new members, three reinstatements, three deaths, one transferred to another society, and two resigned, giving a net increase of five, for a membership of 133, plus four dual members as of 31 December 2009. However, there are still eight that owe 2010 dues, who, if not paid by 25 January 2010, will be dropped for non-payment of dues.

Stephen Paul Thompson and Allen Dean Shepersky were welcomed as new members and presented their certificates and rosettes. New member Zachary Allan Remple was unable to be present. His certificate will be mailed. Supplemental Applications have been approved for Arthur Louis Finnell, Marvin Eugene Stonecipher, and John Charles Sassaman, all of whom were presented with certificates. Minnesota State Registrar Finnell was presented the Liberty Medal Certificate and Oak Leaf Cluster. The award had been given at the National Congress in Atlanta in July 2009 and forwarded to us for presentation.

## Minnesota Society Endowment Trust Fund

The Trustees proposed that the 2009 interest of \$470.06 be used to pay the following donation items: Duluth Public Library \$50.00 (which will be a 3-year subscription to the SAR Magazine and \$35.00 for books), Minnesota Genealogical Society \$35.00, Taylor Grave Flowers \$20.00, Preservation Alliance of Minnesota \$40.00, Minnesota Genealogical Journal \$26.63, and the balance of \$298.43 to the MNSAR Color Guard.

## Minnesota Society Contests and Awards

Compatriot Jones reported on the ROTC Medal Program. Letters have already been mailed to the 14 JROTC units and the 7 ROTC units in Minnesota. Several compatriots have assisted with the presentations over the last few years and several spoke of their experiences at these ceremonies and their desire to do this service again.

Compatriot Timothy Harris reported on the Eagle Scout Program, indicating that he mailed packets to 931 new Eagle Scouts in 2009 and has received several entries for the contest thus far. Our Minnesota winner will be presented at the next meeting.

## MNSSAR Color Guard

Compatriot Paul Kent Theisen reported for the Minnesota SAR Color Guard. He appeared in uniform at this meeting. The group has made several appearances and have additional plans, such as visitations/wakes for deceased members, etc. He

asked for more volunteers to serve in this outstanding unit.

## Other Business

Compatriot Arthur Finnell reported that he is a frequent visitor at the Veterans Hospital in Minneapolis and that the waiting rooms have very little reading material. He offered to be the contact point for past issues of The SAR Magazine and other publications from lineage and historical societies, which he will deliver to the hospital. You may mail your patriotic publications to:

Arthur Louis Finnell  
7501 W. 101st Street #104  
Bloomington, MN 55438

COL McRoberts presented a project to publish a booklet/pamphlet on the life of Stephen Taylor, the only known revolutionary soldier buried in Minnesota. Details will be formulated and a written proposal will be presented to the Society at the Washington Day Luncheon. A motion passed to endorse the project, pending details.

The officers of the Minnesota Society, the Minneapolis Chapter, and the Saint Paul Chapter were installed by Compatriot Jones.

Following the retirement of the colors by Commander Theisen, Compatriot Thomas read the SAR Recessional, and with no further business appearing, President Foster declared the annual meetings of the Minnesota Society, Minneapolis Chapter, and Saint Paul Chapter adjourned.



## 2010 MINNESOTA SOCIETY SAR OFFICERS

The following compatriots were nominated and re-elected to serve the Minnesota Society and/or their respective chapters. Congratulations to all the compatriots who accepted service to the Minnesota Society Sons of the American Revolution.

### MINNESOTA SOCIETY SAR

President.....James Fredrick Foster  
 Vice President .....COL Ronald Edward McRoberts  
 Secretary-Treasurer.....John Hallberg Jones, PP  
 Registrar.....Arthur Louis Finnell, PP  
 Genealogist & Asst. Registrar.....William Leslie DeCoursey, PP  
 Chancellor.....Hon. David Sinclair Bouschor, PP  
 Historian/Newsletter Editor .....Timothy Charles Harris, PP  
 Librarian.....Thomas Christopher Harris  
 Surgeon.....Dr. Roy Franklin House, Jr.  
 Chaplain.....The Rev. Richard Lanklyn Vork  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Paul Victor William E. Miller

Past Presidents are automatically members of the Board of Managers. Those not named above are:

Stephen John Ernest	Duane L.C.M. Galles, Esq.
Curtis John Oliver	Marvin Eugene Stonecipher
Michael Scott Swisher	Hon. Paul Kent Theisen
Page Gregory Whitmore	Buford Allen Young

#### Board of Managers:

(up to 20 members, in addition to the above.)

Geoffrey Robert Bodeau, M.D.	Charles Edward Boyles
Tracy Ashley Crocker	Peter Arrott Dixon
Jay Thomas W. Franklin	William Arthur Harris, Sr.
Hon. William Raymond Johnson	Robert Edward Kahl, II
Mark Allen Labine	Larry Allan Lundblad, Ph.D.
Robert Arthur Minish	Thomas Truxtun Morrison, Sr.
Randall Roger Nelson	Christopher John Pizinger
John Charles Sassaman	Larry Wray Sisk
George Floyd Smith, M.D.	Robert Leslie Smith, III
Rehn Douglas Smith	Stephen John Vescelus

#### SAR Endowment Trust Fund: (three year terms)

Trustee ending January 2011 .....Duane L.C.M. Galles, Esq., PP  
 Trustee ending January 2012 .....Michael Scott Swisher, PP  
 Trustee ending January 2013 .....John Hallberg Jones, PP

#### Nominated for election at the NSSAR National Congress in Cleveland, Ohio in July 2010:

National Trustee for Minnesota ...Peter Arrott Dixon, PP  
 Alternate National Trustee MN ...John Hallberg Jones, PP

### MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER

President.....Robert Edward Kahl, II  
 Vice President .....Rehn Douglas Smith  
 Secretary-Treasurer.....John Hallberg Jones  
 Chaplain.....The Rev. Richard Keene Smith, Jr.  
 Board of Managers.....Hon. David Sinclair Bouschor  
 Tracy Ashley Crocker  
 Timothy Charles Harris

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William Leslie DeCoursey  
 Arthur Louis Finnell  
 Duane L.C.M. Galles, Ph.D.  
 Larry Allan Lundblad, Ph.D.  
 Michael Scott Swisher  
 Hon. Paul Kent Theisen  
 Larry Larson Warren  
 Page Gregory Whitmore

### SAINT PAUL CHAPTER

President.....Larry Wray Sisk  
 Vice President .....Robert Leslie Smith, III  
 Secretary-Treasurer.....Timothy Charles Harris  
 Chaplain.....Michael Scott Swisher  
 Board of Managers.....Marvin Eugene Stonecipher  
 James Fredrick Foster  
 COL Ronald Edward McRoberts

#### The Revolutionary Soldier 1775-1783

is the name of the book that compatriot Paul Kent Theisen presented to fellow members of the MNSSAR Color Guard. If you are interested in obtaining a copy it can be found at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

#### Next Meeting

The Minnesota SAR's annual George Washington Day Luncheon will be held at Jax Cafe on Saturday, February 13, 2010. Festivities begin at 11:30 am and luncheon will be served at 12:00 noon.

# AMERICAN EAGLE

News of Yesterday Reported Today

Friday, December 27, 1776



## STUNNING VICTORY AT TRENTON!

Bristol, Pennsylvania – A few days before Christmas General Washington learned, through a spy, that British Commander Sir William Howe, accompanied by General Cornwallis, returned to New York. Howe had distributed his forces along a chain of posts on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River, from Burlington to Trenton, while garrisoning points in nine other towns.

Having learned of Howe's chain of posts, Washington resolved to strike one of them, finally settling on Trenton. He *had* to do something, *had* to rally the dying rebel cause, *had* to shake and even stagger the enemy before the Delaware froze and became passable, before the disease of defection spread from New Jersey into Pennsylvania and elsewhere, before his army melted away on the first day of 1777.

On December 23 Washington had his army formed into ranks to have the first issue of Tom Paine's *The American Crisis* read to them. Words do not usually inspire soldiers, especially beaten men, such as these threadbare, hungry, shivering ragamuffins. But these words did. A thrill of patriotism and purpose ran through Washington's ragged ranks.

As the daylight of Christmas, 1776 began fading into a storm-tossed night, the American troops began to move toward McKonkey's Ferry. Here were gathered the boats Washington had collected, and at their oars were John Glover's Marbleheaders. Snow mixed with sleet blew into the faces of the men.

The Americans had been enjoined to silence. No soldier

was to break ranks under pain of death. They stood huddled by the ferry landing, ducking their heads into their collars against the rising howl of the storm.

The men entered the boats. Thin, jagged cakes of ice came floating downriver to strike the boats so hard that Glover's Marbleheaders had difficulty keeping afloat. Washington had hoped to have his troops on the New Jersey shore by midnight, but it was not until after three o'clock that General Henry Knox's booming voice announced that the crossing was completed.

Washington formed his forces into two divisions. General Sullivan would take his division – which included John Stark's sharpshooters – down the river road. General Greene's division, accompanied by Washington, would march on Trenton along a road two miles farther inland. Sullivan would hit the bottom of the town, Greene the top. The Americans began marching. The roads were slippery. Cruel ice cut through flimsy footwear and drew blood. In the morning Major Wilkinson could follow the route by the bloodstains in the snow.

But down the roads they marched, steadily gaining on the still-sleeping enemy. With daylight, just before eight o'clock in the morning, both columns reached their destination – and both flushed Hessian pickets and drove them in.

"*Der Feind! Heraus! Heraus!*" the picket shouted. "The enemy! Turn out! Turn out!"

Lieutenant Jacob Piel heard the shouts and rushed to alert Colonel Johann Rall, commander of the Hessian outpost. Piel hammered on Rall's door.

Rall, in his nightclothes, poked his head out the window. Piel told him he had heard firing. Rall withdrew his head and a few minutes later came rushing downstairs in full uniform. He formed his own blue-coated regiment on King Street. The scarlet-coated Lossbergs marched to the right to take over Queen Street parallel with King, while the black-coated Knyphausen Regiment made up the reserve. But at the top of both King and Queen streets stood the American artillery.

Captain Alexander Hamilton's gunners struck their matches in the touchholes. Two cannon to each street roared and bucked. American cheers mingled with the shrieks of Hessian soldiers stricken by grapeshot. Rall's regiment was fragmented and driven back. The other brace of cannon cleared Queen Street, but the Lossbergs mounted their own cannon and fired back. The Americans charged. Captain William Washington – a distant relative of the chief's – and Lieutenant James Monroe led their men right into the cannon's mouth. They captured them, although both were wounded, and turned them on the Hessians.

Sullivan's men, at the bottom of the town, were attacking from the west. Greene's division extended its right flank to join Sullivan, while more of Greene's units worked around to the rear or the east of the town.

Perhaps four hundred Hessians escaped over the Assunpink Creek bridge. The remainder, however, could not get away. Even with wet firelocks the Americans fought with conquering fury. "Use the bayonet," Washington ordered.

"I am determined to take Trenton." Some Americans ran inside the houses to dry their pieces or pick the touchholes clear. They acted as snipers when Rall re-formed his shattered troops and tried to counterattack, and they sent two bullets into Rall's body. The Hessian commander fell from his horse, fatally stricken, and that was about the end of the battle.

As men cut away Rall's clothes to treat his wounds, they found a note in his pocket. On Christmas night, while Colonel Rall was celebrating the Nativity in the hearty German manner, a loyalist wrote a note informing him that the American army was on the march. A servant delivered it. Rall stuck it into his pocket, unread.

Sullivan's troops now held the bridge, and the escape gap was plugged. One by one the Hessian regiments surrendered. In all, about 920 Hessians had been captured, about 24 were killed and 90 wounded. Two Americans had been frozen to death on the march, but not one was killed in the battle; two officers and two privates were wounded.

General George Washington stood radiant on the field. When Major Wilkinson rode up to him to announce that the last enemy regiment had grounded arms, Washington's face actually shown, and he extended his hand in thanks.

"Major Wilkinson," he said, "this is a glorious day for our country."

*Source: George Washington's War by Robert Leckie, HarperCollins Publishers, Inc.*

*Patriots, by A.J. Langguth, Simon and Schuster, 1988*