



# The Buckeye Patriot

## Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12

### Sons of the American Revolution

#### Quarterly Newsletter

Winter, 2020

Volume 16, Issue 1

## From The President's Desk

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Compatriots & Friends,

I truly appreciate the opportunity presented at our February 15th President's Day meeting to serve once again as your President. I pledge to do my best in the fulfillment of this important duty. I would also like to give my heartiest congratulations to those elected to serve the chapter this year in their designated offices, whose names will be displayed on page two of "The Buckeye Patriot." As the new year begins, I want to acknowledge those who faithfully served the chapter this past year. I appreciate the true and loyal support of many compatriots; old and new, as we serve our society, whether locally, statewide, or nationally.

It should also be noted, and it is significantly important for me to do so now, how our chapter holds in the highest regard the members of our Ladies Auxiliary. Our chapter is blessed to have their support, and their presence in our midst is very much treasured! Our Society is a historical, educational, and patriotic organization that seeks to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, an appreciation for true patriotism, and respect for our national symbols. The SAR's motto is "Libertas et Patria" which is Latin for "Liberty and Country." These words serve to remind us of the United States Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

The Sons of the American Revolution insignia consists of a Maltese cross surrounded by a garland, with a relief of George Washington in the center circle. The cross' vertical bar represents the first and greatest commandment, "you shall love the Lord your God." The horizontal bar represents the second commandment (Matthew 22:35-40) "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." The four limbs of the emblem are a reminder of the four cardinal virtues: temperance, prudence, courage (or fortitude), and justice. The eight points on the cross represent the eight spiritual injunctions: 1.) to have spiritual contentment, 2.) to live without malice, 3.) to weep over your sins, 4.) to humble yourself at insults, 5.) to love justice, 6.) to be merciful, 7.) to be sincere and open-hearted, and 8.) to suffer persecution.

The SAR insignia is normally worn suspended by a ribbon of blue, white, and buff, on the wearer's left breast. National officers and former state & chapter presidents wear the insignia suspended from a neck ribbon of the Society's colors. On other occasions, a rosette representing the colors of General George Washington's uniform is worn on the left lapel. The symbolism of the insignia is important for each of us, as members of the Society, to know and keep in our hearts. I'd like to close with the following thought from Peter Marshall, a former Chaplain of the United States Senate:

"May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please but as the opportunity to do what is right."

This is indeed a great message to live by. Please join me in embracing this challenge daily.

Patriotically yours,

Jim Pildner, President  
Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12  
Sons of the American Revolution

## *Welcome New SAR Members!*



*Richard Dana  
Jeffrey Edwards  
John Porter*

## *Annual Election of Officers 2020*



*Left to Right: Steve Hinson, Jim Pildner, Jim Gilbert, Bill Robinson,  
Tim Ward, Troy Bailey, Scott Wludyga & Bob Kenyon*

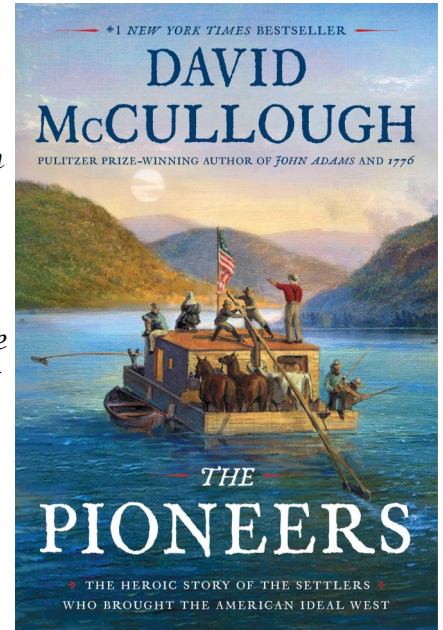
## *Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 Officers*

*President - [Jim Pildner](#)  
1st Vice President - [Jim Gilbert](#)  
2nd Vice President - [Tim Ward](#)  
Registrar - [Troy Bailey](#)  
Genealogist - [Tim Ward](#)*

*Secretary - [Scott Wludyga](#)  
Treasurer - [Bob Kenyon](#)  
Historian - [Scott Wludyga](#)  
Chaplain - [William Robinson](#)*

## *“The Pioneers” by David McCullough*

David McCullough’s *“The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West”* sets out to examine “a cast of real-life characters of historic accomplishment who were entirely unknown to most Americans.” The Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian, who “already had good feelings about pioneer times in Ohio,” wanted his newest volume of work to bring these characters “to life, bring them center stage and tell their amazing and, I felt, important story.” The book’s most important real-life character is Manessah Cutler. The pastor of the First Congregational Church of Ipswich Hamlet in Massachusetts, he would be an unlikely candidate for a rugged, adventurous pioneer at first blush. Yet, this descendent of “strong-minded English Puritans” graduated from Yale College, loved his wife and children, had “boundless intellectual curiosity” and enjoyed “good food, good wine, a good story and good cheer.” He was, therefore, a perfect candidate to set out on the Ohio River. Cutler helped co-found the Ohio Company of Associates at the Bunch of Grapes meeting in 1784. This group would create the first settlement in Ohio, for which he (and other founders) would receive four shares, or 4,692 acres of land. He would also become the spokesman for the “Ohio cause” in front of the Congress in New York, and told Winthrop Sargent “The more I contemplate the prospect the more I feel myself inclined to take an active part in carrying on the settlement and to be one of the first emigrants.”



Nevertheless, Cutler didn’t want to leave his pulpit behind. It was left up to Gen. Rufus Putnam, a “widely known hero of the Revolution and, in normal times, a farmer and surveyor,” to lead this important expedition. Putnam, who, Mr. McCullough writes, had “few human flaws,” communicated often with George Washington. He knew that Washington was an early Ohio land speculator, and “as a young man had seen that wilderness firsthand on surveying expeditions.” By having strong ties with the man who would become the nation’s first president, it would help the Ohio Company immensely. This would eventually lead to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, in which a grant of 5 million acres of land would be purchased for \$3.5 million. The Ohio Company received 1.5 million acres, and a private real estate venture, the Scioto Company, took the rest. This large transaction would help Congress “pay down some of the national debt incurred during the Revolutionary War,” and enable Cutler, Putnam and others to build houses, buildings, churches and a university.

“The Pioneers” also explores some contentious issues of the times. The Native American communities living in the territory “did not believe land was something to be owned,” for example, and were troubled by the settlers. Putnam, in a 1790 letter to Washington, seemed concerned about a “general attack on the frontiers” and felt it’s “possible that the Shawnees etc. may be for peace but I consider it very doubtful.” Many treaties were signed between the Indians and settlers, but distrust still ruled the land in early America. In contrast, Cutler successfully abolished slavery in the new territory. One of his sons, Ephraim, also “made the case for his position that there must be no slavery as strongly as he could.” He was also successful, and would be credited for “shutting and barring the doors against the introduction into Ohio of the monstrous system of African slavery.” It was a triumphant moment for this family, and according to Mr. McCullough, “[n]or was Ephraim’s opposition to slavery ever to fade.” The early pioneers “accomplished what they had set out to do not for money, not for possessions or fame,” writes Mr. McCullough, “but to advance the quality and opportunity of life.” Their success is our success. ([www.washingtontimes.com](http://www.washingtontimes.com))

# George Washington's Advice to America

As he stepped down as commander of the Continental Army, he wrote a 'circular letter' that outlined four essentials for the new nation's success. The American Revolution had just come to an end. George Washington, 51 years old and then the commander in chief of the Continental Army, had resigned his duties and wanted nothing more than to retire to his estate at Mount Vernon and study his crops. Before he stepped back, though, he had some hard-earned wisdom he felt compelled to share with the country. So in the summer of 1783, he drafted his "Circular Letter to the States," in which he detailed what he believed it would take for this American experiment to succeed. In many ways, it was a precursor to his famed Farewell Address 13 years later, a prescient warning to the country of the most likely political pitfalls.

Not that he was angling for the job of leading the transitional new nation. After seven years in the battlefield, Washington wanted nothing more than a respite from public service. "Notwithstanding my advanced season of life," he wrote in a letter to Colonel Henry Lee, "my increasing fondness for agricultural amusements, and my growing love of retirement, augment and confirm my decided predilection for the character of a private citizen." But Washington knew that America had arrived at a momentous crossroads—a place of both great promise and great peril. While the colonists had won the Revolution, a formal peace treaty had not yet been signed with Great Britain. The state governors were wary of handing over any power to Congress, and a wartime army had the daunting task of transitioning back to civilian life. Not to mention, the war had saddled the fledgling nation with massive debt.

With those hardships in mind, General Washington drafted his "Circular Letter," in which he detailed what he believed it would take for this American experiment to succeed. By June 21, 1783, the letter had been sent to all state governors, but Washington was speaking directly to the people of America through his words. "It appears to me there is an option still left to the United States of America. That it is in their choice and depends upon their conduct, whether they will be respectable and prosperous, or contemptible and Miserable as a Nation." Washington appeared to believe that winning the war would be meaningless if the people of America did not do something with their newly achieved freedom. How Americans chose to act in this moment, he felt, would reverberate for future generations: "For with our fate will the destiny of unborn millions be involved." In his letter Washington establishes "four things, which...are essential to the existence, of the United States as an independent Power"—four things he felt would help guide America forward. They included: To have the country be unified "under one federal head." For Americans to keep "a sacred regard to public justice." To create a "proper peace establishment," which at the time meant a peacetime military apparatus. And for Americans to focus on what unites them, which Washington felt "will induce them to forget their local prejudices and policies and, in some instances, to sacrifice their individual advantages to the interest of the community." These guiding principles weren't fully realized in Washington's time. But he had hoped to impart some wisdom that would put this American experiment on the right path. "Liberty," Washington wrote in his letter, "is the basis."

There were some who saw this letter as an overreach of Washington's position as a military leader, a point he himself acknowledged: "I am aware, however, that those who differ from me in political sentiment, may perhaps remark, I am stepping out of the proper line of my duty." Yet Washington firmly believed that "silence in me would be a crime." To remind Americans of the wisdom of his words, Washington's "Circular Letter" would be reprinted in newspapers four years later, on the eve of the 1787 Constitutional Convention. He had originally signed off the letter by stating "I bid a last farewell to the cares of Office, and all the employments of public life," happy to be returning home from war. But his retirement would not last. On April 14th, 1789, a week after being unanimously elected president by Congress, Washington received the election results, personally delivered to Mount Vernon by Charles Thomson, the Secretary of Congress. In his reply, Washington stated: "Whatever may have been my private feelings and sentiments, I believe I cannot give a greater evidence of my sensibility for the honor they have done me, than by accepting the appointment." ([www.history.com](http://www.history.com))

# NEO Chapter #12 Presidents' Day Program



## *18th-Century Log Cabin Discovered Beneath Condemned Bar*

*The structure can be saved, experts say, but whether it can stay in the local community remains unclear*

*A condemned bar has sat awaiting demolition on the corner of Water and Front Streets in the small borough of Washingtonville, Pennsylvania, for more than three years. Recently, contractors finally began to tear the building down, only to discover a historic surprise hidden beneath the bar's exterior: a log cabin, believed to be 200 years old, that is "very much salvageable," as local council president Frank Dombroski tells WNEP's Nikki Krize.*



*The cabin is believed to date to the 1700s*

*Prior to the cabin's discovery, locals had stumbled upon hints that the bar, which has been shuttered for about 12 years, contained precious relics of the area's past. Tyler Dombroski, mayor of the borough (and Frank's son), tells Karen Blackledge of the Daily Item that officials had planned to save some beams in the back of the bar room "because they were so beautiful." But when work on the building exposed not only the beams, but an entire log cabin, "Everybody's jaws dropped," according to the mayor, "because it's a very old structure."*

*The cabin spans two stories, and its beams, at least, are believed to be made of hickory wood. After the discovery, a specialist assessed the cabin and said it was likely built in the 1700s, reports Kashmiri Gander for Newsweek.*

*Washingtonville is one of the oldest settlements in Montour County, Pennsylvania, which traces its roots as far back as 1775. The earliest known map of the borough, created in 1860, shows an L-shaped structure on the site of the newly unearthed building. The log cabin appears to sit at the corner of the "L." As Frank Dombroski tells Newsweek, other additions were appended to the building at some point before the map was made. It is possible, he says, that the cabin was built after the end of the American Revolution in 1783, but its origins are "really a mystery right now."*

*Just as pressing as unearthing the cabin's history is figuring out what to do with it. The structure can't remain where it is because it has no roof and would be threatened by the elements. Buyers have expressed interest in purchasing the property, but "the majority of our residents think the cabin should be commemorated somehow within our community," explains Frank to Newsweek.*

*Council members have asked a contractor to prepare a proposal for taking the cabin down by hand, per the Daily Item. Each piece of the historic building will be numbered and cataloged, with the goal of reconstructing it in a different location at a later date. Officials hope that the structure will someday be rebuilt in Washingtonville—but whether such a project will be possible for the borough of 270 residents remains uncertain.*

*"Because we are a small, rural community, we have a small budget to begin with, and no money set aside to rehabilitate the building which could be quite expensive," Frank tells Newsweek. Washingtonville is raising funds to help out with the initiative, but for now, locals are simply enjoying the cabin while it still stands in its original location. As Mayor Tyler Dombroski tells the Daily Item, "It's like a tourism attraction." ([www.smithsonianmag.com](http://www.smithsonianmag.com))*

## *Lydia Darragh Medal Recipients*



*Lydia Darragh Medal Recipients Sue Matheke & Christine Bailey with Troy Bailey*

## *250th Anniversary of the Boston Massacre*



*In 2026, our nation will be celebrating its 250th (semiquincentennial, or quarter millennium) Anniversary. Many events led to the 1776 declaration. One of the most significant was the Boston Massacre, which took place on March 5th, 1770 on King Street in Boston, Massachusetts. This day is remembered as the day resident British soldiers opened fire on a crowd of unarmed colonists. Frightened by the taunts and threats of civilians, many carrying stout firewood clubs, the soldiers' discipline failed and they opened fire at point blank range. Boston political leaders labeled the incident a massacre, and demanded that the soldiers, including Captain Thomas Preston, be tried for murder. The resulting trial, at which John Adams defended Preston, freed the soldiers but British troops were withdrawn to Castle William in Boston Harbor. There was no further violence, but the Boston Massacre produced colonial martyrs, and provided a rallying point for anti-British sentiments. According to published reports of the day, "There were then killed and wounded, by a discharge of musquetry, eleven of his majesty's subjects." So, "let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent supreme court, and nation of free men."*

# Franklin & Washington: The Founding Partnership

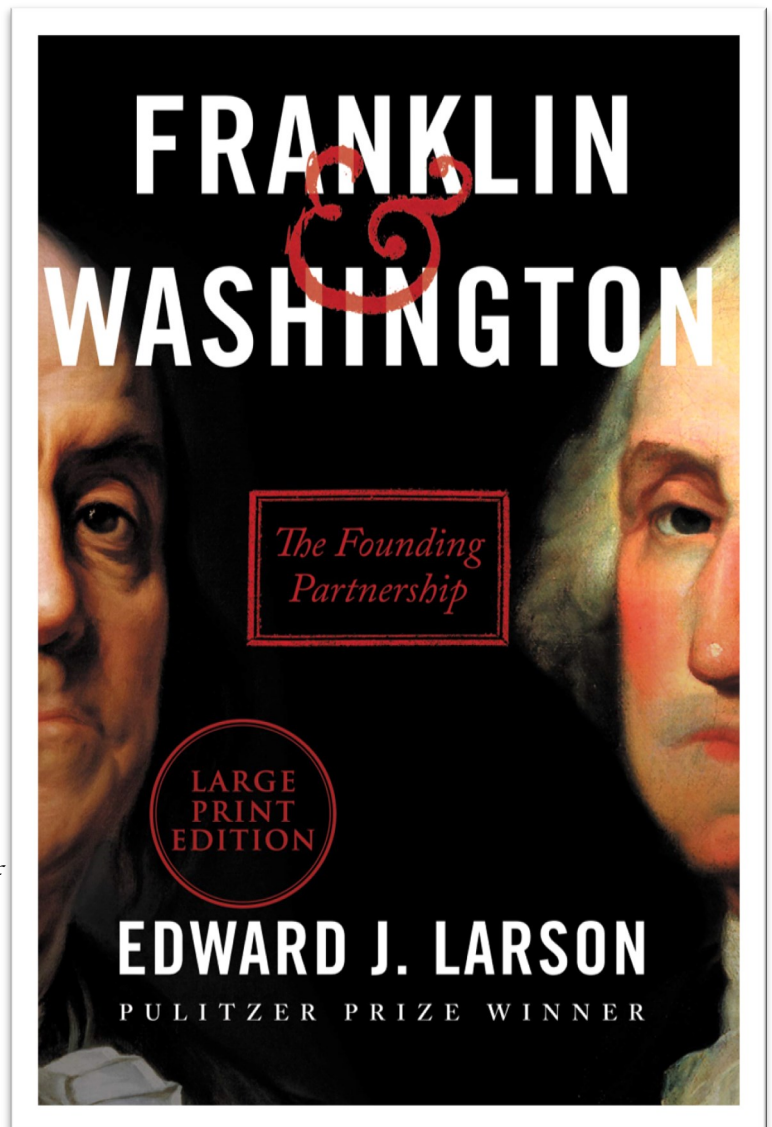
From the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian comes a masterful, first-of-its-kind dual biography of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, illuminating their partnership's enduring importance.

Theirs was a three-decade-long bond that, more than any other pairing, would forge the United States. Vastly different men, Benjamin Franklin—an abolitionist freethinker from the urban north—and George Washington—a slaveholding general from the agrarian south—were the indispensable authors of American independence and the two key partners in the attempt to craft a more perfect union at the Constitutional Convention, held in Franklin's Philadelphia and presided over by Washington. And yet their teamwork has been little remarked upon in the centuries since.

Illuminating Franklin and Washington's relationship with striking new detail and energy, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Edward J. Larson shows that theirs was truly an intimate working friendship that amplified the talents of each for collective advancement of the American project.

During the French and Indian War, Franklin supplied the wagons for General Edward Braddock's ill-fated assault on Fort Duquesne, and Washington buried the general's body under the dirt road traveled by those retreating wagons. After long supporting British rule, both became key early proponents of independence. Rekindled during the Second Continental Congress in 1775, their friendship gained historical significance during the American Revolution, when Franklin led America's diplomatic mission in Europe (securing money and an alliance with France) and Washington commanded the Continental Army. Victory required both of these efforts to succeed, and success, in turn, required their mutual coordination and cooperation. In the 1780s, the two sought to strengthen the union, leading to the framing and ratification of the Constitution, the founding document that bears their stamp.

Franklin and Washington—the two most revered figures in the early republic—staked their lives and fortunes on the American experiment in liberty and were committed to its preservation. Today the United States is the world's great super-power, and yet we also wrestle with the government Franklin and Washington created more than two centuries ago—the power of the executive branch, the principle of checks and balances, the electoral college—as well as the wounds of their compromise over slavery. Now, as the founding institutions appear under new stress, it is time to understand their origins through the fresh lens of Larson's *Franklin & Washington*, a major addition to the literature of the founding era. ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))





# Lucy Knox Chapter NSDAR Honors Peter Doty

Peter Doty was a Revolutionary War soldier. He served as a Private in the New Jersey Militia under Captains Edmund Martin & Daniel Piatt, as well as Colonels Ogden & DeHart. His DAR Ancestor number is A033528. Peter Doty was born May 5th, 1757 in Middlesex County, New Jersey. He died March 18th, 1848 in Sparta, Morrow County, Ohio and was buried at Chester Baptist Cemetery, Morrow County, Ohio.

Photos courtesy of Northeastern Ohio Chapter 12 SAR member, and descendant of Peter Doty, Richard Dana. "My Family also surprised me that day with a shadow box of my Father's service as a pilot with the United States Air Force."



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*Libertas et Patria!*

*This newsletter is intended for members of the  
Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 of the Sons of  
the American Revolution. It is for educational  
purposes only, and is not for sale.*

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## **Important Dates to Remember**

### **NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting**

February 27th - 29th, 2020  
[Brown Hotel](#), 335 W Broadway  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

### **Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 Patriots' Day Program**

Saturday, April 18th, 2020  
Best Friend's Restaurant  
1741 OH-534, Geneva, Ohio 44041

### **[Geauga County Maple Festival](#)**

April 25th & 26th, 2020  
Main Street, Chardon, Ohio 44024

### **OHSSAR Annual Conference**

May 1st - 3rd, 2020  
[Punderson Manor](#)  
11755 Kinsman Road  
Newbury Township, Ohio 44065

### **[Blossom Time Festival](#)**

Sunday, May 24th, 2020  
400 E Washington Street  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022

### **Saybrook Memorial Day Parade**

Monday, May 25th, 2020  
7911 Depot Road  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

### **Ashtabula Memorial Day Parade**

Monday, May 25th, 2020  
Main Avenue, Downtown Ashtabula

### **JVCOCC Flag Day, Army Birthday & Naturalization Ceremony**

Friday, June 12th, 2020  
[Rock & Roll Hall of Fame](#)  
1100 East 9th Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

### **[130th Annual NSSAR Congress](#)**

July 9th - 15th, 2020  
[Richmond Marriott Downtown](#)  
500 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA  
(804) 643-3400

*\* times and dates are tentative and  
subject to change*