



The Buckeye Patriot

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 Sons of the American Revolution Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2023

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From The President's Desk

Compatriots & Friends,

Congratulations to Steve Hinson on becoming Vice President General for the Central District

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 sponsored a Patriot Grave Marking for five Patriots in June at the Concord & Huntoon Cemeteries in Lake County.

A Compatriot Grave Marking took place on September 17th at the Perry Cemetery in Lake County for Dennis Guy Lawrence, in conjunction with the New Bern Chapter of the North Carolina Society, at the request of the Lawrence Family. Compatriot Scott Wludyga live-streamed the Ceremony to Compatriot Lawrence's family & friends. Thank you, Scott, for your effort!

On July 4th. the Chapter attended the New Connecticut Chapter of the D.A.R.'s presentation of a Bronze Marker commemorating Revolutionary War Patriots in Lake County, which has been placed in front of the Lake County Courthouse.

We have presented many Flag Certificate Awards and two Flag Retirement Certificates. I personally awarded Vietnam Army Veteran John Alison a Wounded Warrior Coin & Certificate for his bullet wounds sustained as a Helicopter Pilot.

At our November 11th meeting, we will be awarding WW2 Army Veteran Robert Zonneville a Wounded Warrior Coin & Certificate for wounds sustained in the Battle of Cherbourg, which was part of the Battle of Normandy.

National Dues will be increased from \$45 to \$60, a \$15 increase. State dues will remain \$10, so that's \$70 overall for next year's dues. Please submit your 2024 dues as early as possible.

Patriotically yours,

Gage C. Georgeff, President
Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Sons of the American Revolution
g.georgeff@sbcglobal.net

Welcome New SAR Members!

Maxwell G Fellows
Dennis D Smith

welcome

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 SAR Photos



Jim & Diane Gilbert, Ruth Pugel, Valerie Virant, Paul, Patrick & Troy Bailey, Venie Hinson



Venie Hinson, Hilda Cook, Troy, Paul, & Patrick Bailey



Brian Madden Troy, Paul, and Patrick Bailey



Kathy & Jim Pildner, Gage Georgeff, Troy & Paul Bailey, Bill Douglass

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 Officers

President - [Gage Georgeff](#)
1st Vice President - [Richard Dana](#)
2nd Vice President - [Gregg Gorzelle](#)
Secretary - [Ed Hanlon](#)
Treasurer - [Dennis Gadley](#)

Chaplain - [Bill Robinson](#)
Registrar - [Troy Bailey](#)
Genealogist - [Tim Ward](#)
Historian - [Bob Kenyon](#)

How Did Refugee Road Get Its Name?

When you think of Columbus' connection to refugee and new American communities, you might think of the area's large contemporary Somali, Congolese or Nepali communities. But Columbus' history with refugees goes back even farther — to the American Revolution.

[Refugee Road](#) runs from the South Side of Columbus [Ohio] through the Southwest Side and all the way out to Fairfield County before it becomes Blacklick Eastern Road. So how did Refugee Road get its name, and what does it have to do with Canadian refugees?

According to Ben Baughman, curator at the Ohio History Connection, the name comes from the southern border of the original Refugee Tract of land that the U.S. Congress set aside for Canadians after the American Revolutionary War.

During the Revolutionary War, he said, the colonial government actively recruited Canadian colonists to fight in the Continental Army against the British. To repay them, Congress set aside a part of the Ohio territory to be settled by Canadians. "It was all British land," Baughman said of the relationship between the colonies. "So it wasn't as divided as we think of it today." While some individual Canadians enlisted to serve in the Army, the Canadian colonial governments remained loyal to the British during the war, and the Canadians who served the Continental Army could not return home, because their land was likely confiscated. However, to claim the land in Ohio, you had to prove you served in the Continental Army during the entire war and had been in what is now the United States the entire time during the war and afterward.

In total, 67 claimants were awarded land — around half of the land set aside. The unclaimed was returned to Congress before it was auctioned off. "To make the trip out there and to Ohio, that may have been not an easy trip to do," Baughman said. "Just because you got this land doesn't mean you necessarily want it."

The 100,000-acre tract, which was nearly a rectangle, goes 40 miles west from the Scioto and Olentangy rivers as its western boundary to about the middle of Fairfield County as part of its eastern boundary. Its northern boundary is around where 5th Avenue is today, and the southern border is now Refugee Road.

The original 1801 map of the Refugee Land Grant tract, which is now backed by fabric for stability, is nearly two feet tall and over five feet long. It resides in the rare book room at the State Library of Ohio but was also digitized. "I'm sure there's people descended from those original Canadians who did move to this area," Baughman said. "Just as there's many people who live here today because their ancestors were refugees from whatever country that moved to (Columbus)." ([Columbus Dispatch](#))



The westernmost portion of the refugee tract of land set aside by U.S. Congress for Canadians who fought for the American Revolution.

Order Your SAR Henry Rifle Today!

In honor of the 250th Anniversary of the Revolution, a special commemorative rifle will be offered annually for the next 10 years, beginning in 2023. Each edition will be offered for approximately 1 year, depicting a different scene from the American Revolution. A portion of the proceeds from each rifle sold go to support the SAR Education Center and Museum in Louisville, Kentucky.

If you are interested in purchasing the 250th Anniversary Henry Rifle—Boston Tea Party Edition, visit your local [Cabela's](#) or [Bass Pro Shops](#) and provide the sales clerk the SKU number: 3815337.

This is brand new, so the sales' clerk may not know it's available. It isn't listed in their catalogue or existing product list, but if the clerk or manager uses the SKU number (3815337), they can find it and order you one.

I suggest being polite but persistent. It's on the "Golden Boy" platform, if asked. Ordering soon may get it to you in time for Christmas! Please join me in securing this important collector piece which also benefits the SAR Education Center and Museum.

You can also contact the [Henry Repeating Arms Company](#) directly.

*John L. Dodd
President General 2023-2024*

SAR 250th Anniversary Henry Rifle

Boston Tea Party Edition



Washington Praises God, Heaven, Destiny in Rare 1777 Battlefield Letter



A celebratory letter signed by Gen. George Washington praising divine guidance for the turning-point victory in the American Revolution has been put up for auction. "This singular favour of Providence is to be received with thankfulness," Washington wrote to Brigadier Gen. James Potter on Oct. 18, 1777, days after Continental troops smashed superior British forces in the Battle of Saratoga. The letter, which is being sold online by the Raab Collection, is valued at \$275,000. It has been in the hands of Gen. Potter's descendants

since 1777, according to the auctioneer. "Washington talks almost of destiny. The sense of destiny you get from his excitement is palpable," Nathan Raab of the Philadelphia-based Raab Collection told Fox News Digital Washington's words not only credit God for seeing the Americans to victory at Saratoga, they're made more stirring by his apparent belief that "American Liberty" is favored from on high. The general added to Potter, "The happy moment which Heaven has pointed out for the firm establishment of American Liberty ought to be embraced with becoming spirit."

"The reference to heaven and Providence is remarkable," said Raab. "It's exciting. It's very uncommon. You can feel his excitement, the fervor, jump off the page." Gen. Potter was born in Ireland in 1729 and moved to the Pennsylvania colony with his family when he was around 12 years old. He led scout, spy and guerrilla forces for the colonial army during the war for independence. Washington appeared to understand that the miraculous American victory at Saratoga, led by Gen. Horatio Gates, was a moment of unique importance in the cause of American liberty. His instinct has been proven correct by historians, who widely cite the Battle of Saratoga in upstate New York as the turning point event in the American Revolution and, by proxy, a turning point moment in wider American history. "One of the most decisive American battles of the Revolutionary War, Saratoga ended British general John Burgoyne's attempt to control the Hudson River Valley," writes the American Battlefield Trust. "The outcome convinced the Court of King Louis XVI that the Americans could hold their own against the British Army, sealing the alliance between America and France." Washington's celebratory tone was brief. His letter quickly turned to delivering orders, urging Potter to seize the American initiative and step up pressure on British forces.

"You may render the most important Services by cutting off the Enemies Convoys and Communications with their Fleet, for this purpose you should strain every nerve," wrote Washington. "I think that you might harass the parties of the Enemy on Province Island in such a manner as to produce a great Diversion in favour of Fort Mifflin," he wrote. Washington concludes the letter with a return to its reverent tone, referring to the American Revolution as "the glorious work we have in hand." "He's rejoicing, but he's looking for the next thing," said auctioneer Raab. "This is about as emotive as you'll see a Washington letter. The fact that it includes core concepts such as heaven, destiny, providence and victory make it a remarkable and unique piece of history." Raab Collection claims this letter is the only known document in which Washington mentions "heaven" during the American Revolution.

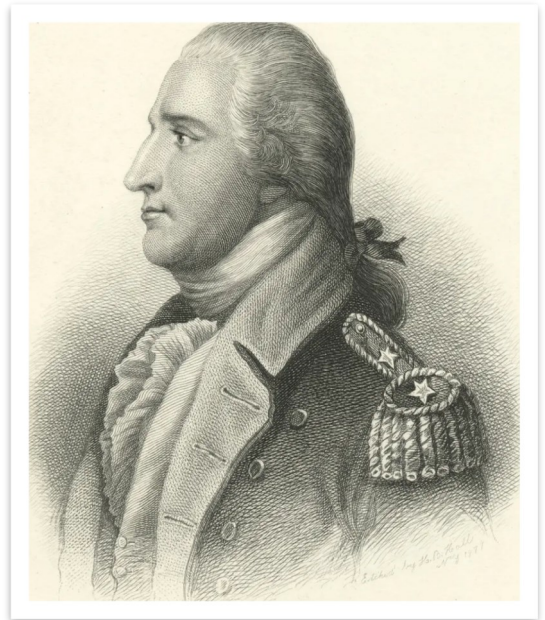
www.foxbusiness.com

Burning of Benedict Arnold Festival

[New London, Connecticut] never forgets a traitor. Hundreds gathered in New London on September 9th for the [Burning of Benedict Arnold Festival](#), during which a paper mâché figure of the disgraced American Revolutionary was torched to mark the anniversary of when Arnold led a group of more than 1,600 British soldiers to burn most of the city to the ground in Sept. 1781. "I like to jokingly refer to it as the original Burning Man festival," organizer Derron Wood said.

For close to a century, cities such as New York, Boston, and Philadelphia held yearly traitor-burning events, but those died out during the Civil War. Wood, who also serves as the artistic director of New London's Flock Theatre, revived the festival in 2013.

It became a part of the state's Connecticut Maritime Heritage Festival, and after a hiatus due to the pandemic, returned last year. "This project and specifically the reaction, the sort of hunger for its return, has been huge and the interest in it has been huge," said Victor Chiburis, the festival's co-organizer.



Arnold, who died in 1801, was a native of Norwich



An effigy of Arnold is torched in New London

Participants, some decked out in period costume, march with a fife and drum corps on New London's Bank Street to its Waterfront Park, where its mayor, Michael E. Passero, shouts, "Remember New London," and torches the effigy.

A military officer, Arnold was appointed by then-General George Washington and given control of West Point, where Washington had his headquarters during the war. However, it was discovered that Arnold, who hailed from Norwich, was giving information to the British and planning to surrender West Point to enemy forces.

Arnold staged the attack on New London a month before the British troops surrendered at Yorktown to end major fighting during the Revolution. (nypost.com)

Fraunces Tavern's Revolutionary War Connections

Though both Boston, Massachusetts, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, claim the title as the birthplace of the American Revolution, there's a street in the Financial District of Manhattan's Lower East Side that may deserve to throw its hat in the ring. Supposedly called Pearl Street for the oysters the indigenous Lenape people once harvested there, this road stretches from Battery Park all the way to the Brooklyn Bridge and has been home to Thomas Edison's first public power plant, Alexander Hamilton's Bank of New York, and Harper's Magazine.

However, before all that could happen, history was being made in a humble tavern on the corner of Pearl Street and Broad. A blend of both yellow and red brick, the [Fraunces Tavern](#) is marked with an auspicious metal plaque proclaiming its historical importance. Here, the beginnings of the American Revolution were whispered among a group of Colonialists known as the Sons of Liberty as they dined on classic tavern fare and drank tankards of ale.



NYC's Historic Fraunces Tavern
54 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10004

Their calculated strike at the Boston Harbor is considered by many to be the beginning of the American Revolution. In fact, Fraunces Tavern was home to one of the final grand moments of the Revolution as well, capped by then-General George Washington. So, what is the full story behind this restaurant's historical legacy?

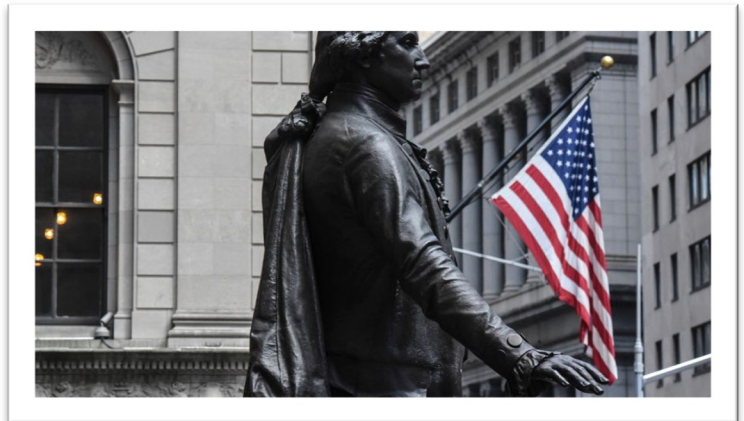
Though the Fraunces Tavern is most famously remembered as a restaurant, it existed as a private residence for the De Lancey family, a dance hall, office space, and warehouse before it came under the ownership of Samuel Fraunces in 1762. Fraunces christened his new restaurant as the Queen's Head Tavern, a nod to Queen Charlotte. Perhaps through its central location or Fraunces' fine management, the tavern became a hotspot for New York City organizations and clubs, where political ideas were traded over pints of beer and heels of bread.

One such iconic group was the Sons of Liberty, Colonists who banded together around a mutual outrage for the taxes attached to the Stamp Act of 1765. By 1773, the infamous Tea Act had renewed their anger, and the group began plotting a blockade of all tea being imported into the 13 colonies. It was at Fraunces Tavern that the Sons of Liberty decided to take things a step further with the Boston Tea Party, where much-unwanted tea was dumped into the harbor. Beyond this seminal moment, the tavern also acted as an important meeting place during the Revolutionary War, serving as the home for the New York Provincial Congress in 1776.

For those wishing to visit this historical landmark, you can head to the Fraunces Tavern Museum located upstairs. But for those looking for a literal taste of history, the Fraunces Tavern restaurant is a must-see. Split into four uniquely decorated concept rooms — The Independence Bar, The Tallmadge Room, the Hideout Bar, and the Upstairs Piano Bar — there's a little something for everyone. Over 200 whiskeys, 130 craft beers, and numerous cocktails are served at each bar, with the Tallmadge Room acting as the most traditional dining hall. (www.tastingtable.com)

New York City Council Considers Bill to Remove Statues of People Who Benefited from Slavery

New York City Council's Committee on Civil and Human Rights held its first hearing on a number of bills that were proposed in June. One of the bills would "consider the impact of slavery" and "reparations." Another would require anti-racism trainings for city employees. But the one getting the most attention concerns public art and school names. It would establish a process for removing certain works of art that depict someone who, according to the text of the bill, meets one or more of the following criteria:



A statue of George Washington is seen near the New York Stock Exchange building along Wall Street

- (a) Participated in or otherwise promoted the trade of enslaved persons;*
- (b) Received significant economic benefit directly from the institution of slavery, including through owning or insuring enslaved persons or from entities that did so;*
- (c) Participated in or directly promoted the systemic murder, enslavement, or forcible transfer of indigenous people in the United States or other countries; or*
- (d) Participated in or otherwise promoted crimes against humanity.*

Sreoshy Banerjea, director of the city's Public Design Commission, testified that there are about 2500 public works of art—indoors and outdoors—spread across the city. Councilmember Chi Osse asked her how many of those works of art would meet the criteria listed above. "Several," she said, before going a bit further and offering a slight chuckle. "A lot."

Some of the notable men represented in statues throughout the city who would meet the above criteria include: George Washington, Peter Stuyvesant, and, perhaps most controversial, Christopher Columbus. The city's Public Design Commission has played a role in having certain statues removed in the past, as well.

In 2022, the statue of Theodore Roosevelt at the Museum of Natural History was taken off its pedestal out front. A Central Park statue of Marion Sims, a doctor who performed experiments on slaves, was relocated to his gravesite. But, according to Banerjea, an official proposal to remove the statue of Columbus atop the pedestal in Columbus Circle has never been brought in front of the commission. But she noted that the commission "would support the increased dialogue" about the particular monument.

Since the bill is still in its early stages, dialogue is sure to continue. At the outset of the hearing, New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams took a moment to describe why he believes the bills being considered are important.

"The issues that we deal with now—black, white, brown—no one is responsible for creating them, but all of us are responsible for what we give the next generation," Williams said. (www.fox5ny.com)

What Actually Killed George Washington?

The saga of Washington's death actually began on Dec. 12, 1799, two days before his final breath. Washington was supervising work in the snow at his Mount Vernon, Virginia, estate; the snow turned to rain, and after returning home, Washington, ever punctual, went straight to dinner while still wearing his damp clothes.

The next day, Washington complained of a sore throat. His symptoms progressively worsened; he was coughing, his nose was running, his voice was becoming hoarse and he developed a fever. Washington was having difficulty swallowing and talking as well, and his breathing became so labored that, in the early morning hours of Dec. 14, he "awoke clutching his chest with a profound shortness of breath," as PBS put it.



Artist Junius Brutus Stearns depicts the United States' first president, George Washington, on his deathbed in 1799.

Three doctors were urgently summoned to Mount Vernon, including James Craik, who served under Washington during the American Revolution and was his longtime personal physician. Over the next 12 hours, at Washington's request and against the pleading of his wife Martha, some of the president's blood was removed during a process known as bloodletting, "to reduce the massive inflammation of his windpipe and constrict the blood vessels in the region," per PBS.

In all, Washington was bled four times, losing more than 80 ounces of his blood -- or roughly 40% of his body's supply. It didn't work, causing the doctors to become increasingly desperate in their attempts to stymie Washington's symptoms. They gave Washington a mix of molasses, butter, and vinegar, which almost suffocated him; produced blisters on his throat to try to balance his bodily fluids; induced vomiting; gave him an enema; and had him gargle with sage tea and vinegar. As the hours passed, though, Washington became resigned to his fate, telling Craik: "Doctor, I die hard, but I am not afraid to go. I believed from my first attack that I should not survive it. My breath cannot last long." Washington thanked his doctors. He did not make it through the night.

In the immediate aftermath of Washington's death, his doctors considered four causes. The consensus was that Washington died of croup, also called the croup. That explanation has been highly debated, with various other theories -- a throat infection, quinsy, Ludwig Angina, Vincent's Angina, diphtheria, strep throat and acute pneumonia -- put forth in the centuries since. "Washington was old and sick by then," Washington biographer James Thomas Flexner told *The New York Times* in 1999. "It was perfectly clear that he knew he was dying, and he was getting ready to die. The doctors did what they did in those days. To believe otherwise is moonshine."

The most plausible explanation to emerge was that Washington died of acute epiglottitis -- a swelling of the lid of the windpipe that restricts airflow. We likely never will know definitively what killed him. From accounts of his death, we can at least know that Washington did not fear dying, as these were his final words: "I am just going! Have me decently buried, and do not let my body be put into the vault less than three days after I am dead. Do you understand me? ... 'Tis well!" Washington was buried at Mount Vernon on Dec. 18, 1799. He was 67 years old.

(www.military.com)

*Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Sons of the American Revolution
Quarterly Newsletter*

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*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.*

Important Dates to Remember

Covered Bridge Festival Parade

October 14th at 12:00 p.m.
Jefferson Area High School
207 W Mulberry Street
Jefferson, Ohio 44047

OHSSAR

Board of Management Meeting

October 14 at 12:30 p.m.
[Deer Ridge Golf Club](#)
& [Black Dog Tavern](#)
900 Comfort Plaza Drive
Bellville, Ohio 44904

Harper Association Dinner

October 14th at 6:00 p.m.
[Guyreino's Deli & Catering](#)
2259 West Avenue
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

**Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony**
with Stanley-Redmond-Harper DAR
October 15th, Location TBD

OHSSAR

Central District Conference

October 20th & 21st
[Terrace Park Country Club](#)
5341 S Milford Road
Milford, Ohio 45150

**Northeastern Ohio
Chapter #12 SAR Meeting**
with Stanley-Redmond-Harper DAR
November 11th at 12:00 p.m.
[Saybrook Methodist Church](#)
7900 Depot ROAD
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004



*Steve Hinson installed as VPG Central District
at 2023 SAR Congress (with wife, Venie)*