



The Buckeye Patriot

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12

Sons of the American Revolution

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter, 2019

Volume 15, Issue 1

From The President's Desk

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Compatriots & Friends,

Here we are, as another year begins. The executive committee has been busy putting together the schedule for 2019, and the nominating committee has completed its task of filling a slate of officers. As you know, upcoming events and important dates to remember are listed on page eight.

Our Presidents Day program and election of officers will be held February 16th at Riders Inn, in Painesville, beginning at 11:30 am. The Samuel Huntington Chapter SAR, Stanley-Redmond-Harper Chapter DAR, and New Connecticut Chapter DAR have been invited to join us. Our guest speaker will be Jack Warren, who will be portraying President James A. Garfield. Please contact Troy Bailey at tbailey@suite224.net or (440) 645-0465 to make a reservation.

As President of the Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 SAR, I have decided to step down following our Presidents Day Program, and will be running for President of the Ohio Society SAR this May at the OHSSAR's 130th Annual Conference in Columbus. If elected, the OHSSAR President's position would require me to travel around the state, often on the same day as our local meetings. So, you wouldn't see me very much during the next year and a half. Whenever possible, I would be here to support chapter activities.

I owe a debt of gratitude and thanks to the Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 officers who have served with me, and to all the compatriots that support our chapter. I have certainly enjoyed being your president during the past two years, and am looking forward to spending more time with the chapter at upcoming events.

Patriotically yours,

Steve Hinson, President
Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Sons of the American Revolution
Home: (440) 293-4314, Cell: (440) 645-7322
stevhin@earthlink.net

Welcome New SAR Members!

Edmund Endeman
Sean Gilbert
Torin Gilbert
Brock Pierson

Andrew Pugel
John Streiferdt
Mark Tyler

Assassin's Creed III and Liberation Remastered to Bring the American Revolution to Current Gen

Good news Assassin's Creed fans: Assassin's Creed III and Liberation Remastered is coming to PC, PlayStation 4, and Xbox One late next month. In a surprise turn of events, Ubisoft is bringing the divisive third installment of the Assassin's Creed franchise — as well as its spin-off Liberation — to current gen.



Mysteriously, no Switch port has been announced. Ubisoft has previously distanced itself from ports of its modern games to Nintendo hardware, but fans did expect the much-rumored title to make the jump to Nintendo consoles. The series has been relatively alien to Nintendo, despite being a multiplatform entity since its inception. Spin-offs aside, the only Assassin's Creed games to come on a Nintendo console were the Wii U ports of III and Black Flag.

The release date has been rumored for a few days now, but official confirmation came through the game's official Twitter page: "Relive the American Revolution or experience it for the first time in [Assassin's Creed III Remastered](#), with enhanced graphics and improved gameplay mechanics. Also includes Assassin's Creed Liberation remastered and all solo DLC content. Available on 29/03/19 pic.twitter.com/737O4Hg8TM — Assassins Creed UK (@Assassins_UK) February 6th, 2019"

For those itching to jump back into some classic Assassin's Creed, be sure to check out the remaster when it drops on PC, PlayStation 4, and Xbox One March 29, 2019. For all else from the world of single-player, be sure to follow OnlySP on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. (www.onlysp.com)

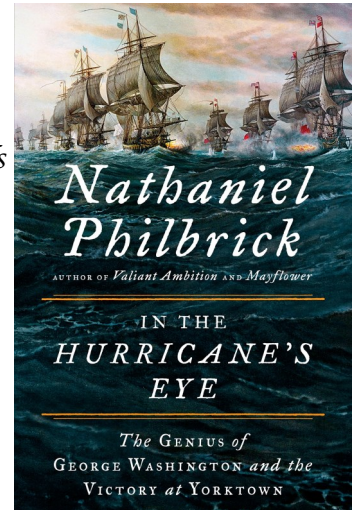
Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 Officers

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

Secretary - [Dan Matheke](#)
Treasurer - [Bob Kenyon](#)
Historian - [Scott Wludyga](#)
Chaplain - [Jim Pildner](#)

Nathaniel Philbrick's 'In the Hurricane's Eye'

This is the third and last installment in Philbrick's history of the American Revolution. The first two books, [Bunker Hill](#) (2013) and [Valiant Ambition](#) (2016), brought us up to the Revolution's seeming stalemate in 1780-81. The American rebels continually attack the British and then disappear into the countryside while the Royal Navy ceaselessly bombards American seaside cities at will. Over five fruitless years, the British never have quite enough soldiers effectively to occupy rebel territory, and the rebels can never inflict a blow decisive enough to win independence. Packed with revealing information and high drama, [In the Hurricane's Eye](#) is a must-read for any aficionado of the American Revolution. Drawing extensively on primary sources, Philbrick, author also of [In the Heart of the Sea](#) (1999), [Mayflower](#) (2006), and other works, recounts the chain of events that broke this deadlock.



In December 1780, Sir Henry Clinton, British commander in North America, sent his newest brigadier general, Benedict Arnold, to command troops in Virginia. In turn, George Washington, commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, sent the young French nobleman the Marquis de Lafayette south in pursuit of Arnold. Washington also dispatched Major Gen. Nathaniel Greene to confront Cornwallis' troops in the Carolinas. Throughout *Hurricane's Eye*, the author stresses the crucial importance of sea power in the American Revolution. He even shows Washington's personal affinity with the sea, describing the commander's prowess at piloting a vessel through a perilous passage on the Hudson River. Such affinity was why, as he was juggling his commanders and military moves, Washington was also trying to coordinate that strategy with the actions of the French fleet anchored 2,000 miles away in the Caribbean, a nearly impossible task. Adding to Washington's troubles, the 13 states and the Continental Congress were failing "to provide the bare essentials required to maintain a functional army." Washington was faced with the double task of paying his soldiers and enticing the French fleet into the fray.

By the summer of 1781, Washington, with the help of Spanish diplomat Francisco Saavedra, managed to collect 500,000 pesos from the citizens of Havana, Cuba (they would be repaid at 2 percent interest), to pay the French fleet and Washington's own soldiers. The French fleets could now leave their Caribbean ports and come to the aid of his armies. He then mounted his attack on Cornwallis' forces at Yorktown, Va. Philbrick describes how, almost miraculously, the French fleet appeared at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay on Sept. 5, 1781. In this magnificent display of sea power, "No piece of eighteenth-century technology could compare in complexity, sophistication, and heart-stopping beauty" to these glorious ships of the line. Then began what today is recognized as one of the most important naval battles in history, the Battle of the Chesapeake. The French fleet was led by the Comte de Grasse, but the battle was mainly fought by Louis-Antoine de Bougainville. In the savage maritime engagement that ensued, the British fleet, commanded by Adm. Thomas Graves, was decisively defeated.

Knowing that the British land forces now had no means of escape by sea, Washington confidently began his siege upon the 6,000 British and German soldiers at their Yorktown fortifications. A blizzard of American cannonballs rained down upon them: "it was the bombshells," Philbrick writes, "huge, openmouthed orbs of iron filled with gunpowder and other combustibles and fired from the mortars in high, lazy arcs — that wreaked the most havoc," wantonly severing arms and legs. The ambitious Hamilton, determined to cover himself in glory, led a battalion into battle. On Oct. 19, 1781, at the surrender ceremony, British soldiers, "Biting their lips ... openly weeping ... hurled their weapons to the ground" to the jubilant tune of "Yankee Doodle." (www.philly.com)

Excavating Princeton and American History

On Jan. 3, 1777, British and American forces fought a critical battle of the Revolutionary War on and around the Princeton University campus. This year, 18 students in the course “Battle Lab: The Battle of Princeton” are using hands-on fieldwork to explore how the battle may have unfolded.

Drawing on their expertise in art, archaeology and American history, Nathan Arrington, associate professor of art and archaeology, and Rachael DeLue, the Christopher Binyon Sarofim '86 Professor in American Art, are teaching the class.



In the course “Battle Lab: Battle of Princeton,” students use many disciplines and methods for hands-on exploration of a critical site of the American Revolution.

The course has included many visits to the Princeton Battlefield State Park, where students looked for artifacts using metal detectors, ground-penetrating radar and excavation. Arrington, who is also director of the Program in Archaeology, and DeLue, who is also a professor of art and archaeology and American studies, partnered with a few individuals with expertise related to the fieldwork.

Graduate student Isabel Morris is a Ph.D. student in civil and environmental engineering who uses ground-penetrating radar in her research, and local archaeologists and preservation specialists were on hand to provide insight into the age and usage of materials found on site, such as a musket ball, nails and broken pottery.

Students have also studied a wide range of materials ranging from the musical “Hamilton” to Charles Willson Peale’s famous portrait “George Washington at the Battle of Princeton,” part of the Princeton University Art Museum’s collection.

“Having not taken a history class in quite a long time, I thought it would be good to just learn more about the American Revolution, the start of this nation,” said sophomore Ethan Thai, an electrical engineering major. “But also alongside of that, I do enjoy the mechanical, the technical, side of things too and using technology. ... It’s a great intersection of everything.”

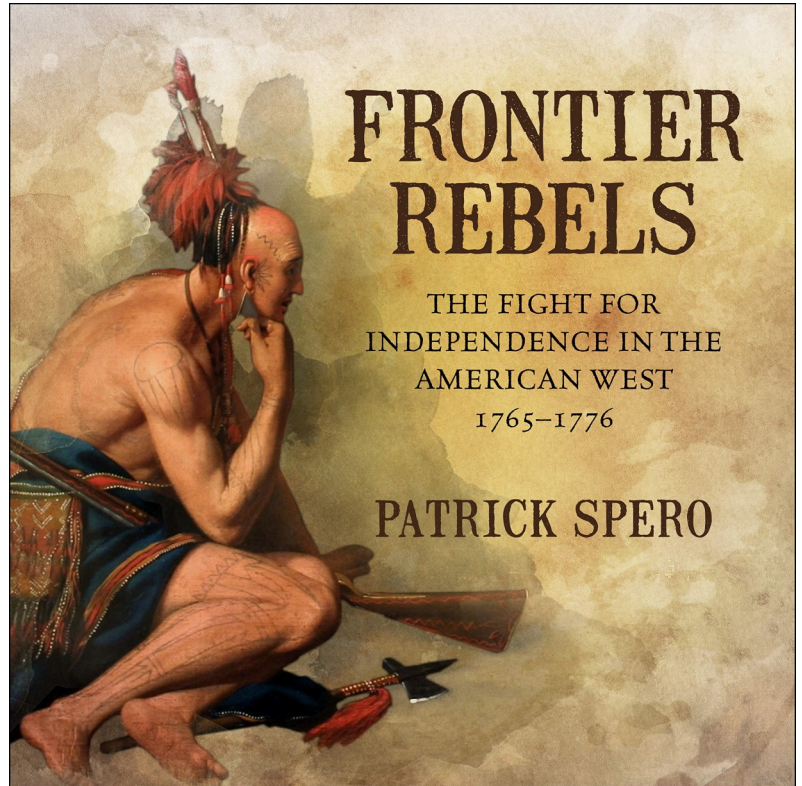
The Battle of Princeton began on farmland less than 2 miles south of campus (now the state park), and ended with the British surrendering from their position in Nassau Hall, built in 1756 as the college’s first building on the Princeton campus and now the University’s central administration building.

“Battle Lab,” which is cross-listed in humanistic studies, art and archaeology and American studies, is also affiliated with the University’s Program for Community-Engaged Scholarship (ProCES). The participants held a public archaeology day Nov. 10 at the battlefield to share their findings with visitors. (www.princeton.edu)

Frontier Rebels: The Fight for Independence in the American West, 1765-1776

In 1763, the Seven Years' War ended in a spectacular victory for the British. The French army agreed to leave North America, but many Native Americans, fearing that the British Empire would expand onto their lands and conquer them, refused to lay down their weapons.

Under the leadership of a shrewd Ottawa warrior named Pontiac, they kept fighting for their freedom, capturing several British forts and devastating many of the westernmost colonial settlements. The British, battered from the costly war, needed to stop the violent attacks on their borderlands. Peace with Pontiac was their only option—if they could convince him to negotiate.



Enter George Croghan, a wily trader-turned-diplomat with close ties to Native Americans. Under the wary eye of the British commander-in-chief, Croghan organized one of the largest peace offerings ever assembled and began a daring voyage into the interior of North America in search of Pontiac.

Meanwhile, a ragtag group of frontiersmen set about stopping this peace deal in its tracks. Furious at the Empire for capitulating to Native groups, whom they considered their sworn enemies, and suspicious of Croghan's intentions, these colonists turned Native American tactics of warfare on the British Empire.

Dressing as Native Americans and smearing their faces in charcoal, these frontiersmen, known as the Black Boys, launched targeted assaults to destroy Croghan's peace offering before it could be delivered.

The outcome of these interwoven struggles would determine whose independence would prevail on the American frontier—whether freedom would be defined by the British, Native Americans, or colonial settlers.

Drawing on largely forgotten manuscript sources from archives across North America, Patrick Spero recasts the familiar narrative of the American Revolution, moving the action from the Eastern Seaboard to the treacherous western frontier. In spellbinding detail, [Frontier Rebels](#) reveals an often-overlooked truth: the West played a crucial role in igniting the flame of American independence. (www.amazon.com)

Windsor Locks Claims First Christmas Tree

Decorated Christmas trees may have started as a German tradition, but thanks to a little known German soldier by the name of Hendrick Roddemore, the practice took root in Windsor Locks and soon became a beloved American tradition as well. "[Windsor Locks, Connecticut] has become known for having the first Christmas tree, and we like that it puts us on the map and that the town embraces it," said Windsor Locks Historical Society President Anne-Marie Claffey, a lifelong town resident.

Little is known about Roddemore's life, but that he came to New England by route of war. A Hessian, or German mercenary soldier, he was fighting on behalf of the British during the American Revolution and participated in the Aug. 16, 1777 Battle of Bennington (Vermont) under the leadership of British army officer Gen. John Burgoyne.

The battle was intended to help Burgoyne's troops replenish horses and dwindling supplies, but the overconfident leader greatly underestimated his Colonial counterpart, Gen. John Stark, and the size and strength of the forces he came up against. Burgoyne's troops lost badly, a turning point in the war, and Roddemore, along with approximately 700 mostly Hessian soldiers, was taken prisoner.

It was customary in those days to distribute prisoners to area residents to help work on farms or in local industry, and by the end of that year Roddemore found himself in Pine Meadow, then a part of Windsor, but today a part of Windsor Locks. He worked on a 100-acre farm belonging to Samuel Denslow, who provided him with his own small cabin on the property. Lore has it that in that very cabin, Roddemore erected the first decorated Christmas tree in the New World.

According to The History of Ancient Windsor, by Henry R. Stiles, Roddemore stayed on at the farm until the death of his first wife, Polly, who passed, ironically, on Christmas Day 1790. Shortly after, he remarried and made his home in Windsor. The property today is part of the Noden-Reed Farm, on West Street in Windsor Locks, home also to the Windsor Locks Historical Society - which takes no small pride in claiming the Roddemore story as its own. There is no definitive proof that Roddemore erected the first Christmas tree in America, and while some would argue that there were many other Hessian soldiers taken prisoner at that time who might also have put up Christmas trees of their own, it is believed that Roddemore's was the first documented.

In 2000, Windsor Locks Girl Scout Troops 556 and 567 made it official, though they tempered the claim slightly, by holding a dedication ceremony at Noden-Reed to honor the site as "New England's First Documented Christmas Tree." A commemorative stone marks the spot where Roddemore's cabin once stood, a balsam fir planted above it, which the society decorates each holiday season.

Claffey said the Boy Scouts have also been involved. An Eagle Scout project at the farm included the planting of other Christmas trees on the property, which are beautifully lit during the season. And each year in early December, the society opens the barn on the property for a reading of The Night Before Christmas, which is followed by a torchlight parade to town hall. "It's our own unique story and, especially around Christmas, we try to build on it and highlight it with festivities and activities," Claffey said. (www.courant.com)



Only Surviving Relic from African American Colonial Soldier

When Philip Mead, chief historian and curatorial director at the Museum of the American Revolution, looked down at the gently curving carved powder horn Wednesday, he saw “African American history, Native Americans, the American Revolution, the stories of British and Loyalist soldiers — all converging on this one spot, the Battle of Wyoming, that we hardly know anymore.” When Denise Dennis, founding president of the Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust in Susquehanna County, looked at the horn she thought of all those things, but most remarkably, she also saw family, resilience, and persistence. “It’s been part of my life and consciousness as long as I can remember,” she said, gently holding the horn. “It’s part of my personal history and speaks to the closeness and intimacy of family.” Mead and Dennis, standing in the workroom

of the museum, were both looking at the cream-colored powder horn delicately inscribed and decorated by Gershom Prince, a free African American and Dennis’ ancestor, slain in the bloody, but not widely known, Battle of Wyoming, the only black soldier to die there on that grim day, July 3, 1778. More than 300 colonial soldiers were killed in the battle, in northeastern Pennsylvania’s Wyoming Valley, near Wilkes-Barre, as the outnumbered Continental Army vainly sought to fend off attacks from British and Loyalist forces and their Iroquois allies. Gershom Prince’s utterly unique powder horn, found on his body after the fighting, will go on exhibit at the museum, through the end of the year. It is believed to be the only surviving powder horn of a slain African American Revolutionary War soldier. “It’s indispensable, irreplaceable, and an invaluable national treasure to us,” Mead said.

For Dennis, seeing the horn being prepared to go on display in Philadelphia is a deeply moving experience. After it was removed from Prince’s body, it was returned to his family. Generation after generation passed it down. In the 1950s, the family donated it to the Luzerne County Historical Society, which has lent it to the museum. “What it means to me is that I am very much connected to the history of the country in a very, very personal way,” said Dennis, who is steward of the Dennis Farm, a 153-acre site on the National Register of Historic Places, acquired by her great-great-great-great-grandfather Prince Perkins, who also fought in the Revolutionary War and was freed for his service. Prince Perkins was Gershom Prince’s nephew. The family has owned the farm since 1793. Not surprisingly, much is unknown about Gershom Prince. He was probably born in Connecticut around 1733, and when he died, he was probably a free man. He chose to be a soldier, fighting first in the French and Indian War, which racked the countryside from 1754 to 1763 and set the stage for subsequent revolutionary unrest. It was during that earlier conflict that Prince acquired and delicately incised his powder horn, which reads “Prince Negro His Horn.” Flowers and vines, birds, a boat, and simple small houses decorate the surface, all delicately drawn, a record of Prince’s landscape. The place of the carving, Crown Point, and the date — “Sept. ye 3rd Day 1761” — are also clearly carved. With a flourish, Prince added a warning: “Steal not for fear of shame.”

“It’s the only French and Indian horn from a person of African American heritage, personal horn, that I am aware of,” said Mead. “It’s so impossibly rare. And this can change perceptions about race in this country, about the contributions of African Americans and our basic humanity,” she said. “The signature. The artistry. The sacrifice — it’s all there, so far back.” (www.philly.com)



Denise Dennis holds the carved powder horn of Gershom Prince, a black soldier who served and died in the Revolutionary War. It goes on display Friday at the Museum of the American Revolution.

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Sons of the American Revolution
Quarterly Newsletter*

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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.*

Important Dates to Remember

**Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Presidents Day Program &
Election of Officers**

Saturday, February 16th, 2019
Riders Inn, 792 Mentor Ave,
Painesville, Ohio 44077

NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting

February 28th - March 2nd, 2019
Brown Hotel, 335 W Broadway
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

**Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Compatriots-Only Dinner**

March 14th, 2019
Ferrante Winery & Ristorante
5585 OH-307, Geneva, Ohio 44041

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

Saturday, April 13th, 2019, 11:30 am
Best Friend's Restaurant
1741 OH-534, Geneva, Ohio 44041

Geauga County Maple Festival

April 27th & 28th, 2019
Main Street, Chardon, Ohio 44024

OHSSAR 130th Annual Conference

May 3rd - 5th, 2019
Columbus, Ohio

**Geneva-on-the-Lake
Summer Kickoff Parade**

Saturday, May 11th, 2019
Geneva-on-the-Lake
Ohio 44041

Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous

May 25th, 2019
2nd and Willow Streets
Vincennes, Indiana 47591

Saybrook Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 27th, 2019
7911 Depot Road
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

Ashtabula Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 27th, 2019
Main Avenue, Downtown Ashtabula

**Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Wreath Laying Ceremony**

Friday, June 14th, 2019
East 6th Street & Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

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

Friday, June 14th, 2019
Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
1100 East 9th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

129th NSSAR Annual Congress

July 5th — 11th, 2019
Hilton Orange County
3050 Bristol Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92626