



Bethabara Chapter
of Winston-Salem
North Carolina State Society
Sons of the American Revolution



The Bethabara Bugler

Volume 1, Issue 21

October 1, 2020

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Re-Organized 08 November 2014.



Winston Salem SAR Chapter

The Bethabara Bugler is the Newsletter of the Bethabara Chapter of Winston-Salem. It is, under normal circumstances, published monthly (except during the months of June, July, and August when there will only be one summer edition). It will be distributed by email, usually at the first of the month. Articles, suggestions, and ideas are welcome – please send them to: Allen Mollere, 3721 Stancliff Road, Clemmons, NC 27012, or email: amollere@msn.com.

Bethabara Chapter Meetings

As you are aware, no Bethabara Chapter SAR on-site meetings have been held recently due to continuing concerns over the Corona virus. The Executive Board did, however, conduct an Executive Board Meeting via Zoom on August 27, 2020.

On September 10, 2020, the Bethabara Chapter did conduct a meeting via Zoom with 14 Compatriots participating. After a brief Zoom instruction, Chapter President Ed Hosmer called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

Minutes of September Membership Meeting

- The invocation was delivered by Compatriot Fred Learned.
- Compatriot Larry McRae led the **Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America:**

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

- Compatriot Orin Sadler led recitation of **The American Creed:**

“I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a Republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.”

- Compatriot Bill Ewalt led recitation of **The Official Pledge to the SAR:**

“We the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifice, establish the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.”

Officers reported as follows:

- Chapter President Ed Hosmer introduced and welcomed participating new member Dr. Joseph (Joe) Weaver, III.
- Ed reviewed significant items from the August 22, 2020 State SAR Board of Managers meeting:
 - NC will vote on design # 2 for a new NSSAR logo.
 - Dues for 2021 will be due this December 1. Our Chapter billings will go out by mail October 1.
 - All NCSSAR Officers will now have liability insurance.
 - The 2021 NCSSAR Convention will be March 26-27, 2021, in Winston-Salem hosted by the Bethabara Chapter. Ed and Compatriot Fred Learned will coordinate the planning. The work within the Chapter will start after the New Year.
 - There will be a special State meeting via Zoom on October 17, 2020, to approve the State Budget and By-Law changes.
- Ed gave thanks to Compatriots Larry McRae and Allen Mollere for their efforts in helping 6 newly approved members and several approved supplementals. Four of the new members will be sworn in at the Battle of Shallowford Commemoration Ceremony on October 10. The other new members will be sworn in at their home, if necessary, and any

remaining certificates will be presented at the planned January 2021 Chapter meeting.

- Ed reported he has visited Sixty-six Grill and Tap House and they are good to host our 2021 meetings with social distance seating as we choose.
- Ed mentioned that nominations and Election of Bethabara Chapter Officers will be held at the April 2021 meeting.
- Ed and Fred reviewed planning for the Battle of Shallowford Commemoration. It will be held in person, outdoors in front of the Historic Huntsville Methodist Church at 11 AM on October 10, 2021. (Bring your own lawn chairs.) All Covid virus compliance rules will be observed, and Ed will provide a detailed agenda shortly.
- Compatriot Bill Ewalt reported he is working on a project to identify veterans of the various wars who are buried in Forsyth County (American Revolution, War of 1812, Civil War, etc.). Library closures because of the Covid virus have slowed work but he would welcome help from anyone who has pertinent information or interest to help.
- Compatriot Larry McRae gave an update on pending applications and mentioned the Family History Center is closed until further notice. The center has been a good source for application documentation.
- Compatriot Gary Fraysier provided his Treasurer's report.
- Compatriot Orin Sadler reported that JROTC Coordinator, LTC Brown, received the SAR JROTC medals but has not reported back as to whom they were awarded.
- Compatriot Fred Learned reminded everyone of the October 7, 2020, Battle of Kings Mountain Commemoration. It will be via Zoom but recorded and edited beforehand so it should be very professionally done, and all State SAR members will receive an invitation.

New Business:

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to cancel the October regular Chapter meeting to encourage all Bethabara Chapter compatriots to attend the Battle of Shallowford commemoration in lieu of an October meeting.

- Motion from the floor to adjourn and seconded.
- Compatriot Allen Mollere led the **SAR Recessional**:
“Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a Nation of Free Men.”
- Compatriot Fred Learned provided the closing **Benediction**.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Andy Kelly
Recording Secretary

Presentation

Patriot Daniel Bowen

By Orin Sadler

Compatriot Orin Sadler gave the following presentation on his patriot Daniel Bowen.

Daniel lifted his long clay pipe to his lips and took a long breath. The hoar frost had settled on the window in the kitchen announcing the initiation of the long New England winter. His wife, Mehitable and daughter Dorothy were busy slicing apples and humming cheerfully. He reached over and stoked the fire and took another puff, letting off a smoke ring that reminded him of the report of a cannon. The increased warmth from the fire eased the deep cold from an afternoon of hard outdoor work and he allowed himself a contented sigh.

“Tell me another story of the War of Independence again, father.” Elisha his eldest had been sitting so quietly at his side he had all but forgotten him. Daniel frowned; he never much liked recounting those tales of by gone days. The listener had almost always formed their own opinion about “how things were back then,” and the true story almost always paled in the bright light of the popular version of events. These stories always brought a certain sadness to him as he thought about the hardships endured, the friends lost, and half-remembered long bouts of boredom punctuated by moments of mortal terror. These last memories he kept to himself lest his eldest son think less of him.

“What would you like me to tell you about Elisha?” he said after a long pause and fighting back his feelings of reluctance from showing.

“Didn’t you and Uncle Henry fight at Bunker Hill? Tell me that story, please father.” The light in Elisha’s eye betrayed a youthful exuberance and fascination that almost brought Daniel back to his son’s age.

“Well yes we were at Bunker Hill, but the real battle actually occurred at Breed’s Hill and at the fence line between the two. Your uncle and I never quite saw the whites of the redcoats’ eyes,” Daniel perceived the expected look of disappointment in the boy’s countenance and responded with, “but we were shelled at by His Majesty’s Ship *Glasgow*. If your Uncle Henry and I hadn’t been digging our earthworks with such diligence, we might not have lived to tell the story.”

The humming in the kitchen stopped for a moment. “Shouldn’t you be minding Old Bess?” said Mehitable. She realized the strain it put on Daniel to draw up his memories of those times.

“Mother, please, father was finally going to tell me about the great battle he fought near Philadelphia, there’s plenty of time to see to that old cow before supper.” Elisha wouldn’t be denied, he had been put off too many times before, “you know the battle of Wit – something.”

“Whitemarsh,” replied Daniel, “and am afraid it weren’t much of a battle, really just the

Lord Howe's army and General Washington's army staring one another down for several days before going into winter quarters. Them in the warm town of our evacuated capitol Philadelphia and us to the cold, miserable stretch of land called Valley Forge."

"Perhaps we should have some fire cakes for dinner, Mehitable, to honor the time at Valley Forge," Daniel remarked. A brief giggle from the kitchen was his answer.

"What's a fire cake, father?" Elisha's curiosity was peaked.

"That's all we had to eat most days, kinda of a thin paste of flour and water cooked over our campfire. Needless to say we all lost allot of weight, if weren't for Baron von Steuben we would have spent all our time thinking about our bellies."

"Father, I thought we fought against the Hessians?" Elisha gave him a questioning look.

"Baron von Steuban was a Prussian not a Hessian, he could curse in three languages though, and he often did as he led us in his manual of arms drill. We spent allot of time chuckling at his strong German accent and about the only English he seemed to know was....." Daniel stopped in mid-sentence as the mistress of the household gave him a strong maternal look.

"Mother says you fought at the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse," Dorothy finally piped in, "our teacher told us General George Washington saved the day in that battle." Daniel was glad to hear the words of his eldest daughter, finally he could relay a story he was proud of.

"So, after the long winter was over, we found out the British were going to retire across New Jersey back to New York," started Daniel. "It was like a game of foxes and hens as we chased them across the state, Lord Howe and his army always staying a jump ahead of us despite a score miles line of slow-moving wagons in their van. We finally caught up with them at Monmouth, New Jersey." A new-found vigor was propelling him forward in the storytelling.

"I had been reassigned to General Washington's personal Lifeguards and we had crested a hill west of the town when I started seeing the men of my old unit, the 2nd Connecticut Regiment, streaming past us in awful hurry with General Cornwallis' recoats in hot pursuit. Right then, General Washington rode past on his white stallion, yelling at everyone to rally and form a line. We formed up just as Baron von Steuben had shown us and when we saw the British crossing the ravine down below, we set off a deadly volley and then quickly another. I think they realized they had enough when Nathaniel Greene's cannons sounded off from their left trapping them in plunging, enfilading fire. They turned around, marched back toward New York and never came our way for the rest of the war." All was quite in the house as all three listeners had his full attention.

"I have one last thing to show you Elisha," stepping up to grab the box off the mantle, "these are my discharge papers from two years later, see what signature is at the bottom."

Elisha squinted in the candlelight and read the last line...."by order of his Excellency, General of the Army,George Washington." His upturned eyes and the look on his face said volumes of acknowledgement.

More about Daniel Bowen

Born 21 Oct 1750, Woodstock, Conn; d. 13 Apr 1829, Reading, , Vermont; bur. Greenbrush Cemetery, Weathersfield, VT. Daniel married Mehitable Packard 21 Feb 1788, Brookfield, MA. Mehitable (daughter of Eleazer Packard and Mercy Richards) c. 30 Jul 1758, North Bridgewater, Plymouth County, Massachusetts; d. 22 May 1838, Reading, Windsor County, VT; bur. Greenbrush Cemetery, Weathersfield, VT.

Children:

- i. Elisha Bowen b. 2 Jan 1791, Reading, Windsor County, VT; d. 6 Apr 1863, Rochester, New York; bur. Yates Center Cemetery, Yates, Orleans, NY.
- ii. Dorothy Bowen b. 30 Jul 1793, Reading, Windsor County, VT; d. 19 Sep 1866, Springfield, VT.
- iii. Hervey Bowen b. 2 Apr 1795, Reading, Windsor County, VT; d. 11 Apr 1795, prob Reading, Windsor County, VT.
- iv. Silas Bowen b. 8 Nov 1797, Reading, Windsor County, VT; d. 4 Mar 1884, Weathersfield, VT; bur. Greenbrush Cemetery, Weathersfield, VT.
- v. Susanna Bowen b. 1 Sep 1799, Reading, Windsor County, VT; d. 10 Mar 1879, Birmingham, MI.

From: Family of Griffith Bowen, Gentleman, Welsh Puritan Immigrant

The military record of Daniel, from the Connecticut Archives, was also copied for me by our Dr. Aurelius. "Danie Bowen enlisted April 1, 1777, in Capt. Mannings's Company of Second Regiment 'Connecticut Line.' Discharged, April 1780. The military record of Daniel, from the Connecticut . Regiment raised early in 1777 for the New Army or 'Connecticut Line' recruited at large throughout the State. Ordered to assemble at Danbury, in April, preparatory to taking the field, and soon after went into camp at Peekskill, served during the summer and fall of '77, along the Hudson, under Putnam, Ordered November 14th to join Washington's army in Pennsylvania, and on December 8th engaged in the sharp action of Whitemarsh where the Regiment lost a number of officers and men. killed and wounded. Wintered at Valley Forge '77-'78, and present, July 28th following, at battle of Monmouth. Assigned to 2nd Conn. Brig., Huntington's, at Camp White Plains: Wintered '78-'79 with the division at Redding. Served on east side of the Hudson in General Heath's wing during operations of '79. Wintered '79-'80 at Morristown, and served on the outposts"

Note: Preceding presentation from Volume 1, Issue 15 of *Bethabara Bugler*.

New Bethabara Chapter Compatriots

Dr. Joseph (Joe) Weaver, III

Jason Faulkner

Dean Faulkner* (Junior Member)

Stephen Rantz

Peter Gilyard

Weston Parsons (Junior Member)**

* Son of Jason Faulkner

** Grandson of Dan Parsons

Note: Certificates to be presented at a later on-site meeting.

New Supplementals Approved

Bethabara Chapter Compatriot

Allen Mollere, III

Allen Mollere, III

Allen Mollere, III

Allen Mollere, III

Dan Parsons

Patriot

Jean Baltazar Vicner/Wickner

Joseph Simoneaux

Antoine Borne

Pierre Bertrand

Sarah Boone Wilcoxson

Special Certificate

Compatriot Andy Kelly has been approved for the SAR Military Service Recognition Award. His certificate will be presented at a later on-site meeting. (Eligible compatriot veterans can find the Military Service Record Form on the NSSAR website.)

Congratulations

Bethabara Chapter Past-President and current SAR State President Fred Learned will receive the NSSAR Oak Leaf Cluster Award. This award is presented to Compatriots who have received the Liberty Medal in a previous year **and** have recruited an additional 10 or more new members.

Battle of Kings Mountain 240th Commemoration

The National Society of The Sons of The American Revolution, The Kings Mountain Chapter, North Carolina SAR, and, The Daniel Morgan Chapter, South Carolina SAR, invite you to attend the 240th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain. SAR, DAR, C.A.R., and other patriotic and lineage societies and chapters are invited to participate in a virtual commemoration and wreath presentation to be held on **Zoom**.

Registration can be done at the NCSSAR website:

<https://www.ncssar.org/event/240th-anniversary-of-the-battle-of-kings-mountain/>

Questions about the event can be directed to Joe Culik, jc@fairview-law.com.

Zoom Link for the Virtual Event: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81700673468>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR KINGS MOUMTAIN Wednesday, October 7th

10:00am – Zoom meeting will open for attendees to join

10:30am – Virtual Ceremony will commence

The Battle of Kings Mountain

(Compilation by Allen Mollere)

One thousand American frontiersmen, Patriot irregulars under Colonel William Campbell of Virginia, gathered in the backcountry on the border of North and South Carolina to resist British commander Colonel Ferguson's advance. These Americans came from Virginia (one of the 13 original colonies and the first part of the country permanently settled by the English), Georgia, and both Carolinas. North Carolina, one of the original 13 colonies, was the first state to instruct its delegates to vote for independence from the British crown during the Continental Congress.

At Kings Mountain, Americans fought other Americans of Colonel Patrick Ferguson's Tory force. That force was made up mostly of American Loyalists from South Carolina and elsewhere, who made up the western wing of General Lord Cornwallis' North Carolina invasion force. Ferguson, the only Briton on the field that day, was hotheaded, arrogant, and a tenacious warrior. He held the western left flank of Cornwallis' invasion forces pushing into North Carolina from the south. Settlers west of the Appalachians were issued a dire warning by Ferguson, that if they failed to:

“desist from their opposition to the British army, and take protection under this standard, he would march this army over the mountains, hang their leaders, and lay their country waste with fire and sword.”

The hard and independent Patriots decided to march over the mountains to teach Ferguson what a Free People were capable of. After a weeks-long chase, the Overmountain riflemen surrounded Ferguson and his Loyalists from the King's American Regiment, and the New Jersey Regiment, who occupied the high ground atop Kings Mountain. The Patriots launched their assault on all four sides of the mountain, in the early afternoon of October 7, 1780, charging the hillside multiple times.

Ferguson's forces outnumbered the American Patriots. Patriot Colonel James Williams of South Carolina's superior knowledge of the terrain enabled him to surround the British forces. Ferguson's forces launched bayonet charges to drive back the Overmountain Men. Each time, the Americans broke off around the flanks only to attack again after the Loyalists redeployed to face a threat from another direction. Ferguson had boasted that "God Himself cannot remove me from this mountain!" Steadily, however, the Americans fought their way up Kings Mountain.

Unwilling to surrender, and in the attempt to rally his men, Ferguson led a suicidal charge on horseback down the mountain. He was cut down in a hail of bullets and died the following day. After his death, his men tried to surrender, but they were slaughtered in cold blood by the frontiersmen, who were bitter over British excesses in the Carolinas. The Tories suffered 157 killed, 163 wounded, and 698 captured. Colonel Campbell's force suffered just 28 killed and 60 wounded.

The Battle of Kings Mountain was one of the most pivotal battles in the history of these United States. The American victory was seen by both sides as the turning point in the War for

Independence. Thomas Jefferson called the battle "the turn of the tide of success." The loss of Ferguson's force prompted Cornwallis to temporarily abandon his offensive in North Carolina and permanently shifted the initiative to the Americans in the South. Ultimate American victory in the Revolutionary War was barely more than a year away - and the men who marched over the mountains on October 7, 1780, made a huge contribution to securing the promise of Liberty as laid out by the Declaration of Independence.



Tombstone for Colonel Patrick Ferguson, commander of the British troops at Kings Mountain.

Note: Previously appeared in *Bethabara Bugler*, Issue 14, November 1, 2019

Disease in the Revolutionary War

(Compilation by Allen Mollere)

In the first years of the Revolutionary War, George Washington and his Continental Army faced a threat that proved deadlier than the British: a smallpox epidemic, lasting from 1775-1782. Infrequent outbreaks and wariness of inoculation made his troops very susceptible to the disease. After heavy losses in Boston and Quebec, Washington implemented the first mass immunization policy in American history.

Smallpox in the Americas

Smallpox, caused by the *Variola major* virus, spreads only from person to person. It could take up to fourteen days before a person exposed to the virus will show symptoms: fever, headaches, body pains, and eventually the telltale rash. Witnesses and survivors of smallpox describe immense suffering. Death often comes within about two weeks. Survivors can take up a month to recover fully; they are left with scars, but also lifetime immunity.

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European colonization introduced smallpox to the Americas in the sixteenth century. Over the course of a little more than three centuries, outbreaks of the disease appeared sporadically in colonial America. In Europe, smallpox became an endemic disease by the eighteenth century; exposure often happened in childhood, which meant that virtually the entire adult population was immune. The American colonists, however, might have gone for years without any exposure to smallpox. It is difficult to track smallpox deaths during the Revolutionary War, but estimates indicate that Washington's army lost more troops to disease in general than in combat. One study suggests that for every soldier who fell to the British, ten died from some sort of disease. Washington himself was no stranger to smallpox; while traveling in Barbados in 1751, he contracted the disease while staying with Gedney Clarke. However, Washington did not keep a record of his illness. His case was mild, leaving him with scarring on his nose.

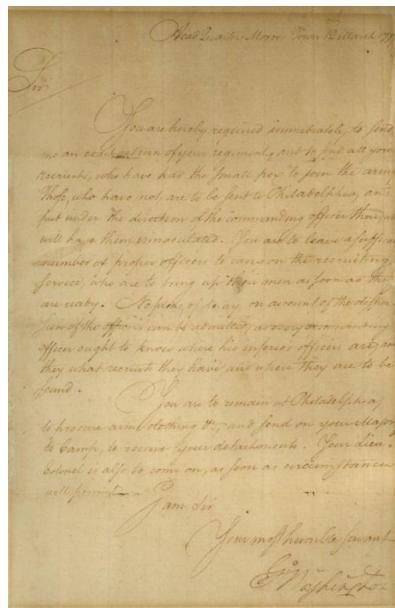
Colonies dealt with smallpox in two different ways: quarantine and inoculation. Each colony had its own quarantine laws, which took different forms and were often enforced at the local level. Some colonials, particularly the wealthy, chose to be inoculated. Inoculation involved deliberate exposure to smallpox, usually through an incision made on the arm. This still resulted in a case of smallpox, but frequently one with milder symptoms and a greater chance of survival, with immunity as the end goal. Many were opposed to inoculation because the practice could still lead to an outbreak if an inoculated person were not properly quarantined while ill. Inoculation was heavily regulated and banned outright in some places. Combined with the procedure's expense, this made it a rare practice in America.

Outbreaks in War

Immunity to smallpox became an important factor during the Revolutionary War in two ways. First, the British and Continental forces were disproportionately affected by the epidemic. The British troops arriving from Europe were more likely to be immune to the disease, either through inoculation or natural exposure. This was not true of Washington's forces. As soldiers concentrated themselves in camp, the chances of a smallpox outbreak increased. Second, the British took quickly to inoculating fresh troops because the chances of triggering an outbreak were slim. Washington, on the other hand, struggled with the question of inoculation. Doing so would not only risk an outbreak; it would also leave a portion of the army unfit for battle while they recovered.

It was for these reasons that Washington decided against inoculation during his army's first encounter with smallpox: The Siege of Boston in 1775. Civilians and soldiers who showed

symptoms were kept from the rest of the army. When safe passage out of Boston was secured for some, the presence of smallpox was taken into account. There is some indication that the British, going against the agreement, used the disease as a biological weapon by forcing potentially infected Bostonians to leave the city. When the British gave up the city in the spring of 1776, the outbreak became even harder to control. Refugees spread smallpox throughout Massachusetts, and Boston's outbreak continued until the end of summer. During the same period, the Continental forces besieging Quebec also suffered great losses due to smallpox. The soldiers were already in poor health, making them more susceptible. A quarantine was put in place, but it was not enforced strongly enough. When they were forced to retreat, smallpox went with them. These losses signaled to Washington and other revolutionary leaders that the army's smallpox policy was not effective.



George Washington orders sent to Philadelphia in order to receive Smallpox inoculations' – George Washington to David Grier, March 12, 1777. [RM-1171; MS-5907]. Washington Library, Mount Vernon, VA.

Mass Inoculation

After weeks of indecision, Washington issued the order to have all troops inoculated on February 5, 1777, in a letter to President John Hancock. The next day, a second letter was sent to Dr. William Shippen, Jr., that ordered all recruits arriving in Philadelphia to be inoculated:

"Finding the Smallpox to be spreading much and fearing that no precaution can prevent it from running through the whole of our Army, I have determined that the troops shall be inoculated. This Expedient may be attended with some inconveniences and some disadvantages, but yet I trust in its consequences will have the most-happy effects. Necessity not only authorizes but seems to require the measure, for should the disorder infect the Army in the natural way and rage with its usual virulence we should have more to dread from it than from the Sword of the Enemy."

The practice was soon implemented across the colonies. Army physicians also inoculated veteran soldiers who had yet to be exposed. Washington needed the process to be done in secret. He feared that the British would learn of the army's temporary weakness and use it to their advantage. In March 1778, the inoculation orders were altered slightly. At Valley Forge, Washington encountered thousands of troops that had managed to avoid smallpox, either through inoculation or natural exposure. In need of immediate reinforcements, Washington realized that the army might not survive the delay of inoculation. Instead, he ordered that inoculations continue at the camp in Valley Forge. If quarantine procedures failed, there was a risk of an outbreak. However, the soldiers awaiting inoculation could be called to the front lines if necessary.

Brenda Thacker

Sources:

- Duncan, Louis C. *Medical Men in the American Revolution, 1775-1783*. Carlisle barracks, Pa: Medical field service school, 1931.
 - Fenn, Elizabeth Anne. *Pox Americana: The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-82*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2001.
 - <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/disease-in-the-revolutionary-war/>
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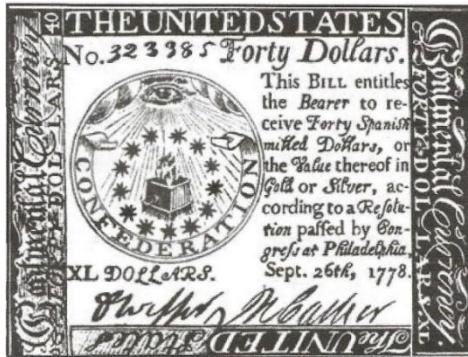
The \$ Sign

By Robert H. Thornhoff



One of the most recognized symbols in the world, the \$ sign, has been around over two hundred years, yet few Americans know how it originated and evolved.

The dollar symbol originated during the American Revolution when the Continental Congress, in the midst of all its other problems, was struggling to adopt a currency. In 1775 the Continental Congress, on a proposal by Thomas Jefferson, rejected the British Sterling and adopted the "Spanish Milled Dollar" as its basic monetary unit.



Oliver Pollock, the New Orleans merchant who acted as an intermediary between the American government and General Bernardo de Galvez, is credited with originating the symbol. Through his efforts, great amounts of money, arms, ammunition, and military supplies were acquired from Spain and funneled into the American colonies.

The “S” alludes to Spain and the two vertical marks “II” allude to the pillars of Hercules. Shown below is a “Spanish milled dollar”, or *Peso*, that was minted in Mexico City in 1781, the year that the Spanish and French forces commanded by General Bernardo de Galvez fought and won the Battle of Pensacola. On the obverse, or front side, is an image of King Carlos III. On the reverse is the image of the royal coat of arms flanked by the Pillars of Hercules, which adorned most Spanish coins of the period.



Spanish Milled Dollar Obverse,
1781



Spanish Milled Dollar Reverse,
1781

The origin and significance of the dollar (\$) sign is yet another part of our wonderful Spanish heritage in America that has somehow been lost, forgotten, or obscured.

Source:

- *La Granada* – August 2020 (*Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez San Antonio Chapter*)

Alabama facts regarding the Revolutionary War

(Compilation by Allen Mollere)

Many Bethabara Chapter compatriots know of the Battle of Fort Charlotte that took place in what is currently downtown Mobile, Alabama. Many will be surprised however to learn of the following facts as they relate to the War of Independence:

- Montgomery, the capital city of Alabama, was named for a Revolutionary War hero. The county in which it is located, however, is named for a different Montgomery. Most people correctly surmise that the capital city Montgomery was named for someone of renown and might assume Montgomery County is named for the same person, as is typically the case when a city and county bear the same name. In this unusual case, however, the county and its seat honor different men named Montgomery. The City of Montgomery was named for Maj. Gen. Richard Montgomery, known as one of the great soldiers of the Colonial Army. He was killed on Dec. 31, 1775, during the Battle of Quebec. Although the colonies won the battle, more than 400 troops were captured and 50, including Montgomery, died, leading to the decision to pull back from Canada. Montgomery County is named for Maj. Lemuel P. Montgomery, who was the first man killed in the 1814 Battle of Horseshoe Bend in the Mississippi territory (now central Alabama) during the Creek War of 1813-14.
- At least 722 men who fought in the Revolutionary War are buried in Alabama, many in unmarked graves. The last surviving veteran may have been William Speer, who died at age 101. Veterans were typically quite old when they moved to Alabama and records for their ages often vary, but Speer was likely the last to die in Alabama. Born in Maryland in 1758, Speer served a total of about nine months with three North Carolina regiments. When he was 97 years old, Speers applied for a military pension. When asked why he waited so long, he replied "he hadn't needed the money until then." He was granted a pension of \$25.88 per year in 1856.
- Isabella Kelso Wylie, the wife of a Revolutionary War hero who lived out her life in Perry County, Ala., is buried beneath a special marker in Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church Cemetery and was labeled a "heroine" of the war. Born in Ireland 1755, she married William Wylie, who was in the battles when Cornwallis and Tarleton overran the Carolinas. He was taken prisoner, suffered great hardships at Camden and when exchanged served to the close of the war." Several family histories online state Isabella "provided many services during the Revolutionary War including harvesting crops, supplying prisoners, and defending the home front."
- Native Americans tribes from what is now Alabama fought on both sides of the Revolutionary War. While many Southern Native American tribes fought in the Revolutionary War, they chose differing sides to support. During the war-heavy colonial period when European powers were fighting each other and the colonies over American soil, Indians were forced to attempt to stay neutral or choose a side

to best aid their interests. Native tribes would support whichever side they thought might help preserve their land and way of life. "Most of the southeastern Indians who fought in the war supported Britain against the United States or Spain, but some gave aid to the Americans and the Spanish," Catawbas fought for the colonies while Creeks, Chickasaws and Choctaws generally allied with Britain. "However, many factions and individuals among the South's Indian groups also pursued their own policies and actions based on what they perceived to be their best interests."

- James McCrory, a soldier who once held a place of honor in George Washington's "Life Guard," a Secret Service precursor created to protect the general, lived out his life in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. McCrory was promoted to Washington's detail after successes in battle. Officially called the Commander-in-Chief's Guard, the company that fluctuated between 180 and 250 men was known as the "Life Guard" and tasked with protecting General Washington. McCrory, born in Ireland, came to Baltimore at age 17 and served in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, **Eutaw Springs (SC)**, **Stono (SC)**, **Camden (SC)** and **Cowpens (SC)**, and wintered in Valley Forge in 1777-1778. While serving as an ensign in Washington's guard, he was captured and confined on a prison ship for six months. He moved to the Alabama Territory in about 1815 and was living in Tuscaloosa when he died on November 24, 1840 at the age of 82.
 - John Sevier, hero of the revolution and first governor of Tennessee, was buried in Alabama. Born in Virginia in 1745, he fought in numerous wars and participated in 30 Revolutionary War battles, including **King's Mountain**. He died in Alabama and his remains lay buried there for seventy-three years 'without a stone to mark the place of their repose or an enclosure to protect them from unhallowed intrusion.'" He was interred with honors near "Fort Decatur, Alabama, on the east side of the Tallapoosa River, at an Indian village called Tuckabatchee." In 1888 his body was removed by the State of Tennessee and he is now buried in Knoxville with a stately monument as a memorial.
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Upcoming 2020 SAR Activities

Oct 7	240th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain
Oct 10	240th Anniversary of the Battle of Shallow Ford
Nov 7	Patriot Benjamin Sutton, Sr. Grave Marker Dedication, 11:00 AM, La Grange, NC
Dec 19	Wreaths Across America

Note: All events and dates pending virus quarantine status.

Bethabara Chapter Officers and Contacts

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