Black Patriots
UNSUNG HEROES OF THE REVOLUTION

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American Spirit
Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine
January/February 2003
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New Tax Rules for ’03 11
Favorable changes in tax rules can help you get your finances in order and assist estate planning
BY BARBARA WELTMAN

Black Patriots 16
Years of patient research reveal unsung heroes of the American Revolution
BY ELISABETH WHITMAN SCHMIDT

Treasure Hunt 20
Collecting is a passion for Fran and Jim Carpenter, whose home serves as a showcase for their treasures
BY JENNIFER FUQUA

Painted Furniture 26
From fancy collector pieces to rustic utilitarian items, painted furniture draws many collectors
BY JEANMARIE ANDREWS

Visions of America 30
This new regular feature shows America through the eyes of various photographers. In this issue, “Roadside Attractions”
BY RICHARD MCGREW

A+ Teachers 34
DAR honors outstanding teachers
BY SUSAN CHAPPELL

Time Machines 38
Alternative schedules help women balance job and family
BY MARDY FONES

Ladies in the Family Tree 46
Creativity can overcome sparse clues to women ancestors
BY JULIANA SMITH
Spirited Comments From Readers
The first Thanksgiving; it’s “Wedgwood”; recognizing another descendant of a Forgotten Patriot

Message from the President General
Reaching Out to the Nation
DAR plans to put American Spirit on newstands

Historic Homes
Marvels in Massachusetts
Four of the many historic DAR properties in the Bay State

The Bookshelf
Revolutionary New York
Four books spotlight New York’s vital role in the Revolution

Spirited Adventures
Mid-Winter Getaways
The Southwest and Deep South beckon cold-weary travelers

Tech Tools
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ABOUT THE COVER:
“Spirit of ’76” painted by John Thompson
(original version painted by Archibald Willard)
Dear Editor,

How disappointed I was to read the story, “Thanksgiving Myths and Realities,” in my November/December 2002 issue of American Spirit. I had eagerly turned to it thinking that, at last, the DAR would dispel the biggest myth of Thanksgiving—that the first one occurred in Plymouth!

Alas, such was not the case. Instead, the magazine emerges as another victim of the great New England public relations juggernaut that has most of the United States believing that the Mayflower’s arrival at Plymouth was the beginning of the nation and subsequently produced the “first” of everything.

I call your attention to 1607 and the settlement of Jamestown, Va. The 400th anniversary of this event is approaching, with a great celebration for the nation planned.

By 1619, the settlers had survived the “starving time,” and in December of that year, two momentous events took place. First, under orders from England, new arrivals observed the real first Thanksgiving. Second, the Colonists convened the first session of a representative government, with burgesses from the various areas of the colony meeting.

The first Thanksgiving occurred when Capt. John Woodlief led the newly arrived English colonists to a grassy slope along the James River and instructed them to drop to their knees and pray in thanks for a safe arrival to the New World.

On this day, December 4, 1619, these 38 men from Berkeley Parish in England were given these instructions: “Wee ordaine that the day of our ships arrivall at the place assigned for plantacon in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually keept holy as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God.” See www.virginia.org/site/.

Note that not only was this the first Thanksgiving, but it was to give thanks for what God had done for the Virginia Colonists and not what Indians, the settlers themselves or any other mortals had done. I sincerely hope American Spirit will set the record straight on this matter and not be a conspirator in the rewriting of American history.

This is particularly important since correspondence in “Letters to the Editor” indicate that students are using this wonderful magazine as a source of information.

Mary Leigh Boisseau
Dorothea Henry Chapter
Danville, Va.

Hello,

Having purloined/borrowed/begged my girlfriend’s copy of your excellent magazine, and read it cover to cover as I usually do, I must point out that Wedgwood is most likely spelled incorrectly [Wedgewood] in your “Winter Gems” story. The only reason that I know is that I sold some on eBay and had to correct the error myself!

David Kane
Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Editor,

As the son of Swedish immigrants, I am qualified only to be a HODAR, but I wear my pin proudly in support of my wife, a long-serving Daughtier. I am a patriot and have been proud to serve my country in uniform, so I look forward to reading American Spirit (and the newsletter as well). Most of your letters are from women, so it may surprise you to know that as a male, I very much enjoyed the quilting feature.

My neighbor is a quilter, as was my mother, and as a child in the 1920s, I remember my mother at her quilting frame. I accompanied my wife, Barbara, to deliver a quilt, representing all of the DAR chapters of Washington State, to be exhibited at the museum in our state capitol in Olympia.

I enjoy the historical and genealogy articles, also. Just wanted you to know you have appreciative male readers, too.

Richard E. Carlson
Gig Harbor, Wash.

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed your article, “Forgotten Patriots,” but wondered why it was noted that a descendant of Charles Lewis “is today a DAR member,” whereas it is not noted that a descendant of John Neptune is also currently a member of DAR?

For your information, Neana Marie Neptune has been a member of the Pemaquid Chapter in Maine since the 1980s. She was the first full-blooded American Indian to be accepted into DAR. She should have been mentioned in the article as well.

There were some lovely pictures of her in Portland magazine a couple of years ago. Whenever she has been interviewed, she always speaks so well of Neadan Marie Lewis “is today a DAR member,” whereas it is not noted that a descendant of Charles Lewis “is today a DAR member,” whereas it is not noted that a descendant of John Neptune is also currently a member of DAR?

Helen Lent
Former Regent of Pemaquid Chapter
Frederick, Md.

Please send us your questions and comments. To ensure timely delivery of your letters, we encourage you to send all letters via e-mail to the American Spirit Editor at americanspirit@dar.org. Please limit letters to 200 words.
FROM THE PRESIDENT GENERAL

To better support our American Spirit magazine and share our sense of heritage with all Americans, the Daughters will soon offer this exciting periodical to the public.

Within the year, we plan to make American Spirit available at newsstands and bookstores across the country. By reaching out to local communities through the pages of American Spirit, DAR has a unique opportunity to highlight the importance of historic preservation, education and patriotism, which has been our work since the founding of this women’s organization in 1890.

People of all races and nationalities contributed their talents to establish America’s freedom and her unique spirit of independence and determination is reflected all across this country. In this issue, we celebrate the dedication of our Black Patriots who gave exemplary service during the Revolutionary War. Their story is part of ongoing research at DAR to identify the roles of different ethnic groups during the Revolution.

Because February is the month in which so many Presidents were born, it has traditionally been celebrated as American History Month. It is also the month we pause to honor the role of African Americans in shaping our great nation as we celebrate Black History Month. DAR celebrates this month by sponsoring American history essay contests in schools across the nation and by honoring the teachers whose exceptional work makes our national heritage come alive for their students. In this issue, meet four of these outstanding teachers honored by the DAR for their work in the classroom.

We believe that pride in our history and a desire to understand our past is shared by all Americans. American Spirit will be making some adjustments throughout this year to prepare for its newsstand debut. We hope you enjoy the new look of this issue, which takes its design from the current trend in major magazine publications, presenting articles in an attractive, easy-to-read format that will attract readers to our magazine.

As we begin a new year, let us all adjust to prepare for its newsstand debut.

Linda Tinker Watkins
President General
nicknamed “Paine the Tory” by his fellow townspeople, Judge Timothy Paine was born in Bristol, R.I., and moved to Worcester, Mass. at the age of 9. Judge Paine served as a town clerk, selectman and representative to the General Court.

In 1767, he purchased 300 acres of land on the “great road to Boston,” now called Lincoln Street. He married and in 1774 began construction of his estate, finishing the house in 1778.

The oldest house in Worcester, the Paine House is also known as The Oaks. The structure is set back from the road approximately 100 feet and has a circular driveway. Covered in clapboards painted yellow with white trim, the east side of the house faces Lincoln Street. However, the original entrance was located on the south side.

The doorway, positioned slightly off-center, has an elliptical fanlight and side lights. In the center hall stands a spiral stairway. The one-story porch, supported by four slender Doric columns and topped by a handsome balustrade, stretches the length of the east façade.

In 1836, The Oaks was enlarged to its present size and the kitchen ell was added. During construction, a soldier’s hat was found in the partitions, thus substantiating the claim that Revolutionary War soldiers were quartered there.

After Timothy Paine’s death in 1793, his eldest son, Dr. William Paine, moved into The Oaks. Frederick William Paine, the youngest son of Dr. Paine, also lived in The Oaks until his death in 1879. The next owner was the Rev. George Sturgis Paine, who died in 1909 and left the house to his three nieces and a nephew.

In 1914, the Colonel Timothy Bigelow Chapter in Worcester, Mass., purchased the dwelling and maintains it beautifully as a furnished home of the Revolutionary days.
Simeon Wheelock, born in 1741 in Mendon, Mass., was a blacksmith by trade. At the age of 19, he enlisted for service in the French and Indian War. Three years later he married Deborah Thayer, also of Mendon, and settled in Uxbridge, Mass., located 4 miles away. He built the one-and-a-half-story house in 1768. In 1775, Mr. Wheelock marched as a Minuteman to Lexington and Concord from Uxbridge. He died at age 45 fighting in Shay’s Rebellion in Springfield, Mass.

The house has two distinct parts. The original section, consisting of massive beams of oak held together with handmade wrought-iron nails, extends back to the present brick chimney. The beams were cut with an old upright saw, as opposed to the beams of the second part of the structure, which were cut with a circular saw. Elihu Brown, who later owned the house, is believed to have erected the later addition.

The present-day brick chimney that replaced the original stone chimney was erected by Mr. Brown and was the first of its kind in Uxbridge.

In 1910, the house was presented to the Deborah Wheelock Chapter in Uxbridge by the homeowners, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Hayward. Chapter members restored the dwelling, and it has been maintained as a Chapter House since 1912.

In remodeling the building into the Chapter House, two sleeping rooms were converted into the present kitchen, and the original wall cupboard has been preserved. The small double-hung windows and low doorways with glass transoms are original.

Friends and family have donated most of the furnishings in the home. Some of the pieces were actually used by the Wheelock family, including a cradle, a knife and fork, and a split-banister chair.
Purchased in 1921 by the General Israel Putnam Chapter in Danvers, Mass., the Judge Samuel Holten House underwent extensive restoration and was reopened in 1922 as a historic house museum.

The house is named for Essex County Judge Samuel Holten Jr., who was born in 1738 in Salem Village, later renamed Danvers. He began the study of medicine at an early age and started his own medical practice at age 18. Two years later, he married Mary Warner of Gloucester and continued practicing medicine until the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

In 1768, he began his political career as a delegate to a convention at Faneuil Hall. Judge Holten served as one of the Massachusetts delegates to the Yorktown Convention, which framed the Articles of Confederation.

When he became a member of the Provincial Congress of 1774–1775 and was appointed to the Committee of Safety, he gave up his medical practice. He served in the Continental Congress and later the United States Congress. He was a member of the 1778 Constitutional Convention of Massachusetts and was judge of the Essex County Probate Court from 1796 to 1815. He also served Danvers as selectman, town clerk, assessor and treasurer.

The first part of the house, built in 1670 by Benjamin Holten (whose wife, Sarah, figured in the Salem witch trials), was typical of the one-room house plan, with one room occupying each of the two floors, with an attic and the large chimney and stairs at the end.

There were six additions made to the home between 1689 and 1832. These additions include 12 feet to the left of the front door along the southwest side; one lean-to followed by a second added to the rear of the house; another lean-to added to the northeast corner; and, lastly, a room added onto the north corner.

By 1832, the exterior of the house looked very much as it does today. The building is a fine example of chronological and architectural house development.

Furnishings inside the house include historic items such as a mahogany desk with a unique locking device, a melodeon, and cabinets filled with glass and china.
One of the oldest houses in Attleboro, Mass., The Peck House’s predominant element is its gambrel roof, one of the few in this area. The roof of this Colonial cottage is unusually high—from its bottom to the top, the roof’s height is greater than the height of the ground floor.

The red-painted clapboard house has six-over-six windowpanes set in white frames. The interior features low ceilings and a stairway with high risers and narrow treads.

Legend has it that a hidden stairway to the attic was used as a place of safety in case of Indian attack. A central chimney serves three fireplaces on the first floor and one on the second.

To save it from being demolished, the Attleboro Chapter purchased The Peck House in 1902. What is called The Peck House today is actually the surviving section of two homes that were joined in the mid-18th-century.

In 1705, Hezekiah Peck built a house on North Main Street. His daughter, Rebecca, married a Thomas Sweet, who built a house for them on his family’s farm between 1728 and 1753. This second house was later moved to North Street and joined to the older structure. Ultimately six generations of the Peck family resided in the home, which also housed soldiers of the American Revolution.

After buying the house in 1902, the Attleboro Chapter moved The Peck House to its present location on the corner of North Main and Elizabeth Streets. However, the original section built by Hezekiah Peck was too old to relocate. With its many fine pieces of Colonial furniture, old portraits and period memorabilia, the house is maintained as a meeting place and museum.
he city and the state of New York are always in the forefront of the news. We hear about our largest city and third-largest state daily. Millions of visitors flock annually to the attractions both offer. While there is so much attention to modern New York, most people pay little attention to the historical New York—despite the vital role it played in the development of our country.

Ellis Island, the Roosevelts and Broadway all elicit memories in American minds, but those sentiments rarely venture back as far as the 18th century. Even among many historians, attention to some aspects of New York’s past is wanting. It is indeed a rare event when so many books appear at the same time on New York’s role in the American Revolution.

Although historians address such topics as the Battle of Saratoga more often, overviews covering the entire state appear less frequently. Older studies, such as Thomas Jefferson Wertenbaker’s Father Knickerbocker Rebels (1948) and Leopold Launitz-Schürer’s Loyal Whigs and Revolutionaries (1980), offered general surveys. But though they are still useful, time and more recent scholarship have made them somewhat dated.

Last year’s publication of four books on the subject is, then, both a surprise and a welcome addition to the literature. Together, they mark a major milestone in the course of historical publishing for the Empire State and for the history of New York’s participation in the American Revolution.

Located near the center of the East Coast, New York played a pivotal logistical role in the War for Independence. With the city’s superb harbor and the state’s Hudson and Mohawk river valleys, access to the rest of the world and to the interior of the Northeast put New York in the unenviable position of being coveted by both sides in the conflict.

For the better part of the war, the British occupied Manhattan and parts of western Long Island, while the remainder of the state saw invasions, inroads, battles, marauders and shoreline incursions. Some areas were strongly patriotic, others Loyalist and still others a mixture of both or indifferent. But none were unaffected by the events of the war.

New York City became a center for Loyalist refugees as those supporting the British side flocked to the island stronghold of Manhattan. At the same time, families and individuals favoring the American cause fled British-occupied or threatened areas and moved into interior parts of the Hudson Valley, eastern Long Island or neighboring states.

There was great social disruption. Families were split by the struggle, which was really a civil war fought on many fronts up and down the coast and throughout each Colony. The question of where one’s loyalty lay are central to the first three books.

Divided Loyalties, by Richard Ketchum, offers a more general view of New York’s part in the Revolution than do the following two studies. Using diaries, letters and memoirs as major sources, the author focuses on two of New York’s leading families: the Patriot Livingstons and the Loyalist DeLanceys. He demonstrates the impact of the war on these prominent clans and uses them to illustrate the larger themes of division, struggle with conscience and the economic uncertainty all New Yorkers faced then. An interesting and useful section near the end of the book, “Principal Characters,” offers short biographies of the major figures of the era. Written in an easy-to-read style, Divided Loyalties gives readers a sweeping view of the war’s human consequences.
Finally, Barnet Schecter’s *The Battle for New York* examines the life of the city and its environs during the American Revolution. Mr. Schecter’s study takes a broad view of New York history during this era. It addresses major events, such as the Battles of Brooklyn, White Plains, Harlem Heights and Pelham Bay; the fire of 1776; the stories of Nathan Hale and the first submarine, the *Turtle*; and New York’s role at the Siege of Yorktown. Of the four books mentioned here, this would be the first to read to gain a general understanding. An appendix even provides readers with “A Walking Tour of the Battle for New York.” A description of the tour is also online at www.thebattlefornewyork.com.

With the British evacuation of New York in late November 1783 and George Washington’s entry into the city on November 25, the last major British force departed American soil via New York Harbor. So few of us know that. With three new books and one reprint appearing in 2002, students of the American Revolution, of New York history and of American history in general have plenty of resources available to expand their knowledge and to refresh their understanding of the major events in New York and vicinity that led to American independence.

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**GENEROUS ENEMIES: PATRIOTS AND LOYALISTS IN REVOLUTIONARY NEW YORK**
Judith L. Van Buskirk
University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002
288 pages, $35

**THE NEW YORK LOYALISTS, SECOND EDITION**
Philip Ranlet
University Press of America, 2002
303 pages, $48

**THE BATTLE FOR NEW YORK: THE CITY AT THE HEART OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**
Barnet Schecter
Walker & Company, 2002
448 pages, $30

In *Generous Enemies*, Judith L. Van Buskirk also investigates the struggle the state’s residents waged to identify their own loyalties during the Revolution. Using such broad topics as family and social connections and business ties, the author illustrates each with many examples drawn from primary sources to display the complexities faced by all New Yorkers during this period. The book also includes some significant sections on the role of African Americans in the war.

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**The Bookshelf**

[Image of book covers]
What’s New in Taxes for 2003

A number of favorable tax rules take effect in 2003. By taking advantage of these rules, you can get your personal portfolios and retirement savings in order, help pay for your children’s or grandchildren’s educations, and do some effective estate planning.

By Barbara Weltman
Your Portfolio

If the poor stock market performance of the past few years has hurt your personal savings, now is the time to realign your portfolio. The new tax rules can help. Consider selling losing stocks or mutual fund shares now and reinvesting the proceeds in securities you expect will perform better.

You can use capital losses from the sale of securities to offset all your capital gains, including capital gains distributions from mutual funds. Losses in excess of these gains can then offset up to $3,000 of other income, such as dividends and interest income. Amounts in excess of this dollar limit can be carried forward and used in subsequent years. (Congress is now considering a raise in the $3,000 limit for 2003.)

Take losses on worthless securities. Some dot.coms and other holdings may no longer have any real value. To take a tax loss, however, they must be completely worthless (the fact that a company is in bankruptcy does not prove worthlessness).

My advice: Instead of proving a security is worthless, just sell it to your brokerage firm or a friend for a nominal sum such as $1, so you can write off your entire investment (less $1). Selling to a spouse or close relative will not allow you to take a tax loss.

Also explore whether any of your holdings became worthless in a prior year. You have up to seven years from the due date of a return for the year of worthlessness to make a claim for a tax refund based on a worthless security. For example, if you invested in Corporation X and you find out it became worthless in 1998, it’s not too late to obtain a refund on your 1998 taxes. You have until April 15, 2006, to file an amended return and claim the refund.

Your Retirement Savings

If you’re working, you can save more in your retirement accounts thanks to changes in the tax laws. For 2003, you can make elective deferrals to your company’s 401(k) or similar plan of up to $12,000. If you’ll be at least age 50 by the end of the year, your dollar limit is $14,000. This additional “catch up” amount can be made without regard to your prior contributions as long as you meet the age requirement.

My advice: You don’t have to contribute the maximum allowed under the plan, but it’s advisable to contribute at least the amount required to obtain your company’s full matching contribution, which is free money to you. For example, you may have to contribute 4 or 6 percent of your salary in order to qualify for a full matching contribution.

If your company has a SIMPLE plan as its retirement plan, your 2003 elective deferrals are limited to $8,000 (or $9,000 if you’ll be at least age 50 by the end of the year).

The contribution limit for 2003 for IRAs, including Roth IRAs, is $3,000 ($3,500 for those age 50 and older). If one spouse works, he or she may make a contribution on behalf of the nonworking spouse up to this dollar limit. Income limits may prevent contributions to a Roth IRA as well as a deduction for IRA contributions by someone who is an active participant in a company retirement plan.

Portfolio review. Now is also a good time to review the investments made in your retirement accounts. Make changes in your retirement savings portfolio, coordinating your investments with your holdings outside of retirement plans.

In rebalancing your portfolio, however, keep in mind you cannot generally take a tax write-off for losses in retirement plans. Also, income earned in retirement accounts will eventually be taxed as ordinary income, regardless of the underlying investment that produced it. For these reasons, I usually recommend you hold investments producing ordinary income within your retirement accounts while keeping investments designed to generate capital gains in your personal portfolio.

Roth IRA conversions. If you have a traditional IRA, consider converting it to a Roth IRA in 2003. Now may be a great time to do it if the value of your IRA is depressed as a result of stock market declines. The reason: You must pick up as income the value of the account when you convert it, but this amount may be lower than it was in prior years.

Conversion gives you certain key benefits:

• Your IRA gains and earnings are tax-free because they are considered capital gains.

• You do not have to take distributions until age 59 1/2 (or on account of disability or purchase of a first home).

• You are not required to take distributions during your lifetime, so you can use the funds to provide an inheritance for your heirs if you have other funds for retirement income.

• You can make a conversion only if your modified adjusted gross income for the year does not exceed $100,000 (without regard to the conversion). Work with a tax professional to assess whether you qualify to make a conversion.

Distributions. If you’re age 70-1/2 or older, you must start taking distributions from your traditional IRAs and company retirement plans. (There are no required lifetime distributions from Roth IRAs). If you’re still working, you may be able to postpone plan distributions until your retire from the company. New rules allow you to take smaller required amounts than in prior years. Again, a tax professional can help you determine your required amounts so you’ll avoid tax penalties for under-withdrawals.

Your Family’s Education

The cost of education continues to escalate faster than inflation. But you can help your family meet this high cost in several ways.

Savings. You can contribute to a qualified tuition plan, also called a 529 plan (after the section in the Internal Revenue Code governing the plan), to save for higher education. All states have such plans, either as savings-type plans (the amounts available for the student depend on the performance of your invested contributions) or as prepaid tuition plans (guaranteeing tuition is covered regardless of how
much it increases). Some private institutions may have their own prepaid tuition plans. Features of these plans include:

- Contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes, but withdrawals to cover qualified education expenses are tax-free to the student. There may be a deduction for state income tax purposes.

- You control the funds. Thus, if the grandchild for whom the contributions were initially made decides not to go to college, you can designate another beneficiary for the account. You can even withdraw the funds yourself, although you’ll incur both income tax on the earnings as well as a penalty.

- You can reduce your estate on a gift-tax-free basis. If your estate is substantial, you can transfer considerable wealth to a qualified tuition plan with no tax cost. The law allows you to treat a transfer as having been made over five years. This means you can transfer $55,000 for each child or grandchild (or double that amount if your spouse joins in the gift). For example, you have three grandchildren and your spouse agrees to split the gift. You can transfer from your estate $330,000 ($110,000 x three grandchildren) without any gift taxes.

  For information about 529 plans, visit www.savingforcollege.com.

Another, more modest savings option for your family’s education is a Coverdell education savings account. You can contribute only $2,000 per year for each child or grandchild (and only if your income is below a set level) and the contribution is not deductible. However, the funds can be used for any school, including grades K through 12, both public and private, and many ancillary costs such as computers and after-school activities.

- Direct payments. You can pay the cost of tuition directly to the school on behalf of your child or grandchild. Such a gift is not subject to the annual gift tax exclusion ($11,000 per beneficiary in 2003). Thus, you can pay tuition on the student’s behalf and make gifts to the student up to the exclusion amount without incurring any gift tax. All of these transfers reduce the size of your estate with no tax cost.

### Getting Organized

You cannot do effective tax planning unless your records are in order. For example, if you acquire shares of a mutual fund at different times and want to sell part of your holdings, good records allow you to select the shares you want to sell, enabling you to minimize your tax gains or maximize your losses.

For more information on record keeping, order IRS Publication 552, “Record Keeping for Individuals,” by calling 1-800-TAX-FORMS or visiting www.irs.gov.

By Susan Chappell

With its dramatic location at the base of the southern Rocky Mountains, Santa Fe offers an abundance of cultural activities, winter sports, fabulous dining and great shopping opportunities for those looking for a winter getaway.

At 7,000 feet above sea level, Santa Fe is America’s highest and oldest capital city, with a population of 62,000. Its Native American culture and Hispanic heritage is evident in the Spanish Pueblo-style architecture and the innovative New Mexican food that make this city unique.

Santa Fe boasts more than 250 art galleries and dealers and is home to the country’s only museum honoring an American woman artist with international stature: Georgia O’Keeffe. In addition, visitors can enjoy the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, the Museum of New Mexico, the Museum of Fine Arts and the newly opened Museum of Spanish Colonial Art.

Ski Santa Fe is located only 16 miles from the downtown plaza and is one of the state’s most popular winter recreation spots. With 43 runs, ski lessons and a large children’s area, it’s a haven for winter sports fans.

Another plus to visiting Santa Fe during the winter months is that several of the area’s best hotels offer special rates through March, some of which combine luxury accommodations with ski packages.

Most of the cuisine revolves around one of the state’s best-known products—the chile—and the most important question you’ll be asked when ordering your meal is “red or green?” referring to the color and flavor of the indigenous pepper.

Shopping treasures include Native American jewelry, leather goods, pottery, artwork and Taos-style furnishings found in a bevy of unique boutiques.

Santa Fe is located one hour north of Albuquerque. Taos, Los Alamos and several Native American pueblos are all within an hour’s drive of the city and well worth a visit.

For More Information
Santa Fe Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.santafe.org; Ski Santa Fe www.skisantafe.com
Mobile
ALABAMA

It’s been said that “history hangs upon Mobile like the Spanish moss that drapes her live oaks.” In fact, Mobile has a rich French, British, Spanish and Creole heritage, all reflected in the cultural diversity found in this Gulf Coast city as well as the in its architecture and cuisine.

Because of Mobile’s deep bay and harbor, the city and its neighboring barrier islands became an important location for military strategists to build their forts. Visitors can start their stay in Mobile at Fort Conde, an 18th-century French reconstruction that is now the city’s official welcome center.

At Battleship Memorial Park, take a look at the USS Alabama, the ship originally called the “Lucky A” because it emerged unscathed from World War II with nine battle stars. There are also several military planes and a flight simulator for thrill-seekers.

Mobile’s 300-year history also comes alive in five historic house-museums, which include a pre-Civil War home, a 19th-century Creole cottage, a Greek Revival-style house, a Federal-style structure and an Italianate townhouse.

Mobile boasts its own Mardi Gras celebration (February 19 to March 4). Dozens of floats parade through downtown, and masked society members throw out candy, doubloons, beads and Moon Pies to the frenzied crowd.

The Mobile Museum of Art has a roster of rotating exhibits as well as its own collection of fine arts and crafts. If you like science, head to the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center and have a go at more than 50 interactive exhibits. Nearby Dauphin Island and Gulf Shores are worth a visit, too, and a great place to try one of the area’s many terrific seafood restaurants.

For More Information
Mobile Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.mobile.org

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ONE OF THE TRIUMPHS OF RECENT HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH HAS BEEN THE EMERGING STORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. FREEMEN AND SLAVES WERE FOUND ON BOTH SIDES, IN COMBAT UNITS AS WELL AS IN FORCED LABOR. NEARLY ALL THEIR HISTORIES ARE SKETCHY, DRAWN FROM A HANDFUL OF DOCUMENTS. THE CASE OF SAMUEL BELL IS TYPICAL.
The story of Mr. Bell, a free black from Sampson County, N.C., is told in his pension application. He received a furlough after Charleston fell in 1780 and was told to return home, but to be ready to rejoin his company when called. In 1832 he applied for a pension and said he had never been recalled. Asked why he joined the Army, Mr. Bell said, “he enlisted in the service of the United States because he believed it to be his duty to support his countrymen in arms in the achievement of his independence.”

In recent years, historians and genealogists have unearthed many documents proving that the Colonial struggle for independence was shared by a great number of people of diverse racial origins and varied socioeconomic standing. The dedication of Samuel Bell and his African American compatriots continues to inspire.

**Slaves, Molasses, Rum and Revolution**

Among the African American population in the North American British Colonies, there was a well-defined separation of lifestyle between freemen and slaves. Although family relationships often straddled the barrier, slaves still remained at the bottom of Colonial America’s social structure. In the Southern Colonies in particular, slaves were responsible for the booming agricultural productivity.

In the popular musical “1776,” one of the delegates to the Continental Congress from South Carolina sings a song explaining the relationship among slaves, molasses and rum. This symbolic description of the connection between slave labor on Southern farmlands, molasses from New England and rum from the West Indies presents dramatic evidence of how the 13 Colonies had become economically dependent on each other and on other nearby British possessions. Despite the repressive laws imposed on the Colonies by the British government, there were strong ties of trade developed under the protection of the mother country.

The two most difficult challenges facing members of the Continental Congress were the possible loss of markets for American products and the status of slavery in the new nation. While there were heated debates among the patriot leaders, financial issues finally dictated that slavery would remain in force if political independence were achieved. There were African Americans who were classified as freemen, and they continued to live under severe restrictions.

When thoughts of revolution started to develop in the American Colonies, free blacks were caught between the desperation of slavery and the impossibility of equality. Slaves had nothing to lose and little to gain by political upheaval, while freemen had to seriously consider possible repercussions before they could offer either side their support.

Once the members of the Continental Congress agreed that independence was their ultimate goal, they faced the urgent need of raising armed opposition to the mighty military and naval forces of Great Britain. Eventually, race entered into the discussions. Although slaves and black laborers were going to be necessary in supporting roles, the thought of giving guns to a supposedly undisciplined throng of men was—at least officially—an unacceptable solution to any manpower shortage.

The fact that many blacks already had access to firearms while serving on merchant ships, acting as overseers, living on the frontier or being members of local militias, did not seem to influence the decision-makers. As it turned out, each state dealt with the question in its own way.

**British Recruit Slaves With Freedom**

While members of the Continental Congress and Colonial legislatures continued to argue about the qualifications of military service, Lord Dunmore, the British governor of Virginia, moved to turn the race situation to his advantage. His agents roamed the countryside offering freedom to all slaves who would bear arms in His Majesty’s troops. Scores of slaves fled from their owners, which helped to implement Lord Dunmore’s plan to inflict economic ruin on the agricultural structure of the Colonies.

At the Battle of Great Bridge in December 1776, the British sent a new company of armed and trained black soldiers in combat. But the Colonials quickly repulsed this threat and defeated the British. Among the Virginians who participated was William Flora, a free black from Portsmouth. He was awarded bounty lands for bravery and became a well-respected businessman after the American Revolution.

Various records prove that other members of Virginia’s African American population were active in many roles during the Revolution. For instance, Caesar Tarrant served as a pilot, guiding ships in the port areas of the Chesapeake Bay throughout the war. He was a slave of Carter and Mary Tarrant of Elizabeth City County and was set free by a legislative act of October 19, 1789. His will, signed in 1797, directed that his property be sold and the proceeds be used to purchase the freedom of his daughter, Liddy.

**New England’s Manpower Shortages**

Colonial leaders in Massachusetts were faced with the immediate need to raise an army after the battle at Lexington on April 19, 1775. The Committee of Safety passed a resolution on May 20, 1775, stating that only freemen could enlist. This was followed by an order of the Continental Army on July 10 that prohibited all black enlistment.

Gen. John Thomas, commander of the Massachusetts troops at Roxbury, took issue with these restrictions because blacks
were already serving in his units. He viewed his men “as equally serviceable with other men for fatigue; and in action many of them have proven themselves brave.”

Filling the state quota for enlisted men became difficult, so certain modifications were made to the enlistment rules until an act was passed by the legislature on January 27, 1777, in which only Quakers were exempted. By the fall of that year, as the Baroness von Riedesel was being escorted through western Massachusetts among a party of American-held prisoners, she observed that “you do not see a regiment in which there is not a large number of blacks…”

The other New England Colonies filled their Continental Army quotas and maintaining state and local defense in a number of ways. A further complication was that African Americans from the Colonies bordering Canada were constantly tempted by British blandishments. But Colonial records attest that many withstood these offers.

Maine was the location of the first naval engagement of the Revolution. The British armed cutter Margareta was captured by irate Machias Whigs. Richard Earle, body servant to the American leader, Capt. Jeremiah O’Brien, participated in this event. Primus Stafford, a marine aboard the privateer General Putnam, was present at Penobscot Bay when the British defeated Commodore Dudley Saltonstall and Col. Paul Revere in 1779. (Because Maine was not a separate state until 1820, most of its records are found in Massachusetts sources.)

New Hampshire followed the lead of other Colonies and restricted the enlistment of blacks. The federal pension application of Anthony Gilman of Plaistow, however, proves that there were exceptions to the rule. Mr. Gilman enlisted as a fifer in a Massachusetts company in December 1775. He was captured by the British in New York and sold as a “man of color” to a merchant. Then he was sent to Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, where he escaped and eventually returned and joined a New Hampshire regiment.

Vermont was the first state to prohibit slavery or bondage of any kind under the state constitution in July 1777. Few blacks lived in the state and, because Vermont Revolutionary rolls do not specify race, service is difficult to establish. It is known that Mingo Black marched with Capt. Joseph Safford and was paid for 18 days and 60 miles. Primas Black was at Quebec with the

Green Mountain Boys. However, no federal pension applications have yet been discovered for Vermont African Americans, so there is a future for research in this area.

Rhode Island occupied a unique place in the history of African American participation in the Revolution. Suffering from a severe manpower shortage, the Assembly passed a resolution in February 1778 that allowed, “Every ablebodied negro, mulatto or Indian man slave” to enlist in the army. Slaves would be freed as soon as they mustered, and their masters would receive compensation.

Col. Christopher Greene had 74 slaves in his regiment by October 1778. Among the first to enlist were Cuff Green and Dick Champlin. Pero Mowry, Phillip Rodman and Prince Vaughn received pensions for their services. The Battle of Rhode Island in August 1778 is commemorated each year by a ceremony honoring the black soldiers who held fast during that battle and protected their homeland.

Connecticut prohibited African American enlistment by law. In May 1777, however, David Griswold of Wethersfield released his slave, Caesar, to serve three years in the Continental Army. By October 1777, the Assembly reconsidered the status of servants and slaves and encouraged enlistment.


Mid-Atlantic Colonies

On June 7, 1779, an order from the British Commandant of New York promised that “all Negroes that fly from the enemy’s country are free …” This placed the African Americans of the Colony of New York in the same position as the Virginians as far as the possibility of escaping from bondage was concerned. Another similarity was that New York prohibited slave enlistment until March 20, 1781.

There is evidence, however, that free blacks openly served with New York troops from the early days of the war. Benjamin Lattimore enlisted in Ulster County under Col. Lewis Dubois. He was taken prisoner and forced to serve as a waiter to British officers. John Patterson was a soldier with Capt. Richard Sackett, and his pension application spoke of other black men who fought with him.
An “Act for the gradual abolition of Slavery” became law in Pennsylvania on March 1, 1780, but it did little to increase the number of blacks available for military service. The British occupied Philadelphia for nine months from 1777–1778 and offered the usual attractions to the small slave population in the Colony.

While a number of blacks endured the bleak winter at Valley Forge, few were from the area. Freemen such as James Forten of Philadelphia did leave records showing their support of the American effort. Mr. Forten was part of the crew of Royal Louis, commanded by Capt. Stephen Decatur. When the British captured the ship, Mr. Forten was confined aboard the prison ship Jersey.

The Middle Colonies of Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey served as a crossroads for both American and British troops. As the theater of war moved from north to south, local slaves and freemen felt the effects of the unrest.

Counted in a “Return of Negroes in the Army, August 24, 1778,” about 94 blacks were serving with Maryland units. One was Thomas Carney of Carolina County, who became a hero at the Battle of Ninety Six in South Carolina. Edward Chambers of Anne Arundel County applied for a pension in 1823 in Annapolis. He refused to go home until he received his money. A number of letters were exchanged between the local agent and the pension department in Washington, D.C., urging quick action in the case.

The Committee of Safety for Delaware decreed on March 22, 1776, that enlistment would not be considered for any servant or apprentice. The discharge of George Laha on February 14, 1782, proved that blacks did serve in the militia. He was classified in his military records as “being a slave for life and claimed.”

Adam Pearce of Cumberland County, N.J., was a freeman who enlisted in the spring of 1778. He served nine months and saw action at the Battle of Monmouth. As New Jersey was the last northern state to abolish slavery, it was never legal for slaves to enlist in that state, and it is difficult to locate records for these men.

**Deep South Colonies**

Until the upheaval of the Revolution came to North Carolina, free blacks had benefited from more relaxed racial relations than were found beyond the northern and southern borders of the Colony. In 1777, the General Assembly initiated a draft providing that all men ages 16 to 50 were liable to serve or had to find a substitute to take their place.

Holiday Haithcock used the wording of this law when he applied for a pension. A deposition in his file, from William Bryan of Johnson County, claims “…in the times of our Revolutionary War, free Negroes and mulattoes mustered in the ranks with white men in said state…” Blacks appeared on various militia rolls, and many were involved in the Battle of Charleston in 1780.

South Carolina and Georgia faced many of the same challenges in the opening days of the Revolution. The Low Country of these Colonies had developed a culture based on slavery, but the Up Country was settled by small farmers struggling to establish an independent way of life. Both sections struggled with the question of whether to arm blacks for military service. Henry and John Laurens advocated slave and black enlistment, but their views went unheeded.

However, blacks provided manual labor in many areas, such as building palmetto fortifications at Hadrell’s Point. Because of the types of jobs performed, the records of these southern Colonies do not contain many names of the men who labored. Moses Knight did apply for a pension based on his duties as a press master and for delivering grain in the Pee Dee area. His pension papers follow his path, after the Revolution, to Maryland and Indiana.

Edward Coleman applied for his pension in New York City with the help of interested friends. He belonged to Capt. Sinclair’s company in South Carolina and was present at Yorktown. When peace came, he went to sea and traveled as far as the East Indies. He could not prove any service, however, and his pension claim was rejected.

Georgia readied her defenses against all enemies, external and internal. No other Colony was so weak within or so exposed without. Recruiting was especially difficult, but Georgians preferred to pay bounties to soldiers from other Colonies rather than enlist African Americans. Great numbers of slaves abandoned their homes and followed the British into exile on foreign shores.

Elusive Georgia records do prove that some slaves and free blacks did support the American cause at great peril to themselves. Edward Telfair was concerned about his black pilots. They were guiding ships in the port of Savannah and were vulnerable to capture by the enemy. Austin Dabney qualified for a Georgia pension as a result of wounds received at the Battle of Kettle Creek. David Monday was emancipated by the Georgia State Legislature, and his owner was compensated for Mr. Monday’s service as a drummer.

The names of African American who participated in the Revolution are constantly being discovered in long-neglected archives. In addition, people of color from other countries who participated in the American Revolution are being acknowledged. For example, Jean Esperance dit Moro, a member of the Royal Italian Regiment, was a native of the Congo and served under the flag of France. And a new memorial will soon honor the 750 Haitians who fought at Savannah. It took the united effort of a multitude of people to establish the United States of America.

*This article is based on the research of Rita Souther, Hazel Fuller Kreinheder and Elisabeth Whitman Schmidt. Their work appears in the NSDAR publication, African American and American Indian Patriots of the Revolutionary War, published by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, D.C., 2001. Editing and additions were made by Eric Grundset and Jean Davids Strahan, expanding the project started in 1984.*
Collecting is a family passion for Jim and Fran Carpenter of Nashville, Tenn. They are born collectors, maintaining between them more than 20 eclectic collections. Of these, Mrs. Carpenter’s cobalt glass collection and her dollhouses and Mr. Carpenter’s assortment of antique washboards are among the most unusual.

Mr. Carpenter began his collection of washboards in the late 1970s because he wanted something offbeat, something that wasn’t typically thought of as an item to be sought after and treasured. And he wanted his collection to tell stories, to remind him of days gone by when he watched his grandmother clean their clothes on an old washboard. The boards were manufactured between 1920 and 1940; some are almost toylike in size. Most of their spiral-crimped rubbing surfaces are made of aluminum or brass, but Mr. Carpenter also has some rare examples that are made of glass.
Royal Cottage for Two

As a member of the Walter Hines Page Chapter in London, England, Mrs. Carpenter loves history in general, but has a special place in her heart for the rich heritage of Great Britain. In 1982, Mrs. Carpenter designed, built, and hand-painted this one-room Tudor-style cottage as a fantasy home for the recently married Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

Christmas Dollhouses

The Christmas dollhouses in Mrs. Carpenter’s collection are handmade and signed by the artist, who makes only eight each year. Displayed all year long, these cheerful cottages bring to mind memories of holidays past. Sharply contrasting with the warm reddish tones of the Christmas village are pieces from her impressive collection of more than 200 pieces of cobalt glass. Her collection began as an attempt to liven up a bare kitchen window shelf in her college home. Purchasing the first piece at a roadside antique store in the late 1960s, Mrs. Carpenter fell in love with cobalt glass. She soon learned production had been discontinued in the United States due to the demand for cobalt in cancer treatment. This added to the challenge of her cobalt glass treasure hunt, and enhanced her
satisfaction and pleasure when she found new pieces. Over the years, she received some of her cobalt glass as gifts, and occasionally gives pieces from her own collection to loved ones as a special gesture. Vintage cobalt glass is now readily found at antique dealers and makes a timeless addition to any home décor.
Home Sweet Home

Growing up with a metal dollhouse filled with plastic furniture, Mrs. Carpenter always dreamed of having a grand dollhouse. She loves Victorian homes and hopes one day to live in one. Meanwhile, she and her husband began a three-year project to build this custom Victorian dollhouse. The 32-inch high, 10-room house was completed in 1984.
It’s All in the Details

Just like a real Victorian house, this small-scale house boasts wonderful architectural features like the clapboard exterior, Shaker-style roof and interior French doors, crown molding and chair rail. Each room has its own fireplace and is beautifully decorated with wallpaper, fabric and handmade wood furniture. With working electricity, the chandeliers, lamps and candelabras glow warmly. Other attention to detail includes the newspaper-insulated attic containing seasonal décor items and bubbles in the bathtub, all adding to the house’s authenticity.

The remarkable details are everywhere. From the tiny reproductions of figurines, vases and dishes to the food in the cupboards, and from the formally set table to the pictures on the walls, everything in the house is representative of the manner in which the owners live. Even the dolls were crafted in the likeness of the owners, down to the objects they hold, displaying their hobbies.

In Remembrance

Over the years, friends and family have admired the dollhouse, but it was a lady from their church who is memorialized in one element of the house. The lady was a constant admirer of the house. She decided to leave them a 3-inch piece of her solid mahogany walking cane to be turned into something for the house in memory of her. After some thought, a ceiling fan was fashioned from the wood and added to the kitchen.

Future Generations

Mrs. Carpenter believes that dollhouses are perfect to pass on to future generations. She is already teaching her young nieces, nephews and grandchildren the significance of the people, furniture and other features of the home so they can one day have the treasured house as a constant reminder of her.
From the collection of the DAR Museum: Baltimore fancy chair made c. 1820–30 of tulip poplar in the classical klismos style with painted and gilt decoration, with a tablet-form crest rail, turned stiles and curvilinear seat rails. Numerous Greco-Roman-inspired freehand and stenciled decorations, such as the helmet, sheathed sword and acanthus and anthemion leafing on this example, were used on fancy furniture. The chair descended in the Maryland family of Francis Scott Key. Gift of Mrs. Martha Maddox Key. • This wonderful globe was painted in 1828 by amateur geographer Samuel Clapp of Athol.
Mass., who probably purchased the undecorated stand and plaster sphere from a merchant. The beech stand is faux-grained to resemble an expensive wood such as mahogany. The stand and sphere are probably European. Gift of Mrs. Harvey Marcy.  • Pine side chair with painted and gilt decoration, c. 1810–20, New York City. Unlike the Baltimore klismos chair, this example features saber-shaped front legs with carved fur terminating in lion’s paw feet. It’s notable for its classically inspired lyre back splat, stenciled in gilt. Gift of the Texas State Society, NSDAR.

The Rage for Painted Furniture

By Jeanmarie Andrews
Beginning in the 1600s, when paints, stains and glazes became widely available in England, furniture that could be easily and inexpensively decorated with paint became popular. Colonists brought the trend to America, where the earliest furniture made here—primarily of oak—was either painted or stained, usually in black or red.

For most of the 18th century, painted furniture was a rural product. Country craftsmen fashioned chairs, tables and chests from readily available local woods, often soft pine or poplar, which were painted as much to protect the surface as to embellish it. Pieces such as Windsor chairs, used outdoors as well as in, were painted to disguise the various woods used in their construction.

In urban centers, where imported mahogany was shaped into the graceful curves of the Queen Anne style and later carved in the Rococo fashion popularized by Thomas Chippendale, one of the few concessions to paint was japanning, in which layers of decoration—gilt over dark varnishes—emulated Far Eastern motifs.

By mid-century, when new paint colors were being used architecturally, the imitative techniques of graining and marbleizing became fashionable for furniture as well as paneled walls. Graining remained the most popular furniture-painting technique well into the 19th century.

Graining and marbleizing techniques simulated wood’s natural grain or marble’s variegated, veined patterns, although the results were as often fanciful as realistic. In graining, a dark glaze was usually applied over a lighter base paint, then partially removed with rags, sponges, feathers, combs, even one’s hand, to create the stripes and knots of various wood species. Marbleizing used overlapping colors that were blurred and mottled to resemble stone; veins were created with thin lines of a contrasting color, also softened by blurring.

In the 1760s, Englishmen Robert and James Adam launched a revolution in architecture by emphasizing the classical forms found in ancient ruins. Columns, swags, wreaths, urns, anthemia (flat floral ornaments) and other classical motifs were modified for the decorative arts by such artisans as George Hepplewhite and Thomas Sheraton, who adapted these designs to furniture.

Their pattern books found a receptive audience among cabinetmakers in the United States, where independence was founded on the ideals of ancient Greece and Rome. Heavy carving gave way to more delicate linear forms, with flat surfaces suitable for painted detail.

“For chairs,” Hepplewhite wrote in his 1794 Cabinet-Maker and Upholsterer’s Guide, “a new and very elegant fashion has arisen within these few years, of finishing them with painted or japanned work, which gives a rich and splendid appearance to the minutest parts of the ornaments …”

The rage for “fancy” chairs made by skilled urban craftsmen swept the country in the early decades of the 1800s. Sets of these delicate chairs, with caned or painted rush seats, were combined with settees, a pair of pier tables or card tables, perhaps a piano-forte, and looking glasses and mantel clocks with eglomise decoration to furnish parlors and best rooms in the wealthiest households.

Solid ground colors—red, green, yellow, black, cream, white or sometimes faux rosewood graining—were decorated with a fine brush along the backs, legs and arms of chairs or on the flat surfaces of case pieces. Trophies of music, clusters of shells, scrolling vines, urns, landscapes and seascapes, bows and arrows, and spread eagles were prominent motifs.

Boston, home to America’s first professional architect, Charles Bulfinch, embraced the neoclassical style in furniture as well as architecture, employing dozens of cabinetmakers and ornamental painters. Nearby Salem also boasted elegantly built homes with classical furnishings led by architect Samuel McIntyre. Some of the most exquisitely detailed early fancy chairs were made in Salem for millionaire Elias Hasket Derby.

These ports were soon superseded by Philadelphia, which, as capital of the new republic, became its financial and fashion leader as well. The city had also long been the colonies’ supply center for paints and materials used by craftsmen.

Cabinetmakers fleeing the French Revolution settled in Philadelphia, adapting the Louis XVI style—epitomized by gilt decoration on a white background, popular among leaders including Washington, Jefferson, and Madison—to American tastes.

New York City, whose population tripled after the Revolution, soon exceeded Philadelphia in furniture design and production. Ships docking in the city’s deep harbor brought not only immigrant cabinetmakers from across Europe but also imported materials: mahogany and rosewood, hardware, brushes, pigments and textiles. Scotsman Duncan Phyfe owned the largest furni-
ture-making establishment prior to 1825, with more than 100 specialized craftsmen—cabinet and chairmakers, inlay-makers, carvers, gilders, upholsterers—under one roof.

Yet it was Baltimore, tobacco producer turned sophisticated shipping port, that excelled in the variety of forms and quality of decoration in painted furniture for the first four decades of the 19th century. As early as 1800, the city employed nearly 50 makers and painters of fancy chairs, many of them immigrants from England and Ireland.

The best known were John and Hugh Finlay. Benjamin Latrobe, architect for the federal buildings in Washington, D.C., commissioned their firm, the only one to sell multiform sets, to furnish Madison’s White House. In 1805, they advertised “Cane Seat Chairs, Sofas, Recess and Window Seats of every description and all colors, gilt-ornamented and varnished in a stile [sic] not equalled on the continent—with real Views, Fancy Landscapes, Flowers, Trophies of Music, War, Husbandry, Love, &c. &c.”

A green and gold painted and stenciled card table, one of a pair made by the Finlays for Maryland Gov. Charles Ridgely, is among about 50 pieces of painted furniture in the DAR Museum’s small but representative collection. Curator Patrick Sheary considers the card table the most significant, noting “not many museums have a Finlay piece.” A New York fancy chair runs a close second because of the rare lyre shape of its back splat and its painted decoration. The museum also owns a Baltimore fancy chair, made in the Greek klsimos style popularized by Baltimore cabinetmakers, that belonged to the family of Francis Scott Key.

Because of the wide range of painted furniture styles in the early 1800s, rural cabinetmakers were free to pick and choose whatever suited their abilities or their customers’ tastes. They created imaginative graining with combs, pieces of leather, feathers, smoke and other devices; they also used paint to simulate the costly carving, golding and inlay found on high-style furniture. Most of the Museum’s collection has been donated by members who live in rural areas, so most of its painted furniture was produced by rural cabinetmakers, from New England to Baltimore.

A notable piece is a tulip poplar paint-grained chest attributed to Bucks or Northampton County, Pa. It bears the initials “LBHB,” indicating it was likely made as a wedding gift, and “1771” in clover leafs on either side of a three-petal tulip; similar decorations are found on the top and sides. Other interesting examples include a rosewood-grained globe stand, whose painter also outlined the sphere’s continents and countries, and a lively red-grained dressing table likely made in New England.

**FOR FURTHER READING:**


It’s unlikely the average collector will find pieces such as those above, but there is still antique painted furniture to be had. Most are grain-painted pieces from New England and decorated Pennsylvania German pieces, including late-18th to mid-19th century tables, chairs, chests, cupboards and dry sinks, say two experienced dealers. Prices depend on quality of construction and decoration, date, where a piece was made, condition, provenance and decorating trends. “You can have a common 19th-century armchair, but if it has spectacular surface, color, or decoration, the price can be equally spectacular,” says Frank Gaglio, of Rhinebeck, N.Y., in business for 30 years.

At Olde Hope Antiques, New Hope, Pa., which has specialized in mainly Pennsylvania German painted furniture since 1976, prices range from $1,900 for a smoke-decorated blanket chest to more than $250,000 for a rare Mahantongo Valley piece. Single chairs cost $500 to $7,500-plus. Cupboards range from $235,000 for a fine one from Soap Hollow to $25,000 for a large robin’s egg blue New York wall cupboard to $2,800 for an 1850s grain-painted piece.

If you’re in the market, find a dealer you can trust, one who has a reputation for honesty and integrity and will guarantee in writing what is represented about an object, Mr. Gaglio says. Do research. “There is no substitute for knowledge. Visit museums, attend auctions, talk to other collectors, visit antiques shows, and make comparisons of similar objects to get a sense of what makes one chair better or worse than another.

“Try to buy the best you can afford, stay away from pieces that are heavily restored, but most of all, become a detective,” he says. “When looking at a piece, make sure it all makes sense.”

Edwin Hild of Olde Hope Antiques, says, “look for a piece that works for your space, use and taste, and get advice on authenticity, restoration and desirability of that piece.” He discourages buying at auction without “the stamp of approval by a knowledgeable dealer.”

At home keep the piece away from excessive heat and humidity and out of direct sunlight, which can make paint crawl, peel, crack and fade. Remove dust with a damp cloth, followed by a dry cloth to remove moisture. “It is not necessary to wax or oil painted furniture on a regular basis, usually not at all,” nor should you use commercial products like Pledge, Mr. Hild says. If a piece is damaged, ask the dealer to recommend a cabinetmaker.
Roadside Attractions

{ a photo essay by Richard McGrew }

Richard McGrew has seen more of America in the past dozen or so years than most of us will see in a lifetime. Formerly a professional photographer, Mr. McGrew, 61, of Athens, Ala., switched career gears 12 years ago to become a long-haul truck driver. He quickly realized that the far-wandering nature of the job provided a perfect opportunity for him to capture America on film. So he packed his camera equipment into the cab of his big rig and soon accumulated thousands of images from almost every state in the union. In 1999, he self-published a collection of his photographs, *The America You May Never See*, working on it mostly on the road using a laptop and scanner. The book attracted attention, including a segment on *CBS Sunday Morning*, which sent correspondent Bill Geist on the road with Mr. McGrew as he delivered freight and pulled over often to snap a striking scene. You can see more of Mr. McGrew’s work and order his book at his Web site, www.mcgrewsamerica.com.
St. Louis Arch opens the Gateway to the West

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OK, CLASS. TIME FOR A TEST. What French leader sold the Louisiana Purchase to the United States? What medical phenomenon interfered with the patriots’ attack on Quebec during the Revolution? What inspired Francis Scott Key to write “The Star-Spangled Banner?” In what state did General Cornwallis surrender during the American Revolution?

Now, put your pencils down. If you could answer any of these questions correctly, then you probably had a history teacher like one of the DAR Outstanding Teachers of American History award winners.

Each year since 1982, the National Society has honored a middle- or high-school teacher of American history and other related fields such as social studies, government and citizenship in public, private and parochial schools across the country.

The national winner is selected by a committee of three non-DAR judges appointed by the Historian General. The winner is recognized at the annual Continental Congress and awarded a check for $3,000. Meet four recent winners.
The most recent Outstanding Teacher of American History is Alan Kay, who has been teaching for 13 years at Dunedin High School in Dunedin, Fla. “I always loved history. It’s like part of my existence,” says Mr. Kay, who grew up in Massachusetts.

“The American Revolution was always close to my heart. I always loved reading about George Washington, and he’s still my hero,” says Mr. Kay. “The neat thing about Washington is that even though he was my hero when I was 8 years old, he’s still my hero after everything I’ve learned about him and all the research and teaching I’ve done.”

Mr. Kay is the author of Young Heroes of History, an historical fiction series for children that was first published in 1999 as an alternative to traditional textbooks. The fourth book in the series, Nowhere to Turn, has just been released.

“In order to understand the people of the past, we must see them as people,” says Mr. Kay, whose books are aimed at 10- to 14-year-olds. “I wanted to write for this group because they haven’t yet learned to dread history.”

He makes his high-school classes come alive by having the students re-create the different people they study throughout history. “I just let the stories tell themselves. I re-create not only the events but the emotions,” Mr. Kay explains. “That’s what really allows the kids to get it. You have to focus on the everyday details to make it more interesting and realistic.

“I have my students start in Colonial times and make up a family tree, and then they replay that family throughout the rest of history,” says Mr. Kay, who is currently teaching 20th-Century history and Advanced Placement European history.

“I have an economy set up in my class. The students make money in class and use that money to get ahead of each other. We have different socioeconomic levels in our classroom, and when we re-create the situations, they learn, for example, that there are advantages to winning wars.”

In addition to teaching and writing, Mr. Kay has developed an award-winning curriculum for teachers and given many workshops on topics such as teaching the Civil War and how to use historical fiction in the classroom.

When Martha Ball began teaching Utah history at Butler Middle School in Salt Lake City, some students complained when she used the word Mormon. But Ms. Ball said she couldn’t teach the subject without talking about the state’s most prominent religion.

“If a teacher can’t feel comfortable talking about the impact religions have on culture in a history or geography class, how can we ever understand all the various countries?” Ms. Ball wonders. “I’m not afraid to engage kids in topics that are tough.”

Ms. Ball has retired from teaching and now works with the First Amendment Center/Freedom Forum in Salt Lake City. She is teaching citizenship and “helping people understand our First Amendment rights and particularly how harmful it is to our citizenship to deny religious freedom.”

In her 17 years at Butler Middle School, Ms. Ball taught at every grade level, from seventh to 12th. She taught American history, Utah history and world geography. She has even taught U.S. history to adult dropouts who reenrolled in school.

She comes by her interest in history naturally. “My father was a history teacher, and we always discussed everything going on in the community,” Ms. Ball says. “My mother was also a teacher, and my grandfather was political science professor, and I have a brother who teaches history, too.”

Ms. Ball says she moved around the classroom and made eye contact with the students when she was teaching. She also knew her materials well enough not to use notes. “I liked to see what they were doing and how they were responding,” Ms. Ball says. “I think the kids always viewed me as fair but firm. They knew I expected a lot out of them, but they knew I was always there for them, too.”

She says she was surprised and honored when she received the DAR Outstanding Teacher of American History award. “I kind of viewed the award as a celebration for me and my colleagues who teach history because they all work so hard,” she recalls. “So I thought it was a celebration for all of us.”
Susan McNeil teaches in the rural community of Taylor, Neb., where the student population totals 75 for grades seven through 12. Ms. McNeil, who has taught at Loup County Public School for 21 years, has the same students from junior high through high school, in classes that range from seven students to 16. Needless to say, she becomes well acquainted with them during those six years, teaching them social studies, geography, American history, survey of the social sciences, government and current issues.

Project Citizen is a civic education program she does with her students. “The kids pick a topic—something they are concerned about or a problem they’d like to solve—and then they try to work through the government to see what they can do about it,” says Ms. McNeil.

“I had one group that won the national championship by trying to get a minor possession of tobacco ordinance passed,” she continues. “They were trying to do away with a loophole in the law that allowed kids to possess tobacco and not be charged with it.

“They did a lot of research and found nine other communities that had passed similar ordinances. The next year they became real active lobbyists to increase the tax on tobacco products. They actually went to Lincoln, the state capital, and testified before the legislature. They realized how long it takes for something to get done.”

Ms. McNeil also participates in History Day, a national competition, with her students. “Each year there’s a different topic—this year it’s ‘Rights and Responsibilities’—and the kids come up with a project such as a play, videotape or PowerPoint presentation.

“Last year, I had a group of kids who chose Pearl Harbor for their topic,” Ms. McNeil says. “They found a guy who had been at Pearl Harbor, and he came to school and the kids made a videotape about it. It was awesome.

“I try to make it real for them,” Ms. McNeil explains. “I try to make them like learning and make history come alive.”

Michael Shepherd, who won the Outstanding Teacher of American History award in 2001, says he encourages his students to look at the human side of history.

“It is so easy to get wrapped up in dates, places and events and miss the entire human side of history,” Mr. Shepherd argues. “It is my hope that the students can visualize the people that were involved in the events we discuss in class. We look at the struggles, the disappointments and the victories that history shows us.”

Students who take Mr. Shepherd’s Advanced Placement United States history class are assigned a World War II interview project. Each student must find and interview someone either in their family or in their community who was involved in World War II.

“Then each student does a presentation to the class, sharing the stories of the veterans,” says Mr. Shepherd, who is in his sixth year at Marion High School. “It’s amazing to see the reactions of the students as they find the people that they have known their whole lives and now have a completely different view of that person who fought bravely to defend the United States.”

One of the challenges history teachers face is to get students to appreciate history and its relationship to the future. Mr. Shepherd says he does that by making the subject relevant to their lives.

“Too often, history is viewed as a dry subject because it is presented as dull stories of old dead people. I hope that my students see history as a mechanism to study their own lives. We must take the lessons and the examples of history to help us make better decisions and be a better society and better individuals,” he adds.

“We cannot ‘G’ rate history or attempt to make history politically correct or we rob ourselves of the total story, and there are always many sides to the story. When students get that message, in my experience, motivating them to want to learn is not hard at all.”
According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the most critical issue for working women today is finding creative ways to meet their job and family obligations. More women are looking towards job sharing and flextime as ways to balance the multiple demands in their lives, striking a good balance between their families and their professions.

Flextime is a catchall that essentially means a modified work schedule. In its simplest form, an employee could work either fewer than 40 hours a week, or she could work 10 hours a day for four days a week. Working from home either on a part-time or full-time schedule would also be a kind of flextime. Another approach is job-sharing. In this situation, two employees share the work and responsibilities of one full-time job in exchange for each working a partial schedule.

By Mardy Fones
Who’s Flexing and Why

People seek flextime for many reasons. A woman may want to be home with her children or is responsible for an elderly relative’s care. Increasingly longer commutes may motivate her to find more productive ways to use her time. A woman might be in school or building a business of her own. Maybe she’s just ready for a change.

At the same time, the 21st-century workplace is different than the hands-on, assembly-line economy of even two decades ago. Today’s service economy produces fewer tangible products, says Natalie Gahrmann, a flextime coach, columnist on women’s working lives for the Web site, bluesuitmom.com and author of Succeeding as a Super Busy Parent. And workers don’t always have to be together to do the job. The availability of communications technology—fax, call forwarding, conference calling, computers, the Internet and laptops—means people can work together from virtually anywhere.

At the same time, economic trends are forcing people to work harder and longer hours, she says. More corporations recognize that accommodating employees in small ways such as allowing them to telecommute two days a week can bolster loyalty, cut absenteeism and boost morale. A Gallup survey found 90 percent of employees say work/life benefits such as flextime are as important to them as health insurance.

Share the Load

Shari Rosen Ascher was in national media sales and routinely worked 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. days as she traveled to meet clients. “When I had my first son, I knew that had to stop,” she says. That’s when she hooked up with co-worker Maggie Sisco. Together, they job-shared for more than five years and, as a team, rose to the level of vice president of sales. The two women later founded the website sharegoals.com, which provides information and strategies on flextime and job-sharing.

The right job-share partner is crucial to your success. “You don’t want someone who is a clone of you,” says Ms. Rosen Ascher. “You want someone whose skill set and work ethic is consistent and complementary with yours. That is, your abilities are similar, but the other person has strengths you don’t. Above all, it has to be someone who takes the job-sharing relationship seriously. Job-sharing is like a marriage,” she adds. “Your responsibilities are not only to yourself and the company, but also to your partner. If you slack off, the partnership suffers.”

She suggests potential job-share partners should carefully assess each other’s working style. Answer basic questions such as how do you like to work, when are your most productive working hours, how do you like to be rewarded, how do you work under pressure, and where do you see yourself professionally in the next year and five years out. “Essentially, the two people have to always be on the same page philosophically and pragmatically,” says Ms. Rosen Ascher. “Yes, you need to work out the mechanics of job-sharing, but don’t ignore the philosophical.”

“Essentially, the two people have to always be on the same page philosophically and pragmatically. Yes, you need to work out the mechanics of job-sharing, but don’t ignore the philosophical.”

– SHARI ROSEN ASCHER

The Workplace in Flux

Flextime came into its own during the 1990s’ dot.com boom. “Companies today tend to look more favorably on those who work in a detached capacity than in the past,” says Joyce K. Reynolds, another flextime coach. But there are downsides to flextime that some working women overlook in their desire to...
break free. “Whether you’re telecommuting full- or part-time, working a modified schedule or job-sharing, flextime isn’t always a sweet deal,” cautions Ms. Reynolds.

“Most people don’t know how to organize themselves. There’s a tendency to squander your time, work erratic hours and feel isolated,” she says. So it is important to have a designated work space and hours dedicated to your job. “You get up in the morning, put on your suit and go sit in your office.” Those who work at home may actually find they work more efficiently and, ultimately, work more than they anticipated. Establishing expectations in advance is essential. If you decide working from home will free up time during your day, be sure not to spend that time doing even more work.

Then there are would-be flextimers who can’t function without the workplace hubbub. They feel cut off from colleagues, and that can be risky, particularly if staying in the thick of office politics is essential to maintaining your power base, much less your employment. Jealousy from, and retaliation by, co-workers can also complicate things.

Both Ms. Reynolds and Ms. Rosen Ascher agree the working world is still populated by bosses and companies who think if they can’t see you working, you must be goofing off. Company policies may be unfriendly toward flextime. For instance, if your firm counts heads in the office rather than work completed, flextime may not be conducive to your situation.

If you choose to job-share, you may be classified as part-time and lose valuable benefits such as participation in company retirement or health plans. Flextimers must work doubly hard to stay connected to both the formal and informal networks surrounding them or risk being left behind.

Flextime may be financially appealing to your company, and you should alert them to these benefits when proposing your solution. “Point out how not having to provide health benefits could reduce the company’s cost by $10,000 to $20,000 per year,” recommends Mrs. Gahrmann.

“Demonstrate how it will eliminate lag times due to vacations or sick days as the job-share partner will pick up the slack. When you’re dealing with a resistant boss, recognize that you have to go in baby steps,” she adds. “Make sure the benefits to him or her are clear.”

One of the biggest barriers to securing flextime, says Pat Katepoo, a flextime expert and founder of workoptions.com, is a woman’s fear of asking. Addressing the fear boils down to answering this question for your boss: How will work get done under the flextime arrangement? “That means your approach has to be from a business perspective,” says Ms. Katepoo, who has been advising women about flextime strategies since 1993. “Even though the motivation is personal, your flextime proposal must demonstrate its benefit to the company.” Here are some ways to get started:

**Do the research** Study your company’s policies and personnel manuals to determine whether they addresses flextime.

**Show precedents** Is anyone in the company already working flextime? If so, how is it set up and how well has it worked? If it’s failed, figure out why and then set up your flextime proposal to address this head-on. If your work includes frequent travel, point out how you already successfully complete in-office responsibilities while on the road.

**Use your track record** A company is more likely to consider flextime for an employee who has consistently met deadlines and shown initiative.

**Do a job inventory** Create a list of all your job-related responsibilities, no matter how small. Then state in your proposal how they will be handled. For instance:

- Daily calls from regional managers: Forward office calls home.
- Data collection from regional offices: Have managers send via e-mail.
- Wednesday afternoon staff meetings: Will be in the office every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; when on the road, will teleconference as usual.

**Define responsibilities** Itemize exactly what your flextime responsibilities will be and set measurable standards for meeting them.

**Address security** Indicate how you will protect confidential company documents and communications, i.e., locking filing cabinets, using a paper shredder.

**Present a workspace plan** State exactly how you will set up your home office, including what equipment you will need. Emphasize that you will be available during regular business hours, just as you are now.

**Be prepared** Professionally package your flextime pitch. Practice it with your mentor or a trusted friend who can play devil’s advocate. Anticipate questions or objections and be prepared with facts.

**Choose your moment** When you’re ready, make an appointment with your boss. Avoid stressful times such as the end of a quarter or Monday morning or in the midst of a major deal.

**Ask for a trial period** Conclude your pitch by suggesting a trial period such as three months. Then agree to reconvene to assess your performance.

**Show company benefits** The most important concern for even the most flextime-friendly boss is how this arrangement will benefit the company. Be sure your proposal describes this explicitly, including savings such as office space, equipment, furniture and benefits. When there is clear gain for the company, you’re halfway there.
Genealogy Software

The right application can add new dimensions to tracing family roots.

Whether you are a weekend hobbyist or a seasoned professional, genealogy software can be a useful companion for tracing your ancestors. Specialized programs allow you to electronically collect, record, organize, analyze and share family research.

American Spirit asked a number of DAR members and others experienced in using genealogy software which software they like and the best features of each. If you’re thinking about buying or switching software, the following overview of eight products will help you decide which is right for you.

(Note: Unless otherwise indicated, applications require at least Windows 95 and 8 megabytes or more of RAM.)

BROTHER’S KEEPER 6.1

This shareware software offers a free demo download with no time limitation. You can purchase a full version for $45 once you’ve evaluated the demo.

Availability Download the demo or order the full version at www.bkwin.com. Upgrades are also available for $20 with manual or $15 without it.

Support Online support includes helpful hints and an e-mail address for John Steed, the software’s author.

Address: Brother's Keeper
6907 Childsdale Ave.
Rockford, MI 49341

FAMILY ORIGINS 10.0

Recently FormalSoft, Inc., the maker of Family Origins, issued a notice on its Web site (www.formalsoft.com) that it will no longer support further development of this product. A new genealogy software product, RootsMagic was scheduled to be released in January 2003. An overview of RootsMagic follows.

Mike Toomey and his wife Gloria, a member of the Amelia Island Chapter in Amelia Island, Fla., have used Family Origins for more than 11 years. “I like that it printed a good variety of reports and could handle large files,” says Mr. Toomey.

Availability At press time, Family Origins was still offered at www.formalsoft.com for $29.95. For $39.95, you also get the manual. Genealogy.com owns the licensing rights to Family Origins, and sells it online at www.familyorigins.com through the Genealogy.com Shop section. Genealogy.com offers a bundled Deluxe Edition of Family Origins 10.0 for $49.99. Upgrades are still available on both sites for $19.99.

Support A 15-day free demo is available for download at www.formalsoft.com and www.familyorigins.com. According to the maker, existing support mechanisms will remain on the FormalSoft, Inc. site. Along with the trial demo, there are FAQs, message board postings and users’ group information.

Selected Features

- Source Manager
- Charts
- Print stories (books)
- Reports
- Letter writer
- Calendars
- Missing information lists
- To-do lists
- Family timeline lists
- Multimedia scrapbook
- Web site generator

Contact Information
Web site: www.formalsoft.com
Fax: (616) 866–3345
E-mail: 75745.1371@compuserve.com

Hardware, software and must-have electronics.

By Jennifer Fuqua

Daughters of the American Revolution
ROOTSMAGIC
This new genealogy program, from the developers of Family Origins, promises ease of use with some of the most powerful features available in a genealogy program. The program looks and feels similar to Family Origins, but has additional functionality.

Reviews from RootsMagic beta-test users are favorable. Two notable features included an uncluttered navigational style and custom reporting.

Availability On January 15, 2003, the product is scheduled to be available at www.rootsmagic.com for an introductory price of $19.95. After February 28, the price will rise to $34.95.

Support The product will have online support via a free demo, e-mail, message boards, user mail lists and FAQs.

Selected Features
- Pedigree, family and descendants views
- Supports GEDCOM (Genealogical Data COMMunication format)
- Powerful search capabilities
- Charts
- Customized reports and lists
- Family books
- Multimedia scrapbooks
- Web site creation tools
- Correspondence log
- Bookmarks
- Full Latter Day Saints (LDS) support (optional)
- How-to genealogy guide
- All-in-one tree
- Maps and timelines
- Family books (generate table of contents, indexes)
- Data calculator (birthdates, ages, etc.)
- Family file statistics box
- Relationship calculator
- To-do lists
- Research journal

FAMILY TREE MAKER 10.0
Promoted by Genealogy.com on its Web site (www.genealogy.com) and sold in retail stores, this mass-appeal software is targeted to beginners and professional genealogists alike. Requires Windows 98/ME/XP.

Betty Babitzke, a member of the Charlotte Bay Chapter in Punta Gorda, Fla., has studied genealogy for 11 years and likes the versatility of FTM. “I’ve used it for six years and will continue to use it because it allows me to perform the operations I need. It fits like a comfortable pair of shoes,” says Ms. Babitzke.

Availability Family Tree Maker 10.0 can be ordered at www.familytreemaker.com. Packages include a basic bundle version for $29.99, an Ultimate Data Kit for $99, a Researcher’s Kit for $69.99, and a Data Sampler for $49.99. Each package includes a mix of genealogy-related products and resources. Upgrades are also available online. Software prices vary in retail computer stores.

Support Web site support includes FAQs, technical support e-mails, mailing lists, download and installation help, support by phone and fax, and users groups.

Selected Features:
- Location index for reports
- Unlimited file size and events
- Family and pedigree views

LEGACY FAMILY TREE 4.0
Millennia, maker of Legacy Family Tree 4.0, and IMSI, a developer of visual content, design and graphics software, recently formed a partnership that gives IMSI an exclusive contract to make Legacy 4.0 available in retail stores.

“The program provides quick navigation and lets me transition from screen to screen easily. Help is also easy to access,” according to Sally Miller, a member of the Echebusassa Chapter in Plant City, Fla.

Availability You can download a standard version at www.legacyfamilytree.com for free. The deluxe edition can be purchased for $19.99. For $29.99, you get the software and the user’s guide. According to a press release issued by IMSI, plans are under way to repackage the existing deluxe edition and offer it bundled with other genealogy-related products, although no date has been announced.

Support Web site support includes FAQs, technical support e-mails, mailing lists, download and installation help, support by phone and fax, and users groups.

Selected Features:
- Location index for reports
- Unlimited file size and events
- Family and pedigree views
PERSONAL ANCESTRY FILE 5.2
A new Windows-based version of this free genealogy software has recently been released. Personal Ancestral File (PAF), designed and maintained by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, helps users organize their family history records. Requires Windows 95B/98/ ME/NT 4.0/2000/XP and Pentium PC or iMac with a Windows emulator.

Availability Free download at www.familysearch.org.

Support Online FAQ, lessons and links to local users groups and other resources.

Selected Features:
- Pedigree charts
- Family group records
- Reports
- Supports several languages
- Track your research sources
- Incorporate multimedia
- Match/merge duplicate entries
- Template creator
- Global search

Contact Information:
Web site: www.familysearch.org
Phone: (800) 537–5971
Address: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
50 East North Temple St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84150

Susan Tillman, member of the San Jacinto Chapter in Tomball, Texas, used the DOS version of PAF for about six years and recently converted to the Windows version. “I like that the Pedigree Chart prints up to five generations with complete birth, marriage and death information on one sheet. Some other programs I have used would only allow for four generations,” says Ms. Tillman.

REUNION 8.0

“Reunion is so easy to use, I rarely need to reference the manual,” says Deborah Gaudier, a member of the Walter Hines Page Chapter in London, England. “I was able to export my family history to a Microsoft Word document with minimal editing. The sentences and phrasing were very natural,” she adds.

Availability Reunion 8.0 can be ordered direct through Apple Store at www.leisterpro.com for $99.95. An Apple Store dealer locator is also accessible on the site.

Support The Web site provides a free demo, phone and fax lines, e-mail and FAQs. Reunion Talk is a free daily e-mail digest that serves as an official online community forum for users. Related links and a listing of known software problems can also be found on the site.

Selected Features:
- Charts
- Timeline
- Pedigree charts
- Reports open in word processor
- Person and family group sheets
- Ancestor table (Ahnentafel) reports
- Register report
- Family Web cards
- Source documentation
- Match/merge
- Stylize source text
- Pop-up menu for quickly entering sources
- Unrestricted date entry
- Multimedia
- Research logs

Contact Information:
Web site: www.leisterpro.com
Phone: (717) 697–1378
Fax: (717) 697–4373
Subscriber E-mail: ReunionTalk@LeisterPro.com
Technical Support: help@LeisterPro.com
Address: Leister Productions, Inc.
PO Box 289
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

THE MASTER GENEALIST
Described as the “Cadillac of genealogy programs” by some of its users, The Master Genealogist is useful to both the weekend hobbyist and the professional researcher. Bob Velke of Wholly Genes Software is the author.

Cyndi Howells, a professional genealogist, author and creator of www.cyndislist.com, switched to TMG because of its reputation for clean data transports. “When I finally made the decision to switch I was able to transfer all of my existing records to this program hassle-free,” says Ms. Howells.

versions. The Web site also offers a complete listing of authorized dealer locations.

**Support** On the Web site, you will find a free demo slideshow, a comprehensive features comparison chart, FAQs, related link and users groups. Additional support can be found via a newsletter, discussion lists, phone and fax.

**Selected Features**
- Report design wizard
- Record unlimited events, sources, citations, freeform text and notes
- GenBridge directly transfers data between other genealogy software programs
- Multimedia
- Charts
- Exports reports directly to word processing format
- Publication tools
- Memos and sources
- Repositories, call numbers

**Contact Information:**
Web site: www.whollygenes.com
Phone: (410) 715–2260
Fax: (410) 379–5424
E-mail: support@whollygenes.com
Address: Wholly Genes Software
5144 Flowertuft Ct.
Columbia, MA 21044

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Joan Hackett  Michael Toomey
Cyndi Howells  Gloria Toomey

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**Assessing Your Needs**

Once you figure out what you need from genealogy software, you can make a smarter purchase. Ask yourself these questions to help narrow down the list of software that will suit your needs:

1. Where are you in your genealogical pursuit? Have you just started, or do you have years of research behind you?
2. Is the software easy to learn and is it compatible with your level of computer experience?
3. Is adequate support available, either through a users manual or through manufacturer technical support?
4. What type of data do you plan to enter into the system? Will you enter only the names, dates and places for your direct lineage, or does your family research involve other collateral lines and extensive data?
5. What will you do with your information once it’s in an electronic format? Will you create a Web site, upload multimedia into the software (photos, video, etc.), or do you plan to compile everything into a printed book?
6. How does the software manufacturer handle product enhancement? Do they offer regular updates? Are the updates available for free or for a nominal fee?
7. Will you want to customize the look and information in the reports your software can run?
8. How easy is it to import and export data?
9. Do you want to incorporate multimedia elements?
10. What are the system requirements and is your computer powerful enough to handle the software?

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**Additional Resources**

The following is a list of other helpful resources:

- **www.ngsgenealogy.org**
  The National Genealogical Society Web site provides a wealth of genealogy related resources. The NGS newsletter also includes monthly software reviews.

- **www.mumford.ca/reportcard**
  When software is reviewed on the National Genealogical Society’s website, Bill Mumford updates the information on his Web site.

- **www.cyndislist.com/software.htm**
  Cyndi’s List provides a dedicated section on software and computers.

- **www.ancestry.com**
  Genealogical Computing magazine brings news and information about software, CD-ROMs, Internet sites and how to best use your computer to discover your ancestors.

- **www.genealogytoday.com**
  Genealogy Today magazine has a software guide that allows you to search for software products via a number of criteria.

- **www.heritagequest.com**
  Heritage Quest magazine offers genealogy related articles and product reviews.

- **www.pcmag.com**
  PC Magazine offers reviews of software in print and online versions.
LOOKING FOR LADIES IN THE FAMILY TREE

By Juliana Smith

With the dearth of records created for women who lived more than a century ago, it is often very difficult to find information on the ladies in our family trees. Give her a name like Catherine Kelly, plop her down in New York City before vital records were kept and before women (other than those few listed as heads of household) were named on the census, and you have the recipe for a very elusive ancestor!

Catherine Kelly was my third great-grandmother, but I am guessing most of you have similar characters in your family trees. So how are we to find these women? Here are some things to keep in mind:

Home Sources and Long-Lost Cousins

As with any other kind of research, don’t overlook home sources. Family members may have saved old letters, papers, news clippings and stories that may contain either the exact information you’re looking for about a woman relative or at least the clues to point you in her direction.

Besides the specific details old letters contain, they carry the writers’ personalities. Sometimes filled with humor, sadness and spiced with a bit of gossip, these letters paint a portrait of the writer and lend light to her perspective on life.

Also, never underestimate the information long-lost cousins may have—interview them! My mother interviewed one of her distant cousins who told us that Catherine Kelly had died in Rochester, N.Y. We would never have thought to look there had it not been for that cousin’s information. The cemetery record we found in Rochester for Catherine Kelly, with a death date of 1850 at 26 years of age, is one of the few records we have of this ancestor.

Court Records

Court records are often great places to find women, because they show up regularly in even the earliest recordings. Probate cases are a natural place to start.

Probates typically deal with a decedent’s will or the distribution of property. Family relationships are usually spelled out in these documents, and you will often find details about women, including their maiden names, places of residence, ages (sometimes), and personalities. An interesting will I uncovered showed that one woman left most of her considerable estate to a couple of her friends, while she gave her children only a dollar each.

Some probate records are so detailed that they provide genealogies of families going back for several generations. When Catherine Kelly’s granddaughter died, the guardianship papers that were filed for her children included the addresses of several inherited properties. By tracing the origins of the real estate through property records, we might get lucky.

Cemetery Records

Study all the names of people buried in a family plot. Often, we rely on indexes
and happily copy the name of the individuals we know, never looking at the interim records as a whole. Names of grandmothers, sisters, aunts and other relatives are frequently missed because we rely too heavily on indexes. Also note the names of those buried in nearby plots. You may find other family members, and a name that doesn’t mean much to you at first may become an important clue down the road.

Follow the Men

When searching for an elusive female ancestor, dig up all you can on the men in her life. Because many of our female ancestors had few or no legal rights (depending on the time and place in which they lived), they often left very few records of their own. Fortunately, the records created by the men in their lives—husbands, fathers, grandfathers, brothers, sons—often carry a mention of these women, or at least a few clues about their identities.

Siblings Count

Remember that the siblings of the woman you are trying to find could lead you to her. Catherine Kelly is said to have had a brother named James. Granted, there were a whole lot of fellows by the name of James Kelly roaming around New York in the time period we are researching. But we can look for them in the census, city directories, court records, county histories, newspaper stories, military records and other places where men can usually be more easily ferreted out.

At one point we had our eye on a James Kelly who served in the Civil War. If he had turned out to be the right guy, his records just might have taken us back another generation to his parents. But alas, we were unable to make a connection, and we will have to find another place to pick up Catherine Kelly’s trail.

Grasp Every Fact You Can Find

This may seem like stating the obvious, but it’s important. It means you should not rely on databases, indexes, extracts, and abstracts. Rather, check original sources, even when you have come up dry in the indexes or in online databases. (For more information on extracts and abstracts, see Donn Devine’s article “Abstracting, Transcribing, and Extracting Documents” from the September/October 1997 issue of Ancestry magazine, Vol. 15, No. 5, at ancestry.com/library/view/ancmag/1591.asp).

There are several important reasons for this. First, the original often contains important information not found in the above-mentioned formats. Maybe it wasn’t important to the abstracter to record the names of all the witnesses, but if the witnesses were family members, we miss an important clue by not consulting the original.

Gather Background Information

By familiarizing yourself with the laws and government agencies for a particular time and place, you may find other avenues to explore.

Were women allowed to own property at that time? Was your ancestor entitled to a military pension via one of the men in her life? What were the immigration laws for that time period? Did she need to apply for citizenship herself, or could she become a citizen through her husband or father? What kind of regulations existed regarding her marriage? Did she have to be a certain age, and if she wasn’t yet that age, could she apply for special permission?

There are a multitude of questions you will want to ask yourself. But the more you familiarize yourself with the time and place(s) in which an ancestor lived, the better your chances are for success.

And More…

There are, of course, a multitude of other sources that should be examined. Church records, heirlooms, photographs, Bible records, old newspapers, records of women’s organizations—the list goes on and on. This article can’t possibly cover all of them, and each person’s research scenario will be different. But with a little creative thinking and some background research, there is hope for even the most elusive ladies in our family tree.
**NEW ANCESTORS**

The following ancestors were approved in October 2002 by the
NSDAR Board of Management after verification of documentary
evidence of service during the American Revolution.

**ADAIR : ADARE**
John : b 1750 d 4-5-1785 DE m (1) Margaret X Pvt PS DE

**ANDERSON :**
William : b a 1740 d 5-7-1791 DE m (1) Ann X PS DE

**BARRINGTON :**
Richard : b c 1756 NC d p 1800 NC m (1) Martha Gaskins Sol NC

**BECRAFT :**
Abraham : b c 1755 d p 1806 KY m (1) Abigail Shipley Pvt MD

**BICKFORD : BECKFORD**
John : b 1749 d 3-15-1836 NH m (1) X X CS PS NH

**BINGHAM : BIGHAM**
Benjamin : b 1755 d 1833 TN m (1) Desire Dingley Pvt MA PNSR WPNS

**BISBE : BISBY**
Charles Jr. : b 7-27-1758 MA d p 5-14-1838 NY m (1) Desire Dingley Pvt MA PNSR WPNS

**BLANCHARD :**
Nathaniel : b 10-18-1755 CT d 9-13-1838 NY m (1) X X LT VT

**BOGGS :**
David : b c 1740 d p 3-1-1803 DE m (1) Lovisa Newell DE

**BONNELL : BUNNELL**
John : b 1762 NJ d 4-1-1823 VA m (1) Hannah Smith (2) Rhulana Fitz Randolph Pvt CT PNSR WPNS

**BOWMAN : BACHMAN, BAUGHMAN**
Jacob : b c 1745 d a 11-18-1802 MD m (1) Mary Chambers Pvt MD

**BOYER : BAYEY, BOWER, BOYERS**
John : b 6-1742 PA d 1-5-1825 PA m (1) Anna Maria Lurch Pvt PS MA

**BRALEY : BRALEY, BRAWLEY**
Nathaniel : b 1740 d 11-18-1811 MA m (1) Sarah Reynolds, Runnels Pvt MA

**BRAMAN :**
Benjamin : b 7- 1-1754 MA d 3-5-1837 MA m (1) Anna/Anne Makepeace Cpl MA PNSR WPNS

**BREWER : BROWER, BRUA, BRIER, BRUEDE**
Peter : b c 1750 d p 1820 NY m (1) Maritje/Maria Harder/Herter Sol NY

**BRIDGE : BRIDGES, BRIDGES**
John : b c 1747 d a 12-23-1797 NC m (1) Abigail Cogdell PS NC

**BRINDLE : BRINNOEL**
John : b 8-4-1734 d 9-27-1817 PA m (1) Catherine Marret Pvt PS PA

**BROWN : BROUN, BROWNE**
Charles J : b c 1760 d 3-26-1826 VT m (1) Clara Lockwood PS VT

**BUNCH : BIRCH, BURCHE, BURCH**
Charles : b c 1753 d a 12-12-1818 GA m (1) Marian X Pvt GA

**BURTON : BURN, BURNES, BYRN, BYRNES**
Samuel : b 9-17-1754 PA d 12-1-1837 SC m (1) Mary Lesley Pvt SC PNSR WPNS

**CAPRINGTON : Jeremiah : b c 1755 d 1792 VA m (1) Elizabeth X Sol CS VA

**COBB : COBS**
Nathaniel : b 10-24-1743 VA m (1) Jerusha Harlow Cpl MA PNSR

**CORSIN : CORSON, CORSKEN, COURSON**
James : b 1762 SC d 6-13-1834 AL m (1) Levice/Lavice X Pvt SC PNSR WPNS

**Cox : COCK, COCKE, COKE, COKE**
William : b 1749 d 3-8-1816 VT m (1) Sarah McColl JP VT

**CRAWLEY :**
David : b c 1742 d 2-31-1777 NC m (1) X X Capt NC

**DANENHOWER : DANHOWER, DANNHAUER, DANNHAUER, DONNAHOWER**
George : b 5-21-1756 PA d 8-1-1843 PA m (1) Elizabeth X Enjt PA

**DANIEL :**
Chesley : b 1-16-1730 VA m (1) X X Capt NC

**DAVIS : DAVIES, DAVIES**
Joseph : b 1757 d 7-10-1830 NJ m (1) Lydia X Pvt NJ

**DEAN : DEANE, DEANS**
Seth : b 11-27-1746 CT d 4-5-1808 NY m (1) Sarah X Pvt MA

**DEERING : DEARN, DEARING, DERING, DERRING**
Henry : b c 1755 d 1805 VA m (1) Barbara Hockman Enjt VA

**DINET DE MONTROND :**
Pierre Francois : b c 1754 FR d 10-11-1843 FR m (1) Anne Genevieve de Rollat (2) Marie Madeleine de la Cordre Cpl FR

**DRAKE :**
Weare : b 12-4-1738 NH d 1-17-1820 NH m (1) Anne Taylor (2) Anna Dame/Dam CS PS NH

**DREISBACH : DRIESBACH**
Henry : b 10-28-1762 d 2-22-1841 NY m (1) Catherine X Pvt PA

**DU BOISSON :**
Francois : b 2-25-1753 LA d 4-24-1821 LA m (1) Anna Charle Krebs PS LA

**DUNCAN : DUNKAN, DUNKIN**
William : b c 1749 d 10-2-1835 SC m (1) Sarah Turner Pvt SC PNSR WPNS

**EDGE :**
John : b 1753 d 6-11-1831 OH m (1) Nancy Cummings Pvt PA PNSR WPNS

**EDWARDS : EDWARD**
Joseph : b c 1754 d 5-25-1833 NY m (1) Olive Green Pvt RI PNSR WPNS

**EGOLF :**
George Adam : b 2-15-1724 GR m (1) Marilus/Mary/Elizabeth Schadler PS PA

**ELDRIDGE : ELDRED, ELDREDGE**
Elihu : b 1763 d 7-1828 NY m (1) Patience Hall Janney/Jenne Pvt MA

**ELLISON :**
John : b 1762 PA d 3-3-1836 NC m (1) X X Enjt PA

**ERB :**
Mesick : b 1756 d 5-22-1833 PA m (1) X X Sol PA

**FEARS :**
William : b 2-16-1746 VA d 5-13-1835 GA m (1) Frances X Sol GA

**FICK :**
Godfrey : b 1731 GR m (1) Sarah X Pvt PA

**FIELDS :**
John : b c 1761 d 7-22-1852 KY m (1) Polly X Pvt MA

**FINNELL :**
Benjamin : b c 1750 d 12-20-1802 KY m (1) Sarah (Carter) Sleet Sol VA

**FISHEL : FISSEL**
Henry : b c 1765 d 6-15-1802 PA m (1) Barbara X Pvt PA

**FLAKEY : FLAACK**
Coenradt Aaron : b 1713 d 6-4-1780 NY m (1) Anna X PS NY

**FORD : FORDE, FOARD, FORDE**
James : b 9-5-1734 CT d 4-25-1821 MA m (1) Rachel Backus Pvt MA

**FOX :**
John Sr. : b 12-24-1732 CT d 3-3-1792 MA m (1) Mercy Day (2) Esther Parsons Wgn Pvt MA

**FUSSELL : FRIEZEI**
Moses : b 1750 NC d 4-1-1831 TN m (1) Lucy Willerson PS NC

**GASSAWAY : GASAWAY**
Richard : b 1744 d 11-1-1801 KY m (1) Elizabeth X (2) Ann Arnold PS MD

**GEE :**
Benjamin : b 9-10-1739 VA d 6-6-1815 VA m (1) X X PS VA

**GENTZLER : GENSLER**
George Philip : b 1746 d 11-14-1816 PA m (1) Maria Magdalen Lau Pvt PA

**GEORGE :**
John : b 1758 d 11-28-1847 IN m (1) X X Sgt NJ PNSR

**GLASSCOCK : GLASSOCK**
Zachariah : b 1740 d 11-19-1821 VA m (1) X X PS VA

**GLASSCOCK : GLASSOCK**
Lemuel : b 1753 NC d 2-23-1844 NC m (1) Alsey X Pvt PS NC PNSR

**GRIFFITH : GRIFFETHS, GRIFFITHS**
Elisha : b 3-25-1757 MD d 7-5-1841 PA m (1) Catherine X Pvt MD PNSR

**GULLIVER : GULLIFER**
Thomas : b 4-1748 MA d p 1820 ME m (1) Patience Tozier MA

**HARLOW :**
Samuel : b 10-22-1747 MA d 1798 SC m (1) Remember Holmes CS MA

**HARRIS :**
John : b 9-27-1765 MA d 11-14-1840 NH m (1) Abigail Edson (2) Mary Lesley Pvt PA

**HARRUP :**
Lydia Bates Pvt MA PNSR WPNS

For further information, contact the Genealogy Department, Office of the Registrar General, (202) 879-3268

48 Daughters of the American Revolution
New Ancestors

For further information, contact the Genealogy Division of the Registrar General, 202-879-3268
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5. Sterling Silver Wire Necklace, $150
(w/ Sterling Silver DAR charm 18" Wire, 2" adjustable)

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(w/ custom blue sides DAR insignia placed on inside lid J.E.C. inscribed on bottom. Official certificate and numbered box)

7. Custom Base with engraving plate (black), $60

8. Solid Brass Insignia Clock Collection (can be engraved)
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c Carriage clock, DAR insignia, quartz movement, $210

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