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ABOUT THE COVER: PHOTO BY RAYMOND GEHMAN
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A Landmark Centennial
DAR celebrates 100 years of Memorial Continental Hall and its importance to capital history.

The Immigrants’ Daughter
In her work at the Ellis Island National Monument, Diana Pardue pursues a lifelong passion for history.

Fruits of Your Labor
Enjoy your garden’s leftover bounty with smart tips for canning.

Up to Snuff
A rare Victorian ram snuffer is still the life of the party.

Discovering Horse Country
Explore the bluegrass and bloodlines of America’s old Kentucky home.

The Scribner House
In New Albany, Ind., historic preservation is a gift one DAR chapter gives to its community.

President General’s Message
Whatnot
Bookshelf
From the President General

The DAR Museum’s new exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of Memorial Continental Hall, a National Historic Landmark, opens June 10. It’s a marvelous opportunity for members and non-members alike to visit this gorgeous building and to learn more about its history.

Our primary article features the Moravians, a community of religious pacifists who settled in North Carolina in the 18th century. Their quest to remain peaceful during the Revolutionary War is a little-known chapter of American history. DAR members will certainly identify with the Moravians’ emphasis on the importance of education. In fact, just three years before the Revolutionary War, the Moravians founded Salem Academy, establishing a tradition of women’s education that lasts to this day.

The tradition of horseracing evolved quickly when it vaulted across the Atlantic during the Early American period. Our feature traces the Sport of Kings as it gained popularity in the colonies and became a much more democratic—and dramatic—spectator sport.

After leaping through equine history, readers can take a spirited adventure to Kentucky’s famous horse-racing and breeding capitals of Louisville and Lexington. A short detour to Pleasant Hill, Ky., demonstrates the traditions of a 19th-century Shaker community.

Across the Ohio River, the Piankeshaw Chapter fulfills the National Society’s objective of preservation every day as the owners and caretakers of the Scribner House in New Albany, Ind. The oldest surviving building in the city, the home was built in 1814 by Joel Scribner, one of the city’s founders. In 1917 his granddaughter, Hattie Scribner, sold the house to the local NSDAR chapter, which now preserves it as a museum of the early life of the family and the town they founded.

Like the Scribner pioneers, Americans have always been industrious, a spirit evident from the first days of the Republic. Challenged by their English cousins, several soon-to-be Americans became innovators in technology, medicine and industry. As our article shows, many of their inventions were indispensable to the success of the new nation.

In our Q&A feature, American Spirit talks with author and history professor Carol Berkin about her new book, Revolutionary Mothers. An expert on the subject of women’s history in Colonial America, Dr. Berkin has served as a consultant on several PBS documentaries, and appeared as a commentator in the History Channel series, “Founding Fathers.”

As glorious summer approaches, consider what you might do with your garden’s leftover bounty. The Domestic Arts department takes a look at the how-tos of canning, and reviews DAR member Bev Alford’s book, The JamLady Cookbook.

Finally, you’ll get a chuckle out of this issue’s National Treasures item—who knew that a Victorian snuffbox could have its own personality?

Enjoy this issue, and have a wonderful summer!

Presley-Merritt Wagoner
After playing host to the World Disarmament Conference in 1921–1922, Memorial Continental Hall earned National Historic Landmark status in 1970.

New DAR Exhibit Celebrates Centennial of D.C. Landmark

IF YOU'RE PLANNING A TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C., this year, make sure you visit the new DAR Museum exhibit, “Memorial Continental Hall—100 Years of History,” in honor of the building’s 100th birthday on April 17.

Thousands of people pass the building every year—probably unaware that Memorial Continental Hall was constructed before the Lincoln Memorial, or that the land it sits on was pastoral before the DAR broke ground.

Whether you’re a Daughter or have an interest in the architecture and history of our nation’s capital, you won’t want to miss this exhibit. Follow the story of Memorial Continental Hall from the laying of the cornerstone to its role in Washington, D.C., today. Learn about the building’s architect, Edward Pearce Casey, who also designed the interior of the Library of Congress, and the competition that landed him the position of Memorial Continental Hall’s master architect.

Discover how Memorial Continental Hall’s interior was decorated, view original artwork and hear about the colorful histories behind many of the furnishings it houses. And learn about its Registered National Historic Landmark status, which was earned after Memorial Continental Hall played host to the first disarmament conference in 1921, attended by delegates from across the world.

The exhibition will showcase:

- Casey’s original Memorial Continental Hall design plans and artwork.
- Authentic furnishings, photographs and other memorabilia.
- How the DAR made key decisions, such as the naming and placement of the building.
- The story of the DAR during WWI and WWII and other times of national need.
- The development of the Museums’ period rooms and main galleries.

The exhibition will be on display June 10, 2005—February 4, 2006. For more information, visit www.dar.org/museum. The exhibit is underwritten by the New York State Organization, Elizabeth “Libby” M. McKee, State Regent.
Bringing Patriotism to Music Class

IT'S HARD ENOUGH to teach schoolchildren lyrics of songs, let alone the history behind them. That's the premise behind *It Works for Me: The National Anthem and Other Patriotic Music in the Classroom*. Made for teachers by teachers, the workbook offers best practices for teaching patriotic song lyrics and helping young students learn the history behind the songs.

Published by the National Association for Music Education (MENC), this book is part of the group's National Anthem Project, the campaign to get America singing "The Star-Spangled Banner," while spotlighting the importance of music education in encouraging patriotism.

The push for patriotism is not unfounded. A 2004 study by Harris Interactive showed that 61 percent of Americans do not know the words to their national anthem, which MENC attributes to decreased funding for school music programs.

"For years, school music classes have been the first to be cut, and we are now seeing the ramifications firsthand," says Executive Director John Mehlmann. "If we can't sing our own national anthem, we can't voice pride in our country and what it stands for. Music in schools provides the platform for patriotism that stays with us for a lifetime."

For more information on the National Anthem Project or to buy *It Works for Me: The National Anthem and Other Patriotic Music in the Classroom*, visit www.menc.org.

**Quick Quiz: Patriotic Music**

1. During which war did poet and lawyer Francis Scott Key write the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner"?
2. When did "The Star-Spangled Banner" become the national anthem of the United States?
3. What patriotic song, written by Katharine Lee Bates, was also adapted in Australia, Canada and Mexico?
4. In the song "Yankee Doodle," what does the "macaroni" refer to?
5. How many states are named in Lee Greenwood's song, "God Bless the U.S.A."

Answers on page 7.
**America’s First Mother Slept Here**

You’ll be hard pressed to find a better time to visit Mount Vernon. With the gardens in full bloom and Mother’s Day just around the corner, the beloved home of President George Washington and First Lady Martha Washington makes the perfect May and June destination. Don’t miss the Spring Wine Festival and Sunset Tour, May 20–22, where you can sample wines from 16 Virginia wineries and learn about President Washington’s own wine-making endeavors. And on Martha’s 274th birthday on June 2, anyone named Martha or whose birthday is June 2 will be admitted free. Operated by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, Mount Vernon has been open to the public since 1860. For more information, visit www.mountvernon.org.

**THE NEW NEW WORLD**

Exactly 398 years ago this month, the first English settlers landed at Jamestown, Va., marking the beginning of the history of the New World. To celebrate their arrival in 1607, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation will present Jamestown Landing Day May 14, offering maritime activities and programs for guests. The event will take place at Jamestown Settlement, where you’ll learn about the people of 17th-century Virginia—Powhatan Indians and European and African immigrants.

Ever wonder what everyday life was like in the New World? See for yourself at Jamestown Settlement and the nearby Yorktown Victory Center. Opening June 1, the “Tools of the Trade” exhibit explores tools and technology from the 17th and 18th centuries.

For more information on these and other programs, visit www.historyisfun.org. To learn more about the Jamestown Rediscovery archaeological project, visit www.apva.org/jr.html.

**The Home Stretch**

The bicentennial celebration of the Lewis and Clark expedition kicked off in 2003 in Charlottesville, Va., tracing the footsteps of the Corps of Discovery from start to finish. Just as Lewis and Clark did 200 years ago, the celebration is now making its way to Montana with the kick-off of “Explore! The Big Sky,” a 34-day commemoration of the Lewis and Clark trek through Montana and the Corps members’ encounters with the Plains Indians. Eat lunch along the riverbanks to relive the Corps of Discovery’s daily struggles, attend lectures conducted by Lewis and Clark historians or walk through theSweet Willow Indian Market where you can purchase Native American arts and crafts.

Some highlights of “Explore! The Big Sky”

- **JUNE 3**: Grand Opening Ceremony, Fort Benton
- **JUNE 13**: Ice Cream Social at Ryan Dam, including Lewis and Clark discovery of the Great Falls of the Missouri
- **JULY 3**: Poiá Opera, Civic Center, Great Falls
- **JULY 4**: Closing Ceremony, Great Falls

“Explore! The Big Sky” begins June 1 and runs through July 4. For more information on these events, visit www.exploreethebigsky.org.
CONSTITUTION ISLAND packs a lot of history in its 287 acres. In 1777, the island, which is located across the Hudson River from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., was occupied by British troops for three weeks during the Revolutionary War. The following year it became one of the first fortified spots of the American Revolution, after Colonel Thaddeus Kosciusko directed the construction of the Great Chain, an 80-ton barrier of iron links stretching across the Hudson River, to prevent British troops from traveling upstream.

After the war, the island became the home of Henry Warner, a New York City lawyer, and his two daughters, Susan and Anna, who both went on to become popular 19th-century writers.

The Great Chain's history lives on, as Constitution Island now offers a well-preserved peek into the past. "Constitution Island today ranks high among the Revolutionary War sites in the Hudson Valley," says Betsy Pugh of the Constitution Island Association. "It demonstrates its importance during the Revolution with the fortifications that still remain on the island."

Not only can you see the remains of Revolutionary fortifications on Constitution Island, you can also tour the Warner House, furnished with original family furniture, including an 18th-century wing-back commodore chair, and the house's grounds, including the Anna Warner Memorial Garden.

Tours start in June and run through September. For more information, visit www.constitutionisland.org.

Answers to quiz on page 5: 1. The War of 1812 served as the backdrop to Francis Scott Key's composition of "The Star-Spangled Banner." 2. President Woodrow Wilson ordered the song to be played at military occasions in 1916, but Congress officially designated "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the national anthem in 1931. 3. "America the Beautiful": The refrain is replaced with "O Canada!" in Canada, "Australia!" in Australia and "¡Mi México!" in Mexico. 4. Macaroni was a style of Italian dress imitated in England during the pre-Revolutionary War era. In the song, Yankee Doodle mocks the English by sticking a feather in his hat. 5. Lee Greenwood names three states in the song—Minnesota, Tennessee and Texas.
ASK DIANA PARDUE what her passion is and, without hesitation, she’ll tell you it’s history.

It was in high school that this Daughter and current Director of Museum Services at Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty National Monument decided she wanted not only to study history, but to also make it her profession.

After majoring in history at Centre College in Danville, Ky, and earning a master’s degree at the University of Kentucky, Mrs. Pardue moved with friends to Washington, D.C., to start her career.

In 1985 her work took her to New York, where Mrs. Pardue, a Houston native, helped plan and oversee the establishment of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, which opened in 1990.

“It’s interesting because when we opened the museum in 1990, most Americans didn’t really know about immigration,” she says. “When we started our school programs, we had to define the word for most school children. Now it’s something that everyone talks about and understands. It has made people think more about their own personal histories as much as the history of the world.”

As director, she oversees 18 permanent staff members and a number of interns and volunteers working in exhibits, archives, collection management, the research library and oral history.

After 30 years working for the National Park Service, Mrs. Pardue still finds her job exhilarating. “It’s very exciting,” she says. “We get to talk to people who were here when this was an immigration station. We talk to historians all around the world who are interested in immigration history.”

Mrs. Pardue and her Ellis Island staff have also worked with Australia, France and Japan to help set up national immigration museums of their own.

“It’s never boring. There’s always a new program or a new group who wants to work with us on various projects.”

And when it comes to groups working with Ellis Island, the Daughters of the American Revolution have had a prominent role there since the early 1920s, when area Daughters ran a rehabilitation center on the island for handicapped immigrants.

“When I first started here, we found a whole group of objects related to the rehabilitation center,” she says. “We found sewing machines, looms, woodworking tools. There was also a 10-minute film clip from the 1920s that the DAR made to promote the center.”

Mrs. Pardue says the National Society’s historical involvement on Ellis Island, as well as its prominent role as a fund-raiser for the 1983–1990 restoration project, makes being a Daughter even more special to her.

With Revolutionary War ancestors from the Kentucky Territory on her mother’s side of the family, Mrs. Pardue comes from a long line of Daughters. “My mother, grandmother, aunts and cousins were all involved,” she says. “I think it’s very important to be a Daughter. It helps make me more aware of my family heritage, and it’s great to meet with people who are as interested in history as I am.”

A member of the Peter Minuit Chapter, New York, N.Y., Mrs. Pardue helped organize and set up a field trip for Chapter members to Ellis Island last year. She also talks to fellow National Park Service colleagues about joining the DAR.

Even outside work, Mrs. Pardue can’t seem to get enough of history. She and her husband enjoy traveling to historic sites in the Northeast and her native Texas.

To nominate a Daughter for a future issue, e-mail a description to americanspirit@dar.org.
The lure of the sea is the focus of two recent works, while the drama of the Revolution inspires a presidential first.

DOWN TO THE SEA

The sea has lured many with promises of wealth, adventure, discovery and escape. We marvel at the courage of early European and American mariners in tiny ships, slowly spinning a web of trade and military might around the world. Along with spices, gold and jewels, they returned with often incredible tales of far-away lands, strange peoples and fantastic beasts.

Time has cast a rosy glow of undeserved romance over these voyages, and diminished their cumulative importance to later generations of sailors. A Pirate of Exquisite Mind by Diana and Michael Preston (Walker & Company, 2004) remedies these misconceptions.

The Prestons introduce us to Michael Dampier, Englishman, explorer, trader, naturalist, hydrographer—and buccaneer. During his 63 years, Dampier circumnavigated the world three times and was the first Englishman to explore the coast of Australia, where he is better remembered today than in his native land.

As told by the Prestons, Dampier’s life unfolds like a swashbuckling adventure novel. We see him and his various shipmates endlessly trying to capture a Spanish treasure ship, and then running to avoid attack by warships. We share the chronic hunger, thirst and illness that haunted even the best-provisioned ships, and feel the fatigue of repeatedly hauling vessels ashore to replace rotted, worm-riddled planks and timbers.

However, unlike a Captain Blood or a Jack Sparrow, the hero of this tale was at heart less a pirate than a naturalist. Throughout his travails, whether ill in a steamy rain forest or struggling to stay alive in a leaky craft, Dampier observed the world around him with rare objectivity and insight. More than once, he abandoned all his possessions except for his journals and notebooks. These ultimately proved of far greater and lasting value than any New World silver or gold.

Woven through this riveting tale is a chain of firsts. Dampier compiled tremendous amounts of information about winds and currents that guided sailors for decades afterward. He observed, recorded and collected numerous unknown species of animals and plants, many for the first time in English, and some for the first time ever. Thanks to his patient observation of the peoples he met, he introduced a number of words to the English language, including barbecue, avocado and chopsticks.

Dampier’s books about his voyages made him a celebrity and helped set the style of modern travel writing. Later writers such as Jonathan Swift drew inspiration and details from Dampier’s descriptions of peoples and places. Charles Darwin read him and compared his own observations of the Galapagos Islands to those of this sometime-pirate. Explorers such as Humboldt were familiar with his work, relying on it to guide their own voyages. American sailors no doubt also used his works to bring their ships safely through distant waters.

Dampier’s first voyage around the world was, in a sense, accidental. Sailing originally to seek fortune in the New World, he ultimately joined buccaneers in quest of plunder. He appears to have had an innate talent for observing the natural world and, atypical of his time, reporting it with little prejudice or superstition. Impelled by the desire for gold and a thirst for experience, he spent some 12 years making his way across the globe.

His later voyages were sanctioned by the English government so that he could explore unknown lands and waters, as well as potential sources of trade. Like the first, though, they were dogged by disappointments, intrigue, near-mutinies and great hardship. During his last voyage starting in 1710, Dampier’s drive and interest in the world around him seem to have vanished, and he died in 1715 at the age of 63.

His fame lingered for decades, especially among naturalists, scientists and explorers, but their exploits eventually eclipsed his. This book does much to restore him to a rightful place among the bold adventurers who revealed a world.

− Bill Huddins

A HUNGER FOR DISCOVERY

Some 150 years later, a very different around-the-world voyage captivated the American public and contributed greatly to the new nation’s store of knowledge, while creating huge controversies over its leaders’ conduct.

The United States South Seas Exploring Expedition of 1838–1842, or “Ex.Ex.” as it was commonly called, represented America’s bold claim to equality with the great scientific explorers of Europe. A tremendous amount of national pride rode with the expedition, placing enormous pressure on its crew.

Unfortunately, as author Nathaniel Philbrick relates in Sea of Glory (Viking Books, 2003), the leader of the expedition was at best an unfortunate choice for such a sensitive post. Lt. Charles Wilkes had long urged such a voyage and hoped to lead it. Fate, rather than fitness, put it into his hands. Yet Wilkes was inexperienced, insecure and egotistical, resenting advice from more experienced hands.

− Nathaniel Philbrick
His relatively low rank further compromised his ability to lead. He had petitioned for a promotion, which did not come through. In effect, he had the responsibility with scarcely enough authority.

The result was unending friction at sea, and a welter of courts-martial when the expedition returned. Philbrick’s account of Wilkes’ arbitrary actions, of the cabals that formed against him and his efforts to break them, remind one of Captain Queeg in “The Caine Mutiny.”

Yet, in retrospect, the “Ex.Ex.” succeeded beyond the wildest hopes of its participants and supporters. The ships explored 280 Pacific Islands and compiled navigational charts that were used into World War II. In a contested claim, the expedition confirmed that Antarctica was indeed a continent and explored 1,500 miles of its coastline. It also explored the coasts of Washington and Oregon, providing the first detailed information about them.

However, the expedition’s most lasting contribution was the trove of scientific observations, artifacts, flora and fauna its members collected. It was enough material to keep battalions of scientists busy for years—and there was no place to put it all. The public’s interest in science, kindled by the expedition, demanded a permanent home for the objects. Fortunately, Congress had been debating what to do with the bequest of James Smithson to create an institution for the diffusion of knowledge. Some of the expedition’s treasures would form the basis of the Smithsonian Institution’s collections, while its plant samples would be the core of the U.S. Botanic Garden.

Despite the gulf of time, technology and global politics that separated Dampier and Wilkes, each man shared a hunger for discovery. Neither man was a particularly adept commander, and each fostered great animosities among their shipmates. Nevertheless, each made enormous contributions to his respective nation, and to posterity. The words of Psalms 107:23-24 may serve as a fitting epitaph for each: “They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.”

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President Jimmy Carter, already the author of more than 15 books, became the first American president to publish fiction with the debut of his 2003 historical novel The Hornet’s Nest: A Novel of the Revolutionary War (Simon and Schuster). With linguistic skill, Carter draws on his vast knowledge of American history to painstakingly forge a sweeping, panoramic view of the Colonists’ drive for independence, especially in the South. “Most Americans know very little about major events of the war in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas,” the former president says in his acknowledgements, “and I wanted to present as accurate an account as possible of the complex and crucial inter-relationship among colonists, British officials and the Indian tribes.”

Although Carter’s evident research of the period is impressive, it’s in his characters’ wartime struggles that the account is most poignant. He creates the Pratt family of Philadelphia—Ethan, his wife, Epsey, and his brother, Henry, who move to North Carolina in 1763. Shortly after settling there, Ethan witnesses the hanging of Henry, an avowed patriot and activist, by brutal Tory leadership. Forced off their land, Ethan and Epsey move to Georgia and settle in the northwest—between the Ogeechee and Savannah rivers—along a migratory route used by early Georgia settlers. This area, dubbed “the hornet’s nest,” is an enclave of settlers, many who become rebellious, organize militia and fight vigorously against British and Tory forces.

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Despite his grief over his brother’s death, Ethan remains passive to the gathering storm around him. He is content with life on the frontier, working on the farm—until he falls in love with his neighbor’s wife, Mavis, whose “youth, beauty and exuberance” profoundly stir him. Ethan later becomes hardened by the growing massacres—some close to home—and joins the Georgia militia under Colonel Elijah Clarke.

With characters like Clarke and others, Carter introduces real-life political leaders and military commanders known to many history buffs. He also meticulously describes military maneuvers and battles—both large and small. He is particularly astute in writing about his beloved Georgia, and his honor roll of great Georgians is a long one—including delegates to the Continental Congress and signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Although the book can seem fragmented and convoluted, the author is dealing with a complex and fragmented sweep of time. After researching the Revolution for seven years, Carter admits that “with some pain and reluctance,” he was urged by the editors to reduce the original length of the manuscript. This may have frustrated his attempt to organize the text in a more cohesive and logical fashion. And if a reader has not been immersed in Revolutionary history, it’s often difficult to separate fact from fiction.

Despite its flaws, the novelist draws in readers with his ability to paint convincing human faces on a backdrop of a complex, brutal war of independence. It is not uncommon to see a work of history or policy analysis from the pen of a statesman such as President Carter. But it is uncommon to see and experience a novel of such compelling literary power.

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- B.H.

- GEORGE MILLER
In 1795, as war raged, Napoleon Bonaparte offered a cash prize for anyone who could create a way to preserve food for his soldiers. After working 14 years to perfect the process, Nicolas Appert finally won the prize in 1809, and a new industry was born. By the early 1900s, American women were routinely putting up vegetables and fruits that had historically been enjoyed only in the summertime.

Canning was revived during World War II, when families were encouraged to plant Victory Gardens and can their surplus food. This project allowed surplus commercial supplies to be sent to American military troops overseas. The government provided classes on canning so that anyone willing could learn the process. Almost 20 million people participated in the Victory Garden movement, producing 40 percent of the food needed by the country.

Canning has changed drastically since that time, and today’s practitioners range from families who can out of necessity to those who can as a hobby. And with Americans’ desperate need for healthier eating habits, canning is a smart alternative. Not only does canning allow the enjoyment of out-of-season fruits and vegetables, but it also allows ultimate control over the final result. Canners are able to control the amounts of salt and sugar in the product, as well as ensure that no pesticides or potentially harmful additives are present in the food.

Many types of food can be canned, and several terms for the practice are used interchangeably. Canning, jamming and putting up all refer to the act of preserving food. Tomatoes, beans and preserves are the most traditional items that are canned, but inventive cooks have created luscious-sounding new recipes like Mango Chutney, Spicy Tomato-Basil Juice and Maple Walnut Sauce.

**TYPES OF CANNING**

There are two basic canning techniques. The first, a boiling water bath or rolling water bath, consists of placing a jar of food (with the lid attached) in boiling water for a predetermined amount of time, ranging from 10 to 25 minutes. The more acidic a food, such as tomatoes, the less time it needs to be in the boiling water.

The second technique, pressure processing, employs a pressure canner, which is a cast aluminum pot with a tight-fitting lid that uses heat to seal jars. The first technique works best for high-acid foods.
Almost 20 million people participated in the 1940s-era Victory Garden movement, as promoted in this 1946 poster created by Dick Williams.

such as fruits, tomatoes and pickles. Vegetables, including low-acid tomatoes, produce the best results when preserved with pressure processing. Low-acid foods must be processed at a higher temperature than high-acid foods to ensure that all traces of botulinum bacteria have been removed.

Both canning techniques create a vacuum seal in the jar. The canning process kills microorganisms and enzymes that would otherwise cause the food to spoil. The vacuum seal keeps the food free from bacteria for at least one year. You can easily test a vacuum seal by removing the ring from the jar lid and pressing the middle of the lid with your finger. If the lid pops up when you remove your finger, the jar is not sealed.

HOW CANNING WORKS

Once you place a jar of food into a water bath or a pressure canner, heat causes the food to expand. The jar’s internal pressure changes, and gases are vented from the jar. Once the processing is done and the jar begins to cool, the pressure outside the jar is greater than the pressure inside the jar. This difference in pressure pulls the lid into the jar, creating a vacuum seal.

WHAT YOU NEED

The supplies you need for canning vary depending on what you plan to put up.

Basic supplies include a pressure canner or water bath canner, a cooling rack for cooling jars after you remove them from the canner, a funnel for filling jars and a jar lifter for removing jars from hot water. Supplies for making jellies or jams include cheesecloth for straining juice from fruit, a mesh skimmer for collecting foam from the top of jelly and a jelly thermometer for determining correct jellying temperature.

Canning has been a part of American culture for more than 150 years. Although the process and recipes have evolved with time, the love of fresh-from-the-garden food, no matter what the season, has remained a constant.

Many Americans grew up with a member of the family who canned, whether the product was vegetables, jams or jellies. In The JamLady Cookbook (Pelican Publishing, 2001), Beverly Ellen Schoonmaker Alfeld draws us into a world far beyond simple grape jelly. With recipes for goodies such as Cinnamon Blueberry-Plum Jam, Apple Jelly with Rose Geranium Leaves and “No-Sugar” Tomato-Basil Jam, Ms. Alfeld—a DAR member of the Wiltwyck Chapter in Kingston, N.Y.—reveals her knowledge of canning as well as her creativity.

While canning and jamming began out of necessity to keep families stocked with food throughout the winter, Ms. Alfeld sees a greater purpose.

“Jamming is an art,” she says. “It can be simple or it can be elaborate. It is not much different from sewing, knitting, weaving, quilting, baking or any other domestic art. It can be practiced in its most simplistic form, or it can be practiced using the most laborious and time-consuming methods.

“In the latter case, the end product is revered and seen as ‘dear’—the same as a hand-made doily or a length of hand-knotted lace.”

Not only does Ms. Alfeld’s cookbook offer a wide variety of recipes, several chapters in the book educate the reader on jamming techniques, tips and safety procedures. Both novice and experienced jammers can benefit from her step-by-step instructions on avoiding problems while canning, as well as learn a taste of the history of canning. Readers are given a solid basis not only for producing the jams and jellies offered in the cookbook, but also for venturing out with their own recipes.

Ms. Alfeld also puts a great emphasis on the high quality of canned foods. Some families let the practice of canning fall by the wayside when mass-produced vegetables and jellies became available in supermarkets. But these foods are never as tasty as what you put up at home, claims Ms. Alfeld, who preaches the virtues of do-it-yourself canning: “Store-bought products are not the same as homemade jams that are made with low or lower sugar and with whole fruits.”

Ms. Alfeld’s book encourages readers to rediscover the domestic art of canning, and her enthusiasm for “joyful jamming” is contagious.
National Treasures

Take a step inside the DAR Museum for a closer look at its fascinating collection.

Snuff Said

Frank has already become quite the celebrity in the halls of the DAR Museum. A ram’s head snuff mull, Frank is a rare example of the Victorians’ fascination with taxidermy—both for decorative and utilitarian purposes.

Preserving the Spoils of the Hunt

Taxidermy, or the preparation and mounting of the skins of animals, was a popular pastime for men in the mid-19th century. The Victorians’ interest in collecting and displaying birds and animals sometimes took on strange and arresting forms, at least to modern sensibilities—as with the case of the ram’s head. But after reading an engraved silver badge fastened on one of Frank’s horns, one can better imagine the scene of his debut: “Presented to Mr. D. McAra at a public dinner. Shot in 1848 in the Highlands of Scotland.”

The gift presented to Mr. D. McAra was quite elaborate. A semi-precious jewel, perhaps a citrine, is fastened at the end of each of Frank’s horns, and on the center of his forehead sits a jeweled snuff box. Frank is mounted on wheels, so that his snuff could be shared more easily.

Sharing Snuff

Taking snuff, or powdered tobacco, was widespread throughout the Scottish Highlands from the 17th century until the end of the 19th century, when smoking tobacco became more popular. The most important item for a snuff-taker was an airtight container in which to store the snuff. Although snuff boxes were usually small and portable—and made of everything from glass and silver to pewter and porcelain—the growing demand for snuff created the need for something larger.

The resulting oversized snuff boxes became known as snuff mulls. The word “mull” comes from a Scots dialect word for mill, where the tobacco was ground to a powder. Mulls came in a variety of shapes, but the most common were rams’ horns mounted in silver or pewter. It was much more rare to see an entire ram’s head used to create a snuff mull. These large mulls contained great quantities of snuff, and they were often used by fraternal organizations and regimental messes or clubs.

Nicknamed for the town of Franklin, Mich., where he was purchased from an antiques dealer, Frank is part of a large snuff box collection given by past Curator General (1986–1989) Patience Ellwood Towle. Mrs. Towle’s daughter, Rolfe Towle Teague, also served as Curator General from 2001–2004.

For a closer look at Frank, visit the DAR Museum’s Missouri room, which is decorated in high Victorian fashion. More of the Towle snuff box collection is also on display in the Museum.

(Continued...)
DISCOVERING
Kentucky’s Horse Country
By Melany Klinck • Photograph by Gene Burch
When Daniel Boone left the “domestic happiness” of his North Carolina home in 1769 to explore the “howling wilderness” of the Kentucky territory, every day brought hardships or Indian attacks. Yet, when he recounted his adventures in a 1784 ghostwritten autobiography, Boone described returning home to his family “with a determination to bring them as soon as possible to live in Kentucke, which I esteemed a second paradise.”
WO CENTURIES LATER, visitors continue to laud the wonders of Kentucky. Only these days, exploring Boone’s Eden is a pastime of gentlemen and ladies, especially in the state’s famous Bluegrass Region, where undulating hills wear the mantle of civilization so gracefully. This is, after all, a land of bluebloods, where generations of breeding have produced many of the fastest and most celebrated thoroughbreds in the world. And, of course, it’s home to the Kentucky Derby, which draws well-heeled equestrians from all over the world.

However, there’s more to central Kentucky than horse farms and racetracks. In fact, as America’s first western frontier, this region possesses a rich cultural heritage, one that is well represented in the myriad historical districts, museums and monuments of Lexington, Frankfort, Louisville and surrounding areas.

IN THE HEART OF HORSE COUNTRY

Lexington residents call their city the “Horse Capital of the World.” And with good reason. More than 150 horse farms ring the city. Even if you’re not horse crazy, you should still take time to tour the countryside of Bluegrass pastures bisected by miles of plank fencing and century-old limestone walls.

The 15-mile stretch of Old Franklin Pike (Ky 1681) west of Lexington is considered one of the nation’s most scenic byways. Don’t be disappointed if the grass doesn’t look blue. Only in spring do the tiny buds emerge that give the fields of bluegrass a blue-green appearance.

For a terrific guide to Lexington, get a copy of the free Bluegrass Driving Tour Map from the Lexington Visitors Bureau. The map describes three drives past numerous horse farms, some open to the public, including:

Calumet Farm, where a record nine Kentucky Derby winners have been bred since 1931.

Normandy Farm with its unique 1927 barn, resplendent with a clock tower, slate roof and animal-inspired roof ornaments.

Three Chimneys Farm, home to 2004 Kentucky Derby winner Smarty Jones.

Although many farms offer public tours, you can’t just drop in. Most require appointments and some only host guided groups. Check with the Lexington Visitors Bureau for details: www.VisitLex.com, (800) 845–3959.

Another way to observe the inner workings of a horse farm is to visit the Kentucky Horse Park. The educational theme park and 1,200-acre horse farm is home to champion horses and equine celebrities, such as I Two Step Too, the thoroughbred who portrayed Seabiscuit in the 2003 movie. Park visitors also can enjoy two museums and seasonal shows, such as the popular Parade of Breeds, where costumed riders show off various breeds’ characteristics by putting horses through their paces. For more information, contact www.kyhorsepark.com, (800) 678–8813.

GETTING ON TRACK

Louisville may lay claim to the Kentucky Derby, but Lexington has its own racing traditions. Keeneland, with its beautiful hedge-lined track and limestone grandstands, has been a proving ground for top horses since 1936. Three-week racing seasons are held in April and October. General admission is just $3. For more information, contact www.keeneland.com, (800) 456–3412.

During the off-season, Keeneland is a thoroughbred training center and sales facility. Visitors are welcome to watch daily morning workouts from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. year round. Admission is free, and the Track Kitchen offers reasonably priced breakfasts and a chance to rub shoulders with trainers and employees.

For a different kind of racing experience, drop by The Red Mile, where harness racers have been competing since 1875. For those who have never seen it, harness racing involves a horse pulling a rider on a two-wheeled cart called a sulky or race bike. The Red Mile’s 2005 fall season runs July 29–October 8. For more information, contact www.theredmile.com, (859) 255–0752.

A STROLL BACK IN TIME

Once dubbed the “Athens of the West,” the city of Lexington is sprinkled with historical gems that coexist nicely with the trappings of this modern metropolis. You’ll find the visitors bureau’s walking map of downtown chock-full of interesting tidbits about both old and new sites.

Highlights of the two-mile walk include:

Victorian Square. Meticulously renovated commercial buildings from the late 1800s and early 1900s now house shops, galleries and restaurants.

Mary Todd Lincoln House. This 22-room house was the girlhood home of the First Lady from 1832 until her marriage. Abraham Lincoln was believed to have visited here three times.

Gratz Park. Homes from the early 1800s grace this elegant residential neighborhood. Don’t be surprised to see horse-mounted police patrolling the park.

Hunt-Morgan House. Built in 1814, legend has it that Confederate General John Hunt Morgan once rode his horse through the front door to escape Union troops, paused in the hall to kiss his mother, then galloped out the back door. Today, visitors marvel at the three-story, cantilevered staircase and collection of furnishings.

Other historic homes near downtown include Ashland, the home of statesman Henry Clay, which is known for its beautiful grounds, and Pope Villa, a rare residential example of the work of U.S. Capitol architect Benjamin H. Latrobe. The villa is undergoing restoration, but tours are available by appointment.

A short detour north to Paris, Ky, will take you to Duncan Tavern, a three-story stone tavern built in 1788 by Major Joseph Duncan. In its early days it served as a gathering place for local citizens and early pioneers such as Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton. It is now the official headquarters of the Kentucky Society, NSDAR, and is open for tours. For more information, visit www.kentuckydar.org/duncantavern.htm.
Nine Kentucky Derby winners have been bred at Calumet Farm.

Thoroughbred foals are typically born between January and June and are considered one year old on January 1 of the following year.

Old Louisville features an eclectic mix of 19th- and 20th-century architecture.

Lexington’s Mary Todd Lincoln House was the girlhood home of the First Lady.

The Kentucky Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial is designed so that the point of the gnomon’s shadow falls on the veteran’s name on the anniversary of his death.

Kentucky’s State Capitol building is in Frankfort, a historic river town.

Visitors can watch baseball bats being made at the Louisville Slugger Museum.

Kentucky Horse Park, the world’s only theme park dedicated to the horse, is home to equine champions.

A trumpet sounds to start the race at Keeneland.

The State Capitol’s west lawn features a huge floral clock.

The Mint Julep is the official drink of the Kentucky Derby.

Crowds cheer the first turn at Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby.
ON THE ROAD TO LOUISVILLE

If you’re pressed for time, I-64 will transport you from Lexington to Louisville in about an hour. However, detouring through Frankfort provides a sweet reward. Rebecca-Ruth Candy Factory offers factory tours and free samples. The 86-year-old store’s specialty is bourbon balls, but they make a wide assortment of confections for teetotalers, too.

Once you’ve licked your fingers clean, grab a map from the visitors center across the street and spend an hour or so enjoying the numerous historic sights in this pretty river town. At the beaux arts-style State Capitol building, be sure to check out the huge floral clock on the west lawn. The Kentucky Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial on Coffee Tree Road is also intriguing. The unusual monument has veterans’ names arranged so that the point of the gnomon’s shadow falls on the veteran’s name on the anniversary of his death.

WELCOME TO DERBY TOWN

You can’t visit Louisville without paying tribute to its defining event: The Kentucky Derby. Sportscasters call it the “most exciting two minutes in sports.” However, Louisville residents admit it also can be “the most exhausting two weeks in sports.”

The race itself is run on the first Saturday in May, but festivities kick off two weeks earlier with Thunder over Louisville, an all-day air show followed by the largest fireworks display in the country, which produces a truly breathtaking display over the Ohio River.

If Derby festivities sound too frenetic for your taste, you can still enjoy visiting Churchill Downs. In fact, for races other than the Derby and the Kentucky Oaks (the Friday before the Derby), tickets are inexpensive and easy to come by. Fall races run from late October through November. Spring racing begins in April and continues until mid-July. For more information, contact www.churchilldowns.com, (502) 636-4400.

While you’re at the Downs, visit the Kentucky Derby Museum next door for an opportunity to surround yourself with the sights and sounds of the “The Greatest Race” on a high-definition 360-degree screen. For more information, contact www.derbymuseum.org, (502) 637-1111.

A PRESERVATIONIST’S EL DORADO

People are often surprised to learn that Louisville has one of the largest collections of Victorian homes and cast-iron architecture in the nation. Only Boston and surrounding Essex County have more properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The focal point for preservation is Old Louisville, a 1,200-acre city within the city. Here you will find an eclectic mix of 19th- and early 20th-century architecture—Victorian Gothic, Queen Anne, Italianate and more—as well as residences of all sizes from turreted mansions to craftsman-style bungalows to narrow shotgun houses.

Along Main Street, blocks of rehabilitated cast-iron buildings now house galleries, shops and the famous Louisville Slugger Museum, with its photogenic 120-foot tall baseball bat.

The best way to explore this impressive historic district is on foot. The Old Louisville Information Center, on South 4th Street in Central Park, offers a free map detailing five walking routes. Allow time to tour museums along the way, such as:

Brennan House. This 1868 Italianate-style home contains an entirely original family collection of Victorian furnishings.

Conrad/Caldwell House. Located on St. James Court, site of a spectacular outdoor art show in October, this castle-like mansion is adorned with gargoyles, stone arches and fleurs-de-lis. Inside, elaborate woodwork and stained glass provide a backdrop for period furnishings.

Filson Club. This beaux arts-style mansion and museum is home to Kentucky’s oldest private historical society and its extensive collection of frontier, antebellum and Civil War books and documents.

Old Louisville also has many wonderful bed-and-breakfast inns located in former homes along the tree-lined streets. Information can be found on www.oldlouisville.com or by calling (502) 635-5244.

After spending time in Kentucky’s leading cities, you can better appreciate these words penned by Boone’s collaborator more than 200 years ago: “We view Kentucke situated on the fertile banks of the great Ohio, rising from obscurity to shine with splendor, equal to any other of the stars of the American hemisphere.”
Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill is just 25 miles southwest of Lexington, Ky., but more than 100 years separate the bucolic hamlet from its bustling Bluegrass neighbor. Situated on 2,800 acres of rich farmland, Shaker Village recreates a bygone world as costumed interpreters farm the land with horse-drawn plows and practice traditional Shaker crafts and trades.

VESTIGES OF A UTOPIAN DREAM

Shakers first migrated to this plateau on the Kentucky River in 1805 to establish a community of believers who would share ownership of the group’s property and goods and work together to create a “heaven on earth.” Over time, the sect, which was an offshoot of Quakerism that derived its name from a style of worship that involved shaking or trembling, attracted many local converts with its philosophy of gender equality, pacifism, celibacy, opposition to slavery and confession of sin. By 1823, the Pleasant Hill village housed nearly 500 residents on 4,500 acres.

However, after the Civil War, the Shakers had trouble competing in the increasingly industrialized economy. As their prosperity waned, so did their ability to attract members. And, of course, their commitment to celibacy meant conversion or adoption were the only ways to grow. In 1910, Shaker Village was forced to close down, although it remained a farming community until 1961, when a nonprofit organization began converting it into a living history museum.

A LEGACY RESTORED

Today, Shaker Village encompasses 34 original structures that have been renovated and furnished with Shaker furniture and other artifacts. A self-guided walking tour takes you through 14 buildings, which showcase the elegant simplicity and superb craftsmanship that characterize Shaker architecture, furniture and crafts. Tour highlights include:

**The Centre Family Dwelling.** This limestone building was home to up to 80 Shakers, segregated by gender into 40 rooms.

**The 1820 Meeting House.** Believers gathered here for worship. Notice the main room has no interior support posts and benches are movable to allow space for the whirling, shaking dances incorporated into religious services. Shaker music, which some describe as “achingly beautiful,” is performed daily from April to October.

**The Trustees’ Office.** The Shakers’ leaders had offices in this building, which also provided lodging for visitors from “the world.” Don’t miss the three-story, twin spiral staircases that are masterpieces of Shaker ingenuity and design. The Trustees’ Office also houses a full-service restaurant, offering traditional Shaker fare. Upstairs are rooms for overnight guests. Reservations are recommended for meals and lodging.

AN INDUSTRIOUS LIFESTYLE

Shakers were not only superb craftsmen, but they were also inventors. Historians credit Shakers with inventing many laborsaving devices, such as the flat broom, metal pen nibs and the circular saw, purportedly invented by a woman.

You can observe Shaker-style craftsmanship in the Village’s exhibition areas, where interpreters engage in broom-making, coopering and weaving year-round. From April to October, additional demonstrations may include basketry, candle dipping, spinning, rug making, sewing, herb processing, farm tool making, planting and harvesting, and working with livestock. The village also offers periodic workshops taught by skilled artisans.

To learn more about Shaker Village activities, including its Dixie Belle sternwheeler excursions and network of hiking and horseback trails, visit the museum online at www.shakervillageky.org or call (800) 734-5611.
The SCRIBNERER House
Preserving New Albany’s Roots

“The town, just laid out with spacious streets, public square, market, etc., is situated on the banks of the Ohio River at the crossing place from Louisville to Vincennes, about two miles below the Falls, in the Indiana Territory, affords a beautiful and commodious harbor.”

So began a notice advertising New Albany, a brand-new river town founded by brothers Joel, Nathaniel and Abner Scribner in July 1813.

The legacy of the 19th-century pioneering family lives on in the Scribner House, the oldest surviving building of any kind in New Albany, Ind. Built in 1814 by Joel Scribner, it was the town’s first frame house, and for 103 years, members of the Scribner family made it their home. In 1917 Joel’s granddaughter, Harriet “Miss Hattie” Scribner, sold the house to the Piankeshaw Chapter of NSDAR. Today the chapter ensures its preservation as a museum of the early life of the Scribner family and the town they founded.
The Lure of the Land

Despite British laws against settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains, the Northwest Territory proved irresistible to 18th-century settlers seeking adventure. Thirty-five years before the Scribner brothers founded New Albany, George Rogers Clark (brother of expedition leader William Clark) and his ragtag band of soldiers fought the British and gained American control of lands in the Northwest Territory. After the Revolutionary War, the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 created new states out of the western lands. The Indiana Territory was formed from the western part of the Northwest Territory.

The vast land and its promise drew the enterprising Scribner brothers, the sons of Revolutionary War Captain Nathaniel Scribner. Before 1812, Joel, his wife and seven children—along with Joel's sister Phoebe, her husband, Nathaniel Waring, their children and Nathaniel Waring's brother, William—all traveled from New York to Cincinnati to start a tannery business. When the two Waring brothers left to fight in the War of 1812, Joel asked Nathaniel and Abner to move to Cincinnati to help him with the business. Instead, the three brothers decided to start a new settlement farther south on the Ohio River.

They chose the heavily wooded land below the Falls of the Ohio, near Louisville, Ky, because of its strategic location for transportation and ship building. After purchasing the land from John Paul, the founder of Madison, Ind., they named the town New Albany for the capital of their home state.

The Scribner and Waring families lived in a double log cabin until Joel's new home—made from the oak, poplar and ash trees cut from his land—was built on State and Main. Meanwhile, plans were in the works for the new settlement, with lots set aside for churches, schools and public squares.

In 1817 New Albany was incorporated as a town, and in 1839, as a city. The Ohio River and the steamboat industry were the foundations of the city's economy, and by 1850, it was the largest city in Indiana.


Rooms With a View

The Scribner House appears small at first glance, but it actually spans four stories, and its substantial collection of 19th-century artifacts and antiques belies its size. The quaint exterior features clapboard, green shuttered windows, a high-pitched roof and double porches. From Main Street, visitors are greeted by a white picket fence, and then walk...
A restored Steinway piano welcomes visitors to the music room where Miss Hattie taught piano lessons.

The curving staircase in the front hallway leads to two bedrooms and to the attic, now displaying a collection of antique dolls.

The portrait above the mantle of Dr. William Scribner was restored in 1992 for more than $7,000.

through an arched rose trellis down a brick path to the front door. The original doorknocker and Scribner nameplate are subtle reminders of the first homeowner.

The entrance hall is dominated by a stairway with a curving banister leading to the floors above. The hardwood floors are warmed by several braided rugs, many of them made by DAR members in the 1950s and 1960s. To the left of the entrance is the music room where Miss Hattie taught music lessons. It contains a pump organ and a rosewood Steinway piano, which survived 1937's great flood despite standing in six feet of water. Finally restored in 2004, the beautiful piano is the room's focal point.

Across the back of the first floor is a large parlor primarily furnished with Scribner family pieces. This room was used as the first school in New Albany and as the meeting house for the town's first Presbyterian Church. As in most rooms in the house, it features an open fireplace with a mantle.

The second floor has two bedrooms and a small room used for dressing, sewing and at times a nursery. The front bedroom features medicine bags belonging to Dr. Clapp, New Albany's first doctor, who married Joel's daughter, Mary Lucinda, and taught medicine to Joel's son, William.

The top floor, under the steeply pitched roof, served as a bedroom for the Scribner children and now displays a collection of antique dolls and their furniture.

The ground floor, built into the slope of the property, served as the kitchen. Completely underwater during the 1937 flood, it holds the original wide fireplace, as well as cast iron cookware, spinning wheels, a butter churn and candle mold used by the first Scribners. Several archival pictures hang here—one of the Scribner family taken in 1913 during the celebration of New Albany's 100th birthday.
A portrait of Charles Edward Scribner ("Little Eddie"), the youngest son of Dr. William Scribner, hangs in the back parlor. This room was used as the first school in New Albany. Opposite page, clockwise: The back bedroom features a Hepplewhite bed, also called a pencil post bed, dating back to 1740. The quilt on the quilt stand belonged to a descendant of Nathaniel Scribner, and Dr. William Scribner's top hat sits on the blanket chest. • The doorknobs are agate and are original to the house. • The house contains clothes belonging to the Scribners, including a brown taffeta wedding dress dating back to 1865.
The rear door leads out to a separate summer kitchen, originally built in 1850 for Dr. Scribner's office. An ancient elm and magnolia shade both a rear garden and the summer kitchen, now used as an office and gift shop. A two-level rear porch provides a view of the Ohio River.

Most rooms of the house feature paintings, photographs, family histories and letters belonging to the Scribner family. Antiques, period furnishings and textiles also decorate each room, all of which are carefully preserved.

DAR to the Rescue

In 1917 Miss Hattie, who was nearing 90 years old, grew unable to take care of the deteriorating house. A member of the Piankeshaw Chapter, she sold it to the chapter for $1,500, and lived in it until her death a year later. Members decided from the first day of ownership to preserve the house as a sort of time capsule—maintaining it as nearly as possible to the time when the first Scribners lived there.

The Daughters supported the upkeep on the house in any way they could—from rummage sales to auctions to proceeds from Scribner House pencils and postcards. Baked goods brought in funds, too: For years, one member was appointed for each chapter meeting to bring in a cake to be auctioned off.

As with any old house, maintaining and making needed repairs to the 19th-century structure has required significant funds, so much so that improvements typically have had to be done in a piecemeal fashion. The chapter managed to undertake its first significant restoration in 1932. The front parlor windows were restored to their original shorter length, chimneys were repaired and a new roof was installed. The 1937 flood also necessitated costly repairs.

Living History

Chapter members have long been dedicated to adding to the house's value. In 1930, Chapter Regent Pauline Strack purchased and donated the half-lot next door to the house. In 1926, Lillian Emery, a DAR member and schoolteacher, started conducting house tours for schoolchildren. Today every third-grade student in Floyd County visits the house during the school year.

The chapter also depends on community volunteers for many of its improvements. Brick sidewalks were rebuilt in the late 1990s with assistance from the Kiwanis Club and through an Eagle Scout project.

"The fact that our oldest house is still there reminds us of our history," said Jane Alcorn, Associate Director of Develop New Albany. "It remains a living piece of history you can see and touch and feel."

The chapter understands its essential role in preserving this living history. "Because this was the first house in New Albany, the house is a vital part of the community," said Piankeshaw Chapter member Vicky Zuverink, who also serves the National Society as Librarian General. "In fact, the community has been a great help financially in helping us preserve the house. The DAR chapter could never do this alone."

Thus, an important cycle takes place: As the community preserves Scribner House, it in turn preserves the community.

Owned and operated by the Piankeshaw Chapter, NSDAR, the Scribner House is open to the public on a Saturday during National Preservation Week in May and the first Sunday in December for a Victorian Tea and Open House. Group tours are by appointment only. 106 East Main Street, New Albany, Ind.; (812) 949-1776. Thanks to chapter members Vicky Zuverink, Anne Caudill and Chapter Regent Nona Bell, as well as the Floyd County Historical Society, for their assistance with this story.
Reclaiming New Albany

In 1850, a prosperous New Albany reigned as Indiana’s largest city. In recent years, however, the city of 40,000, like many other small communities across the country, has struggled to pump life back into its business districts hit hard by disinvestment and urban sprawl.

That’s why city leaders came together recently to start Develop New Albany, a nonprofit organization composed of businesses and community volunteers committed to the city’s economic revitalization. The local initiative is part of the National Main Street network, a National Trust for Historic Preservation program aimed at improving commercial districts. The successful National Trust formula combines historic preservation with economic development.

“The whole downtown area is on the National Register of Historic Places,” said Develop New Albany Associate Director Jane Alcorn. “There’s something constantly being restored or preserved. We’re committed to preservation, and we have our own historic review board to ensure appropriate work is done on historic structures.”

Working with community leaders, Develop New Albany has successfully rehabilitated and re-purposed several key downtown buildings. Special community events, such as the annual DaVinci Downtown Festival, raise funds for the program as they promote and celebrate the town’s vitality.

New Albany Highlights

After a tour of Scribner House, check out New Albany’s other historic attractions. Stretching for several blocks along Main and Market streets east of downtown, the Mansion Row District, on the National Register of Historic Places, constitutes the best single collection of Federal, Italianate, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival and Victorian architecture in the Louisville Metropolitan area. Most of the structures have been carefully restored, providing a glimpse of life in New Albany’s “Age of Elegance.”

The highlight of Mansion Row, Culbertson Mansion State Memorial is an opulent French Second Empire mansion erected between 1867 and 1869 by William S. Culbertson, one of Indiana’s richest merchants and philanthropists.

Next, visit the “Gateway to Freedom” plaque in downtown New Albany commemorating the area as a crucial stop on the Underground Railroad. As early as 1821, enslaved blacks attempted to cross the Ohio River at the Kentucky-Indiana border. Many of those who made it to New Albany achieved their freedom, some traveling as far north as Canada.

And in nearby Clarksville, Ind., the Falls of the Ohio State Park and Interpretive Center sits on a bluff overlooking the 400-million-year-old fossil beds and roiling waters of the Falls of the Ohio. Lewis and Clark began their 1803 expedition at the Falls, a natural stopping point for river travelers.
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Horse Racing in Early America: 
THE SPORT OF KINGS 
MEETS THE FRONTIER 

BY MARTIN JOHN BROWN
It was a clear October morning in 1800 or 1801 in Prince William County, Va. The sun rose through brightly colored oaks and hickories, raked the dry mud of the tobacco fields and warmed the walls of the big house. Inside, the commotion of race day was beginning.

At his age Steward wasn’t concerned with the horse breeding, betting and gentleman’s honor that were about to redirect his life. The race was simply the most enthralling thing to ever happen on the plantation.

“All was bustle and excitement,” he wrote in his autobiography some five decades later. “People began to throng the race-course. Some came with magnificent equipages, attended by their numerous train of black servants, dressed in livery—some in less splendid array—and others on foot, all hurrying on to the exciting scene.”

The most important set of legs belonged to Mark Anthony, the horse owned by Captain William Helm, the plantation master. The Captain had been training Anthony for months in a mysterious, systematic manner. Now the day had come, and the main purse was $10,000—equivalent to hundreds of thousands today.

The heats began, and it pleased Steward just to watch the fine horses run. There was a second spectacle as well: a back-and-forth patter of deal-making and declarations among the crowd. Some people turned away in frustration as horses were “distanced” and eliminated from the competition.

Then it was time for the decisive heat. The horses strained and foamed; the crowd pressed forward, faces hopeful, powerless to do anything but observe their horse’s fate. “The purse was won,” Steward reported, “but not by Mark Anthony.”

Capt. Helm had lost, and lost big. He soon sold his plantation and moved to Bath, in upstate New York. Steward, his parents and the other slaves were among the few items of property Helm took with him.
SHADOWY COMPANIONS
The miserable walk northward was probably Steward's first
inkling that "the sport of kings" was not all glory and luster. But
as long as horse racing had been on the continent, it had been full
of contradictions. Helm's disaster grew out of changes to horse
racing and its culture that began almost as soon as Jamestown
was settled. It also signaled the end of an era. Twenty years after
Mark Anthony lost that final heat, racing was a growth industry,
and Steward was richer than his erstwhile master.

The complexities of racing in the colonies are detectable in court
records from York County, Va., in 1674. A tailor named James
Bullocke was fined "one hundred pounds of tobacco and caske" for
arranging a race with a Matthew Slader, "it being contrary to Law
for a Labourer to make a race, being a sport only for Gentlemen."

Racing had been patronized by the English kings James I and
Charles I, and it was a habit of nobles much like fox hunting.
The court wanted to keep it that way. Meanwhile, it took time to
hand down another verdict. Slader was sentenced to one hour in
the stocks, for arranging that "his horse should run out of the
way that Bullock's mare might win, which is an apparent chafe."

The commoner and the gentleman were up to something
sneaky, and it probably had to do with racing's ever-present com­
panion—betting.

"It's driven by gambling, and that's always been the case," says
Ed Bowen, Historian at New York's Jockey Club. Betting cast a
permanent shadow on racing, and made it the frequent target of
regulation.

But it was difficult to restrain anything associated with horses
in the early colonies, and in Virginia in particular. It was a horse
culture, much like Southern California is now a car culture.

"Even the most indigent person has his saddle-horse," wrote
JFD Smyth, one visitor to Virginia before the Revolution,
"which he rides to every place and on every occasion; for in this
country nobody walks on foot the smallest distance, except when
hunting; indeed a man will frequently go five miles to catch a
horse to ride only one mile upon afterwards."

In this environment, "a horse is an extension of oneself," explains Emma L. Powers, Historian at the Colonial Williamsburg
Foundation. There was an appropriate mode of behavior for each
class of person. A gentleman could no more ride a common horse
than today's celebrity can drive a rusting Chevette.

Some of the gentry's fine horses were expensive English
imports, and these equine immigrants were soon mixing with
"native" horses—probably Andalusians bought from horse-
raising American Indians. Much of this breeding was uninten­
tional. So many wild horses lived in the woods that catching

Racing in the colonies quickly became a democratic sport, with quarter races taking place in rural areas, through the center of town and on any course available.
When the racing men placed the teenage Austin Steward on a fast horse, he was thrilled. He mounted, “feeling highly elated with the lofty position I had gained.” The horse was high-strung, and Steward was quickly thrown, to the laughter of the men.

them was a pastime for young people, reported Robert Beverley in 1705, though sometimes the captives were “so sullen, that they (couldn’t) be tam’d.”

People on the frontier proved equally untrainable. In wooded, uneven land far from regulation, there was little to stop commoners from racing horses. But that same geography made races in the English sense—dashes of three or four miles, across expanses of turf—very hard to conduct, for gentleman and commoner alike. With a few notable exceptions (such as “Salisbury Plain,” site of a Long Island race course established in 1665), large expanses of turf were rare. Forest-clearing work was hard, with clearings generally reserved for agriculture.

**BACKWOODS DRAGSTRIPS**

Racing soon took on a uniquely American form. The quarter race, a one-quarter mile dash between two horses, took place over any vaguely linear course available—parallel swaths cut out of the woods, on existing roads or through the center of town. These equine drag races quickly became significant public events. A Richmond court in 1714 fined two men for selling liquor at a race—indicating there must have been a crowd willing to buy.

“Remember, they didn’t have all the forms of entertainment we have” today, says Powers. In a time when “visiting” and conversation were practically competitive sports, any excuse to get together with others—even church—was a welcome diversion. Quarter races might be accompanied by cockfighting, wrestling, cudgeling (fighting with clubs) and other amusements, making a veritable festival.

The quarter race tradition continued for a long time, especially in rural areas. One of the first things Austin Steward noticed about his new home in New York was the weekly horseracing scene. “It was customary then for men to assemble at some public place for the purpose of drinking whiskey and racing horses,” he recorded.

When the racing men placed the teenaged Steward on a fast horse, he was thrilled. He mounted, “feeling highly elated with the lofty position I had gained.” The horse was high-strung, and Steward was quickly thrown, to the laughter of the men. Luckily he was not seriously hurt.

Though quarter races are uncommon today, the horse the event spawned lives on. It turned out the mix of English and Andalusian blood was well suited to regular riding and hunting, today the American Quarter Horse is still working on ranches and farms from east to west.

**RACING AND THE SOCIAL SEASON**

Meanwhile, gentlemen had been finding ways to distinguish their brand of racing. They gradually left quarter races to country commoners, developing formal tracks, planning distinctive events and pouring resource after resource into competition.

The gentleman's new brand of racecourse was a four- or five-mile oval, defined by landmarks or flags, with a surface of turf. Fields that had been impoverished by tobacco culture and left fallow may have been the most likely sites, suggests Tom Gilcoyne, who recently retired as Historian at the National Museum of Racing in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

The event was the heat race. The oval course was run three or more times, and a horse had to win two heats to win the purse. A winner needed both speed and stamina, and the ideal was a new breed called the Thoroughbred, a breed that originated in England but was evolving quickly under American influence.

While any commoner might have a fast horse, perhaps even one with Thoroughbred blood, few could meet the entry requirements for such a race—such as a significant contribution towards the purse. And few could be more than gawkers at exclusive race-related events, such as gala balls.

“These [races] were held in spring and fall, in what was called public time,” says Powers. “It was the meeting of the merchants, and the social season.” With the festival atmosphere and unusually broad mix of spectators, races were a place to see and be seen.

Meanwhile, the sport was becoming professionalized. After the Revolution, a prominent gentleman of the turf was more George Steinbrenner than Derek Jeter. He owned the horse, but employed—or owned, since many were slaves—trainers, breeders, keepers and jockeys. The squad was developed over years, with slave jockeys sometimes recruited in childhood.

Such owners saw themselves as cultivators of the horse and a racing tradition, writes historian Nancy Struna. Ideally, they “disavowed racing purely for profit, caring more for the personally committed wager than any purse.”

Nonetheless, those wagers could be immense. William Byrd III inherited one of Virginia's largest fortunes, and with much persistence, gambled it away at dice, cards and racing. In 1752 a cocky Byrd challenged anyone with 500 Spanish pistoles to race...
By the early 19th century, racing had become an industry. In May 1823, New York’s American Eclipse bested Virginia’s Sir Henry before a crowd of 60,000.

his untested horse, Tryal. With five contestants, and a pistole worth perhaps a thousand dollars in modern equivalents, the total prize was in the millions in today’s dollars. Byrd lost handily.

Today’s therapists might call such gambling an illness, and moralists of the day saw gambling as a temptation and a vice. (One slave jockey, William Green, gave up riding after a religious experience.) But most Virginia gentry didn’t think that way.

“The bets which seem irrational and illogical to us weren’t simply recreation,” says Timothy Breen, a historian at Northwestern University, “but a way of really trying to best a rival ... It was the kind of thing you’d expect to find in, say, Renaissance Italy.” In a competition for reputation, betting demonstrated many values like independence, wealth and risk-taking.

The bets were also an echo of uncomfortable realities. Crops could be lost to weather or shipwrecks, so a planter’s wealth depended on forces far beyond his control. Even more unsettling, the shallow roots of his gentility—the fact that his grandfather might have been little more than a common farmer with a stroke of luck—could be exposed at any time.

It was necessary to accrue honor and demonstrate gentility. Racing wasn’t the only way to do so—charity, heroism or military service would do well. George Washington, a frequent supporter of races, probably had no need to distinguish himself at them. But for a man who was not a military hero or statesman, a spectacular bet might demonstrate “uncommon” character. And William Helm was one such man.

**Reversals of Fortune**

Unknown to young Steward, Helm’s status was flagging when he raced Mark Anthony. Though his father had fought in the Revolutionary War with Washington, Helm had a less distinguished military career, as uncovered by Colgate University historian Graham Hodges. Helm landed a commission, but when passed over for a promotion, he accused his commander of nepotism, took the case to court, lost and resigned his commission in disgrace. The $10,000 race might have been a redeeming bid for honor.

Instead it was the nail in the coffin of Helm’s life as a Virginia gentleman. Helm saw upstate New York as a place he might find a new reputation, according to Steward. Helm bought land with the proceeds of his plantation sale, settled and started businesses.

The plan didn’t work. Helm rented out Steward and other slaves, allowing them to discover a more sympathetic society and legal system. While Helm slowly gambled away his property and endured forced sales to pay his debts, Steward was emboldened to teach himself to read, then to escape and declare his freedom based on a point of New York law. When Helm died about 1821, he was penniless and was trying to sue Steward for Steward’s possessions.

Helm’s death coincided with the opening of a track near New York City that was a picture of racing’s future. The Union Course was the first to utilize the wooden railing so typical of tracks today, says Bowen. It had a workable dirt running surface instead of turf, which made repetitive daily use possible. And it accommodated huge crowds for premier events.

In late May 1823, up to 60,000 people, according to author Edward Hotaling, went to the Union Course to watch American Eclipse, a champion of New York, best Sir Henry, a Virginia champion, in an event that was marketed as a test of “North vs. South.” It was regional rivalry for a mass audience on a resilient track. Racing was becoming an industry, and top competitions were no longer the exclusive domain of gentlemen.

On the day of that race, Steward was a free man, a successful merchant and landowner in Rochester, and on his way to becoming a noted abolitionist. His autobiography, Twenty-two Years a Slave and Forty Years a Free Man, has no more mention of racing, but it frequently remarks upon horses—how high-spirited one was, how unfortunate was another’s illnesses or old age. Steward seemed to find inspiration in the species. Powerful yet dignified, dutiful but never really subservient, they were quite worthy of “the sport of kings”—even if the local nobles sometimes weren’t.

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**American Eclipse**

The celebrated racehorse and sire of horses, American Eclipse, was born in 1810 and died in 1823. He was one of the greatest racehorses of the 19th century, winning numerous races and setting records. His offspring were equally successful, making him a legend in the world of racing.

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**Image:**

- **Title:** American Eclipse
- **Description:** Image of American Eclipse, the celebrated racehorse and sire of horses, known for his extraordinary speed and stamina.
- **Date:** 1823
- **Location:** New York City

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**Library of Congress:**

- **Source:** Prints and Photographs Division
- **Description:** Image is provided by the Library of Congress, reflecting the historical context and significance of American Eclipse in the sport of racing.

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**Daughters of the American Revolution:**

- **Reference:** TWENTY-TWO YEARS A SLAVE AND FORTY YEARS A FREE MAN, by Steward (pseudonym William Helm). The autobiography details the life of an enslaved man who escapes to become a successful merchant and landowner, eventually dedicating himself to the cause of abolition.

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**Notes:**

- The narrative explores the intersection of horse racing, gentility, and the lives of enslaved individuals, providing a rich tapestry of 19th-century America.
- References to specific individuals and events highlight the broader context of the period, offering insights into the social and economic dynamics of the time.

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**Additional Resources:**

This 19th-century wood engraving details the first rotary steam engine, designed by James Watt in 1763 and the machine that set off the century-long Industrial Revolution.
TRY AS SHE MIGHT, ENGLAND COULD NOT STIFLE THE SPIRIT OF CREATIVITY AMONG SOME OF AMERICA’S EARLIEST INVENTORS.

The steam engine, shown at work at an English coal mine in the 1790s, transformed England from an agricultural economy to one based on the machine. The young United States soon followed suit.
Even as the American Colonies were fighting England for their freedom, England itself was undergoing a revolution closer to home. In 1763, with James Watt's improvement on the steam engine, the century-long Industrial Revolution began. The advent of the steam engine—and its applications to industries as diverse as ironworking, textile making and even agriculture—transformed England from an agricultural economy to one based on the machine.

Not surprisingly, the young United States soon followed suit. According to historian Hugo Meier, "Technology was for most colonials the natural response to the practical demands of their environment. Less of the ‘know-what’ and more of the ‘know-how’ approach to knowledge fell quite naturally within the interest of the pragmatic Americans."

Take for example the American axe. Although no specific individual can be credited for its invention, its use was widespread throughout the colonies. This new axe had a long, curved and springy custom-fit handle, with a head broader at the edge than at the center, as opposed to the short-handled, thick-wedged English axe. The axe evolved in response to the seemingly endless wood resources of the Americas.

More involved technologies slowly migrated from the old world to the new, in a process called "the transfer of technology." As argued by Alexander Hamilton in his 1791 Report on Manufactures, the new country had to do whatever was necessary to obtain new technologies. "The young United States was a country with lots of resources in terms of people and material, but lacking the technology to put those two together effectively," adds technology scholar Darwin Stapleton, Director of the Rockefeller Archive Center. Hamilton's intention was the import of new machinery, but Americans were soon developing machines of their own.

Yet England did not make technological advancements in its former colonies an easy task. Between 1744 and 1781, England enacted a series of laws severely curtailing technology exports—primarily the machinery used for textile manufacturing—in order to protect its flourishing trade with the colonies. These laws promised severe fines and even imprisonment for the "putting aboard of any ship or vessel not bound to some place or port in Great Britain or Ireland, of any tools or utensils commonly used or proper for the preparation, working up or finishing of cotton, silk or linen manufacture."

Skilled technicians were also prohibited from immigrating to the colonies, though many found ways around these laws. Samuel Slater, a mill manager who arrived in New England in the late 1700s, built the first Colonial mill to use water-powered spinning machines. Sometimes called the father of the American Industrial Revolution, Slater recreated this English-type mill (now the Samuel Slater Historic Site) from memory using the machine-building expertise he found in the new nation.

"He was supposed to identify himself as a textile-machine maker and be stopped at the border," says Stapleton. "But border guards wouldn't know if he said he was a laborer or farmer."

Ultimately, England could not prevent the dispersal of either its technology or master technicians, especially when Americans started traveling to England for the purpose of bringing back the new innovations themselves. By the turn of the 19th century, when the United States was barely two decades old, its own industrial revolution was well under way.

**Grist for the Mill**

Despite the twin setbacks of limited access to new English technology and an abundance of natural resources that made early Americans reluctant to innovate, there were men who pioneered as inventors. In 1785, Delaware's Oliver Evans devised an automatic water-powered gristmill.

Although the mill’s separate elements weren't new, Evans innovated the way in which those elements were combined. In 1790 he acquired a 14-year patent for the mill, although he found few buyers. Most people simply built their own mills using the designs published in Evans' The Young Mill-Wright and Miller’s Guide.

After his success with the gristmill, Evans went on to tinker with the new steam technology, and by 1800, he was using a small, high-pressure engine to power a grinding wheel. He also invented the first land vehicle to use the new steam engine, a precursor to the locomotive.
Who Really Invented the Steamboat?

Popular history has dubbed Robert Fulton the inventor of the steamboat, but in truth, five different men received patents for steamboat designs in 1791, a full 20 years before Fulton’s patent. Most scholars now credit John Fitch and James Rumsey as having the earliest working steamboats in 1786—Rumsey on the Potomac River and Fitch on the Delaware.

Andrea Sutcliffe, author of Steam: The Untold Story of America’s First Great Invention (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005) reports that both inventors succeeded without a formal education or technical background. “They had to use blacksmiths to build their engine pieces,” says Sutcliffe. “Neither man had even seen a steam engine.” She adds that, despite these limitations, each man knew that the growing country had a real need for transportation—with a lot of money to be made in the process.

However, due to wrangling over patents and other setbacks, neither man ultimately achieved financial success. Sutcliffe explains that Fitch was always fighting the stagecoach, a less expensive travel alternative along the river route. Travelers were also uncomfortable with the new technology. “People just weren’t comfortable taking a boat that in effect had a huge fire on it.”

So what worked for Fulton, according to scholar Caroll Pursell, was “not in inventing the steamboat but in overcoming the handicaps that had hamstrung previous inventors.” Due to earlier inventions he’d patented abroad, Fulton was always well funded. He also befriended the head of the Patent Office, which enabled him to look at earlier steamboat patents, including Fitch’s. Finally, Fulton was able to import a Watt steam engine from England.

Sutcliffe suggests yet another reason for Fulton’s success: “When George Washington died in 1799, Americans were ready for another hero. Fulton filled that spot.”

Eli Whitney: Inventor or Impostor?

Most American schoolchildren are taught that Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin. According to researcher Carolyn Cooper, of Yale University, it’s more accurate to say that Whitney invented, “a gin that was superior for a certain type of cotton grown by Southern planters.” Earlier versions of the gin were already in use in the Caribbean. There is also some argument over whether Whitney is credited for a borrowed idea. Some sources suggest that Whitney pilfered the idea for his engine from an African slave. Other sources say Whitney was given the idea by Catherine “Caty” Greene, the wife of Gen. Nathanael Greene, on whose plantation Whitney invented his new machine.

Whitney has also been dubbed the father of the American system of manufacturing, a process based on the use of interchangeable parts. For this moniker, some historians dub him a scoundrel: An impoverished Whitney allegedly promised the U.S. government muskets with interchangeable parts, which would ease battleground repair, in order to secure a government contract. Later he supposedly showed the government these “interchangeable” musket parts, without proving their actual interchangeability. But Cooper suggests that, if this demonstration even took place, Whitney never meant to fleece the government. Although he was a vocal proponent of the future possibility of interchangeable parts, the demonstration in question was only for the inspection of the muskets his plant was currently manufacturing. Cooper adds, “Myths deal with heroes and villains; most people are neither, but they like to hear and tell stories about heroes and villains. Historians are people, too.”

Changing Parts

Whitney’s enthusiasm notwithstanding, perhaps no person did more to advance the goal of truly interchangeable parts than Thomas Blanchard, an inventor who developed the irregular turning lathe in the early 1800s. The lathe was used to make irregular items like gunstocks. Blanchard’s tool not only decreased the amount of time used to manufacture these items, but also led to a uniformity that enabled the interchange of parts. Versions of the lathe, which was initially used at both the Springfield and Harper’s Ferry armories, are still in use today.

Cooper adds, “Most patents are granted for 14 years; his lasted 42.” Blanchard went on to secure more than 25 patents, including one for a steamboat engine.

What’s a Patent Anyway?

A patent gives an inventor a monopoly on profiting from his invention for a specific number of years. As Carolyn Cooper puts it, “A patent consists of the right to sue.” The inventor can choose to sell the patent, license the patent to others or manufacture the invention himself.

In 1790, Congress created a Board of Arts composed of the Secretaries of State and of War and the Attorney General, with responsibility for the dispensing of patents. As Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson helped set the tone for the office. An inventor himself, as evidenced by Monticello’s many innovations, Jefferson was initially against patents; he believed that access to ideas shouldn’t be restricted. Regarding the nature of an idea, he said, “Its peculiar character too is that no one possesses the less because every other possesses the whole of it.”
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power to "promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." Andrea Sutcliffe explains that it was largely through the efforts of inventor John Fitch that this article was written. Fitch lobbied his friend James Madison to address the question of inventions and inventors at the Constitutional Convention. He even demonstrated his steamboat to convention delegates. "Two days later," says Sutcliffe, "Madison introduced the patent and copyright clause."

Despite Jefferson's misgivings, he set about his duties with great rigor. To receive a patent, the applicant had to not only submit specs and argue the "newness" of the invention, but also to demonstrate to the Board that the invention actually worked. During the first year of the Board's existence, three patents were issued—the first to Samuel Hopkins on July 31, 1790, for a new way of manufacturing potash, a chemical used in making products such as soap and glass.

The Board of Arts took on its duties in addition to the already weighty requirements of each individual office. Soon Jefferson claimed to be "oppressed beyond measure by the circumstances under which he has been obliged to give undue and uninformed opinions on rights often valuable and always deemed so by the authors." In 1793, the distribution of patents was taken over by district courts. All a would-be inventor had to do was submit an application, specifications, a $30 fee and an affidavit stating that he did "verily believe" himself to be the true inventor.

Due to an overabundance of litigation, the patent system was again revamped in 1836, with the creation of the Department of Commerce Patent Office. Since then, the three basic tests for a patent have been: Is it new? Is it useful? Is it an obvious solution?

Don't Forget Ben

Benjamin Franklin was certainly a prolific inventor of his time, but most of his machines—such as the Franklin Stove—did not engender further innovations, as did the work of Evans or Blanchard. However, his work did strengthen the link between science and technology so that the "know-how" became just as important as the "know-what."

In a 1980s essay, Darwin Stapleton wrote, "Perhaps we should reconsider the notion that it is primarily the expectation of profit which originates and sustains innovation." Stapleton maintains that some inventors develop their products simply because "they are fascinated with novelty, with having things work in a different way," regardless of any income potential. Franklin was certainly this type of inventor, as evidenced most notably by his glass armonica, a musical instrument that replicates the sound of wine glasses filled with varying amounts of water.

The American Revolution may have ended in 1787, but our industrial revolution is still going strong—as evidenced by the more than 350,000 applications the Patent Office receives annually. When tallying up those men and women who were instrumental in getting the new nation on its feet, it's wise to take this bit of advice from a favorite children's tune, "The Inventors' Song" by Ruth Roberts and Bill Katz: "When you're spelling the word America, don't forget to dot the 'I' for the inventors, don't forget to dot the 'I'!"
THE MORAVIANS

Peacekeepers in the Midst of Revolution

A View of Salem in N.
IN THE MORAVIAN TOWN OF Salem, N.C., July 4, 1783, was a day of heartfelt thanksgiving, a day devoted to prayer, singing and sermons. The Salem Diary, a day-by-day record kept by the minister, concluded its description of the day with: “Hearts were filled with the peace of God, evident during the entire day and especially during the procession, and all around there was silence, even the wind being still.”

Mistrusted and harassed by both Loyalists and Patriots, perhaps no group of people in America was happier to see the restoration of peace than the Moravians.

Medieval Roots
The Moravians trace their roots to the Czech reformer, Jan Hus, whose demands for purification of the church predated those of Martin Luther by more than 100 years. After his 1415 martyrdom at the Council of Constance, Hus’ followers, who hailed from the Czech province of Moravia, organized a church called the Unitas Fratrum. Moravians, as they were later known, numbered more than 200,000 by the time Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the Wittenberg Church door in 1517. What some scholars call the first Protestant denomination was decimated and driven underground by the religious wars of the 17th century, but was revived and reorganized in the early 18th century in Saxony (Germany).
There, Count Zinzendorf welcomed a group of immigrants from Moravia to his estate at Herrnhut. Allowed to build a village there, the Moravians reorganized with an emphasis on spreading the gospel throughout the world. The Salem Moravians were a part of this missionary movement.

**Moravians in the New World**

The first successful Moravian settlement in North America was established at Bethlehem, Pa., in 1741 primarily to do mission work among the Indians. This settlement flourished and earned the denomination a reputation of reliability, sobriety and orderliness. In 1753, 12 of its men were chosen to become the first settlers on a 100,000-acre tract of land in piedmont Carolina purchased from the English Earl of Granville, its Lord Proprietor. The Moravians called it Wachovia, after the home of Count Zinzendorf's ancestors in Austria.

By 1766 there were two Moravian settlements in Wachovia, and a third, Salem, was planned. Its precise location had been approved through the Lot, which, based on references in the Bible, was used by elders in the church to confirm decisions on certain important matters, such as the selection of a pastor, approval of a marriage or acceptance of new members. After deliberations were made and a tentative position taken, three slips of paper were placed in a bowl, one with the word “ja,” another, “nein,” and the third left blank indicating the need for further prayer and study.

From its beginning Salem was intended as the administrative and commercial center of Wachovia; it was a place for men with trades, not for farmers. Its economy was closely controlled and promoted by the church. While individuals could own their homes and businesses, the church owned all the land, allowing it to regulate the number and types of occupations allowed. The church fixed wages and prices, and ran the town’s five major businesses—the community store, tavern, mill, pottery and tannery.

**A Growing Political Storm**

The Salem Moravians played little part in the political drama being acted out in the American colonies in the years leading up to the Revolution. Their town was in its infancy and its inhabitants were busy; building homes and stores, planting gardens and establishing churches and schools took precedence over political matters. The Moravians took education very seriously, believing that it was important for both boys and girls. In 1772, only a few years into the establishment of Salem, Elizabeth Oesterlein opened a school for young girls—three young girls to be exact, the daughters of local businessmen. Salem Academy, as it later became known, is still in existence today.

News of the growing revolutionary fervor reached the young town of Salem from their brethren in Pennsylvania. For both moral and practical reasons, the Moravians wished to remain neutral in this controversy. They had ample reason for gratitude to the English. After all, it was the British Parliament that had granted them exemption from swearing oaths and bearing arms in 1749. However, the Moravians had established themselves permanently in the new country and wished to remain on good terms with their neighbors, who favored the Patriot cause.

According to Dr. C. Daniel Crews, Archivist of the Southern Province of the Moravian Church and author of *Through Fiery Trials: The Revolutionary War and the Moravians* (Moravian Archives, 1996), the Moravians did not unequivocally refuse to bear arms. They had fortified their settlements and armed themselves during the French and Indian War. While it had proved unnecessary, they were willing to defend themselves, but not to make war on people who had not harmed them. In 1777 they ordered gunpowder to be stored in case of slave revolt and then hidden lest outsiders misunderstand their position.

Salem got a taste of things to come when the North Carolina militia met and defeated a Tory force under the Royal Governor at Moore’s Creek Bridge in February 1776. Each side suspected that the Moravians were supplying the other, and a local Committee of Safety accompanied by 50 Patriot militia came to Salem to investigate the matter. While the Moravians were able to avert a crisis by convincing the Patriots that they were good citizens who would pay their taxes and not do anything against the interests of the state, soldiers nonetheless went through their stores and took what they pleased. In addition, the Colonel ordered a sizable quantity of food for 2,000 soldiers and promised payment only in the nearly worthless paper money issued by the state.

The new paper money was a major problem throughout the war. No one trusted it, but the law was clear; anyone who would not accept the fiat money would be considered an enemy of the country. The Moravians, already under...
Clockwise from top left: Garden workers in the restored village of Salem harvest crops as 18th-century Moravians did. • St. Philips Church was built in 1861 and served the Afro-Moravian congregation until 1952. • The Moravians of Salem, N.C., observed Independence Day in 1783 with prayer, song and sermon. A torchlight procession, here re-enacted by costumed interpreters in the restored village, concluded the day. • Dating from 1800, the restored Winkler Bakery is one of the most popular stops on an Old Salem visit. Sugar cake is still prepared the old-fashioned way at the bakery. • Visitors to Salem in the late 19th century—among them George Washington—were astonished to see this reminder of European civilization in the Carolina back country.
suspicion, felt compelled to accept this money, much of which was counterfeit. The Church-run stores lost tremendous amounts as the local militias requisitioned supplies from them throughout the war.

Another cause of great concern was the state’s 1777 edict that all citizens must either take an oath of allegiance and renounce the king, or be considered enemies and have their lands subject to confiscation. Several times the Moravians sent advocates to the state assembly to plead their case for exemption from the law. Eventually the state authorities were convinced of the Moravians’ sincerity and loyalty, and in 1779 the Assembly agreed to allow them to affirm (rather than swear) their adherence to the new government. This agreement, while exempting Moravians from military service, required that they pay triple taxes for the privilege. Church records indicate that the Moravians were satisfied with this outcome.

Wartime Demands

The war continued as did the uncertainty, requisitions and shortages, but conditions became much worse when the fighting moved south. In 1780 the state militia was called out to meet Lord Cornwallis’ troops in South Carolina. Time and again demands were made of the Moravians for all sorts of provisions, but payments never followed.

The next year brought even more conflict for the Moravians, according to Dr. Crews. In 1781, Cornwallis and his troops pursued the Americans under Gen. Nathanael Greene right through Salem and other Moravian communities. The small town of Salem played host to a detachment of American troops for almost a month, providing provisions to English prisoners and the space for a military hospital. Hardly had the Americans decamped when Cornwallis and his army marched through, seizing what little the Patriots had left. Finally the two armies met at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in present-day Greensboro on March 15, 1781. This proved such a costly victory for the British that Cornwallis decided to leave the South, and before the year’s end had surrendered his entire army to Gen. Washington at the Battle of Yorktown.

The Moravian pastor later wrote to Herrnhut of this time, “Each morning we were glad to see each other again and to know that no one had suffered injury to his person, and that neither the town nor a part of it had been burned.” When the Governor of North Carolina proclaimed that July 4, 1783, should be observed as a day of thanksgiving for the restoration of the peace, the Moravians were only too ready to comply. Theirs was most likely the first official celebration of the Fourth of July after the war. As Dr. Crews says, “It was the coming of the peace for which they thanked the Lord, not the victory of American independence.”

A Complicated Relationship

THE MORAVIANS AS SLAVE OWNERS

Dr. Jon Sensbach began research in 1987 for what would become his book, A Separate Canaan: The Making of an Afro-Moravian World in North Carolina, 1763-1840 (University of North Carolina Press, 1998). At that time, tour guides at the restored village of Old Salem barely acknowledged that the Moravians had been slave owners. These interpreters were as conflicted about how to present the story as the Colonial Moravians were about slave ownership itself. Today that has changed, as the history of Afro-Moravians is an integral part of a visit to Old Salem.

Slaves worked in the village of Salem, N.C., from its beginning. At first they were hired from non-Moravian neighbors. Later, after consulting the Lot, a process used by the church to confirm important decisions, the church began to buy slaves to work in community-owned enterprises.

Unlike the Quakers, the Moravians never condemned slavery and believed its practice was approved in the Bible. Nonetheless, they did view their slaves as their equal before God and encouraged them to seek membership in the church. Many did so because of the consideration and security it conferred. Afro-Moravians were addressed as “Brother” and “Sister,” worshiped with their masters and were laid to rest side-by-side with them in community cemeteries. Most importantly, membership in the church protected slaves from flagrant or random abuse and practically guaranteed that they would not be sold or separated from their families.

Although some of their neighbors feared that the Moravians were dangerously promoting racial equality, they needn’t have worried. As Dr. Sensbach makes clear in A Separate Canaan, the Moravians “had no intention of hiding runaways or undermining slavery in any way. Black spiritual liberation, yes; but bodily servitude forever.” Attitudes toward their slaves became tinged with suspicion during the Revolutionary War because of the British promise to free any slaves who escaped to them. Consequently, the Moravians armed themselves in case of a slave rebellion.

In the early 19th century, slavery in Salem lost some of its earlier, benevolent aspect, and the distance between the two races grew wider. This distance was manifest in the building of a separate church for the Afro-Moravians—St. Philips Church—and their relegation to a separate graveyard in the 1820s. Salem gradually adopted the fear of their slaves that spread throughout the South in the aftermath of Nat Turner’s 1831 slave rebellion.

The Euro-Moravians had never seen the Afro-Moravians as their social equals, but even the spiritual equality evidenced in the Colonial era faded as the South became even more dependent on the cotton plantation economy. The relative equality of the Colonial period was but a distant dream by the time of the Civil War.

—L.E.
As most Colonial girls spent their days performing and perfecting household duties, girls in Salem, N.C., were in school. In this forward-thinking Moravian congregation town, as early as 1772, girls had the opportunity to go to school, where they learned reading, writing and other subjects generally reserved for boys.

At a time when most people scoffed at the thought of taking girls out of the home and putting them in a schoolhouse, the Salem Moravians embraced the idea, establishing a new tradition and setting the precedent for female education with the founding of Salem Academy.

BY LENA BASHA
A HIGHLY RELIGIOUS PEOPLE, THE MORAVIANS believed education of both boys and girls was necessary to read and understand the Bible. Plus, since the first Moravians in 15th-century Bohemia were educated in the great universities of Europe, education had always been ingrained in their way of life, says Frances Griffin in *Less Time for Meddling: A History of Salem Academy and College 1772–1866* (John F. Blair, 1979). When the Moravians came to the New World to settle in Georgia, Pennsylvania and eventually North Carolina, they made it a priority to establish schools soon after getting settled.

THE SINGLE SISTERS

The first teacher in the school's 233-year history, Elizabeth Oesterlein was one of four women who traveled from Bethlehem, Pa., to form the single first Sister choir of Salem, a group of young, unwed women who worked together and lived under the same roof. Sister Oesterlein and the single Sisters who followed became the lifeblood of Salem Academy. In the school's first years, the Sisters served not only as teachers, they also played the role of mothers, friends and roommates to the students when Salem started accepting boarders in 1802.

Between 1772 and 1774, Sister Oesterlein's responsibilities grew, and the school's needs demanded more teachers. Enrollment doubled, and word spread quickly across the South about the Salem Moravians and their school for girls.

According to Inzer Byers, Professor of History Emerita at Salem College, despite the Moravians' strict dedication to God, they refrained from proselytizing to non-Moravians, which likely added to the appeal of the school.

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

As conscientious objectors to war, Moravian men did not fight in the Revolution. Still, Salem suffered from the war as bands of men passed through the town, delivering "insults, threats, hostile demands and out-and-out thievery," says Griffin.

"If Salem's leaders lived with apprehension, one can imagine how terrifying the crowds of boisterous soldiers must have been to a little girl as she walked from her home [to the school] for her lessons," says Griffin. "And doubtless there were days when it was not safe for the children even to venture outside their own doors."

Regardless, the Salem Moravians never once thought to close the school's doors—not during the Revolutionary War or the even bloodier Civil War.

In the years following the Revolutionary War, Salem Academy's faculty grew, and with that grew the school's curriculum. With the addition of Sisters Catharine Sehner in 1780 and Anna Benigna Benzien in 1790, Salem Academy began teaching classes in English and, according to Griffin's account, added classes like arithmetic, orthography, biblical history and singing to its curriculum.

Salem welcomed many visitors to the town during that time, including President George Washington, who stayed two nights in Salem in 1791.

Visitors like Washington came to Salem and left impressed by the diligent nature of the congregation town—especially the high quality of its schools. As a result, visitors from throughout the South, including Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia and Tennessee, urged the Moravians to allow girls to board at the school. It wasn't until 1802 that Salem Academy was prepared to welcome its first boarding students, laying the brickwork for a tradition that would outlast obstacles like financial turmoil, low enrollment and occasional overcrowding.

In fact, the Civil War caused admissions at Salem to rise. According to Adelaide Fries in a 1902 historical sketch of the academy, 153 new girls enrolled in the school in 1866.

Part of the reason Salem Academy was able to draw so many new students during and after the Civil War, says Byers, was because of its geographic location. Just east of the mountains, but not quite on the coast, Salem was never in the midst of heavy fighting, and parents saw this as a safe haven for their daughters.

FIRM FOUNDATION

Throughout the early 19th century, Salem Academy became a widely known and well received institution throughout the South. Enrollment ballooned, and by 1817 Salem was known as the best girls' school in the South, at least according to Joel Childress, a wealthy land speculator from Murfreesboro, Tenn. At age 14, Sarah Childress and her younger sister, Susanna, enrolled in Salem Academy. Seven years later, she married James K. Polk, and in 1845 became First Lady of the United States.
A friend to the Moravians, Major Ridge enrolled his daughter Sally into the school based on the idea that the “salvation of the Indian in a white man’s world rested on education,” according to Griffin’s book.

Following the Civil War, Salem Academy grew both in size and fame. In 1890, the academy spawned a college, and the expanded institution became known as Salem Academy and College. And in 1930, Salem Academy moved from its previous location in Main Square to its present home on the other side of Salem.

Today, the Academy enrolls approximately 200 high-school girls. With a low student-to-teacher ratio and an emphasis on academics, athletics, and fine and performing arts, the curriculum is unparalleled, lending Salem the honor of having 100 percent of its students go on to college.

According to many, her rearing at Salem Academy prepared Polk for a non-traditional First Lady’s role, juxtaposing writing speeches and advising the President to gracefully fulfilling the social duties of her position.

Even at the end of her life, she still acknowledged the impact Salem Academy had had on her life. In 1886, five years before she died, she sent the school a letter after receiving an alumnae newsletter. “It is particularly interesting and acceptable as everything relating to my old and always revered and beloved Alma Mater attracts my attention and regard,” she wrote to the school.

Less than 10 years after the future First Lady walked the halls of Salem, another notable student entered in 1826—Sally Ridge, the daughter of Cherokee Chief Major Ridge, who in 1836 betrayed his tribe and signed the Treaty of New Echota that forced his people to walk the Trail of Tears from their home in northern Georgia.
Carol Berkin realizes that conveying historic personalities in all their complexities goes against the grain of most people's thinking today. Hollywood movies haven't helped matters any.

"People tend to think about the 18th century as if the people were just like they are now, only they wore long dresses," she said. "They weren't. They were shaped by very different beliefs and experiences."

Berkin has made a career out of delving much deeper than costumes. A professor of American history at Baruch College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, she has written books that personalize historical periods—what might have been esoteric in history class becomes more tangible and more human. Her first book, *Jonathan Sewell: Odyssey of an American Loyalist*, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. She followed that up with *First Generations: Women in Colonial America* and *A Brilliant Solution: Inventing the American Constitution*. An upcoming book focuses on the Civil War era seen through the eyes of women.

Her latest book, *Revolutionary Mothers*, takes a look at women from all different classes and backgrounds during the American Revolution. *American Spirit* talked to her about the writing process.

**What sets this book apart from others that talk about women in the Revolutionary era?**

The real points were that there were so many women whom history never hears about again and whose lives after the Revolution really vanish. So many of them were able to behave in a heroic fashion and to surprise themselves just as men surprised themselves. In a home-front war, lots of people were lifted up out of their ordinary lives and tested the limit of their bravery. I was trying to get out a general picture of people making extraordinary choices in the midst of the crisis, choices that often cost them something.
Did you intentionally focus on women who were outside of the spotlight?

I really did not want to do another book that covered the same seven names you're already familiar with. There's been plenty written about Abigail Adams—in fact Abigail Adams didn't do anything in the war; she was fairly comfortably off, other than suffering with missing her husband and shortages of certain supplies. There's really enough out there about women who were married to important men.

What I was trying to get at in the book was that this was a war that affected an entire population. Martha Washington fits into the section on generals' wives who came to camps with them, and I found her particularly appealing because it was a real sacrifice for her, unlike younger women like Caty Greene [Gen. Nathanael Greene's wife] who saw it as an adventure.

In your chapter on spies and saboteurs, you mention that many of the women's stories came down through family tales and were retold and embellished. How did you sort out the truth from the myth?

I only included women for whom I had several independent accounts. I left out half the women I came across because I could not get more than one source. With the women I put in, I took a look at four or five accounts to see what they shared in common. One of the points was that it doesn't matter if she had blonde or black hair or exactly how old she was. What mattered was the bravery of ordinary people.

Is the finished product close to what you originally envisioned?

Books really take on a life of their own—for me it's a process of discovery as I write. Scenes and events carry me along, and sometimes I'm a little surprised by how it comes out. Some people sit down with very elaborate outlines, while I write a little more like a novelist writes. I sometimes don't understand what I'm trying to say until I've written it all. The book turned out to have all the subjects I wanted it to have and to talk about as many wars in one as I'd intended.

Is there anyone you wish you'd given more or less space than you did?

Somebody like Mercy Otis Warren, who was a great propagandist. After the book was already in print, I thought that I would have given her more space. But I thought her story had already been told, that there were enough books already out there on her.

There's so much loss and suffering in these stories. Did you set out to debunk the romanticism we tend to have about the war?

I've talked about this subject for years, and one thing that always struck me was how people romanticize the American Revolution. We think of it as this marvelous unified success story, but this was not a genteel war. Aside from the Civil War, it was the only war fought in American homes and cities and farms. We don't think about the sheer amount of venom between Loyalists and Revolutionaries, or about the atrocities, like pregnant women sliced open and children taken out.

People seem to think that every single person rose up and supported the Patriot cause. But many people who also considered this home were Loyalists. I wanted to convey that for another group of people who thought they were voting their conscience, this was a great tragedy. In the midst of this celebration of victory, there were hundreds of thousands of people going into exile. Nobody knew America was going to win. And they were risking a lot on both sides. Lucy Knox, whose parents were Loyalists and whose husband went off to war as a Patriot, has this wonderful line: "I have no one in the world." At every turn you get the sense that this war cost a lot. These men starved and had limbs amputated. Even for the side that won, there was so much to rebuild.

For some of these women, it was their husbands who made the time after the war even harder.

Poor Esther Sewell—I'd read about her while I researched my book on Jonathan Sewell, an aristocratic Boston Loyalist. When he sought refuge in England from the war, he locked himself in a room for 18 months and passed these long, rambling letters out the door. He was saying it was his wife who caused the entire revolution. Her whole family was in Massachusetts, but she goes with him into exile, and she never complains. What's telling is that five minutes after she gets him buried, she heads back home.

And for the average woman, all they went through during the war didn't really change their roles post-war?

People were so busy restoring their lives that if anything, most women and men were in fact more conservative than they were before. Men wanted to reassert their place in the home. And what it means to be a housewife today is totally different from then—at least today you can order in pizza. These women had four or five children to raise with minimal health care. Scores of women suffered pain every day of their life from prolapsed uteruses. And with the war they were being asked to take over running the farm. When the men came home, they weren't saying, "OK, dear, let's split the housework." Many women must have been happy to turn over chores they considered burdensome. They wouldn't have thought to say, "Say, I really enjoyed managing the farm—why don't I keep doing it?"

Since they had so much rebuilding, it's hard to imagine a farmer and his wife sitting down and having a long conversation about gender roles.

How did you reach the decision to include Hessian women in the book?

I had read about Baroness Frederika von Riedesel, the wife of a German General supporting the British. I thought not only are there three stories going on here—what liberty meant to African Americans, what independence meant to Native Americans and
what loyalty meant to Loyalist women—but there was this element as well. These foreigners came to the country as professional soldiers, but lots of the Hessians deserted, married the women they had taken up with as camp wives and settled in America.

The reason Frederika was so important to me, aside from the fact that she was a general’s wife and she was in the midst of battle, was how differently these elite women were treated. There’s a great moment after the Riedesel’s surrender where she’s worried about how she’ll be treated, then the generals on both sides sit down for this big banquet and are all very gallant to her. We don’t realize how the bonds of social class mattered then.

**What surprised you most as you researched the book?**

I was surprised by what happened to African American Loyalists. I had always stopped that story in my head at the point where they headed off to Canada, but they were the most discouraging piece of the story. They were given fewer rations by the British government, cheated of their land and attacked by white Loyalists for taking their jobs. There’s a story about a black minister who begins converting white residents, and his house is burned and he’s driven out of town.

Caty Greene surprised me. I had pictured all the generals’ wives as being like Martha Washington ... but Caty was the original Bloomingdale’s girl. As soon as she got word that she was going to camp, she’d go shopping. She’s really incredibly self-centered. I kept wanting to say, “Caty, this is not a party.” But her husband never found fault with her, so I concluded love is blind.

Carol Berkin’s Revolutionary War isn’t romantic. It isn’t solely a war of men or whites. It’s a harsh, multi-faceted war that most of us wouldn’t recognize from our history books. Berkin takes us from women’s pre-Revolutionary patriotic involvement—when they spun cloth for homespun garments and refused to drink tea in order to protest British taxes—to their wartime hardships and their search for normalcy after the war.

Though sprinkled with heroic tales of women taking an active role in battles or espionage, the book primarily focuses on the behind-the-scenes roles of women’s strength, suffering and loss during the years of ceaseless war and waiting. The sheer brutality of the war years comes across vividly as Berkin describes how war consumed every part of life, eating away at safety and comfort.

She sketches the rigid class system that defined America, covering the range of vastly different worlds of destitute camp followers, poor rural women and the few, fortunate elite. And if the common white woman’s war experience has been skimmed over in history books, Berkin illustrates how African American and Native American women have been left out altogether.

The stories of strength and sacrifice prove to be the book’s most moving pages. When the military needed bullets, women melted down tableware ... and even name plaques on family tombstones. There’s Molly Brant, a Mohawk leader who bridged the Indian and British worlds and rallied the support of the Iroquois during the war. Esther DeBerdt Reed, wife of the Pennsylvania Governor, and Sarah Franklin Bache, daughter of Benjamin Franklin, launched the largest fund-raising campaign of the war, with the Philadelphia drive alone raising more than $300,000.

Baroness Frederika von Riedesel’s story comes across particularly vividly. The wife of a Hessian general—who was a leader of one of the German regiments supporting the British—von Riedesel joined her husband in America, tended to throes of wounded at Saratoga, became a prisoner of war and nursed her husband back to health after a heart attack during their confinement.—G.P.
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