American Spirit
Daughters of the American Revolution
July/August 2006

Snapshots From a Family Pilgrimage
Maria Mitchell, American Astronomer
The First Scrapbooks
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Features

Tie a Yellow Ribbon 31
Contemporary symbols of patriotic allegiance, such as service flags and yellow ribbons, seem like they have always been around, but their origins and evolution are often surprising.

BY EMILY MCMACKIN

Connecting a ‘String of Pearls’ 35
On the 225th anniversary of the victory at Yorktown, groups across America celebrate the history that lies along the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route.

BY PHYLLIS MCINTOSH

The Evolution of Scrapbooking 41
More than a bundle of scraps and paste, scrapbooks offer a window into an ancestor's everyday life and personality.

BY MAUREEN TAYLOR

What Would the Founders Do? 46
In a Q&A, journalist Richard Brookhiser discusses how he keeps the Founders alive by imagining their take on modern issues.

BY DENNIS MCCAFFERTY

ABOUT THE COVER: MEN DRESSED AS AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS RE-ENACT A BATTLE AT YORKTOWN, VA. © BOB KRIST/CORBIS. BACKGROUND: A FRENCH MAP SHOWS GEORGE WASHINGTON'S VICTORY OVER BRITISH GENERAL CORNWALLIS AT THE BATTLE OF YORKTOWN IN 1781. © CORBIS
A Lifetime of Service

At 91 years young, Hazel Parkins continues to work to make a difference in her community.

By Lena Basha

Forged From Fire

Sea dragons breathe fire into a wrought-iron chandelier depicting Columbus’ exploration of the New World.

From the Collection of the DAR Museum

A Miniature Revival of Major Proportions

Since the 16th century, the portrait miniature has memorialized everyone from famous monarchs to deceased children. Discover why collectors still find this art fascinating.

By Maryann Gunderson

Homeward Bound

Follow four families as they trace the footsteps of their ancestors and learn how to plan your own family history pilgrimage.

By Emily McMackin

Stargazer in Nantucket

As America’s first female astronomer, Maria Mitchell blazed a trail for women. Her house is now a museum dedicated to advancing her scientific legacy.

By Sharon McDonnell

President General’s Message

Letters to the Editor

Whatnot

Bookshelf
From the President General

Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution have long been tied to the commemoration of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R), a 650-mile march by the allied forces from Rhode Island to Yorktown, Va., where they forced the surrender of British General Cornwallis. For years, DAR chapters located in the nine states along the route have played a significant role in marking portions of the route, which is commonly referred to as a “String of Pearls.” As the nation prepares for the 225th anniversary of the victory at Yorktown, our feature story shows the progress that NSDAR and several other preservation groups are making to designate the W3R as a National Historic Trail.

We’ve made it easier for you to plan your own historical journey with our focus on family history pilgrimages. More people than ever are choosing vacation destinations that allow them to walk in their ancestors’ footsteps. We look through the snapshots and memories of four families who traveled back to their roots, and we give hints on the best ways to explore your own heritage.

Whether it’s to commemorate a family vacation or a special event, chances are someone in your family has compiled a scrapbook. Since the 16th century, scrapbooks have offered a window into their makers’ everyday lives, personalities and interests. Thomas Jefferson even enjoyed the hobby, creating his own books filled with newspaper clippings and favorite poems. Our feature traces the history of scrapbooks, showing how the tradition of preserving keepsakes and mementos has never gone out of style.

In contrast, the art of the portrait miniature—small portraits and landscapes painted on ivory—nearly became extinct almost two centuries ago with the invention of photography. It took two female artists of the early 20th century to revive the delicate art and take its centuries-old tradition in beautiful new directions.

Another trailblazing woman in this issue’s spotlight is Maria Mitchell, the first U.S. female astronomer. She was Vassar College’s first female professor and gained international fame after discovering a comet, which was later named in her honor. We tour her birthplace, a 1790 Quaker-style house in Nantucket, Mass., now home to a museum dedicated to carrying on her life’s work.

American Spirit talks with historian and journalist Richard Brookhiser about his new book, What Would the Founders Do?, a unique take on the very human strengths and failings of our early leaders. While conveying a broad understanding of American history, Brookhiser uses wit and insight to imagine our Founding Fathers’ positions on modern-day issues.

In our second part of a Visions of America series, we uncover the origins of service flags and yellow ribbons, two symbols that show Americans’ support for and loyalty to soldiers defending freedom around the globe. On July 4, as we celebrate our great heritage, let us reflect on the sacrifices made throughout our history to preserve our freedoms and continue to honor our servicemen and women for their selfless dedication and devotion to our national security.

Presley Merritt Wagoner
A Lifetime of Service

Hazel Parkins has made the most of her life—and she’s nowhere near ready to take a break. Turning 91 years old on July 5, Mrs. Parkins has worn many hats in her long professional and community service career. She taught first aid for the American Red Cross in Sacramento, Calif, in the early 1940s. In 1942, she entered the U.S. Air Force and became the first woman to graduate from its finance school. In 1948, she worked for the U.S. Department of Defense as a budget analyst, a job that took her across the world to exotic locations like Guam, Greece and the Aleutian Islands.

Since retiring 44 years ago, Mrs. Parkins has earned a reputation as a devoted community servant, staying involved in public issues and fund-raising projects on the local, state and federal levels. In 2005, she was presented a Jefferson Award for public service, a prestigious honor for community servants.

“It’s just instilled in me,” she says of her community activism. “It’s just something I do. I can’t explain it. I guess I’m what you’d call a ‘doer.’”

For years she has collected money and dog toys for Operation Military Care K-9, which provides care packages for the war dogs and their handlers who are currently serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries. She has also contributed time and money to the placement of a war dog monument in Washington, D.C.

“They work all day, bomb sniffing, guarding, leading patrols, and when they’re finished, they don’t have anything to do at night,” she says. “The care packages, which include things like dog biscuits, tennis balls, rope toys and supplies for their handlers, show them that we appreciate all they do.”

In Carson City, Nev. where she has lived since 1972, locals know Mrs. Parkins as the “Crosswalk Lady,” a moniker she earned after getting a stoplight installed at a busy intersection.

“I see things that should be done and I just follow through,” she says.

Her fellow DAR members have given her another name, the “Flag Expert.” A member of the Washoe Zephyr Chapter, Virginia City, Nev. since 1999, Mrs. Parkins has served as Flag Chairman for both her chapter and the Nevada State Society and presents flag trivia at each chapter meeting.

“The flag is like a bible to me, and my dedication to it has kept me going,” she says. “Patriotism is very important, and I want to share that with everyone.”

After September 11, 2001, volunteers from Carson City came together to build a memorial to those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks. Mrs. Parkins, who helped raise funds, attended the dedication of a giant American flag sculpture overlooking Carson City.

“I hope it inspires patriotism and love of country,” she says.

More than 40 friends, family members and local and state government officials came together to celebrate Mrs. Parkins’ accomplishments at a surprise 90th birthday party last July. Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn declared the day as one to honor Mrs. Parkins’ life.

“It was definitely the proudest moment of my life,” says Mrs. Parkins of the surprise bash, which she referred to as the 35th anniversary of her 55th birthday. “That’s about as exciting as it gets. The fact that they would think about me like that and throw me a big surprise party means so much to me.”

To nominate a Daughter for a future issue, e-mail a description to americanspirit@dar.org.
Celebrating Women Pioneers

What an excellent article on “Mary Katharine Goddard: Pioneer Printer,” by Emily McMackin in the March/April 2006 issue, one of your best.

In March, the Arapahoe Chapter, Boulder, Colo., had as our program speaker Carol Krismann, a University of Colorado librarian who wrote a seminal two-volume reference book, *Encyclopedia of American Woman in Business: From Colonial Times to the Present.* Mary Katherine Goddard’s biography is one of 327 businesswomen in America included in Ms. Krismann’s reference work. She was honored at the University of Colorado’s Norlin Library in December 2005 because of her book’s importance to the university and the business field.

Jeanney Scott Horn
Arapahoe Chapter
Boulder, Colo.

Puritan Vs. Pilgrim

In the Q&A With Neil Baldwin on page 46 of the March/April 2006 issue, the word “Pilgrim” is misused. Pilgrim and Puritan are not synonymous. The Pilgrims came to Plymouth in 1620 and wrote the Mayflower Compact, a civic document of equality and a forerunner of our Constitution. They were friends of the Indians and at peace with them for 55 years. The Puritans came in 1630 to Salem with John Winthrop and later were responsible for the infamous witchcraft trials.

Dorothy Wiechmann
Open Fire Chapter
Eldora, Iowa
State Treasurer, Iowa Mayflower Society

Editor’s Note: The misuse of Pilgrim was the writer’s mistake, not Mr. Baldwin’s. We regret the error.

Green Thumbs-up

The staff of our award-winning *American Spirit* magazine just keeps outdoing itself with each new edition.

I thoroughly enjoyed all the garden stories and photos in the March/April 2006 “Garden Party” issue. Here in the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains near Remsen, N.Y., we have miles of daffodils that are beginning to peek above the snow. This is Welsh heritage country, and the daffodil is the national flower of Wales. Visitors to Monticello usually aren’t made aware of Thomas Jefferson’s Welsh roots (his mother was from Wales), but they heard from me when my husband and I visited there the first time. We missed their daffodil season, but we were impressed with the gardens there, as well as George Washington’s at Mount Vernon.

This issue also had a personal serendipity in “The Bookshelf.” On page 10, there was a concise review of *Bootmaker to the Nation: The Story of the American Revolution* by Dr. John Slade. My husband and I highly recommend this book, which the manager of the bookstore at the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center says is the most accurate historical novel covering the entire Revolutionary War and is a good companion to former President Jimmy Carter’s novel, *The Hornet’s Nest,* which was set during the Southern Campaign.

This is still the most enjoyable history magazine that comes to our house. Keep up the good work.

Mary Helen Jones, State Chairman, DAR Magazine
Holland Patent Chapter
Holland Patent, N.Y.

A Family Connection

I am beyond excited about the March/April 2006 issue. On page 10 of “Bookshelf,” there is a review of *Perilous Journey* about Ann Robertson Johnson Cockrill. I would not have known about this book had it not been in *American Spirit.* Ann was my husband’s great-great-great-grandmother. She married John Cockrill, and they are both Patriots. I used John Cockrill as the ancestor for my two granddaughters for C.A.R.; one is now a DAR member, and the other’s application will go in September 2006 when she is 18.

I immediately went online and ordered books from Amazon.com!

Billeye Jobe
Ardmore Chapter
Ardmore, Okla.

continued on page 6
Rite of Passage

I enjoyed “For Whom the Bell Tolls: Colonial Funeral Rites and Mourning Rituals” by Maureen Taylor in the March/April 2006 issue.

I remember driving along rural roads in Illinois about 1950, and my father telling us children to notice the door on the front of the old farmhouses that had neither a porch nor steps leading up to it. He said that door would be the outside door to the parlor where dead family members would be laid out. After a service, the coffins would be slid out of the parlor onto the back of a wagon backed up against the house to be drawn to the cemetery by horses. This outside parlor door would be about three feet off the ground because these houses all had basements.

Karen Nilsen, Registrar
Washington Crossing Chapter
Doylestown, Pa.

Editor's Note: The images shown on page 42 of the “Colonial Funeral Rites” story in the March/April 2006 issue are gold mourning lockets, not rings. Both date from about 1740.

Photographs © 2006 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Lone Stars

In the article on the 2005 hurricanes that devastated the Gulf Coast (May/June 2006), I found no mention of Hurricane Rita's effects on the state of Texas of which I am a resident and a DAR member.

Louisiana and Mississippi suffered devastating effects from the hurricanes, but Texas did as well. Landmarks in Texas were destroyed as well as entire towns. Many Daughters suffered irreparable damages. Some will never be able to go back to their homes. Sabine Pass, Texas, was literally washed off the map.

It is so devastating to drive down the roads and see roofs covered in blue tarps and beautiful trees gone. As a person whose Revolutionary Patriot came to Texas and whose entire family has lived their lives in this beautiful east Texas countryside for almost 170 years, to see the entire landscape of your world be changed forever is more than devastating.

I am the Regent of the Daniel Witcher Chapter, which covers Jasper and Newton counties. The Texas State Regent, Florence Patton, called to tell me our generous Daughters around the state had offered to pay dues for anyone who was unable to do so. We were most grateful, but all of our Daughters were able to meet their obligations themselves. We had Daughters displaced and who lost homes, but we missed only one meeting date in October. By November, we were meeting again.

At least I can say with great pride that as we face another hurricane season, no matter what happens, we in Jasper and Newton Counties will take care of our own. We will prevail, no matter that the rest of the country has forgotten us.

Patricia Forrest, Chapter Regent
Daniel Witcher Chapter
Woodville, Texas

Editor's Note: For more information on the Texas State Society's response to Hurricane Rita, see Whatnot, page 10.
Take a step inside the DAR Museum for a closer look at its fascinating collection.

Forged From Fire

This unusual fixture, part of the DAR Museum’s collection, depicts Christopher Columbus’ exploration of the New World. The ships on the shade morph into sea dragons that support large spheres of glowing light. Massive chains, like the ones suspending a ship’s anchor, support the chandelier.

Designed in 1911 by Samuel Yellin, a Polish-American blacksmith, this elaborate iron fixture, which hangs above a massive wooden table, is a highlight of the DAR Museum’s New Jersey Period Room. The sea-faring theme extends to the room’s wall paneling and furniture, which were made of timbers from the salvaged British ship Augusta, sunk in battle in 1777.

Yellin, an early 20th-century artisan, was frequently commissioned to create his unique wrought-iron masterpieces for both public buildings and private residences. His works can be found in some of the most famous buildings in America, including the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and the Federal Reserve Bank, St. Patrick’s Cathedral and the Frick Collection, all in New York.
DAR Hosts Naturalization Ceremony With President Bush

President George W. Bush was the keynote speaker at a recent naturalization ceremony hosted at the DAR National Headquarters. Held in the O’Byrne Gallery on March 27, it was organized by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Dr. Emilio Gonzalez, the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, administered the Oath of Citizenship to 30 immigrants. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced the president.

Bush thanked the DAR and President General Presley Wagoner for hosting the event. He also added gratitude for the organization's support for immigrants over the years.

"I appreciate the work of patriotic organizations like the Daughters of the American Revolution," the president said. "Some of the new Americans here today might have used the DAR Manual for Citizenship to prepare you for the citizenship test. They obviously did a pretty good job, since you passed."

Since its founding in 1890, the Daughters of the American Revolution has been a major source of aid and encouragement for immigrants wishing to be indoctrinated with the responsibilities of being Americans. In addition to establishing rehabilitation centers on Ellis Island in the 1920s, NSDAR administers citizenship preparation classes and has been publishing its DAR Manual for Citizenship since 1921, not to mention its frequent participation in naturalization ceremonies across the country.

“It was moving to be a part of a ceremony celebrating people from all over the world who have embraced this country as their own—both the opportunities as well as the responsibilities—and who have committed themselves to being active American citizens,” Mrs. Wagoner said.

“It was moving to be a part of a ceremony celebrating people from all over the world who have embraced this country as their own...” —PRESLEY WAGONER
Remember Your Anniversaries

PLANS ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement in 2007. A new re-creation of the Godspeed, one of the three ships that arrived in 1607, will visit several port destinations this July as the inaugural event of the “America’s 400th Anniversary” celebration. New 30,000-square-foot galleries and a new introductory film will premiere at the Jamestown Settlement this fall.

With the 225th anniversary of the 1781 Siege of Yorktown approaching in October, the nearby Yorktown Victory Center’s 2006 programming is themed around the siege, with several lectures and new exhibits planned.

With the “History is Fun” vacation package, visitors gain access to both historic sites, which trace the beginnings of America from the first permanent English settlement in 1607 to the end of the Revolutionary War in 1781. This historical journey is made with the help of films, galleries of artifacts and outdoor living history exhibits.

The Jamestown Settlement has three re-created settings: a Powhatan village, replicas of Colonial ships and a palisaded Colonial fort. Visitors can grind corn, steer a 17th-century ship and try on English armor, along with other activities.

At the Yorktown Victory Center, a re-creation of a Continental Army encampment allows visitors to experience the typical life of a Revolutionary War soldier. They can also process flax or engage in 1780s agrarian activities at the nearby Tidewater farm.

For more information on these sites and upcoming events, visit www.historyisfun.org

HAPPY 5TH BIRTHDAY, AMERICAN SPIRIT!

AMERICAN SPIRIT made its debut in July 2001 as the newest incarnation of one of the nation’s oldest continually published periodicals. The DAR has continuously published a magazine since July 1892, when NSDAR founder Mrs. Ellen Hardin Walworth became the first editor. Like many other publications, the National Society’s periodical has undergone several name changes through the years: The American Monthly Magazine (1892–1913), The Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine (1913–1937), The National Historical Magazine (1937–1946), the Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine (1946–2001), and American Spirit magazine and Daughters newsletter (2001–present).

QuickQuiz

WASHINGTON-ROCHAMBEAU ROUTE

1. What mistake did British commander Charles O’Hara make during the surrender at Yorktown?
2. As a gift, France presented the United States with a statue of Rochambeau in 1902. Where is it located now?
3. How many present-day states does the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route pass through?
4. How did the town of Newport, R.I., welcome the French Fleet when they arrived in 1780?
5. On September 10, 1781, where did Washington entertain Rochambeau, Marquis de Chastellux and staff?

Answers on page 10.
A Fort Ontario Blast

CANNON BLASTS WILL SOUND the 250th anniversary of Fort Ontario, August 11-13, as re-enactors dressed as British, French and Native forces clash in Oswego, N.Y. The “Guardian of the Northern Frontier,” Fort Ontario controlled a strategic entry point into New York’s northern border during the French and Indian War. Known at the time as “the Fort of the Six Nations” and “Fort Oswego,” it was the site of a major French assault in 1756.

The event kicks off with a waterborne re-enactment of the French naval attack of the British bateau fleet. The next day, visitors can watch the French troops dig into siege lines and bombard the British from across the Oswego River. Sunday, August 13 will feature the final defeat of British and Colonial forces as the French storm the fort wall and eventually erect a replica of the victory cross originally raised by Marquis de Montcalm, the French commander, in 1756.

Fort Ontario is open through October 31. For more information, visit www.fortontario.com.

Relive the W3R  Wonder what it was like for the thousands of Patriot troops who marched the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route? Find out this summer during America’s March to Yorktown. Join re-enactors as they trek the same 650-mile route that George Washington, Comte de Rochambeau and their troops followed 225 years ago. Visit www.w3r-us.org or www.marchtoyorktown.org for more information, and read the feature on page 35.

STORM DAMAGE: The Preservation Effort Goes on

WHEN YOU THINK OF THE DEVASTATING HURRANECES that ripped through the Gulf Coast almost a year ago, you immediately picture New Orleans. But the Big Easy wasn’t alone: the U.S. government declared more than 90,000 square miles—twice the size of Pennsylvania—a federal disaster area. Homes, businesses and historic landmarks across the Gulf Coast sustained damage, and relief workers, cleanup crews and restoration teams have been working tirelessly from Alabama to Texas.

- IN MOBILE, ALA., teams were called upon to repair the Hurricane Katrina-damaged USS Alabama Battleship complex. A World War II-era battleship, the USS Alabama has been docked in Mobile for 41 years, but officials closed it for four months while $4 million repairs commenced.
- THE TEXAS DAR STATE FOREST, located near Buna, Jasper County, in southeast Texas, suffered substantial damage and timber downfall as a result of Hurricane Rita in September. Managed by the Texas Society DAR since 1929, the forest not only preserves trees and provides a bird sanctuary, but it is also a working management property. Thanks to members of the Daniel Witcher Chapter, Jasper, Texas, though, state officials acted quickly to recover much of the downfall, worth approximately $32,000. Money from timber sales is put toward TSSDAR-sponsored scholarships.

What’s in a Name?

Discover the meanings behind some of the DAR chapters’ interesting names.

Long before Malibu became the place of famous people and palatial mansions, it was Hula mai wi, a village of the Chumash Indians. The name of the California town—and the Malibu Chapter—derives from Hula mai wi, which means, “where the surf sounds loudly.”

The namesake of the Abigail Scott Duniway Chapter, Stayton, Ore., wrote the first novel to be commercially published in Oregon, and in 1871, she established the New North West newspaper, whose motto was “Free Speech, Free Press, Free People.” Through Duniway’s efforts and those of her friend Susan B. Anthony, Oregon became the seventh state to allow women the right to vote, eight years before the 19th Amendment passed.

The Pack Horse Ford Chapter, Shepherdstown, W.Va., was named after a crossing near the Potomac River that was used for centuries by Indians, early settlers and Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers.

Organized in 1898, the Abiah Folger Franklin Chapter, Nantucket, Mass., was named for Benjamin Franklin’s mother, born August 15, 1667, on Nantucket Island. She became the second wife of Josiah Franklin and had eight children.

Does your chapter name have an unusual story behind it? E-mail a description to americanspirit@dar.org

Answers to the quiz on page 9:
1. Either in an attempt to snub Washington or because he went to the most decorated officer who was present, O’Hara presented his sword to Rochambeau.
2. Lafayette Square in Washington, D.C.
4. The Selectmen of the town handed out candles to be illuminated in all houses and churches.
5. Before the group made their way to Yorktown, Va., Washington stopped at Mount Vernon, the first time he’d been there in five years.
In The Galleries

WAR LETTERS: LOST AND FOUND

The “War Letters” exhibit features original letters from military personnel serving in the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam that were lost or abandoned and then rediscovered by strangers. The exhibit is a collaborative effort between the National Postal Museum and Andrew Carroll, author and founder of the Legacy Project, which provided the letters.

The Legacy Project is a national, all-volunteer effort that seeks and preserves wartime correspondence before these letters (and now e-mails) are lost forever. For more information, visit the Legacy Project’s Web site at www.warletters.com.

FIRST LADIES: POLITICAL ROLE AND PUBLIC IMAGE

Since the time of Martha Washington, America’s first ladies have fascinated the nation. Unelected and unpaid, they occupy a position of power defined as much by their own personalities and interests as by public perceptions and social expectations. The first lady is a symbol of home, family and womanhood—ideals whose meanings change with every generation.

From the exuberant Dolley Madison and the troubled Mary Todd Lincoln to the intriguing wives of our recent presidents, a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian’s First Ladies Collection celebrates the remarkable individuals who have occupied this demanding post. Visitors can see more than 150 objects spanning two centuries, including elegant inaugural and evening gowns, White House furnishings and china, photographs and portraits, and campaign and personal memorabilia.

Biographical and interpretive panels, exhibition videos and audio recordings of influential radio addresses further document the unique marks our first ladies have left upon American history.

Know Before You Go: After being closed for more than six years, the Smithsonian American Art Museum will celebrate its grand reopening this Independence Day. It was closed in January 2000 for extensive renovations to its main building. The museum houses the world’s premier collection of American art: more than 40,000 pieces of painting, sculpture, photography and folk art. The collection boasts works by Edward Hopper, Georgia O’Keeffe and Nam June Paik.

The National Museum of American History will close to the public September 5, 2006, for a major restoration. (Labor Day, September 4, will be the last day to visit the museum.) Construction will begin in the fall of 2006, and the museum is scheduled to reopen by summer 2008.

Did You Know? This year marks the centennial anniversary of the Antiquities Act of 1906—the act which gives the president the power to grant national monument status to federal lands with significant historical and/or scientific values. Beginning with Theodore Roosevelt, 15 of the last 18 presidents have used the powers of the Antiquities Act to designate more than 100 national monuments.
A MINIATURE REVIVAL OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS

By Maryann S. Gunderson

Charles Willson Peale's portrait of Matthias and Thomas Bordley was painted between 1767 and 1769. Maryland lawyer John Beale Bordley sent his sons to England to study, and signs of their upper-class education are evident in the miniature. Thomas points to a book held by Matthias, while their studies are watched over by a bust of Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom. Watercolor over graphite pencil on ivory.
Dolley Madison received one from painter George Catlin, and Nathaniel Hawthorne spoke of them in *The House of Seven Gables*. If you have ever observed period interiors, you may have noticed these works hanging near fireplace mantels and tucked away in curio cabinets. Known as miniatures, the little landscapes or portraits painted first on vellum and then on ivory were once common pieces in homes. From the 16th century and the time of Henry VIII, the miniature has represented monarchs and merchants of fame and wealth. As time passed and the miniature immigrated to the United States, it found strong artistry and patronage as generation after generation of American sitters were painted. Entire families were represented, often with children poignantly memorialized after being lost to illness or accident.

**Boston-based artist Clarissa Peters** (Mrs. Moses B. Russell) ethereal “Child in a Pink Dress” is probably a posthumous miniature portrait, indicated by the angelic halo of pink and blue sky surrounding the child’s head. Ca. 1850, watercolor on ivory.
Portrait miniatures have always been a passion for collectors. From Queen Elizabeth I to John Pierpont Morgan, collectors have had a fondness for the small, decorative objects of luminous light and color. The tiny treasures are now most often found in museums or antique shops collected by those knowledgeable about their 500-year history as a keepsake and object of adornment. Auction houses hold vigil for the remaining miniatures on the art market, illustrated by a miniature of George Washington recently selling for more than $1 million at Christie’s in London.

THE MINIATURE’S DECLINE

The portrait miniature nearly became extinct almost two centuries ago with the invention of the photograph. By the time of the Gilded Age, many of the miniaturists, who were mostly men, had moved on to the photographic industry. The previously lucrative business of miniature portraits, with commissions of nearly $50, had apparently passed its prime. Photographs may have fetched only $5 per sitting but many sittings could be completed in one day versus the miniature sitting that lasted for several sessions over several days. One of the only ways to compete was for miniaturists to create a template and quickly fill in a sitter’s details while moving from town to town.

Despite the difficult circumstances, miniatures date well into the 20th century. These remaining works seem to have been transformed in style and representation. The traditional miniature was somewhat exacting, pale-toned and often considered more of a historical record than a work of art. The new miniature was more expressive—a dramatic story often told without reference to the sitter. Color schemes became more vibrant, and shapes and sizes expanded as well. The most intriguing advancement, though, was made by the artists who revived the art form and created new styles. These “revivalists” have a story of their own to tell.

REVIVING THE ART FORM

The revivalists of the portrait miniature first surfaced in the late 19th century and were mostly women who consisted of a post-Civil War population of wives, widows and daughters. This is not surprising when we consider that an Italian woman named Rosalba Carriera painted one of the first miniatures on an ivory box in 1700. Shortly after this, artist Mary Roberts of Charleston, S.C., painted the first American miniature. There are nearly 2,000 of the 20th-century miniature revivalists on record. Two women who represent the style and spirit of the modern miniature well are Laura Coombs Hills (1859–1952) and Eulabee Dix (1878–1961).

Hills painted miniatures of intense color, drama and fine technique. Dix demonstrated a combination of exceptional artistic talent and savvy marketing skills, both required in the revival of such a subtle, serene art form. Just as early manuscript writers, jewelers and watchmakers influenced historic miniaturists,
Hills and Dix would be strongly inspired by their contemporary art movements.

**The Finest Details**

Laura Coombs Hills was a single woman from Boston, a city steeped in artistic history and home to great portraitists such as John Singleton Copley and Gilbert Stuart, both miniaturists themselves. She began her career as an illustrator and designer of pottery, needlepoint and cross-stitch, all finely detailed endeavors. Portrait miniatures required equally painstaking painting techniques of stippling and cross-hatching in order to apply tiny amounts of watercolor pigment to a slippery ivory surface. With ties to the Women's Art Club and the prestigious Society of Arts and Crafts, Hills was undoubtedly inspired by the philosophy of creating handmade objects of valued materials, according to a recent exhibit at the Historical Society of Old Newbury.

Beyond her mastery of meticulous work, Hills’ artistic style was often pictorial, focusing on a specific moment that would create a more revealing image. This style had not been attempted with the traditional miniature, where scenes were presented only through belongings or props in the image. Hills used abstract backgrounds of vivid colors instead of props, as shown in her 1908 portrait, “The Nymph.” She also employed a range of highlights and shadows within a single color. This technique allowed her to capture the essential features of her subjects, who were a mix of patrons and models.

Regardless of the sitter, Hills focused on facial expression and reduction of image sharpness, favoring a more tranquil, pictorial view. Her style caught the eye of judges at the Paris Exposition Universelle of 1900, a show out of which the Art Nouveau movement began and where Hills won a bronze medal. Her painting reflected, in fact, the Art Nouveau aesthetic of organic lines and colors, such as those seen in the decorative arts of Louis Comfort Tiffany and Rene Lalique.

**A Confident Style**

Eulabee Dix emerged as a miniaturist through a different set of circumstances. She hailed from the Midwestern cities of St. Louis and Grand Rapids, Mich., and spent a year studying painting and drawing at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts. Dix moved to New York City in her early 20s to become a professional artist, living for a time in the Carnegie Hall Towers, a dwelling that incorporated artists’ studios with residences. Her neighbors included composer Edward MacDowell, Charles Dana Gibson of the Gibson Girl illustrations and photographer Gertrude Kasebier. She also associated with John Sloan and Robert Henri, members of the Ashcan School, a group of artists dedicated to truth and realism in art. In addition, Dix was active in the newly formed American Society of Miniature Painters, one of whose charter members was Laura Coombs Hills.

Dix’s fraternization with the artistic avant-garde seemed to be an invaluable environment for the variety of modern artists and styles she encountered, as new ideas and artistic revivals of all sorts were constantly in the air. Dix was exceptional at capturing a subject’s deeper qualities with a few essential brush strokes and unifying a color scheme so that the sitter appeared poised and calm in his or her surroundings.

Her confident style of painting matched her New York-inspired tenacity for acquiring patrons as well. Dix “networked” before the term even existed; in one instance, she introduced a curious British countess to an acquaintance named Mark Twain, and then later painted miniatures of both of them. She admired stage actress Ethel Barrymore and convinced her to sit for a portrait.

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Eulabee Dix’s 1914 watercolor portrait of her 2-year-old son, Philip Dix Becker, was painted as the tiniest of miniatures (2 3/8 inches) on an ivory box lid.
CAPTURING INNOCENCE

Dix and Hills both traveled to England and France in the early 1900s at the advice of artists and patrons. In Europe, where the portrait miniature was first painted, they were most likely made aware of portraitists John Singer Sargent and Mary Cassatt, both American expatriates. Sargent was a master at capturing the essential nature of subjects, while Cassatt was influential for her Impressionistic works and her interest in printmaking and pastel revivals. Children were often the subjects of both Cassatt and Sargent, as their patrons were parents and grandparents who were delighted to immortalize their little ones' charm and innocence on canvas. No longer commonly lost to illness, the modern child was now a major focus of family and society and continued to be a common subject for miniature revivalists.

Children were not a simple subject matter for portraitists due to long sittings and repeated sessions, but the miniature revivalists fearlessly featured them. The predominance of female miniaturists in the revival certainly lent itself to such maternal subject matter. Dix and Hills both painted many children, perfectly presenting their dynamic nature with deliberate brush strokes and pronounced color schemes. Dix captured the delicate but often direct gaze of the child. Hills used her pictorial techniques to present a transcendent moment for each precocious subject. Both artists enhanced the jewel-like nature of the miniature through the rendering of children.

Beyond the clients and their intentions, Hills and Dix created works of timeless quality while immersed in a new, modern art environment. They and their fellow revivalists provided the portrait miniature a second chance at posterity, successfully-snatching it from extinction. Although patronage became more elusive in the 20th century, the evolution of the portrait miniature to a more powerful, fresh image reinvigorated collectors. They remain charmed by the miniature's virtues, now finding a declaration of modern art in perhaps its most diminutive form.

Maryann Gunderson, M.F.A., is a member of the Elizabeth Sherman Reese Chapter, Lancaster, Ohio.

Above Left: Laura Coombs Hill won an award for her profile of "The Bride," 1908. Watercolor on ivory, 5 1/8 x 3 1/8 inches.

Provoking With the Pen

Americans often complain about the lack of standards in journalism and the media today, but the most biased editorial, the seediest newscast and the most obnoxious cable news talk show do not compare to the rancorous journalism of our Founding Fathers. The Colonial press was notorious for using the printed page to slander, fabricate, smear, shock and incite and did so with no apologies, as historian Eric Burns illustrates vividly in his book, *Infamous Scribblers: The Founding Fathers and the Rowdy Beginnings of American Journalism* (Public Affairs Press, 2006).

Taking his title from George Washington, who complained during his presidency of being “buffeted in the public prints by a set of infamous scribblers,” Burns explores an era in which opinion ruled newspapers, and journalists didn’t hesitate to use crude language, baseless accusations or character attacks as weapons to make their cases. Even public officials got into the act, fronting printing costs for papers that pushed their ideologies.

The period in which American journalism evolved was also its darkest time, Burns notes, but it cemented the role of the press in society and set the parameters that define the media today. Burns bases the premise of his book on one question: How could men who prized reason and religion stoop to such contemptuous journalism? To answer that, he goes back to the roots of newspapers and profiles the first American publishers and editors behind them.

When the broadside, the forerunner of the newspaper, emerged during the Italian Renaissance, its first proprietor, Pietro Aretino, viewed it as nothing more than a commodity, praising story subjects who paid what he asked; demonizing those who didn’t. Even as broadsides grew common throughout the 17th century, most Europeans—except for the elite—didn’t understand their relevance or have time to read them.

Those who emigrated to the New World, however, “were the first to sense that knowledge might be power or profit, and that it might at least ease some of their apprehension about the people and places they did not know,” Burns writes.

The first newspaper published in the Colonies was the short-lived *Publick Occurrences both Foreign and Domestic*, printed by Benjamin Harris, whom historians describe as a rebel at best, a bigot and an opportunist at worst. Harris was forced to discontinue his paper after its debut issue on September 25, 1690, because officials objected to its sensationalism and Harris’ refusal to obtain a government license. The next paper to surface, the *Boston News-Letter*, fared better, though its stamp of governmental approval ensured that it remained a “dull vehicle of intelligence.”

With the emergence of James Franklin’s *New-England Courant* in 1721 came the tradition of the crusading journalist. Burns’ lively anecdotes about Franklin’s heated clashes with authorities make an amusing read. Though Franklin’s brother, Ben, elevated the tone of journalism with his witty arguments, policy analyses and reports on scientific developments in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, even he wasn’t above concocting a story. He believed that readers wanted to be entertained, and that they were smart enough to discern between fact and fiction, Burns notes.

As relations with Britain grew strained, more Americans turned to newspapers to debate their ideas about rebellion. Britain’s Stamp Act, which levied taxes on all printed material, was the first of several oppressive laws that spurred editors to print fiery columns calling for revolt.

Burns shows just how ugly the mud-slinging got with colorful sketches of Patriot Sam Adams, who used his editorial control of the *Boston Gazette* to provoke the Crown, and Jemmy Rivington, a journalist who warped the truth to fit his Loyalist leanings. Burns’ comparison of the Patriot and Tory coverage of the Boston Massacre further illustrates the bias that existed.

Newspapers grew uncharacteristically docile during the Revolutionary War, reporting on pivotal battles in an objective tone and calling for unity. Once peace and prosperity returned, newspapers became as divisive as ever, separating themselves into Federalist and Republican camps.

Burns takes readers on an entertaining ride through the post-war era when newspapers waged dirty wars of words, officials schemed to leak information to further their agendas, and Americans turned to the press to hash out their ideas for how to run their new government. The chaos ended with the 1801 Sedition Act, which put controls on the press and set the stage for the tradition of impartiality that followed.

By focusing on the rogues behind the renegade journalism of the Colonial period, Burns weaves a comprehensive but compelling tale of the foundation of the American press.

BY EMILY McMACKIN
Homeward Bound
Follow the footsteps of your ancestors on a family pilgrimage

Instead of a trip to the beach, a resort or an amusement park this summer, why not take your children on a pilgrimage to the past? More families than ever are choosing vacation destinations that allow them to travel back to their roots and explore their heritage. Visiting the landmarks on your family history map offers an exciting adventure full of nostalgia, intrigue and surprises. Follow four families as they trace the steps of their ancestors, and use their experiences to help you plan your own meaningful pilgrimage.
Curiosity about a famous ancestor, Revolutionary War General and ninth Continental Congress President Arthur St. Clair, took Rod St. Clair, his wife, Evelyn, his daughter, Kelli, and his son, Ty, on a cross-country journey to discover more about their heritage. The family stopped in Cincinnati, a city that Arthur St. Clair named, and in Greensburg, Pa., where they visited St. Clair’s grave, as well as woods and a fort near his home.

Road Trip to the Past

Ty St. Clair usually spends his summers taking road trips to the beach or the mountains. Last summer, the 17-year-old embarked on a vacation of a different kind with his dad, Rod, his mom, Evelyn, and his sister, Kelli.

The St. Clairs drove from Alabama to Greensburg, Pa., in search of clues about their most famous ancestor, Arthur St. Clair, a Revolutionary War General and ninth president of the Continental Congress. The family, which descends from a St. Clair sibling who migrated south, had researched his life and legacy on the Internet, but wanted to know more.

“It was cool to notice our last name everywhere—and exciting because it was like we were on a mission,” says Kelli, 28.

Once the St. Clairs arrived at their destination, the adventure began. First stop: Arthur St. Clair’s grave. They asked for directions at a police station where officers pointed them to a nearby cemetery. After an hour of traipsing through the wrong graveyard, they made a few calls, finally reaching a member of the local historical society who directed them to a park. By sundown, the family located a huge marble monument, flanked by shade trees on a hill, that marked St. Clair’s burial plot.

“It was a scene that I’ll always remember,” Kelli says. “We were like, ‘Ahh, this is what we came to see.’”

Their journey didn’t end there. The family also visited the local library where they perused a collection of letters between St. Clair and other notable Patriots, such as George Washington and Benjamin Franklin.

Touring Fort Ligonier, a reconstructed Colonial fort where Arthur St. Clair once served as a civil caretaker, gave Ty the most palpable connection to his ancestor.

“It made it more personal because I realized that St. Clair led men into battle (at Trenton and Fort Ticonderoga) who died fighting for what they thought was right—and that’s something most of us take for granted today.”

Exploring an adjoining museum that exhibited the original parlor of one of St. Clair’s homes, complete with period furniture and family paintings, helped Kelli visualize how her ancestors lived.

“We ran into a historian who told us details about Arthur St. Clair that you never read about in books,” Kelli says. “We even saw some of the land the family used to own—and it’s still pretty untouched.”

Despite being centuries and cultures removed from his celebrated ancestor, Ty says he returned from the trip with a deeper appreciation for his heritage.

“Knowing more about where you come from helps you understand more about the world around you, and how it relates to your history,” he says.

Brushes With History

Fred Simpson’s passion for tracing his roots began with his boyhood summers
sitting on his grandmother’s porch and hearing stories about his relatives. He wasn’t content just to listen. As soon as he was old enough to travel, Simpson set out to map the route of his ancestors, who migrated from the Carolinas to Alabama in the 1830s. His research took him to overgrown cemeteries hidden in the woods and courthouses across the state.

“In each town, I would try to find distant relatives who still lived there and talk to them,” he says. “Many times, they had records and stories to share.”

Simpson instilled his fascination for family history into his children, who grew up visiting sites where their ancestors lived and were buried. The kids didn’t always look forward to these trips—his daughter, Cindy Howard, still remembers her aggravation at getting lost and scratched up as a teen while searching the woods for a family headstone—but their dad always found a way to keep their attention.

“He would always find an interesting twist to their stories,” Cindy says. “He would say, ‘Can you imagine what it was like when they did this or that?’ It would bring them to life.”

Simpson’s favorite stories were the ones about his great-grandfather and great-great-uncles who fought in the Civil War. Personnel records and family anecdotes helped him piece together where they fought and were wounded, but that wasn’t enough to satisfy his curiosity.

“I find out so much more about them when I see where they marched, charged and fell,” he says.

Last summer, Simpson took his 10-year-old grandson, Sam Howard, along with him on a weekend tour of Civil War battlefields stretching from Cedar Mountain, Va., to Gettysburg, Pa. At each one, he read aloud from a narrative he’d compiled about the Simpson soldiers and pointed out their steps to Sam. He also bought his grandson a uniform and took pictures of him standing in the same positions as his ancestors in daguerreotypes.

Sam’s favorite part of the trip was retracing Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg, a bloody skirmish that involved one of his ancestors. His grandfather waited for him at the Union side, while Sam hiked across the mile-long Confederate path. In the middle of his trek, a thunderstorm erupted, but he trudged on.

“It taught me sort of what it was like,” Sam says. “When you think about it, it must have been hard marching thousands of miles like soldiers did back then.”

For Simpson, the motivation behind such trips is simple: He wants to learn more about his ancestors by walking in their footsteps.

“When I find a grave of a forefather, I kneel beside it and say, ‘Here I am; I have not forgotten you.’ And I try to bring that history alive for the next generation, so they won’t forget where they came from.”

Reconnecting to Roots

The feeling first hit Ann Wecsler after her mother passed away, and then was compounded when her youngest daughter got married and moved to Alaska: Her family was shrinking and scattering, and she felt disconnected.

“We’re all so spread out now, much more than ever before,” says Wecsler, who lives in Richardson, Texas. “It makes it harder to give your children a sense of attachment to a place.”

She spent childhood summers visiting relatives and attending family reunions in Salisbury, N.C., where her mother grew up before getting married and moving to New York. Wecsler treasured those trips, but after starting a family of her own, she found it harder to make the annual reunions each Mother’s Day weekend.

Through the years, she had compiled a mound of old family photos and online genealogy research, but as relatives from her mother’s generation started to die, she felt an urgency to revisit her roots.

“I knew I’d better get down there and see them before they were gone, too,” Wecsler says. “I did feel a connection to them, but that had been put on the back burner.”

Last summer, Fred Simpson of Huntsville, Ala., treated his 10-year-old grandson, Sam Howard, to a tour of Civil War battlefields stretching from Cedar Mountain, Va., to Gettysburg, Pa. Sam’s favorite part of the trip was retracing Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg, a historic skirmish in which one of his ancestors fought.
She and her husband, Larry, returned to North Carolina last spring for the first time in 33 years. She spent the first few days visiting old haunts and reflecting on the changes.

While she was happy to see the house that her grandfather built for his family of 13 still standing, the commercial development around the property saddened her. The Lutheran church that her grandfather chartered in 1891 still looked the same, though, down to its country steeple and hard wooden pews.

"It hadn't changed since I was a little girl—and that was comforting," Wecsler says. "I recognized most of the plaques underneath the stained-glass windows given in memory of church members. The names were familiar, even though they weren't part of my family."

She and her husband set aside time to explore the town, touring a Civil War prison camp that she had never heard about before and sampling red slaw, a regional favorite, for the first time at a local restaurant. She asked her aunt to take her on a tour of nearby Lutheran cemeteries. There she found relatives she didn't know she had, along with several monuments to her seventh generation forefather, the Rev. Adolphus Nussmann, a German immigrant who established the Lutheran Church in the Piedmont.

"Seeing it made it much more real to me than reading about it online," she says.

At the reunion, she interviewed her two remaining aunts, conversations that gave her insight into her grandfather, whom she didn't know well, and intriguing tidbits about her mother as a young girl. Flipping through a scrapbook belonging to her deceased aunt, she found newspaper clippings about her grandfather's blacksmith shop as well as her mother's wedding announcement.

The 10-day trip helped Wecsler reconnect with not only distant cousins, but also with her past. Next time, her eldest daughter, who lives in Little Rock, Ark., wants to come along.

"Seeing the area with adult eyes gave me a deeper appreciation for the way my mother grew up and a deeper connection to my heritage," she says.

On a Heritage Hunt

Kristin Henry wasn't always interested in her ancestors. Growing up, she endured yearly pilgrimages to cemeteries to help her mother decorate their graves. When she got older, she continued to go and brought her husband and three children—but only out of respect to her parents.

The passage of time and the loss of close family members, however, eventually sparked her interest in tracing her roots.

When her parents moved from Oklahoma to Nebraska so she could care for them, Henry was looking for a way to lift their homesickness and decided to plan a day trip to a small town about 50 miles away, where her mother's grandparents lived before moving to Oklahoma.

"My mother never knew those grandparents, so I thought it would be a neat place for her to see," Henry says.

To make the trip meaningful, she found out as much as she could about the area in advance, writing the tourism bureau for brochures and maps, researching the time frame in which her relatives lived there and searching archived newspaper clippings at the library for mentions of family names. Then she compiled an itinerary and a list of questions.

The first stop was a county courthouse, where Henry and her parents spent hours digging up old deeds and marriage certificates. A clerk helped them find an 1895 map and pointed out sites they needed to find. Next, they visited a museum to learn about the local history.

During a pilgrimage to Salisbury, N.C., Ann Wecsler (pictured in the hat) and her aunt, Kathryn, visited family cemeteries (above), Immanuel Church (left), which Wecsler's grandfather chartered in 1891, and a 200-year-old stone house in town (far left). The women also reminisced about family reunions of the past like the 1947 gathering pictured above left.
and follow up on a lead about a livery stable a great-uncle ran downtown. When Henry's mother stepped on the land where her grandparents lived and her father spent his teenage years before enlisting in the Spanish-American War, her eyes lit up with excitement. Because he was so old when she was born, she always thought of him as a grandfather. “It meant so much to her to envision him as a young man in a place where he came into his own,” Henry says.

While visiting a piece of property that he had purchased as a 22-year-old, the family stumbled upon a small tin shed covered in brush. “It was the kind of place someone might have if they were just starting out and didn’t have much money,” Henry says. “My mother didn’t know if it was her father’s home, but she felt that it was.”

Since then, her parents haven’t been able to stop talking about the trip. “It took them back in time and opened up tons of memories,” Henry says. “Since then, we’ve sat around the table and talked so much about family history and stories that would have never come up otherwise.”

Now, she takes her own heritage trips to small towns in Oklahoma and Iowa where ancestors lived. She not only visits graves, but also old homes, churches and schools and records her journeys in scrapbooks for posterity. “It brings it home to find streets and buildings that still have the same names as they did back then,” Henry says. “When you can share that with your family, it makes it even more meaningful.”

Emily McMackin is a contributing editor.
Above: Oil painting of Maria Mitchell, circa 1851, by H. Dassel.
Opposite page: Maria Mitchell’s birthplace at 1 Vestal Street, Nantucket, Mass.
Maria Mitchell: Stargazer in Nantucket, Trailblazer for Women

By Sharon McDonnell

Art & Photography Courtesy of the Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association
In a weathered, gray-shingled house built in 1790 off Nantucket's cobblestoned Main Street, Maria Mitchell, America's first female astronomer, was born in 1818.

After Mitchell discovered a comet—later named in her honor—in 1847, international fame followed. She won a gold medal from the King of Denmark, an avid amateur astronomer. The next year, she became the first woman invited to join the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (the second wasn’t invited until 1943). In 1850 she was elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and in 1869 she was the first woman elected to the American Philosophical Society. At Vassar College, where an observatory with the nation’s third-largest telescope was built for its first female professor, Mitchell, though largely homeschooled and self-taught, was a beloved teacher of astronomy for more than 20 years.
This illustrious woman was one of 10 children born to Quaker parents, William and Lydia Mitchell, and distantly related to Benjamin Franklin on her mother's side. (Franklin's mother, Abiah Folger, hailed from Nantucket.) Mitchell's Quaker heritage, which espoused the equality of men and women and the virtues of hard work, combined with her Nantucket upbringing and her father's encouragement, remained lasting influences on her life.

"In Nantucket people quite generally are in the habit of observing the heavens, and a sextant will be found in almost every house," Mitchell once said of the island 30 miles off the Massachusetts coast, which was the world's greatest whaling port in her youth. Since so many men were away for years on long ocean voyages, women largely ran Nantucket Town and owned the shops on "Petticoat Row."

Educated at home and at her father's school—William Mitchell was schoolmaster of Nantucket's first free school and later surveyed the skies for the United States Coast Survey—Mitchell learned how to check the accuracy of chronometers, instruments whaling ships used to measure longitude by observing the stars. When she was 12, she helped her father record a solar eclipse. By the time she was 14, sea captains respected Mitchell's abilities enough to allow her to rate their chronometers alone.

At her birthplace, the Mitchell House at 1 Vestal Street—now a museum with a natural science museum in adjacent buildings—is a small study where a hand-written sign on the wall reads, "Miss Mitchell is busy. Do not knock." On the wall hangs Mitchell's 1848 invitation to join the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The word "fellow" is crossed out and replaced by "honorary member." (Academy secretary Asa Gray begrudged Mitchell the title of fellow since she was a woman.)

Family artifacts in the Mitchell House include a tall case clock, family photographs, opera glasses and a portrait of Mitchell gazing through a brass telescope. A sampler sewn by Mitchell's mother, Lydia, hangs above the bed where the future astronomer and seven siblings were born. Typical Quaker dresses are also on display.

Adorning the entrance hallway in the plain, unrestored house is a whimsical gray stencil that depicts the "Great Moon Hoax" of 1835. The hoax refers to a series of newspaper articles published in The New York Sun purporting that English astronomer Sir John Herschel, who went to the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa to build an observatory, had discovered life on the moon, complete with lush vegetation and winged, fur-covered men who resembled bats. Though Herschel later exposed the fakery, the hoax captured the popular imagination. Both Mitchell and her father knew Herschel, a fact that inspired the stencil, painted by a cousin after Mitchell's death. Accompanying the drawing is an inspiring quote from Henry David Thoreau: "If there is nothing new on the earth still the traveler always has a resource in the skies ... They are constantly turning a new page to view."

Mitchell had fond memories of her Nantucket childhood in a big family. She once wrote, "Our want of opportunity was our opportunity—our privations were our privileges, our needs were our stimulants—we are what we are partly because we had little and wanted much, and it is hard to tell which was the more powerful factor."

**COMET TRACKER**

Sharing her father's passion for education, Mitchell started her own girls' school on Trader's Lane at 17. But a year later, she landed the perfect job for an autodidact: She became the first librarian of the Nantucket Atheneum, a post she held for 20 years and one which gave her lots of time for uninterrupted reading. Feeding Mitchell's thirst for knowledge, the Atheneum was also famous for attracting renowned lecturers, including abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, escaped slave Frederick Douglass, Ralph Waldo Emerson and suffragist Lucy Stone.

But the evening of October 1, 1847, changed her life. Mitchell was accustomed to helping her father with his survey work, so she left a family party early to scan the night sky from the rooftop of the Pacific Bank. Her father had built a rooftop observatory at the bank, where he also worked as the cashier.

There, with the help of her 2.25" refracting telescope, Mitchell detected and plotted the course of a new telescopic comet, later named "Comet Mitchell 1847VI" after her. Her father's colleagues, Harvard College Observatory director William C. Bond and his son, George, urged her to write about her discovery to the King of Denmark, who had promised a gold medal to the first person...
Maria Mitchell with student Mary W. Whitney at the Vassar Observatory. Whitney succeeded Mitchell as professor of astronomy and became the first president of the Maria Mitchell Association.

who discovered a comet not visible to the naked eye.

After Mitchell won the medal, she was chosen as the only woman to work on the new American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac in 1849. This post, which she continued until the late 1860s, may have made her the first American woman to earn her living as a scientist.

Interestingly, Mitchell always disparaged her intelligence. “I was born of only ordinary capacity, but of extraordinary persistency,” she once noted.

During a tour of Europe from 1857 to 1858, she visited eminent scientists, such as Sirs John and William Herschel in England, and famous observatories, such as the Greenwich Observatory in England and the Vatican Observatory in Rome. Though women were not usually permitted, Mitchell was allowed to view the sky from the Vatican Observatory’s telescope during the day, near where Galileo was forced to recant his heretical theory that the earth revolved around the sun.

‘Did You Read That in a Book?’

Matthew Vassar, an English-born brewer, founded Vassar Female College in 1861 in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., with a goal of creating a women’s college that would equal the best men’s colleges in the United States. In 1865, Mitchell became the college’s first female professor, and the first building completed on campus was built for her: an observatory with a 12-inch telescope and a center shaped like an octagon, 26 feet in diameter. Its designer, math professor Charles Farrar, promised the Vassar trustees that, unlike other observatories, it was intended for “the practical use of students.”

After Mitchell began teaching astronomy in 1865, she distinguished herself by her emphasis on self-reliance and empirical evidence. She was famous for asking her Vassar students, “Did you read that in a book, or did you observe it yourself?” She often told them, “We cannot accept anything as granted beyond the first mathematical formulae. Question everything.”

Her unconventional teaching methods stood out as well. Mitchell didn’t believe in reporting absent students: “To some the precision of military drill is the poetry of motion. I mourn over any loss of individuality,” she said. In fact, she did not believe in grading students at all, declaring: “You cannot mark a human mind because there is no intellectual unit.”

When the president of Harvard University, Charles Eliot, visited Vassar in 1870, he was particularly impressed by the astronomy classes, which he said rivaled those at Harvard.

Mitchell, who never married or had children and lived with her father after her mother’s death, served as an excellent mentor to her female students. She motivated them to expand her research on Jupiter, Saturn and their satellites and on photographing sunspots, a study which she pioneered. She also took them on field trips to observe solar eclipses hundreds of miles away.

In 1878, four Vassar graduates joined her to camp in tents outside Denver to view an eclipse—an arduous train ride for a glimpse fewer than three minutes long. Many of Mitchell’s students entered careers in science, including 25 who landed in “Who’s Who in America,” such as her successor Mary W. Whitney and Ellen Swallow Richards.

But Mitchell was not without a light-hearted touch. At end-of-the-year “dome parties,” she served students star- and moon-shaped cookies with “celestial refreshments.” However, her 23-year teaching career at Vassar was often a
struggle. She was paid less than male faculty, and most trustees found it inappropriate for women to teach women at their fledgling college. Fortunately, Matthew Vassar was her defender.

In later life, Mitchell became a fervent advocate for women. A co-founder of the American Association for the Advancement of Women in 1873, which organized professional women in annual conferences, she served as its president from 1875 to 1876 and chaired its science committee until her death. She lectured and wrote on the importance of college education for women, including a chapter in the book, *Women and the Higher Education* (Harper & Bros., 1893). She also argued that the scientific experimental method be applied to social problems.

After retiring from Vassar in 1888 due to ill health, Mitchell died the next year. She is buried in Nantucket.

**The Mitchell Legacy**

The Maria Mitchell Association was founded in 1902 to continue Mitchell’s work in science education and research. Today the group operates guided tours of the Mitchell House museum and manages the brick-faced Vestal Observatory next door, built in 1908. The association also manages the nearby Natural Science Museum at Hinchman House, the Loines Observatory, an aquarium and a science research library containing books, periodicals and Mitchell family archives. A full program of seasonal activities for adults, children and families includes bird watching, marine ecology, wildflower ecology, whale-watching, custom-designed science workshops and lectures.

Visitors can use telescopes at the Loines Observatory, while the Vestal Street Observatory offers guided tours, an outdoor model of the solar system and sunspot observation. Both observatories are open year-round.

College astronomy students from all over the country study here in a summer National Science Foundation program. College and graduate school interns conduct tours, work in the aquarium and offer research assistance.

The association also offers the Maria Mitchell Women in Science Award to recognize those who encourage the advancement of women in science, math, computer science and technology. Mitchell would be proud of the prizes awarded in her name. She once wrote, “In my younger days when I was pained by half-educated, loose and inaccurate ways which we all had, I used to say, ‘How much women need exact science.’ But since I have known some workers in science who were not always true to the teaching of nature, who have loved self more than science, I have said, ‘How much science needs women.’”

Sharon McDonnell explored the Governor Jonathan Trumbull House for the May/June 2006 issue.

For more information on the Maria Mitchell House, call (508) 228-2936 or visit www.mmo.org. The home is open June 14—September 10.
DO YOU HAVE A Revolutionary Patriot IN YOUR FAMILY TREE?

Consider membership in the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), a volunteer women’s service organization that honors and preserves the legacy of our Patriot ancestors. More than 200 years ago, American Patriots fought and sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy today. As a member of DAR, you can continue this legacy by actively promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America’s future through better education for children.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP?
Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. DAR volunteers are willing to provide guidance and assistance with your first step into the world of genealogy.

HOW IS PATRIOT DEFINED?
DAR recognizes Patriots not only as soldiers, but as anyone who contributed to the cause of American freedom. To find out if your ancestor is recognized by the DAR as a Revolutionary Patriot, a request form is available online at www.dar.org by clicking on “Membership.”

HOW MANY MEMBERS DOES THE NATIONAL SOCIETY HAVE?
DAR has 168,000 members in nearly 3,000 chapters worldwide, including chapters in 11 foreign countries. Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 800,000 members.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?
Go to www.dar.org and click on “Membership.” There you’ll find helpful instructions, advice on finding your lineage and a Prospective Member Information Request Form. Or call (202) 628–1776 for more information on joining the work of this vital, service-minded organization.
Symbols of Sacrifice

Americans show respect to armed servicemen and women with evolving expressions of patriotism

BY EMILY McMACKIN

PART II
Americans celebrate freedom on July 4 with flags and fireworks, as well as with images of bald eagles, the Liberty Bell, Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty—symbols that since the Colonial days have reminded us of the ideals for which our forefathers fought. As the United States grew unified in the 19th century, traditions were established to honor those who gave their lives for their country. Worldwide conflicts in the 20th century inspired Americans to look for new ways to show their support and loyalty to soldiers defending freedom across the globe and started the practice of hanging service flags and displaying yellow ribbons. Although these contemporary symbols of patriotic allegiance are easily identifiable, their origin and evolution are often surprising.

Rows of service flags hanging in windows became a common sight on neighborhood blocks across the United States during World War II. Otherwise known as “blue star banners” or “son in service flags,” the banners, consisting of one or more blue stars centered on a white field with a red border, sent a simple but poignant message that families in those homes had a loved one fighting overseas. Each star represented a husband, father, son or daughter. Many families displayed flags with multiple stars; some had banners draped in every window.

Though the flags were designed and patented by World War I Army Captain Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry to honor his two sons serving on the front lines, according to the American Legion, the flags didn’t gain popularity until World War II, when they became a symbol families used to show their pride and support for loved ones in the armed services. When a soldier was killed in action, his family would cover the blue star with a gold one to symbolize the ultimate sacrifice to the cause of liberty and freedom. As the war progressed, blue and gold stars often intermingled...
A yellow ribbon tied around a tree symbolizes American support for troops fighting on distant battlefields.
in one window—a touching reminder of the painful price many Americans paid. The flags held meaning for more than just families. Churches and organizations also displayed them to honor community members fighting in the war.

The service flag all but disappeared after the Korean War, despite the Department of Defense codifying it in 1967 and issuing revised specifications for its design, manufacture and display. During Operation Desert Storm, the banners resurfaced and—along with blue star buttons and pins—have seen an even greater resurgence since the recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Yellow Ribbons

Americans tie yellow ribbons around tree trunks, front doors, even utility poles to express their support and concern for troops fighting on distant battlefields, often keeping them tied until endangered soldiers return home safely. This tradition is so familiar that most people assume it has been around forever. In reality, it comes from a fusion of folklore, popular culture and national events that only began to merge about 20 years ago.

Yellow ribbons became popular symbols in 1980, after Penne Laingen tied one around an oak tree in Bethesda, Md., to remind the nation of her husband, one of several U.S. hostages in Iran. As her story spread, concerned Americans displayed yellow ribbons everywhere. Laingen’s inspiration came from the 1973 hit “Tie a Yellow Ribbon” by Tony Orlando and the vocal group Dawn—a song about a freed convict who asks his family to tie a yellow ribbon around an oak if they want him back. The songwriters claimed to have heard the story in the military, but versions of it circulated years before in magazines, religious tracts and prison lore. In most of the stories, the welcoming symbol was a white kerchief—a detail songwriters changed to a yellow ribbon because it sounded more musical and romantic.

Even before the song was written, the yellow ribbon had a storied significance in Anglo-American culture. The tradition of wearing a ribbon as a sign of devotion to a loved one in danger far away dated back to Elizabethan England. References to the practice seeped into Shakespeare plays, Cockney ballads, early American folk tunes, jazz Age ditties at colleges and a popular 1949 Western, “(Round her Neck) She Wore a Yellow Ribbon,” in which the protagonist professes her undying love to a Civil War cavalry officer by tying a yellow ribbon around her neck.

All of these influences combined to turn the yellow ribbon into the patriotic expression that it is today, evolving from a symbol of longing for an absent loved one to forgiveness for a returning prodigal son to concern for an imprisoned hero—and morphing once again during the Persian Gulf War in 1990–1991 into a show of support for troops sent into combat.

Emily McMackin is a contributing editor.
A French map shows Washington's victory over Cornwallis at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781.

By Phyllis McIntosh
In 1780, the outlook was grim for the ragtag rebels of the American Colonies. Their war for independence had been dragging on for nearly five years. Their capital, Philadelphia, was in the hands of the British, along with New York City. In the South, the British had captured Savannah, Ga., and Charleston, S.C., and Lord Cornwallis was marching at will through the southern Colonies.

Faced with a deteriorating military and political situation and an increasingly rebellious army, General George Washington reluctantly agreed to turn to France for manpower. The arrival of more than 5,000 French troops under the command of the Comte de Rochambeau at Newport, R.I., in July 1780 set the stage for the most decisive action of the American Revolution—a more than 600-mile march by the allied forces from Rhode Island to Yorktown, Va., where the Patriots forced the surrender of Cornwallis and changed history forever.

As the nation marks the 225th anniversary of the march and the victory at Yorktown, nine states along the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) are planning celebrations and pressing for designation of the route as a National Historic Trail to serve as a permanent reminder of the pivotal role France played in the birth of the United States.

The Key to the Alliance

France, which had been supplying the upstart colonists since the beginning of the war, became the first nation to officially recognize the fledgling government of the United States, signing a Treaty of Commerce with the colonies in 1778. Motivated in part by hatred of longtime enemy Great Britain, France also had more of a global interest in the conflict. By achieving naval superiority, Britain had become the world's superpower, and France, like other European nations, was anxious to restore an international balance of power.

For the colonists, "it was one thing to use French muskets and French ammunition and wear French-provided uniforms, but it was quite another to have French forces actually fighting on the American mainland," says Robert Selig, Ph.D., an independent historian and author documenting the Washington-Rochambeau campaign in each of the nine states and the District of Columbia.

The Americans harbored a serious mistrust of the French, whom they had fought in the French and Indian War a mere 20 years earlier. In New England especially, there was "a lot of cultural baggage," Selig says. Descendants of Puritans and Congregationalists were strongly anti-Catholic, he notes, and it was the New England states that had been most involved in warfare with French Canada. "New England also was the cradle of the American Revolution, and the French forces were sent by an absolute monarch who, even more than King George, represented everything these colonists were fighting against," Selig adds.

The key to the success of the Franco-American alliance was the relationship between Washington and Rochambeau, who hit it off from the start, even though they did not speak each other's language. Though a far more experienced military officer, Rochambeau had the discipline and demeanor to accept his role as Washington's subordinate. The French forces were much better trained, better equipped, better paid and equal in number to the Continental Army in the middle Colonies, "so it was absolutely necessary that there be no doubt in anybody's mind who was in charge," Selig says. "It had to be the Americans."

The Trek to Yorktown

The plan when the French arrived in 1780 was to attack the British at New York. But when it became obvious that the allied army was still too small to dislodge the British, and that France would commit no more troops, the French settled into winter quarters at Newport, R.I. Rochambeau and his officers were the toast of the town, hosting many balls and socializing with the local citizenry.

In June 1781, Rochambeau marched across Rhode Island and Connecticut to join the Continental Army in Philipsburg, N.Y. After receiving word that French Admiral de Grasse's fleet was sailing from the Caribbean to the Chesapeake Bay, the generals devised a southern campaign against British forces, deciding to march to Yorktown in
the hopes of cutting off Lord Cornwallis. Along the way, Rochambeau ingratiated himself with the colonists by paying for all their supplies and damage claims with silver—a boon to Americans weary of IOUs and worthless currency.

In their journals and letters home, the French soldiers marveled at the vast amounts of meat the colonists consumed and their love of corn bread, an exotic food for men from Europe where corn was not grown, Selig reports.

By the time the armies reached Maryland, de Grasse had secured the Chesapeake Bay, so the bulk of the troops embarked on ships for Williamsburg, Va., while the baggage train and artillery continued by land. Meanwhile, Washington and Rochambeau retired to Mount Vernon—Washington’s first visit home in five years—to finalize their plans. With the combined allied forces finally in place in September, they launched the final siege against badly outnumbered British troops at Yorktown. On October 19, 1781, Cornwallis surrendered.

The French forces were much better trained, better equipped, better paid and equal in number to the Continental Army in the middle Colonies, “so it was absolutely necessary that there be no doubt in anybody’s mind who was in charge. It had to be the Americans.”  

ROBERT SELIG, PH.D., HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR
Today much of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route lies beneath modern highways, housing developments, and reservoirs. In fact, Interstate 95 shadows the trail for much of its course. But because the 1781 march followed the main transportation routes of the day, a number of the original roads remain, some winding through rural areas of Rhode Island and Connecticut, others cutting through industrial corridors of Delaware. “It is possible to stick fairly close to the original route by driving on roads that are on top of it or nearby,” says Ralph Nelson, chairman of the Sons of the American Revolution/W3R Liaison Committee.

Those who have journeyed the length of the route include some 30 members of the Rochambeau Chapter, Paris, France—descendants of Rochambeau’s troops—who in 1996 traveled from town to town enjoying the hospitality of their American DAR counterparts, including Jean Hultgren, who presently serves as NSDAR National Vice Chairman of the Commemorative Events Committee, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route. “The group included five or six direct descendants of Rochambeau, and we traveled to Princeton, Trenton, Valley Forge, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Annapolis and ended up in Yorktown on October 19,” remembers Mrs. Hultgren, who has helped mark several W3R-related campsites in New Jersey. It is vital to commemorate the trail and our French allies, she says, because “we would not have had our independence if not for the French contribution.”

In the summer of 2004, amateur historian Lee Patrick Anderson became the first person since the 18th century to walk almost the entire length of the route. Along the way, Anderson spoke to DAR chapters and other organizations to educate
them about the famous march and other historic events that occurred along the route and to publicize the campaign to preserve it as part of America's heritage.

The nine states along the route have their own W3R committees and are planning celebrations that include parades, Chautauqua-style lectures and re-enactments. The goal is to publicize "not just what the soldiers did in battle, but also to tell the story of where they came from and what they did in each village, which brings in a whole civilian dimension that has never been discussed," says Kim Burdick, National Vice Chairman and Project Coordinator of W3R-US, an umbrella organization coordinating the commemorative activities. "Many of the old buildings—where troops were headquartered or danced or had a meal—are still there."

A kickoff celebration marking the 225th anniversary of the arrival of the French forces took place in July 2005 in Newport, R.I. It featured a symbolic re-enactment of the welcoming of Rochambeau, with the French Ambassador to the United States and Pulitzer-Prize-winning author David McCullough on hand to review the troops. A highlight of 2006's activities includes a traveling musical, "Billy Lee's George Washington," the story of Washington's youth and Revolutionary War years told through the eyes of his longtime slave companion Billy Lee. Slated to premiere in Delaware in September, the production features period music, including the tune "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow," sung in English and French as the two 'armies' march across the stage.

The grand finale of the anniversary will be "A Salute to the Military" in Yorktown, October 19–22—four days of pageantry that will include a parade, military encampments, battle re-enactments and a re-creation of the surrender ceremony. On October 19, the Comte de Grasse Chapter, Yorktown, Va., will host a naturalization ceremony at the foot of the Monument to Alliance and Victory. The event is open to the public.

Previous attempts to make W3R a recognized trail haven't been successful. In 1925, a pair of Boston businessmen pushed for the designation of an official route before the Great Depression dashed their plans. Similarly disappointing results followed for the 175th and 200th anniversaries. Those active in W3R celebrations hope the crowning achievement of the 225th year will be the designation of the route as a National Historic Trail. In 2000, Congress passed the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Heritage Act, which directed the National Park Service to study resources along the route and determine how to best interpret what happened there. The study, which found that the route meets the criteria for a National Historic Trail, should be available for public review this summer. If Congress eventually acts to make the W3R a National Historic Trail, the route would join 15 famous others, including the Lewis and Clark Trail; the Oregon Trail; the Trail of Tears, which marks the forced relocation of the Cherokees from North Carolina to Oklahoma; and the Selma-to-Montgomery route commemorating the Civil Rights crusade in the South.

Designation as a National Historic Trail would mean that the National Park Service would develop a long-range management plan, standardize signage, identify locations where people could learn about the march and improve the way it tells the story at its own sites.

Most importantly, it would connect once and for all what Ralph Nelson calls the "string of pearls" of the Revolution—the historic sites and battlefields from New England to Virginia that helped forge this nation—and serves as a permanent reminder that if it were not for the French, the United States might very well not exist.

Phyllis McIntosh is a contributing writer based in Silver Spring, Md.
Five questions every woman should ask herself.

- Do I have a signed will to protect my assets as well as my family and friends and is it stored in a safe place?

- Do I have any low-yielding stocks that I could reinvest in a charitable gift annuity or living trust for a better stream of income?

- Did I protect my family from the burden of high estate and income taxes due upon my death?

- Did I make arrangements in my estate plans to preserve the futures of the charitable organizations, like NSDAR, that I supported during my life?

- Did I take advantage of the new NSDAR gift planning program that is free with no obligation?

If you answered “no” to any of the questions above, you may benefit from speaking with a member of the Gift Planning staff in the Office of Development at the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Simply complete the form and mail it to the address listed, or please call 1-800-449-1776 or e-mail giftplanning@dar.org to speak to someone about bequests, gift annuities, trusts or other estate planning tools.

I would like to receive more information about:

- General Estate Planning
- Life Income Gifts (Charitable Gift Annuities, Living Trusts, Pooled Income Funds)
- Wills and Bequests
- Gifts of Life Insurance or Retirement Plans
- Gifts of Personal Property or Real Estate

Name:________________________________________
Street Address:________________________________
City:_________________________ State:_________ Zip:_________
Telephone:______________________ Best Time To Call:____________
E-mail:______________________________________

the Evolution of Scrapbooking

by Maureen Taylor
Tucked away in historical societies, archives and family attics are the forerunners of today’s scrapbooks. More than just a bundle of scraps and paste, these predecessors of the modern-day scrapbook served as a means of personal expression, offering a window into an ancestor’s everyday life, personality and interests. The centuries-old tradition of preserving keepsakes and mementos has never gone out of style, and that emphasis on family history continues to inspire the current billion-dollar scrapbook industry.
BEGINNING IN THE 16TH CENTURY, EDUCATED men and a few women kept albums of quotes, poems and sayings they found memorable. These commonplace books began as a way for an individual to record important items of interest, but pages soon included household memos, recipes and jokes contributed by the whole family. Many families followed the instructions for indexing their newspaper and other clippings in philosopher John Locke's *New Method of Making Commonplace Books*, published in 1706.

These commonplace books appealed to all types of people—even presidents. While in office from 1801 to 1809, Thomas Jefferson filled his books—originally attributed to his granddaughters—with clippings of poems and news of his presidency gleaned from newspapers. In 2002 Jonathan Gross, a professor at DePaul University, went to Monticello to work on a book about Jefferson's interest in Romantic poetry and ended up editing *Thomas Jefferson's Scrapbooks: Poems of Nation, Family or Romantic Love* (Steerforth Press, 2006). In an article on George Mason University's History News Network, Gross admits that he "could not picture the author of the Declaration of Independence with scissors and paste, gluing poems about owls and parrots on the back of his own correspondence." But cut and paste, he apparently did; Jefferson's scrapbooks are filled with hundreds of his favorite poems, many illustrating the president's vision of the new nation and its leadership, as well as his views on family and romantic love.

In 1769, English publisher William Granger printed a history of England, first with illustrations in the appendix and later with clean pages for readers to personalize their copies with letters or drawings. His name became synonymous with the production of "extra-illustrated" volumes. A Grangerized book refers to one with pictures and mementos either added to the blank pages within a volume or to sheets inserted later during rebinding.

Around the turn of the 19th century, brightly colored die-cut paper images known as scraps became available in Germany. The scraps, or ephemera, appeared on package decorations and greeting cards and were meant to be disposable, not collectible. But when children across Europe and in the United States began collecting them, publishers capitalized on the craze by offering sheets of pictures suitable for cutting and pasting. By 1800, publisher Rudolph Ackerman offered new items weekly. Women and children used the scraps not only to fill albums, but also to decorate household items.

The hobby of preserving illustrations, clippings and memorabilia in a book gained a name in 1820 in a magazine called *The Scrapbook*. By the mid-19th century, middle-class families spent leisure time placing "scrap" items in blank paper books now known as scrapbooks. Encouraged by articles in women's magazines, mothers used alphabets of scrap as teaching tools. Illustrations were sold in sets, and children collected pictures and pasted favorite series in their books. Like scrapbooks, visitor or friendship books also gained popularity during the Victorian period. Young women collected hair weavings, autographs and tokens to add to their volumes whenever friends and relatives came to visit.

President Rutherford B. Hayes and Mark Twain were other famous practitioners of the hobby. Twain dedicated Sundays to his scrapbooks, and in 1872 he patented a self-pasting model, eliminating the need for paste. By 1901, at least 57 different types of scrapbooks bore Twain's name. Ready-made scrapbooks could be purchased from local booksellers or ordered from the Montgomery Ward catalog.

**Above**: Thomas Jefferson collected newspaper clippings as well as musings on life, love and philosophy in his scrapbooks. **Below**: Scrapbook aficionado Mark Twain patented a self-pasting model.
Photographs soon joined newsprint and colored scrap in decorating the pages of scrapbooks. Alongside cards advertising soap powder or pictures of African animals, scrapbook compil- ers would add photos of great-grandma and grandpa at the beach, accompanied by a handwritten note or caption. By the time E. W. Gurley published *Scrap-books and How to Make Them* in 1880, scrapbooking was a favorite American pastime. The popularity of George Eastman’s Kodak camera in the 1880s only increased the number of photos found in scrapbooks—and from that point on, the personal camera blurred the boundaries between photo albums and scrapbooks. Members of fraternal societies, schools, clubs and churches collected photographs and newspaper clippings to create bound volumes of the history of their groups.

By the mid-20th century, scrapbooking had declined in popularity. During WWll, “Books Across the Seas,” a book exchange program, briefly revived the hobby. The trade started when a shortage of books led organizers to sponsor a scrapbook exchange between students in the United States and England.

A RESURGENCE OF interest in family history in the 1970s—tied in popular culture to Alex Haley’s *Roots* book and miniseries—revived the public’s enthusiasm for preserving memorabilia. Instead of self-pasting pages, this new generation used magnetic photo albums with self-adhesive pages. At an international genealogy conference in Salt Lake City in 1980, several individuals exhibited their scrapbooks of family history information and material, sparking a new demand for scrapbook-related products.

Today’s scrapbooks are a long way from the simple books kept in the 18th century. Scrapbooks began as merely a way to retain quotes and poems, but they’ve become an international phenomena and a growing billion-dollar industry. Today’s emphasis focuses on elaborate design and expression, not merely the collection of clips, poems or thoughts. Cut and paste is slowly giving way to click and paste as digital scrapbooking programs—with ready-made templates—become easier to use. Though the exquisitely designed 21st century scrapbook pages may differ in appearance from their 18th-century counterparts, the goal remains the same—saving a bit of the past for the future.

Maureen Taylor writes about family history and photography in her blog at www.photodetective.com. Her last article for American Spirit was “Colonial Rites of Passage” for the March/April 2006 issue.
PROTECTING YOUR SCRAPBOOKS

Whether your ancestors created an attic full of scrapbooks like the Scrapbook King, Theodore Ashmead Langstroth II, whose 120 volumes reside at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, or produced only a single volume, their books are likely in poor condition. "Scrapbooks from the late 19th century face preservation issues depending on how the books were put together, the type of glue used and the paper quality of the pages," says Archivist Timothy Salls at the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston.

Wood pulp-based papers that first appeared around 1865 have become brittle due to the acid content of the paper. The papers also yellow because of the natural substance of lignin found in wood pulp. Adhesives used to paste items on the page can deteriorate, causing pieces to fall out or edges to break off. Considering all of the time spent compiling an album, why not take time to ensure that it lasts for multiple generations? By following several simple steps when storing and creating albums, you can slow the rate of decay.

SALVAGING OLD ALBUMS
- Start by placing your scrapbook in an acid- and lignin-free box wrapped in acid- and lignin-free tissue paper to prevent loose pieces from getting lost. You can also place sheets of acid- and lignin-free paper between the pages, though this can sometimes break the binding of the book.
- If there are newspaper clippings in your scrapbook, you should consider photocopying the article onto quality office paper (acid-free, lignin-free, and not recycled) using pigment toner and storing that one in your scrapbook.
- To protect your scrapbooks from damage, store them in a windowless closet in special containers away from water pipes and direct heat. Try to limit the fluctuation of temperature and humidity to extend the life of the albums.
- If your album is seriously damaged, you might want to call a conservator, though such a service is likely to be expensive. Visit the Web site of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (http://aic.stanford.edu) for a free referral service for professionals in your area.

CRAFTING LASTING ALBUMS
The Scrapbook Preservation Society (www.scrapbookpreservationsociety.com) has a wealth of information on appropriate archival materials to use when creating scrapbooks, some of which include:
- Papers: lignin-free, neutral sized, buffered, passes the Photographic Activity Test (PAT), which can predict harmful chemical reactions between scrapbook products and photographs.
- Plastics: PVC free, non-cellulose (acetate or nitrate), preferably polypropylene, polyester or polyethylene, passes PAT
- Adhesives: passes PAT, no latex, rubber
- Inks: pigment, fade-proof, waterproof, bleed-proof, lightfast, passes PAT

FINDING PROPER MATERIALS
The following museum suppliers are good places to start for archivally sound materials:
- Light Impressions in LaBrea, Calif.
  www.lightimpressionsdirect.com; (800) 828-6216
- Hollinger Corporation in Fredericksburg, Va.
  www.hollingercorp.com; (800) 634-0491
- University Products in Holyoke, Mass.
  www.universityproducts.com; (800) 628-1912
Our Founding Fathers dealt with crushing national debt, war, terrorism and high-level corruption. And, surprisingly, one of them openly conveyed the sentiment that high-level corruption wasn't necessarily a bad thing. The fact that they were real, living men with human strengths and failings makes them all the more fascinating.

Their perspectives and stories are especially compelling when conveyed by historian and journalist Richard Brookhiser, author of a new, witty book about our forefathers’ "positions" on modern-day issues, What Would the Founders Do? (Our Questions, Their Answers), published by Basic Books (2006). Brookhiser sheds topical, intriguing and often entertaining light on how our Founding Fathers would confront gender wars, drug enforcement, intelligent design, gun control and other topics. The idea came up as Brookhiser pondered audience questions over the years. "Every time I speak, at least one person asks 'What would Washington do about this?' " he says. "'What would Hamilton do about that?' Well, my wife, Jeanne, told me, 'Rick, this is your next book.' I told her she was brilliant. Otherwise, I never would have come up with the idea."

Brookhiser remains one of the most prolific modern-day historical storytellers. He's a senior editor at the National Review and a political columnist for The New York Observer. He's contributed to publications such as American Heritage, The Atlantic Monthly, The New Yorker, The New York Times, Time and Vanity Fair. In constant demand as a speaker everywhere from the Air Force Academy to Mount Vernon to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Brookhiser has also served as curator for the museum exhibit "Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America," which ran in 2004-2005. He also wrote and hosted the PBS program, "Rediscovering George Washington." His previous books include The Way of the WASP: How It Made America, and How It Can Save It... So to Speak; Founding Father: Rediscovering George Washington; Alexander Hamilton, American; America's First Dynasty. The Adamses 1735-1918; and Gentleman Revolutionary: Gouverneur Morris, The Rake Who Wrote the Constitution.

American Spirit recently spoke with Brookhiser about his interest in the Founding Fathers, and how he was able to imagine their take on today's hot-button political issues, personal finances and even Web logs.

Why did you decide to devote your career to shedding fresh perspectives on the Founding Fathers?

It started with George Washington. I used to admire paintings of him displayed when I was at Yale. John Trumbull served in the American Revolution and became a famous painter. When he died, he gave his paintings to Yale. He specified that he be buried beneath his own portrait of George Washington before the Battle of Princeton. And he is. He's in the basement of the art gallery. I was struck by Trumbull's degree of respect for Washington. It got my attention as a freshman there.

Then, in 1977, I joined the National Review and spent all of my time covering modern politics. I covered the 1980 and 1984 presidential elections and party conventions. My love for the history of the Founding Fathers was asleep at this time, but it never died. In 1989, I wrote an essay for Time about Washington's inauguration, and that served as an awakening of that passion. But I don't regret my time covering modern politics at all. Because I had covered all of that, I could recognize, historically, what a brilliantly made deal was and how a
political stab in the back played out—even if it was happening in the 18th century.

How do you keep your writing engaging and relevant to today's readers, especially the younger generation?

First and foremost, you have to be engaged with your subject. You have to know the Founding Fathers. You have to like them. You have to care about them. If you can't like them entirely, then find something that's admirable about them. I know there are biographers who write about Hitler and Stalin, but I'm not sure I could do that.

As for the MTV generation, remember that many men and women from the early MTV generation are now fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. They can relate to what the Founding Fathers went through. The Revolutionary War was the longest we had fought until Vietnam came along. Many of the Founding Fathers were soldiers. Those who weren't dealt with war directly. And these men had very human qualities. Washington lost most of his battles. He suffered some hard knocks. He took command of a nation, as president, at a time when we were weak and broke. He had to figure out how to fix it. These are inherently interesting stories. That's the essence of making a connection between him and the modern-day audience.

And there are others who are just plain interesting on any level. Look at Alexander Hamilton. Washington didn't know how to fix the nation's financial problems, so he tapped Hamilton as treasury secretary. Hamilton was a brilliant man. He was born a poor immigrant, and he pushed his way up to the top. But, the whole time, he was prey to dubious notions about women that landed him in a sex scandal. Then, he got killed in a duel because of extreme ideas he had about personal honor. That kind of story appeals to any audience, of any generation.

You recently served as curator for a successful and creative Alexander Hamilton exhibit at the New York Historical Society that brought many of these revealing facts to light. What was the most memorable response you received?

The most fabulous reaction was a repeated one. We actually came up with two life-sized statues of Hamilton and Aaron Burr, complete with pistols, re-enacting their famous duel. We placed them as far apart as they were then—10 paces. I noticed that whenever attendees were in between them, they instinctively stepped out of the line of fire. I mean, these were statues! But they moved out of the way. That was fascinating. It demonstrated to me that the whole concept was working.

Will you do another revealing exhibit on another famous Founding Father?

If someone asks me to, sure. It takes a lot of work. But I'm always seeking new ways to bring the past to the present and the present to the past. That's what keeps a historian's work relevant and engaging.

Is there a Founding Father who has been overlooked or hasn't gotten the close review he deserves?

Oh sure. I'd say James Madison for certain. He hasn't had a big book written about him in a long time. I don't know why. He made great contributions as an intellectual. But his political career was complex. He switched back and forth on many positions. His latter career was dominated by the War of 1812 and his own participation in it could be inglorious at times, fleeing from Washington, D.C., before the British burned it. To do him justice as a biographer, you'd have to really get inside his shoes to understand why he did these things. But he deserves that shot. He did not write as many Federalist Papers as Hamilton, but he wrote some pretty important ones. He's also considered the Father of the Constitution. He was there for the Constitution every step of the way.

Channeling the Founding Fathers in modern times, how would they respond to debates over free trade?

As they did in their own lives, they'd have different agendas. Southerners like Jefferson were free trade supporters. Southerners needed to export crops and wanted the cheapest prices on manufactured goods that they weren't making themselves to support their trade. If they had to buy it from somewhere in Europe instead of New England, so be it.

Hamilton saw free trade as stifling to the country. He felt, to grow, we needed to develop our own manufacturing. Because of this, he supported subsidies for infant industries. He never answered the question of when would it stop—when do you stop spoon-feeding the country and allow international markets to open up? And that position divided him from fellow Founding Fathers such as Jefferson.
What about the deficit?
Again, there would be a huge disagreement between Jefferson and Hamilton. Hamilton thought the national debt should be paid off in a regular, responsible manner. Jefferson, however, saw the debt as a millstone around his neck, and he wanted to pay it down quickly. He was approaching that goal, but then expensive things came along, like the Louisiana Purchase.

How would they deal with today’s 24/7 media coverage and nonstop second-guessing about their performances via Internet bloggers and radio commentators?
Some of them would have loved it. They knew the world. They knew how to play the game and what would work best in that environment. Don’t forget that, back then, we had more newspapers per capita than France. And every paper had its own feisty opinions. By golly, they divided up sides and went at it. The Founding Fathers were quite at ease with living in a world full of opinions and being the focus of them.

How about today’s lobbying crisis and general public wariness of corruption?
Well, the funny thing is that, while most of them maintained integrity that could not be challenged, you could always find a contrarian. In this case, Hamilton got himself into a lot of trouble by saying that the British government was so strong precisely because it was so corrupt. He felt that this was the way you made government work. Patriotism was fine. But he felt you needed other rewards—patronage jobs for friends loyal to your goals and for their friends and family—to really motivate them.

Who was the funniest Founding Father?
I’d say Ben Franklin, for obvious reasons, but also Gouverneur Morris, who represented Pennsylvania in the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and wrote a lot of the Constitution. Let’s face it—the Founding Fathers weren’t the funniest guys in the world. They laughed at jokes, but they did not tell a lot of them. Morris was different, however. He married at age 57 to his housekeeper, who was 25 years younger. This bothered his nieces and nephews, who were concerned about inheritance. One niece wrote to him, questioning his decision. He wrote back, saying; “If the world were to live with my wife, I would, of course, have considered its opinion.”

Who’d make the best CEO?
Washington, by far. He ran two start-ups from scratch—the Continental Army and, of course, this nation. With the Continental Army, he was doing everything for the first time and had to figure it all out, even down to where the latrines had to be dug. And, six months later when his men’s enlistment time ran out, he’d have to teach the new men how to do their jobs all over again. And, at Mount Vernon, he ran an agricultural business that had more employees than the federal government.

Who’d be most in demand as a speaker?
Patrick Henry. Oh my gosh, he was good. Once, in speaking about the Stamp Act, he said “Caesar had his Brutus and Charles had his Cromwell and George III …” There were cries of “Treason! Treason!” And, on the spot, he said “And George III may profit by their example. If this be treason, make the most of it.” That is so cool. That’s as good a spontaneous statement as any stand-up comic would come up with.

Who’s the most compelling Colonial woman?
Eliza Powel. She was a society hostess in Philadelphia. She knew everybody, much like a Pamela Harriman (the Washington, D.C., hostess) of her day. Nearing the end of his first term, George Washington was expressing doubt about returning to the White House. All the men around him tried to convince him to stay, but he just wanted to go back to Mount Vernon. But Eliza convinced him to stay. She wrote to him, saying that he was concerned that staying for a second term could lead to things that would hurt his reputation. But she added that if he left, people would say it was because he was protecting his reputation, and that, in itself, would hurt it. That was the knife that exposed the crack that led him to stay. She was a shrewd, smart woman.

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Dennis McCafferty interviewed Ann Fortescue of the Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center for the January/February 2006 issue.
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