Opening up
Meadow Garden
The Home of George Walton

The Hallelujah Trail
Forging a Legacy of Faith and Community

Stories Carved in Stone
Cemetery Iconography as a Genealogy Tool

Repeating Patterns
Wallpaper in Early American Homes

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*Plus $7.98 shipping and service per item. Please allow 4-6 weeks after initial payment for shipment of your bracelet. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

Poem written by Jerry Knoll ©1983 Abbey Press Poem
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© ANNETTE DROWLETTE
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In many towns across the South, church steeples still create the skyline. For more than 200 years, these houses of worship have been the preferred venues for commemorating the milestones of a life—birth, marriage, death. And many of those churches have fascinating stories to tell. The North Alabama Hallelujah Trail celebrates 32 historic churches across the state’s mountain-lakes region, sharing the artistry and architecture of this culturally rich region where many of today’s worshippers still warm the same pews as the generations before them.

Who hasn’t visited the graveyard of an old church and been curious about what some of the gravestone symbols mean? In our feature on cemetery iconography, we explain this often-overlooked tool of genealogy research. Learning to read the symbols and understand the information hidden in cemeteries and graveyards can be a surprisingly useful skill in gathering information about our ancestors’ lives.

Our feature on the history of wallpaper in America was written by Maureen Taylor, whose father was a third-generation paperhanger in a family dynasty that dated back to 1873. Her family’s personal history coincided with the rise of the mass-produced American wallpaper business. Prior to the mechanization of paper production, wallpaper was made manually using woodblocks. Many of the DAR Museum period rooms exhibit beautiful examples of historically appropriate wallpaper, recreated using the traditional woodblock printing method.

Our Historic Homes department visits Augusta, Georgia’s Meadow Garden. Home to Patriot George Walton, the youngest signer of the Declaration of Independence, the mid-18th-century white clapboard house is now owned and managed by the Georgia State Society. Further down the Savannah River from Augusta lies Savannah, the setting for our Spirited Adventures story. Steeped in Revolutionary and Civil war history, the 275-year-old city takes seriously the important task of preserving its history.

As we prepare for the busy holiday season, many of you are probably compiling your annual greeting card list. Nothing you receive in the mail is quite as nice as a handmade card with a personal note, but the thought of making one can be intimidating. Our Crafts department offers quick and easy tips for making your own holiday cards to share with family and friends this year.

In honor of Veterans Day, we expanded our Today’s Daughters department to salute four of our members who contributed to the WWII cause: Doris Alberts, Evelyn Parker Clark, Florriedeen Wakenight Lyle and Katharine Phillips Singer. Thanks to them and to the millions of other women who made sacrifices for our freedom.

Linda Gist Calvin
Among the 6 million women who entered the workforce during World War II was Evelyn Parker Clark. Shortly after graduation from college in 1944, she and three of her friends arrived at their new home—a dormitory within the closed walls of Oak Ridge, Tenn., a base for the Manhattan Project. Assigned to the Y-12 National Security Complex, Mrs. Clark served as an inspector, working directly with the uranium that would eventually be used to make the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Of course, she didn’t know that at the time.

“Ninety-nine percent of the people working in Oak Ridge did not know the purpose of our work, but we knew it was important and that there was a war to be won,” says Mrs. Clark, who is a member of the General William Lee Davidson Chapter, Nashville, Tenn.

For many of the American women who either entered the workforce during WWII or switched jobs to support the war efforts, their reasons were much the same—they knew their wartime contributions, no matter how large or small, would help the United States prevail.

Evelyn Parker Clark
OAK RIDGE INSPECTOR
As Inspector A, Mrs. Clark’s duty was to place a charged bottle of uranium hexafluoride into a magnetic field to separate the nuclear fuel needed to power an atomic bomb (U-235) from the natural uranium (U-238). It took about 36 hours to complete the process. The necessary material was then weighed and sent on its way—where she did not know. “We later learned that it was sent to Los Alamos, N.M., in a briefcase locked to a courier’s wrist,” she says.

When Mrs. Clark’s shift ended, she was required to remove her clothing and shower. “I wore a white turban, white shirt, long white pants, safety shoes, gloves and safety goggles,” she recalls. She underwent regular tests to check for side effects. “No one really knew the danger of being exposed to radiation at that time,” says Mrs. Clark, a two-time cancer survivor who received compensation from the federal government for exposure to radiation and her subsequent cancers.

Mrs. Clark met her husband, Glynn, while living in Oak Ridge. After the war, they moved so Mr. Clark could pursue a graduate degree and start his career at an oil company. The Clarks had two daughters and moved around the country before retiring to Tennessee.

Katharine Phillips Singer
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER
If you’ve seen “The War,” the documentary by Ken Burns, then you probably are already familiar with Katharine Phillips Singer, who was featured in the film talking about life during WWII in her hometown of Mobile, Ala.

Mrs. Singer was a student at Auburn University when war broke out. After graduation, she returned home and did her part to support the country—and her younger brother, Sidney, who enlisted in the Marines in 1941. She worked at a church day care facility, caring for children whose mothers were working in Mobile’s shipyards. She also volunteered for the Red Cross.

After the war, Mrs. Singer worked as an airline stewardess with Waterman Steamship Company Airlines. While working there, she met her late husband,
Harvey Singer, a pilot for the airline who had also been a Navy pilot during the war. In 1946, Mrs. Singer flew on Waterman missions to Europe to bring home volunteers working with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, which provided assistance to Europeans displaced by the war.

“I wish every American could have seen the destruction that I saw in Europe,” she says. “This is the reason our veterans have always been my heroes. They went over there and protected us from that devastation. I came home a much better American because of it.”

She joined the DAR in the 1960s as a member of the Needham Bryan Chapter, Mobile, Ala. These days, you’ll find Mrs. Singer managing The Two Antiques, an antique linen store she owns with Sidney.

Doris Alberts
NURSE TO THE WOUNDED

The Cadet Nurse Corps was formed in 1944, and Doris Alberts wasted no time joining. But, Ms. Alberts recalls, her father refused to pay for the training because he disapproved of the way he saw nurses behave when he served during World War I. Determined to contribute to the war effort, she paid for the three-year training herself.

In 1945, Ms. Alberts was sent to O’Reilly General Army Hospital in Springfield, Mo. “I was assigned to the paraplegic ward,” she says. “Here were boys, some just 18 years old. I was so impressed by the way they handled their situations. They made me realize that each person could have something happen to them that could destroy their lives—but only if they let it.”

Ms. Alberts also recalls a soldier who arrived at the hospital with terrible burns after being shot down in his B-17. “He wouldn’t let his wife come to see him,” she says. “He asked me what I thought. I was 20 years old; what did I know? So I asked him if he had thought about how his wife must feel. Two days later, I found out that he finally let his wife visit. That’s something I’ll never forget about my time there.”

After the war, Ms. Alberts returned to school and eventually received a doctorate degree in English literature. But medicine called her back. She trained as a nurse anesthetist at Washington University in St. Louis and worked there until her retirement in 1995. Today, Ms. Alberts stays busy with the Belleville Chapter, Belleville, Ill. She helps with the ongoing project of indexing her chapter’s yearbooks, which are available for genealogical research at the public library. “There’s a lot of rich, historical material in them, and our goal is to make that material useful,” she says.

Florriedeen Wakenight Lyle
TEACHER TO THE IMPRISONED

Florriedeen Wakenight Lyle had been teaching for six years as a public school teacher in Searcy, Ark., when she saw the job posting: Teachers were needed at the Japanese-American Relocation Center located in Jerome, Ark., about three hours from her hometown. She jumped at the opportunity.

“My students were from Hawaii, and they were the most patriotic children I had ever met,” she recalls. “They knew all about the Army, Navy and Marines, and they knew all the typical patriotic songs and wanted to sing them.”

After three years, Mrs. Lyle, with her late husband, Thomas, moved to Phoenix, Ariz., for a public relations job at the Gila River War Relocation Center, another internment camp for Japanese-Americans.

After the war, the couple settled in Benton, Ark., and had a daughter, Linnie. Today, Linnie lives with Mrs. Lyle in Benton and they’re both members of the Provisiona De La Sal Chapter. This July, Mrs. Lyle thought her daughter was taking her to lunch, but when they arrived at the restaurant, the entire chapter was there for her surprise 95th birthday party. “I was so surprised I didn’t know what to do,” she says. “The DAR has been so wonderful to me.”

Every Veterans Day the chapter hosts a memorial service at the Benton courthouse, and each year at 11 a.m., Mrs. Lyle rings an old school bell—the same bell she rang at the same time on November 11, 1918, when word reached Arkansas that WWI had ended.

Some text contributed by Evelyn Parker Clark and Elizabeth Thigpen.

To nominate a Daughter for a future issue, e-mail a description to americanspirit@dar.org.
{National Treasures}

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

Originally belonging to Captain Christopher Marshall of Revolutionary War fame, this mahogany and white pine desk was made in Boston between 1765 and 1790. The desk was expensive not only because the materials were imported, but also because the designer needed a lot of mahogany to fashion the shaped or “block front” drawer fronts.

Though today known as a fall-front desk, such an object might have been called a bureau desk or simply a desk in the 18th century. In an era before safe-deposit boxes, the numerous small and large drawers and lockable spaces provided a secure place in which to store valuables. Since privacy in an early American home could be hard to come by, these kinds of desks provided a confidential place in which to store personal possessions.

The desk was a gift to the DAR Museum from Mrs. Robert H. Davis.
Create Your Legacy

“... to become an effective philanthropist you do not require wealth, but the desire to make a difference.”  BEA DALTON, MEMBER, DAR

“... It is possible to include my favorite organization in my estate plans while still providing for my family and friends.”  VIRGINIA LINGELBACH, MEMBER, DAR

“Why wait to make a difference when you can do it today?”  PATRICIA HOLVICK, MEMBER, DAR

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Return this completed form to: NSDAR, Office of Development, 1776 D Street NW, Washington D.C. 20006-5303
When Renée Semik signed up to teach a summer session of American history at Santa Monica High School in Santa Monica, Calif., last year, she knew the task ahead of her would be difficult. Most of the students enrolled in the class had already failed the course once—and many made it clear that they would rather be anywhere than a classroom during their summer vacation.

Getting her students excited about history seemed impossible, so she ditched the traditional textbook curriculum for a more hands-on approach and signed her summer students up for the Veterans History Project.

Sponsored by the Veterans of Los Angeles and the local public television station, the Veterans History Project offered a new twist on American history for Semik’s students, who invited World War II veterans into their classroom to interview them about their war experiences. The interviews were recorded and are now part of the National Archives.

To prepare, Semik and volunteers from Veterans Affairs coached the students on how to conduct an interview and what questions to ask.

“I was blown away by their commitment and enthusiasm,” she says. “The students I couldn’t even get excited and engaged earlier in the quarter were leading interviews and were really interested in the veterans’ stories. I was impressed by what they brought to the table.”

Among the veterans the students interviewed were a black soldier who spoke about segregation in the armed forces, a female pilot who worked on planes during WWII and a Coast Guard veteran who served in Alaska.

“Listening to someone who lived through World War II and the small part they played in that major event made history real,” Semik says. “Every student said the experience was something they won’t soon forget, and they recommended that my other classes participate in this program, too.”

Whether during the school year or the summer session, Semik tries to help her students realize the important roles they can play in their communities.

“We look at how far we’ve come and the fact that we’re still learning, growing and trying to perfect the principles of freedom and justice for all,” Semik says. “Our nation has progressed, and I want my students to see how they can progress, too. We talk about uncomfortable things like discrimination, prejudice, sexism, racism and the roots of division among our people. When they see themselves as democratic citizens, they start to realize the weight they carry, and they become more active citizens.”

Semik says her enthusiasm for history trickles down to her students, as evidenced by their growing commitment to the world around them. Every year, her freshman seminar students complete a project with a community organization of their choice. “They volunteer their time, log their service hours and then come up with a plan to raise awareness for that organization and its goals,” she says. “They do everything from Heal the Bay, where they help clean up beaches, to boosting campus recycling.”

She recalls one project done by a formerly homeless student who returned to a shelter to help counsel homeless families and children. “She was so brave to share that story with her classmates,” Semik says. “It was so personal that we all really connected.”

Semik believes community involvement is an important part of shaping our own history. “Everything we do connects to our past,” she says. “That’s why I’m so devoted to getting these students involved in the community. I love seeing them mature, and I work hard to be a part of their growth.”

“We look at how far we’ve come and the fact that we’re still learning, growing and trying to perfect the principles of freedom and justice for all.” – Renée Semik
A TEXAS-SIZED 'OOPS'

We had several readers point out that, contrary to our implication in the September/October 2008 Whatnot article, “Remembering the Alamo,” Texans did not win their revolution at the Alamo. Victory didn’t occur until several weeks later, which our too-hasty edit neglected to point out. As Nancy Shatto Murray, Regent of the Captain William Young Chapter, Longview, Texas, says, “The Alamo was a dark period in both our Texas and American histories. It cannot be remembered as another victory, rather as the defeat that inspired our ultimate victory.”

A letter from Mary Miller Arnold, Austin Colony Chapter, Austin, Texas, clarified the story even further: “What happened at the Alamo ultimately did play a strong role in securing Texas’ independence by invigorating Texans to join in the fight with the cry, ‘Remember the Alamo!’ With the Alamo defenses destroyed, Santa Anna’s army left the town in search of General Sam Houston and his army and were finally defeated by the Texans in the Battle of San Jacinto the following month.”

NEW FACETS TO THE FIRST

American Spirit is an absolute treasure! The illustrations and artwork are beautiful, and every article is informative and interesting. I enjoyed “Washington’s Whiskey” by Bill Hudgins in the May/June 2008 issue. There is always something more to learn about our first president. Thank you, and best wishes to your staff for another successful year.

Linda Shedd
Melzingah Chapter
Beacon, N.Y.

THIS CRADLE ROCKS

As a descendant of William and Susanna White through their oldest son, Resolved, I enjoyed the May/June article “Childbirth in Colonial America” by Nancy Mann Jackson. The Pilgrim Hall Museum has an excellent photo of the Peregrine White cradle, which, according to tradition, was brought onboard the Mayflower by the Whites in anticipation of their child’s birth. Visit www.pilgrimhall.org and click on “Collections” and “Cradles.” In “17th Century Personal Effects,” you can also find a picture of the writing cabinet reportedly owned by William White.

Leslie J. Steuben
La Puerta de Oro-San Francisco Chapter
San Francisco, Calif.

Please send letters to the editor to americanspirit@dar.org.
Holiday Book Guide

With the holiday season just around the corner, you might be running out of time to find the perfect gift for the history lovers on your list. Not sure where to start? Here are *American Spirit*’s picks for books any history fans would love.

**America’s Hidden History**
Untold Stories of the First Pilgrims, Fighting Women, and Forgotten Founders Who Shaped a Nation
By Kenneth C. Davis
Covering the Spanish arrival in America to the inauguration of our first president in 1789, *America’s Hidden History* (Harper Collins, 2008) offers little-known facts and profiles of important people in America’s past. For example, did you know the first real pilgrims in America were wine-making French Protestants? Or that the first statue of a woman erected in America was of a housewife? Presenting the tales you won’t find in most history books, Davis gives readers a new look at America’s Colonial and Revolutionary past.

Cost: $27
Buy: www.harpercollins.com

**Historic Photos of Alaska**
By Dermot Cole
Considered the last frontier of America, Alaska’s unique people, vast wildlife and captivating landscapes have long fascinated Americans. Dermot Cole’s *Historic Photos of Alaska* (Turner Publishing, 2008) spans our 49th state’s history, presenting a glimpse at the process of building the Last Frontier State. The pictorial history book follows Alaska from its land purchase from Russia in 1867 until its statehood in 1959. The large-format black-and-white photos highlight Alaska’s stark beauty, and the text reminds readers about the important role the state plays in our nation’s story.

Cost: $40
Buy: www.amazon.com

**A Living Treasure**
Seasonal Photographs of Arlington National Cemetery
By Robert C. Knudsen
When standing in Arlington National Cemetery, one is humbled by the sacrifice of the thousands who have gone before us to protect our freedom. Through beautiful photography, Robert C. Knudsen’s book captures the quiet beauty of the cemetery throughout all seasons. Featuring images of the marble headstones, ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and more, *A Living Treasure* also details the history of this sacred American monument.

Cost: $24
Buy: www.potomacbooksinc.com

**The World Cruise of the Great White Fleet**
Honoring 100 Years of Global Partnerships and Security
By Michael J. Crawford
An advocate of naval strength, President Theodore Roosevelt ordered 16 battleships of the United States’ Battle Fleet to embark on a 14-month peacetime navigation of the globe from December 16, 1907, through February 22, 1909. Known as the Great White Fleet, the squadron was manned by 14,000 sailors and sailed to rendezvous points all over the world. *The Great White Fleet* (Defense Dept., Navy, Naval Historical Center, 2008) celebrates the centennial anniversary of this historic feat by providing an overview of the cruise’s historical accomplishments, as well as detailed accounts of the participants’ experiences.

Cost: $46
Buy: http://bookstore.gpo.gov
A QUAIN'T SEASIDE TOWN, Cape May, N.J., boasts some of the finest Victorian architecture on America's East Coast. This December, the city will offer a variety of holiday-themed events to get you in the Christmas spirit. Take a self-guided tour through Cape May's historic Victorian homes, hotels, inns and churches at the 34th annual Christmas Candlelight House Tour. The tour includes warm drinks and baked goods, Christmas caroling, trees, garland—and a hefty dose of holiday cheer. Tours will be held December 6, 13 and 27. Tickets can be purchased for $25 for adults and $20 for kids.

For a look at holiday customs from years past, don't miss the Carriage House Gallery's exhibit, "An Old-Fashioned Christmas: Holiday Traditions Through the Years." Perfect for kids, the gallery will showcase vintage santas, model trains, trees and toys. Admission to the gallery is $2 per person. The exhibit will run from November 21 through January 4, 2009.

Love eating your way through the holidays? Satisfy your palate at the Holiday Chefs' Dine-Around, a five-course gourmet meal, with each course served at a different restaurant in Cape May. A shuttle will provide transportation to each destination, and a representative from a local winery will be on hand to explain the wine pairings with each course. Make reservations early as this event fills up quickly. Tickets cost $125 per person.

To purchase tickets to any of these events, call (609) 884-5404. For more information about Cape May, visit www.capemaymac.org/christmas.html.

2009 CONSTITUTIONAL ACADEMY
Where talented high school students learn about our American heritage

If learning about our American heritage is important to you and your family, encourage your high school-aged child or grandchild to apply to the Bill of Rights Institute's 2009 Constitutional Academy. Academy participants will:

› Read and engage in online discussions about the writings of America's Founders.
› Spend a week visiting historic sites in and around Washington, D.C.
› Discuss the American Founding and current issues with college professors and award-winning teachers.
› Work with historic documents at the National Archives.
› Build new friendships with peers from across the nation who share their interest in American history and government.
› Earn three college credits at no additional cost.

For 2009 dates, selection criteria and application, visit www.BillofRightsInstitute.org/DAR1
At Your Fingertips

IMAGINE having the ability to read firsthand accounts of news stories written during revolutionary moments in American history—without having to pore through a stack of history books. Thanks to ProQuest, an organization that digitizes newspapers in order to preserve important historical news stories, you can read firsthand accounts from the *New York Tribune* of Americans’ feelings and opinions during major conflicts like the Civil War and newsworthy events like the Women’s Rights Movement and the completion of the Panama Canal.

An influential newspaper in the 18th and 19th centuries, the *Tribune* features writings from some of the 19th century’s most forward-thinking writers—and now more than 80 years of its articles will be available via the Internet. The *Tribune*’s archives will be included with ProQuest Historical Newspapers, a database that contains 19 million pages of historically significant titles dating back to 1764.

+ For more information, visit www.proquest.com.

A Miller’s Tale

LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER of Historic Places, the Stony Brook Grist Mill in Long Island, N.Y., is the island’s most equipped working mill of its kind. In the 19th century, the Grist Mill was an important hub for social growth and community involvement, as people shared news and gossip while waiting for the miller to grind their grain. The Stony Brook Mill was in operation as late as the 1940s, and it was purchased in 1947 by philanthropist Ward Melville, who deeded the property to the Ward Melville Heritage Organization (WMHO).

Today, the WMHO uses the mill to honor the historical importance of the Stony Brook community. Each year, thousands of students attend the hands-on education programs in historic Stony Brook. The field trips include a range of learning opportunities such as spending a day as a Colonial child, a demonstration of the water-powered Grist Mill and an ecology lesson at the Wetlands Preserve. Recently, special artisans called "stone dressers" sharpened the millstones using carbide steel mill picks that honed the crevices of stone that grind wheat into flour—a process that was used to keep grist mills running properly during the American Revolution.

+ For more information about the Stony Brook Grist Mill or to schedule a visit, call (631) 751–2244 or visit www.wmho.org/WMHOGristMill.asp.

Winter Retreat

Looking to get away this winter? Instead of seeking the comfort of a warmer climate, try a getaway to Jackson Hole, Wyo. Popular for its skiing, snowmobiling, ice-skating and backcountry hiking, Jackson Hole attracts winter sports enthusiasts and nature buffs alike.

Set against the backdrop of the towering Teton Mountains, Jackson Hole is located a short distance from both Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. The scenery in these areas was first described by John Colter, a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition, in 1807. Colter’s description of the mountains, geysers, bubbling mudpots and steaming pools of water in this part of Wyoming were thought to be fictional by some of his contemporaries.

Today, Jackson Hole’s 2,500 acres attract visitors of all types. If an afternoon on the slopes isn’t your thing, travel to the nearby parks, and spend the afternoon surrounded by stunning scenery. Most of Grand Teton’s and Yellowstone’s roads are closed to wheeled vehicles until spring, but the National Park Service offers park ranger-led tours in both parks year-round.

+ For more information on Jackson Hole, visit www.jacksonhole.com or call (888) DEEP–SNO. To find out more about Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park, visit www.nps.gov.
Thomas Jefferson’s Library
Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., ongoing

An avid reader and book collector, Thomas Jefferson amassed thousands of books for his personal library during his lifetime. After losing most of his library to a fire in 1770, Jefferson sold his extensive book collection to Congress for $23,950, and it recreated the library. Visitors can explore Jefferson’s book collection, ordered by his original organization methods, which divided the books into categories of “Memory,” “Reason” and “Imagination.” Included in the display are 2,000 survivors of Jefferson’s original collection. For more information, visit myloc.gov/Exhibitions/jeffersonslibrary.

Quilted Fashions
DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum, Williamsburg, Va., through September 6, 2010

Showcasing 200 years of pre-1800 quilted textiles made in America, Great Britain, India and other countries, this exhibit displays examples of bed coverings, apparel and accessories from Colonial Williamsburg’s permanent collection. The exhibit includes rare items such as an 18th-century pieced bed quilt fragment and a quilted petticoat made by a Connecticut woman in 1750. For more information, visit http://www.history.org/conted/.

Team Players: Triumph and Tribulation on the Campaign Trail
The National First Ladies Library, Canton, Ohio, through November 21

While first ladies once limited their political involvement to attending small social gatherings, today they perform a balancing act of leading and entertaining to help sway American voters. To explore the evolution of the first lady’s role in her husband’s road to the presidency, this exhibit examines the remarkable lives of successful first ladies like Dolley Madison, Mary Lincoln, Jacqueline Kennedy and more.

For more information, visit www.firstladies.org.

Wallpaper
Test your knowledge of this design method and then turn to page 38 to learn more.

1. Where does the earliest known sample of wallpaper come from?
2. Who is considered the modern inventor of wallpaper?
3. When did Americans start manufacturing wallpaper?
4. What kind of wallpaper was popular in Colonial homes?

Answers on page 14.
The history of the Arkansas Post Chapter, De Witt, Ark., dates back to 1683, when the site was a fur trading post settled by the French. It was during the Spanish regime (1765–1800) that Arkansas Post was involved in the American Revolution. On April 17, 1783, British Captain James Colbert, along with 100 Englishmen and several Chickasaw Indians, attacked Arkansas Post, taking several captives. The Spanish, being allies of the new nation, rallied their troops to defeat the British. By noon Colbert and his men were fleeing back down the Arkansas River, in what was probably one of the last battles of the American Revolution. Colbert incident was only one of two battles fought west of the Mississippi River. Today Arkansas Post is a national memorial.

The namesake of the Mary Slocumb Chapter, Mooresville, N.C., is the heroine who dreamed her husband was wounded, arose in the middle of the night and traveled 30 miles to arrive at daylight at the Battle of Moores Creek. On that cold February day in 1776, she remained at the battle scene cleaning and dressing the soldiers’ wounds. Her husband was bloodied but alive. He had been in the company that had chased the enemy across the creek and helped the North Carolina Patriots win the battle. The following evening, she again mounted her horse and rode alone through the night to return to her home and baby.

Does your chapter name have an unusual story behind it?

E-mail a description to americanspirit@dar.org.

The St. Leger Cowley Chapter, Lincoln, Neb., was named for an ancestor of former Nebraska State Regent Mrs. Oreal Ward. St. Leger Cowley was born in Dublin, Ireland, and settled on the west bank of the Delaware River with his family after moving from Albany, N.Y. St. Leger’s journal reveals that while traveling the Hudson River in Westchester County, N.Y., as a peddler in 1771–1772, his wares included spectacles, scissors, flowered handkerchiefs, thread, ribbons, calico, taffeta and silver buckles. Folklore holds that St. Leger’s wife, Mary Cowley, once rescued her husband, a Whig, from a dispute with a Tory involving a pair of breeches. She seized the pants and brandished a wooden poker at the intruder.

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

The earliest known sample of wallpaper was found in England and was printed on the back of a London proclamation in 1509. Jean-Michel Papillon of France is widely considered the modern inventor of wallpaper, and he was the first to design repeating patterns on wallpaper. In the mid-18th century, the American Colonies started manufacturing wallpaper. Many Colonial homes displayed pictorial wallpaper designs, which often had a tropical theme.
The Bookshelf

Geography class has never been as fun as in this history of how our United States were shaped.

Piecing Together the Puzzle

Author Mark Stein’s How the States Got Their Shapes (Smithsonian, 2006), answers questions I’ve pondered since the summer of 1962 when my family traveled cross-country—from Georgia to California—in a 1959 red-and-white Ford Galaxy. It was the summer between my second and third grades, and I sat miserably in the backseat (on the hump) between my two older brothers, serving as the demilitarized zone between their cross fire of boredom-induced punching. Tired of being peppered with my ceaseless chorus of “When do we get there?” my mother handed me a Gulf Oil highway map and gave me a five-minute lesson on navigation.

As our trip progressed, I became obsessed with trying, from memory, to sketch out my own version of a U.S. map. By week three, we had looped back toward home, and I had mastered all but the most complex lines that separate several northeastern states. I’ve never found an actual use for my deeply hidden talent, but the shapes of states continue to be doodling inspiration whenever I get caught on a long conference call.

Fortunately, Mark Stein saw the shapes of states as something more than doodle material. In them, he saw an aspect of American history that both fascinates and also helps reveal how the United States is a result of complex and remarkable compromise, common sense and, at times, bloody conflict.

The official entrance is the legal threshold to a state. But its hidden entrance beckons us to the past. Here at the state line we can come in contact with struggles long forgotten.

The boundaries of states can beckon us to present struggles as well. For instance, take Georgia’s northern border. For more than a century, from 1710–1811, bloody skirmishes occurred over Georgia’s border with North Carolina. Due to a mistaken survey, Georgia had been granted a 12-mile strip of land below the 35th parallel—the intended border. In 1811, Congress corrected the mistake and returned the strip to North Carolina, setting off another round of conflicts.

Today, the 35th parallel is still a line of contention for Georgia. The state claims a mistake in the border survey farther west, near Chattanooga, Tenn., placed its northern boundary a few miles too far south. For two centuries, the boundary went uncontested until several years of drought in areas supplying water to Atlanta caused Georgia lawmakers to set up a commission to study how the state could reclaim what today would be half the city of Chattanooga and—more importantly—a short stretch of access to the Tennessee River that could help quench the thirst, and water the lawns, of Atlanta residents. The states could end up in court over the dispute, but experts suggest there is little chance that Georgia will win.

While the book is filled with fascinating facts, Stein’s wit helps liven up geography and history for young and older readers alike. Each state chapter opens with a state map illustration and a variety of humorous questions like these for West Virginia: “Why does West Virginia have that skinny little part crawling up the side of Pennsylvania? Why does it have that other weird thing coming up underneath Maryland? Wouldn’t it be better if that western triangle of Maryland were part of West Virginia? And how come there isn’t an East Virginia?”

Questions like these provide the opportunity to discover how the puzzle of America was pieced together. And who knows? Maybe it will also inspire some young readers to grow more curious, and knowledgeable, about why their state’s shape looks the way it does.

—HARVEY KING

American Spirit • November/December 2008

PATRIOTIC PUPS

*A book for young patriots celebrating our great nation’s birth!

www.patrioticpups.NET
SAVANNAH rests at the mouth of the Savannah River, which forms the border between Georgia and South Carolina. The city enjoys an enviable geography, situated 30 miles from Hilton Head, S.C., and 100 miles from Charleston, S.C. Nature provides a scenic coastline in this city of live oaks dripping with Spanish moss and fertile ground. Early settlers helped provide a history that Savannahians have worked to protect and celebrate for generations.

In 1733, General James Oglethorpe and the passengers on board the ship Anne arrived in what would become the first city in the 13th Colony. Oglethorpe named this Colony Georgia for King George II, and Savannah served as its coastal ambassador. Oglethorpe envisioned the state’s first city as a series of public squares and parks with multiple gathering spots and markets. The grid that formed Savannah proper made up one of America’s first planned cities. Of the 24 original squares, 21 still exist today.

In 1778, fewer than 50 years after its founding, Savannah was captured by the British. After several failed attempts at recovery, the city ultimately regained independence.

Plantations and slavery led to economic prosperity in neighboring South Carolina, and Georgia followed suit, legalizing slavery and opening the door for an influx of slaves. Cotton was king throughout the area and quickly built Savannah’s economic base.

African-Americans were an instrumental part of Savannah’s growth, and their early influence is still evident. Despite its financial prosperity, Savannah’s early years weren’t without tragedy. In 1796 and 1820, two fires destroyed large parts of the city. Also in 1820, yellow fever killed 10 percent of the city’s population. Damaging storms and hurricanes also hit Savannah, but the resilient city always seemed to recover quickly.

During the Civil War, Union General William Tecumseh Sherman set fire to Atlanta and every plantation and town that led to the Georgia coast. When he entered Savannah in December 1864, however, seeing the tree-lined streets and the charm of the city, his “march to the sea” ended. The city’s beauty, he decided, could not be destroyed.

History By Design

Oglethorpe’s original design is still very much intact, with squares and wide streets beckoning visitors. Highly anticipated is the completion of the Ellis Square Project, a major restoration of one of the city’s oldest squares.

To capture a sense of the diversity in the city’s architecture, Savannah is divided into historic districts, each with its own distinct style and history. Some highlights are:

- **Historic Landmark District**, with Greek Revival, Italianate and Regency-style homes
- **Victorian Historic District**
- **Thomas Square Streetcar Historic District**
- **Cuyler/Brownsville Historic District**, among the oldest of African-American neighborhoods in Savannah
- **Ardsley Park/Chatham Crescent Historic District**, a 20th-century version of Oglethorpe’s plan
- **Daffin Park/Parkside Historic District**, an example of early 20th-century “automobile suburb”
- **Gordonston Historic District**

Treasured Structures

Sherman should be credited to some degree with saving Savannah and leaving behind one of the country’s oldest and most treasured collections of residential and commercial architecture. The city ranks as the nation’s largest landmark historic district, with more than 1,600 historic and architecturally significant structures.

In the 1950s, a group of citizens formed the Historic Savannah Foundation (HSF) in an effort to save threatened historic structures and preserve the city’s architecture. The HSF continues that work today through education and community involvement. Among its annual events is its recogni-
Clockwise from top left: The Owens-Thomas House • The vibrant River Street • Detail of a home’s intricate ironwork • A mansion in Savannah’s landmark historic district • Forsyth Park fountain • The Mercer House, made famous by *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* • Bonaventure Cemetery • Stained glass in the circa-1788 First African Baptist Church
tion of the Georgia Day Celebration. Activities include town meetings, parades and visits from costumed Colonial characters. The Savannah College of Art and Design is also a leader in the city’s historic preservation, reusing a variety of historical structures as classrooms, studios, computer labs and more.

Throughout Savannah are some of the state’s and country’s most treasured sites. Among them is the 1754 Pirates House, originally a famous Savannah restaurant. Pirates who sailed the Caribbean gathered at this tavern that inspired Robert Louis Stevenson’s Treasure Island. The 1734 Herb House stands as the oldest building in Georgia, and the 1789 Pink House is the site of Georgia’s first bank. The birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of America, was built in 1821 and now serves as the GSA headquarters. Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences was built as a mansion in 1812 and is noted as being the country’s first public art museum. The Owens-Thomas House provides a unique example of English Regency architecture.

Savannah also has numerous historic churches that have been restored. Among them: Lutheran Church of the Ascension, established in 1741; First African Baptist Church, established in 1788 and recognized as the nation’s oldest historically black Baptist church; Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, established in 1876; Independent Presbyterian Church, established in 1890; and Temple Mickve Israel, the third-oldest synagogue in America.

Savannah icons have been featured on book covers and movie screens. Statues like the Bird Girl, Lion Fountain, Waving Girl and others each tell a story symbolizing Savannah history. The Waving Girl, for instance, honors Florence Martus, who was known to wave “hello” and “good-bye” to incoming and outgoing ships near the Savannah harbor, where her brother operated a lighthouse.

Seeing all of Savannah is made easier with the help of more than 40 tour operators who guide visitors on walking lantern tours, horse and carriage rides, trolleys and more. A free shuttle is available to guests traveling between downtown hotels and many historic sites throughout the city.

Amy Cates explored Houston for the September/October 2008 issue.

Hot Dining Spots

Savannah’s inventory of restaurants is varied and famous. While in Savannah, take advantage of the region’s hospitality at some of the city’s most famous eateries, such as: The Lady & Sons (owned by celebrity restaurateur Paula Deen), 17Hundred90 (in operation for more than 100 years), Mrs. Wilkes’ Dining Room (traditional Southern fare served family style), and The Cotton Exchange Tavern on River Street (housed in a 1790s cotton warehouse that opens onto the riverfront).

Every family's story is unique. Find yours.

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FamilyHistoryExperts

Proposed Christmas morning.

Said yes.
{Crafts}
Handmade For the Holidays

The annual tradition of sending Christmas cards can be traced back to the 1840s when Englishman Henry Cole was simply too busy to write a personal greeting to everyone he knew. Instead, he hired a local artist to design a single card he could send to friends and family alike. Fast forward to 2008, and Hallmark estimates that 2.2 billion cards full of holiday cheer will travel from one home to another.

But the card you mail out this year doesn’t have to be the same boxed, store-bought card that your neighbor may be sending. Use the pattern and instructions here to help you create a beautiful, one-of-a-kind handmade card that is sure to stand out from the rest. The folks on your card list will not only appreciate the seasonal sentiment, they’ll also know you cared enough to put a bit of extra time and attention into the cards you are sending.

Text and Photography by Summer Huggins
Step-by-Step Instructions for DO-IT-YOURSELF Holiday Cards

[ INSTRUCTIONS ]

[1] Cut card base (a) from 8 ½” x 11” piece of card stock. When cut in half, one piece of card stock will create two card bases. Fold in half to create 4 ¼” x 5 ½” card base.

[2] Adhere patterned card stock (b) to card base. When centered, there will be a ¼” frame around the edge.

[3] Embellish top layer (d) with stamps, stickers or diecuts. Place embellishment a little to the top of center to leave room for ribbon.

[4] Adhere embellished layer (d) to darkest layer of card stock (c). This creates the centerpiece of your card.

[5] Cut two pieces of ribbon, both a bit wider than your centerpiece. (Cutting at an angle rather than straight across will keep the ribbon from fraying and add an artistic touch.) Wrap one piece around centerpiece and tape to the back. Use second piece to create a simple knot on the front.

[6] Adhere centerpiece to patterned paper on card base. The centerpiece can be adhered in the middle, toward the top or at an angle to add variety.
SUPPLY LIST

- Four pieces of coordinating acid-free card stock:
  [a] 8 ½" x 5 ½" solid piece for card base, will be folded in half
  [b] 4" x 5 ¼" patterned or a coordinating color
  [c] 3 ¾" x 2 ¾" darkest center piece
  [d] 3 ½" x 2 ½" top layer, for embellishing with stamps, diecuts or stickers. Should be the lightest of your card stock.

- Ribbon
- Acid-free adhesive
- Clear tape
- Scissors
- Paper trimmer
- Rubber stamps, diecuts or stickers for embellishing
- Envelopes (A card this size will fit perfectly into A2 invitation envelopes, available at any office supply store.)
Hallelujah Trail

North Alabama’s Historic Trail Forges a Legacy of Faith and Community

By Nancy Mann Jackson
Photography by Sheri O’Neal
As the frontier opened up after the Revolutionary War and thousands of people moved into what had been trackless wilderness, religious life suffered. Not only were there few houses of worship, but there were even fewer ministers to fill pulpits. Pioneers responded by developing the camp meeting, a multi-day religious gathering of tents or cabins hosting a number of traveling preachers, advertised by word of mouth and attended by frontier families from miles around.
In Alabama, which was the new frontier during the 1820s and 1830s, some of the state’s oldest churches originated as camp meeting sites in the early 19th century. For instance, in 1818, Adam Hodgson wrote in his Letters from North America of a trip through Cambridge, Ala., where he was told that a group of 4,000 had gathered for a camp meeting the week before his visit. That year, this longtime camp meeting site was established as the Cambridge United Methodist Church, and a permanent meeting house was built.

Almost 200 years later, the church in tiny Cambridge is still active and holds weekly worship services. And while the congregation hasn’t ruled out the possibility of constructing a new building adjacent to its historic one—complete with central air-conditioning and a kitchen—“worshipping in a historic church building is very special,” says Sandra Holland, church historian and a fifth-generation church member. “Our ancestors worshipped there. They sat on benches with slatted backs. They came on horseback and parked the wagons under the trees. On occasion they would have dinner on the ground. I have pictures of them carrying those slatted-back pews outside to put the food on. They would have box suppers and ice cream socials. They made pallets with quilts for the babies to play while they worshipped. They would have weeklong revivals and families would take turns feeding the preacher. They always fed him well, too. It’s a wonder he could preach after all that food. They would have singings, weddings, funerals, and many a soul was saved there. You can’t find that in a new building.”

For many congregations like Cambridge, maintaining old churches is about more than historic preservation: it’s about continuing a legacy of faith, family and community that has long sustained this region of the country. The North Alabama Hallelujah Trail celebrates this spirit of remembrance by opening the doors and sharing the stories of 32 historic churches across Alabama’s mountain-lakes region. A self-guided driving tour, the North Alabama Hallelujah Trail includes churches that are scattered across 16 counties in the state’s mountain-lakes region, which crosses east to west in North Alabama. Each house of worship is more than 100 years old, located on its original site and still holds worship services regularly.

In addition to Cambridge First United Methodist Church, the churches on the trail have plenty of interesting stories to tell and passionate parishioners—some warming the same pews used by generations of their families before them—who are willing to share. Here are a few highlights:

By the end of 1823, membership in the church was reported as 108 Cherokees and 43 blacks, and in 1829, there were 448 church members out of the 1,028-member Cherokee Nation. “This was the high-water mark of missionary efforts by the Methodists among the Cherokee,” Lee says.

It couldn’t last. “The agitation to relocate the American Indians west of the Mississippi had been going on for some time and, as a consequence of their removal, in 1838, the church membership declined until the influx of whites set in,” Lee says. “Not a single white member had been reported prior to that time, but all at once, statistics show for the circuit 192 American Indians and 237 white members. From that point on, the American Indian population of the church disappears.”

The church, in existence since 1822, finally erected a building in 1869, which was freely used by all denominations in
“Worshipping in a historic church building is very special ... [Our ancestors] would have box suppers and ice cream socials. They made pallets with quilts for the babies to play while they worshipped.”
“Churches provide peaceful settings, whether a grand gothic structure or a simple clapboard building.”
the area until 1880, when the Presbyterian church built its own building. “The bell that currently hangs in the bell tower is from the original structure. At one time it tolled for every funeral in town, served as a school bell, church bell and fire bell,” Lee says.

After the original church building was destroyed in a windstorm, the women of the Missionary Society committed to raising $50 each through baking, knitting and other crafts to help rebuild the church. “Mrs. Sam Henry found her fund growing slowly, so she wrote about 500 letters to friends, business firms as far away as New York and to her favorite opera star, asking for contributions for the church,” Lee says. “She received about $1,500 and with it, bought the beautiful Gothic stained-glass windows in the current sanctuary.”

The current building was built in 1914, and among today’s parishioners are Pat Neely, a descendant of founder Richard Neely, and Albert Henry, whose family “was one of the first in Guntersville and has a biological connection to the Cherokee Indians,” Lee says.

**First Presbyterian Church, Tuscumbia.** While the Union Army occupied Florence, Ala., during the Civil War, several Union soldiers attended a worship service at the local Presbyterian church one Sunday morning. When the pastor prayed for Confederate President Jefferson Davis and the Confederate soldiers, the federal officers in attendance got up, pulled him from the pulpit, arrested him and sent him to a prison camp in the Midwest, where he spent several months, forcing the congregation to take a hiatus from Sunday services.

Soon after, federal officers attended First Presbyterian Church in Tuscumbia, located just across the river from Florence. “Pastor Sawtelle had heard about what had happened in Florence and made a point not to make the same mistake,” says Ron Hudson, a current member and unofficial historian of First Presbyterian. “That’s probably why we have the oldest continually used church structure in the state. There are buildings that are older, but a lot of churches that predate the Civil War have gaps during

Creating the Hallelujah Trail

“Traveling in Europe brought about the idea for the Hallelujah Trail,” says Dana Lee Jennings, president and CEO of the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association, which created the trail. While European churches are centuries old, American churches also have fascinating stories to tell. “American architects’ ingenuity has created a plethora of church designs, examples of which can be found on the Hallelujah Trail,” she says. “Churches provide peaceful settings, whether a grand gothic structure or a simple clapboard building. With lives being so fast-paced, being in a church allows us to just be still, to take a deep breath and enjoy the surroundings.”

Winding across the 16 northernmost counties of the state, the Hallelujah Trail will take you to elegant Gothic Revival buildings and hand-hewn log structures. You’ll hear stories of Cherokee American Indians who organized their own Methodist congregation and of parishioners who heard the cannons of the Civil War’s Battle of Shiloh as they sat in a church more than 60 miles away. You’ll visit thriving cities, charming towns and tiny dots on the map. Along with rich history and arresting architecture, the Hallelujah Trail offers a chance to glimpse the spirit of the Deep South and its people.

The Hallelujah Trail was made possible by grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel and the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association. For more information about the trail or to request a brochure, visit www.AlabamaMountainLakes.org.
“Hundreds of people have been saved around the wooden altar on the old sawdust trail, and countless people have entered the ministry or mission field from there.”
the war when they weren’t able to meet. We have held services consistently since the church was built in 1827."

In addition to being the state’s oldest house of continuous worship, First Presbyterian’s Georgian Gothic building has been the spiritual home of a number of prominent Alabama families. For instance, family members of Tuscaloosa native Helen Keller were longtime members of the church, and she was baptized there as an infant. Primarily built by slave labor with bricks made on site using local materials, First Presbyterian still retains its original slave gallery, which is now used for balcony seating and choir performances.

**Lebanon Campground Methodist Church, Spring Garden.** Another former camp meeting site, Lebanon Campground became a bona fide church during the 1830s and also served as the only school in the area. Although the church was closed in 1972 due to low attendance, a perpetual care committee was appointed to maintain the building and the cemetery, “which dates back to before the Civil War,” says Linda Smith, whose family members were longtime parishioners of the church. Although the church no longer hosts weekly services, it still houses crowds of about 150 people each Mother’s Day for an early Memorial Day service. It also opens for occasional funeral services.

Both Smith’s grandparents and her husband’s grandparents are buried in the Lebanon Campground Cemetery, so they are among the faithful who worship there each May. “We have gone there as long as we can remember for Memorial Day,” she says. “Years ago, families carried their lunch and gathered by family to eat. My family was the Sanfords, and we always ate with the Norton family because a Sanford married a Norton somewhere back in the family line. Once the church closed, people continued to do it, always eating together in the same groups. Now just one family still takes their lunches.”

Although the church is now inactive, a core group of local worshippers keeps it alive, if only once a year. “We hope it will continue,” Smith says. “We have a perpetual care fund and a couple who maintain the cemetery. It’s important for us to maintain it, because our ancestors are buried there.”

**Helton Memorial Chapel, Stevenson.** The widow of a country doctor created a memorial to her husband that became the lifeblood of their community and still draws weekly visitors more than a century later. In Stevenson, Emma Helton spent $1,040 to erect the area’s first church in 1900. Named in honor of her late husband, Dr. Pleasant Helton, Helton Memorial Chapel held about 500 people on the day of its dedication. Today, the same church has about 90 members on its roll.

Now a Baptist congregation, the Helton Memorial building was originally constructed “for all denominations, because it was the only church around the community,” says Jean Payne, church clerk. In addition to hearing stories about the early members of the church, visitors enjoy seeing the church’s original stained-glass windows and chimney, which was used for coal heating.

**The Tabernacle, Hartselle.** Nothing more than cedar logs holding up a roof to cover hand-hewn benches, the Tabernacle is open on three sides and has served for more than a century as the site of the Hartselle Camp Meeting, which began as a 10-day revival in the late 1800s. The cedar posts that were first erected in 1897 still support the building, which has been declared a historic landmark in the state of Alabama.

In the early days of the camp meeting, families rode onto the campgrounds in wagons pulled by mules and cooked their meals around a campfire. Today, the site includes modern lodging and meeting facilities and draws families from across the region for a weeklong, interdenominational Christian revival each summer.

“The camp meeting has been known for its great food, warm fellowship and dynamic preaching,” says Rob Cain, president of the Hartselle Camp Meeting. “Hundreds of people have been saved around the wooden altar on the old sawdust trail, and countless people have entered the ministry or mission field from there.”

*Nancy Mann Jackson is a Florence, Alabama-based freelance writer.*
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 the 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 165,000 members in nearly 3,000 chapters worldwide, including chapters in 12 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) 879–3224 for more information on joining the work of this vital, service-minded organization.
Stories Carved in Stone

Using cemetery iconology and gravestone interpretation as a genealogy research tool

By Gaylord Cooper
Photography by David Boyer
The research involved in genealogy and family history eventually leads to these cemetery visits and gravestone readings. What was once considered a morbid pastime has become a normal and important part of the genealogy investigative process. Simple or complex, these markers can tell us a great deal about our ancestors because a wide range of information can be gleaned from the words and icons carved on the headstones.

However, researchers frequently find themselves surrounded by a bewildering array of monuments, statues and gravestones of every size and shape, often carved with all manner of flora, fauna and objects. The beginner—and sometimes even the experienced researcher—wonders if any of this has meaning other than just decoration. While much of the ornamentation is simply decorative, the majority of what is seen, especially on older stones, does have meaning and can be used quite effectively to gather information about our ancestors.

Using Icons as Shorthand

Frequently seen on gravestones, birds, beasts and other objects are collectively known as icons. For much of Western history, the word icon meant the painted depiction of a religious object or the object itself. Over time, however, it has evolved to mean any drawing or picture that is widely and culturally recognized as representing some larger idea. For instance, we all recognize the Western cross as a symbol of Christianity, no one needs to tell us what the golden arches represent, and everyone knows what to do when they see an eight-sided red sign at the

Anyone looking into family history to find their roots quickly finds herself spending long hours searching in graveyards and cemeteries for the graves of ancestors. Yet, locating the grave may be the easy part—the tough part comes when those memorials inspire more questions than answers.

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According to genealogist Gaylord Cooper, here are some of the most common and defined icons one will encounter in a cemetery or graveyard.

**Anchor:** hope (“Hope is the anchor of the soul.”)
**Angel:** messenger between God and man; guide
**Angel (flying):** rebirth
**Angel (trumpeting):** a call to the resurrection
**Angel (weeping):** grief
**Arrows or darts:** mortality, the dart of death
**Birds:** the soul
**Coffins:** mortality
**Column (broken):** sorrow, life cut short
**Cross:** salvation
**Dove:** Holy Ghost
**Father Time:** mortality
**Flame:** life
**Flower:** the frailty of life
**Flower (broken):** death
**Garland:** victory in death
**Gourds:** the coming to be and the passing away of earthly matters; the mortal body
**Hand (pointing upward):** ascension to heaven
**Handshake:** farewell to earthly existence
**Heart:** the home of the soul; love of Christ; the soul in bliss
**Ivy:** memory and fidelity
**Lamb:** Christ, the Redeemer; meekness; sacrifice; innocence
**Laurel:** victory
**Lily:** resurrection; purity
**Pallis/Drapery:** mortality
**Pomegranate:** immortality
**Portals:** passageways to the eternal journey
**Rose:** sorrow
**Scallop shell:** the resurrection; a pilgrim’s journey; the baptism of Christ
**Scythe:** time or time cut short
**Skull (winged):** the flight of the soul from the mortal body
**Skulls and crossbones:** death
**Sun (rising):** renewed life
**Sun (setting):** eternal death
**Sword:** martyrdom; courage
**Torch (burning):** immortality; truth; wisdom
**Urn:** mortality (a receptacle for the bodily remains)
**Wheat:** time; the divine harvest (often used to denote old age)
**Willow:** grief

Common Gravestone Icons and Symbols Found in Cemeteries and Graveyards
end of a street. These symbols, or icons, are so widely recognized that they speak for themselves.

Because hand carving a gravestone was labor-intensive and expensive, the stonecarver used icons as a type of shorthand. Most carvers charged by the letter, so anything that helped lessen the labor or expense was welcomed. These grave icons were sometimes selected by the person before he or she died, but usually they were chosen by the surviving family. These carved icons or statuary, along with epitaphs, scripture and other carvings, can often provide insight into the personality of the person and the family. The study of these images for genealogical purposes is called cemetery iconology.

The size, shape and even composition of your ancestor’s gravestone can often provide insight into the culture in which your ancestor lived. Gravestones can yield information about ethnic identity, religious beliefs and social organizations to which they may have belonged. You can find information about relationships and about your ancestor’s occupation, military service and even diseases or other causes of their death.

Gravestones often provide information about more than one ancestor, which saves valuable time. And if you are searching for a female ancestor before the mid-1700s, a gravestone may be the only place you will ever find her name recorded.

**Putting the Symbols In Context**

Gravestone symbols or icons can yield much information, but it is not

**Did You Know?**

The terms cemetery and graveyard are used interchangeably but there is a difference. Graveyards are burial places that have a connection to a church. Cemeteries are burial places that have no such connection.
The size, shape and even composition of your ancestor’s gravestone can often provide insight into the culture in which your ancestor lived.

as easy as looking at a picture and comparing it to your ancestor’s gravestone. Cemetery iconology encompasses portions of the fields of botany, geology, history, language, geography and sociology. A symbol used and recognized in one place may mean something different in another locality. Furthermore, we cannot attempt to read, analyze and define gravestone icons through 21st-century thinking and understanding. Medical terms have changed, and language and references to occupations may be quite different than what we know today. Even relationships, as defined a century or more ago, may be very different than what we are familiar with today.

For example, I teach seminars and college courses on cemetery iconology, and students frequently ask questions about the word “consort,” a word that has taken on a not-so-flattering connotation. More than one researcher has been dismayed to find a “consort” buried next to an ancestor, but the word is an example of how a word’s meaning can change over time. Consort used to be understood as an honorable title, much more than simply a spouse. A consort was a companion, lover, wife or husband, confidant, a trusted adviser and friend. It is still a royal title—Prince Philip, the husband of Elizabeth, queen of England, is consort to the queen.

In addition to teaching us how to “read” gravestones, cemetery iconology teaches the skills of gravestone cleaning, preservation and repair. (It’s often necessary to clean a gravestone before it can be read.) Cemetery iconology also teaches its students the proper uses and ways of gravestone rubbing and photographing cemeteries, including the best lighting techniques and times of day to photograph. Putting all this together gives the researcher tools to identify, analyze and use the information that he or she finds.

Learning the Lessons

Cemetery iconology is one of a number of genealogical research tools that gives us an opportunity to learn more about our ancestors. These were real people with lives, loves, triumphs and failures. It often allows us to put a human face on the many names, dates and records collected.

Beginners of the great ancestral trail tend to collect as many names and dates as possible and dutifully record them on the proper form or computer program. But not all historical and genealogical records are written on paper or housed in museums. Cemeteries and graveyards are open-air museums and repositories of history. Those weathered, decades- and even centuries-old gravestones are records in stone that may hold information unavailable anywhere else.

Gaylord Cooper is the director of Eastern Kentucky Genealogy and Family History Associates.
Repeating Patterns:
Wallpaper in Early American Homes
By Maureen Taylor

Wallpaper is in my blood. While other children browsed through picture books, I looked at wallpaper sample books and imagined what rooms would look like decorated with those patterns. I grew up hearing about the wallpaper business—rooms measured in rolls, how patterns changed a room’s appearance and the differences between hanging prepasted paper versus vinyl coated. My dad often bragged that he was the third-generation paperhanger in a family dynasty that dated back to his grandfather in 1873. Every male descendant was taught the trade. When he removed layers of paper from walls (akin to rings on a cut tree), he would explain when the different patterns were popular and surmise when they were glued in place. Little did I know at the time, but my family’s involvement with decorated paper coincided with the development of the mass-produced American wallpaper business.
While there is no exact date for the first wallpaper

it is thought to have appeared as early as the late 18th century when wealthy homeowners covered walls with leather, fabric or paper. The earliest documented English example dates to 1509 and was found in 1911 on a beam in the Master's Lodge at Christ's College in Cambridge, England, cites Catherine Lynn in Wallpaper in America: From the 17th Century to World War I (Norton, 1980). The designer of the pomegranate woodcut, Hugh Goes, was identified by his mark—an H with a goose. Goes was a 16th-century printer who also made wallpaper. Until the mechanization of paper production in the mid-19th century, wallpaper was made manually using woodblocks. Elaborate colored patterns required many blocks, one for each color or layer of the pattern. Rather than the continuous rolls we’re familiar with today, wallpaper rolls during the 18th and 19th centuries consisted of single sheets joined together. Wallpaper historians date these horizontally joined papers by watermarks, tax stamps, patterns and colors.

According to Jane C. Nylander and Richard C. Nylander in Fabrics and Wallpapers for Historic Buildings (John Wiley and Sons, 2005), the first wallpaper in America dates to 1700. In early 18th-century America, because of its cost, wallpaper was limited to homes of the wealthy, such as the Governor’s Palace at Williamsburg, and 19th centuries consisted of single sheets joined together. Wallpaper historians date these horizontally joined papers by watermarks, tax stamps, patterns and colors.

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required multiple-woodblock printing. Plain colored papers and those with simple geometric patterns were cheaper than those that imitated flowers, artifacts or drapery.

By the late 18th century, affluent urban households decorated with papers sometimes coordinated with border patterns. Some people even papered their ceilings. Faux designs mimicked architectural details and plaster decorations. Fresco papers featured trompe l’oeil floor-to-ceiling paintings, while preprinted papers contained classical columns and ornamentation.

Very wealthy clients could order hand-painted wallpapers from English and French manufacturers, as did Steven Van Rensselaer for the central hallway of his Albany, N.Y., mansion in 1768. This elaborately hand-painted paper depicts the four seasons alternating with scenes of ancient ruins and trophies of the four elements. This stunning wallpaper suite has been installed, along with the original woodwork, at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art.

While there weren’t any sample books in the 18th century, there was a wide variety of wallpapers available for sale in American stationery shops, a logical selling venue for all things paper-based. Specialty shops could purchase English flocked papers, French scenic designs or exotic scenes produced in East India. After the American Revolution, French papers were popular and made readily available through America’s direct trade with that country. Chinese papers, even after the Revolutionary War, were comparatively rare in America. According to Adelphi Paper Hangings, a firm that recreates historic wallpapers using the traditional block-printing method, French mural papers depicting historic events, mythology or foreign locales were especially popular in the United States from 1820 to 1840 despite their expense.

Yet, it wasn’t until the early 19th century that Americans bought quantities of domestically produced papers. The 1810 Federal Census for Manufacturing for Massachusetts listed that 22,500 rolls had been made in that one state. Around 1840, the development of the cylinder printing press made it possible for wallpaper to be printed mechanically, boosting production, decreasing prices and increasing demand. Woodblock printing
continued to be utilized, but mass production dominated the industry.

An exhibit at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition of 1876 showed how wallpaper was made in continuous rolls and featured a showroom of samples. By the 1880s, the variety and affordability of wallpaper made it commonplace in the Victorian home. As the 19th century progressed, patterned walls and ceilings became popular and fit in well with the over-furnished décor of the period. New specialized designs, such as those intended for use in children’s rooms, began to appear. Reacting to the poor design and cheap materials, noted English Arts and Crafts decorator William Morris designed wallpapers that harkened back to a time when papers were handmade. Morris’ wallpapers featured beautiful naturalistic designs in warm colors that continue to be reproduced today. The variety and styles of paper continued to expand throughout the 20th century with the introduction of prepasted, vinyl and fabric offerings.

My family’s love of wallpaper began in the 1870s with my great-grandfather who began wallpapering people’s homes. My family’s proud tradition of hanging straight lines of paper and pattern matching ends with my father’s generation. When he retired, he claimed that no one really appreciated the beauty of a papered wall any longer, as his customers asked for paint rather than paper due to its cost and ease of application.

Paper remains a common choice for many despite its expense. Walk into interior design stores and paint outlets and you’ll see an extensive display of sample books of wallpaper with many designs imitating those of past generations. Yet, few customers are aware of the centuries-old tradition of using colored, decorated paper or the techniques generations of tradesmen used to hang it. It’s a lost piece of material history, and, for me, a part of my family history.

*Sources for Reproductions*

Today, owners of historic properties can obtain a wide variety of papers from most time periods through companies that produce reproductions. Some are machine-printed, but many are made by hand using either silk screens or woodblocks. Here are three resources to assist in locating period-appropriate wallpapers.

- The Web site for Historic Wallpaper Specialties (www.historicwallpapering.com) includes links to companies that supply reproduction paper.
- Adelphia Paper Hangings (www.adelphiapaperhangings.com), a firm specializing in custom and historic wallpaper and the source for many of the images in this story, has made historically appropriate wallpaper for DAR Museum period rooms.

*Maureen Taylor lives in a house with walls papered by her dad.*

American Spirit, November/December 2008
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MEADOW GARDEN,
A Georgia Gem
Home of the Youngest Signer of the Declaration of Independence

by Sharon McDonnell
Meadow Garden is the oldest documented house in Augusta, Ga., and was home to George Walton, the youngest signer of the Declaration of Independence, from 1792 until 1804. But Walton was far more than one of three Georgians who signed the Declaration. Being wounded during the American Revolution didn’t prevent him from building an illustrious career in public service as a six-term representative, U.S. senator and governor of Georgia, judge in Superior Court and later chief justice of Georgia. A trustee of the University of Georgia, then called Franklin College, Walton also founded Richmond Academy, a private school in Augusta.

The mid-18th-century white clapboard house, owned and managed by the Georgia State Society, NSDAR, since 1960, was almost torn down by the owner, who saved it from foreclosure in the late 1890s. The Augusta Chapter fervently championed buying the house to save it, but because the chapter couldn’t afford the asking price, the NSDAR finally approved its purchase in 1901, entrusting its care to the Augusta Chapter.

Incongruously located next to a medical building near the Augusta Canal, Meadow Garden today is beautifully restored and richly decorated with period furnishings donated by DAR members or purchased from antiques dealers, since only a few Walton family possessions remain. A house tour enlightens visitors about Colonial customs, including the origin of the expressions “sleep tight,” “mind your own beeswax,” “crack a smile” and “pop goes the weasel.”

“The preservation and daily maintenance of Meadow Garden are major concerns of the Georgia Daughters as we recognize the significance of the historic treasure we have,” says Laura Marcella Reid, former State Regent of the Georgia State Society. “It is our sincere hope that its story and that of its illustrious occupant, George Walton, is shared with others, especially young people studying Georgia history.”

The Patriot

George Walton started life in 1749 in Virginia’s Prince Edward County with two strikes against him. Orphaned by age 7, he was raised by his uncle and aunt, and apprenticed to a carpenter at age 15. “Such was his thirst for knowledge, that he collected lighwood during the day, by the light of which he would pursue his studies, his master not allowing him the use of a candle,” writes Reverend George White, author of *Historical Collections of Georgia* (Pudney and Russell, 1854).
After moving to Savannah, Ga., when he was 17—preceded by his older brother John, who settled in Augusta—Walton worked as a surveyor for Matthew Talbot, a future governor of Georgia, and then for a Savannah lawyer, Henry Yonge Jr., under whom he studied law.

“In two years, he built for himself one of the most successful legal practices in Georgia,” says Dr. Edwin C. Bridges, director of archives and history for the state of Alabama, whose doctoral dissertation at the University of Chicago was a biographical study of Walton. “The Revolution really disrupted it, and he struggled financially for the rest of his life. If not for it, Walton would have become one of the most prominent and successful attorneys in the state—he clearly was an ambitious young man.”

Walton’s first recorded appearance in Georgia history is his attendance at a pro-liberty meeting at Tondee’s Tavern in Savannah in July 1774. He “endeavored to convince those who doubted... that further efforts to obtain a redress of grievances were wholly useless” at a meeting the next year, Rev. White writes. Chosen as a delegate to attend the Continental Congress in 1776 in Philadelphia, he arrived just a few days before the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4. Interestingly, Walton’s wife’s family, supporters of King George III, tried to persuade her to move with them to the West Indies, but she refused. She was later arrested and jailed by the British.

Walton was an officer in the Continental Army stationed in Savannah during the British siege in 1779. In the defense of the city, he was shot in the leg (he walked with a limp forever afterward) and captured.

After his release in 1779 in a prisoner-of-war exchange, Walton was sent to Augusta, established as an Indian trading post in 1735, to set up a government. He served as acting governor of Georgia for two months after one faction appointed him their candidate, before the factions united and elected Richard Howley governor.

After the Revolutionary War ended, Walton remained in Augusta, which became the capital of Georgia from 1786 to 1795. When he became a judge, he moved to the farmhouse he named Meadow Garden with his wife and two sons, Thomas and George Walton Jr.

His fame at the time was widespread. During her travels in Europe, his granddaughter, Octavia Walton Le Vert, met a royal who told her, “Your country has the most precious document in the world, the one your grandfather signed. Do your young people know what they have, and do they make pilgrimage to see it?”
Colonial Customs on Display

Originally a four-room house, Meadow Garden later had another house grafted onto it, which is why the house is on two different levels and the two front doors are misaligned. Thanks to the addition of a new roof, the roofline, askew for decades, is now straight. Historians are unsure if the second house was added before or after Walton’s death in 1804.

Entering the older house on the left side near the Augusta Canal, visitors enter the “best room”—probably used as a parlor by the Waltons—trimmed in bright “paradise blue.” An early 19th-century needlepoint and petit point fire screen protected the beeswax makeup that both women and men wore to hide their smallpox scars. (Thus the phrase, “mind your own beeswax.”) Wearing beeswax-based cosmetics in cold weather led to the expression “crack a smile.”

Other notable furnishings in the “best room” include: an early 19th-century mahogany settee with white
silk upholstery made in Georgia; late 18th-century Chippendale mahogany chairs with gold damask upholstery; a Chippendale game table with mahogany gold-tooled inlay; a late 18th-century grandfather clock; and an early 19th-century secretary.

The dining room is trimmed in bright yellow with circa-1795 reproduction wallpaper and features spoons made out of coins, a frequent element in wealthy colonists’ households. The room also features an unflattering portrait of George Washington by John Trumbull that depicts the president with a protruding stomach, an incorrectly buttoned jacket, very pink cheeks and, to add insult to injury, a horse’s rear end in the corner. A reproduction of the original by Trumbull, famous for his paintings of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the Battle of Bunker Hill, the painting’s cheeky tone supposedly reflects a dispute over money Washington owed the artist.

The front bedroom contains a canopied “rope bed” of cherry and tulipwood based on a 1795 design. The screw at its foot tightened the ropes beneath the bedding. The cradle was used by generations of the family of Harriet Gould Jeffries, chairman of the Augusta Chapter’s committee on repairs, who in 1901 presented keys from Meadow Garden to NSDAR President General Cornelia C. Fairbanks at a ceremony marking its purchase.

A pair of cast-iron andirons shaped into figural Washington is in a second bedroom, as well as a leather trunk of the sort Walton would have taken on his journey to the history-making Continental Congress.

In the newer part of the house, busts of Walton and two fellow Georgia signers of the Declaration of Independence are on display in the Augusta Room. A tea set from the Waltons and a portrait of Octavia with her sewing stand are here as well. In the workroom, a weasel, similar to a spinning wheel, was used to measure and separate yarn for the spinning wheel, and it “pops” when the desired amount is threaded on. Also in the lower level of the house, a “birthing bed” features a spindle by the head-
board that women clutched during the pangs of childbirth. The long-handled copper utensil here was filled with coal and used as a bed warmer.

**Restoring a ‘Gem of History’**

Walton died in 1804 at Meadow Garden, just two months after the death of his son, Thomas, who was only 21 at the time. His son George Jr. sold the house in 1812 and moved with his family to Pensacola, Fla. He later became lieutenant governor of Florida. Octavia moved to Mobile, Ala., after marrying Dr. Henry Le Vert and raised five children.

In the late 19th century, Meadow Garden became a rental property, and after being considered for foreclosure, the home was purchased by a man determined to demolish the deteriorated house. Eager to save it, the Augusta Chapter raised around $500 over several years, but because it was unable to reach his asking price of $2,500, the NSDAR intervened. In 1899, the Daughters authorized a purchase offer of $2,000, which was accepted. In 1960, the home was deeded to the Georgia State Society.

“In the early years, there was no real plan. When we acquired Meadow Garden, we tried to select furnishings more appropriate to the period of the Walton family. It’s been quite a financial challenge, and today half the Georgia Society dues go toward its preservation,” says Lanette Reid, who was Georgia State Society Treasurer at the time of the house’s transfer in 1960, and now serves as Honorary State Regent.

“A new roof had to be added, which leveled the roofline, new paint was applied, and the society opened it for tours and held teas; we accepted it as our responsibility,” says Mrs. Reid, who as State Regent in 1968 began a major restoration effort of the house, starting with the “best room.” She helped recruit preservationists and architects to an advisory board.

Meadow Garden, called a “gem of history” by Lanette’s daughter, Laura, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, and welcomes visitors for tours and special events.

**Visiting Meadow Garden**

Meadow Garden is located at 1320 Independence Drive in Augusta, Ga. It is open for tours Monday–Friday from 10 a.m.–4 p.m., year-round. Admission is $4 for adults. For more information, call (706) 734–4174.

Sharon McDonnell wrote about Washington Irving’s Sunnyside estate for the September/October 2008 issue.
For many of us, nothing is more relaxing than a long, luxurious bath. Unfortunately, because of safety concerns, many people, particularly older people, have to forego this simple pleasure. Sure, you can spend big bucks to remodel your bathroom to provide a bathtub you can use, but who wants to do that? Now there’s a better way, and it lets you use the bath that’s in your home today.

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