Uncovering the Mystery Of a Real Daughter
The Legacy of Eunice Davis

The Quasi-War
America vs. France

Our Patriots
Remembering Nicholas Herkimer

Wrestling Human Nature
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From the President General

Happy New Year, loyal readers! Our cover story explores a historic preservation issue that will be even more of a challenge in this brand-new decade: how the effects of pollution and climate fluctuations are changing the rules for preservationists. It’s a challenge that the DAR knows all too well. Visitors to the NSDAR Headquarters in Washington, D.C., over the past two years have noticed construction crews hard at work making many critical repairs necessitated in part by environmental factors. This administration launched the restoration project titled “Open Doors of Hospitality” to address these damages and prepare the Society’s buildings for another century of use and service. Many period homes, museums and other historic structures in the country are facing similar challenges, and preservationists are seeking new ways to combat the ravages of man and nature.

Longtime readers will recall a September/October 2007 cover story on Real Daughters, those members of the DAR who were just a single generation removed from a Revolutionary War Patriot. We are pleased to follow up this story with recently uncovered information about one of these unique women: Eunice Davis, recognized as the first and only known Real Daughter of color. More than a century after her death, DAR historians are delving into the life of this fascinating and passionate anti-slavery activist and community volunteer.

A little more than two years after the American Revolution’s opening battles of Lexington and Concord in April 1775, American Brigadier General Nicholas Herkimer and New York’s Tryon County Militia were ambushed in an area between present-day Utica and Rome, N.Y., on August 6, 1777. This battle, called Oriskany, represents one of the pivotal events of America’s War for Independence, as the Our Patriots feature by Dr. Daniel S. Marrone, professor at Farmingdale State College, explains. Although Herkimer, a second-generation Palatine German, died of wounds 10 days after Oriskany, he is forever referred to as “The General” in New York’s Mohawk Valley for his bravery and heroism in the battle.

Have you ever heard of the “Quasi-War”? Bookended by the American Revolution and War of 1812, this almost-war between the United States and France is not as well-known as those conflicts, but it was a time of great change for the country, marking the end of Federalism and the rise of the U.S. Navy. We explore this little-known conflict in our detail-rich history feature.

In our Genealogy Sleuth department, we provide techniques for finding more information about your female ancestors, whose voices—sometimes hidden by scant historical records—often require a little more effort to hear.

Linda Gist Calvin

American Spirit • January/February 2010
V
irginia Hassenflu has played many roles in her life—teacher, patriot, wife, mother and DAR member, to name a few. But to those who grew up in the 1950s and 1960s in Kansas City, Mo., the role she is most known for is that of Miss Virginia, the hostess of the popular children’s series, “Romper Room.”

Mrs. Hassenflu hosted the show from 1954 until 1964. She landed the job quickly, as one of only a few candidates who already had TV, classroom and recreation experience.

After graduating from college, Mrs. Hassenflu worked briefly as a physical education teacher. But with World War II raging overseas, she was called to serve her country and joined the American Red Cross. She worked as a recreation worker in the Philippines and Japan, helping entertain and plan activities for soldiers stationed in the Pacific.

“We held pool and ping-pong tournaments, bingo games, field trips and even dances for the soldiers,” Mrs. Hassenflu says. “It was a beautiful place to be and a very patriotic experience.”

Soon after returning to the United States, Mrs. Hassenflu earned a master’s degree in speech from Kansas State University. While there, she took a course in television, working with classmates to direct and produce a television show. That led to her hosting another children’s show before working on “Romper Room.”

“It was a very rewarding job,” Mrs. Hassenflu says of the thousands of “Romper Room” episodes she filmed. “The children were delightful. Each time, you got new little children to show you what they knew.”

Outside of the studio, Mrs. Hassenflu recalls children coming up to her all the time, demonstrating the lessons they learned from Miss Virginia. “I’d have children showing me how to bend and stretch or just telling me that they already had brushed their teeth that day. I enjoyed every bit of that job.”

Years later at a DAR Continental Congress, Mrs. Hassenflu congratulated an Outstanding Teacher of American History Award recipient who was from the Kansas City area. He recognized her from her “Romper Room” days. She says, “He immediately gasped and said,
"You're Miss Virginia! You're the one who taught me the Pledge of Allegiance!"

These days, Mrs. Hassenflu is best known for her involvement in the DAR and the community of St. Augustine, Fla., where she has lived since 1988, after relocating there with her late husband, Arthur.

A year after settling into her new hometown, Mrs. Hassenflu helped found the St. Augustine Genealogical Society. Her lifelong passion for genealogy helped her identify the need in the community. "When I moved down here, there was no place for genealogists like me, so I started the society in 1989," she says. "It's been a thriving organization. Every year we take a few trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and to Washington, D.C. Of course, the DAR Library is always a stop on our tour."

Mrs. Hassenflu recently handed over huge three-ring binders filled with her family's history to her two sons, Gary and Mark, and her stepdaughter, Judy. "This has been the big project throughout my life," Mrs. Hassenflu says. "It's all there, including ancestry tables, photos, maps, diagrams, stories, facts and references about our family history."

Mrs. Hassenflu's passion for genealogy and history has been an asset to the Maria Jefferson Chapter, St. Augustine, Fla., which was named for Thomas Jefferson's great-granddaughter. Involved in the chapter since before she relocated to St. Augustine, Mrs. Hassenflu served as Chapter Regent, Vice Regent and Registrar, and is now Honorary Chapter Regent. When she was Chapter Regent, Mrs. Hassenflu led her chapter to erect a marker in the city's Plaza de la Constitución to honor the Patriots who were held as prisoners in the area during the Revolutionary War. "Among the prisoners held here were three signers of the Declaration of Independence: Thomas Heyward Jr., Arthur Middleton and Edward Rutledge," she says.

The dedication of the marker coincided with the chapter's two-day centennial celebration. "We held a formal ball at the glorious Hotel Alcazar (now Lightner Museum), and the next day we boarded a showboat for a cruise on the Matanzas River," she says. "State and National Officers of DAR were present to help us celebrate."

Today, Mrs. Hassenflu is researching a DAR Patriot from St. Augustine and hopes to start planning a marker for him soon. She is also helping the DAR prepare for St. Augustine's 450th birthday, which will take place in 2015.

Mrs. Hassenflu is known for playing the role of Martha Washington in the Maria Jefferson Players, an acting group formed by her DAR chapter. She recently played the part of America's first first lady at the Florida Northeast Regents Council meeting, which coincided with George Washington's birthday. "I had a ball researching the role," she says. "I've also played Maria Jefferson and Dolley Madison. My years as Miss Virginia really paid off."

Clockwise, opposite page: Mrs. Hassenflu in her American Red Cross uniform; Mrs. Hassenflu on set in the "Romper Room" classroom; with President Truman on the set of "Romper Room."

This page from top: Christmastime on "Romper Room"; Mrs. Hassenflu at a recent DAR event.
At the Gates of Tryon Palace

I want to commend you and the staff of our American Spirit magazine and Daughters newsletter for the wonderful November/December issue. The cover of the magazine put all of us at the gates of the Tryon Palace and had us quickly turning the pages to a great article by Phyllis Speidell. The photos of Tryon Palace by John Shealley were truly exceptional and should win an award by themselves.

Your dedication to our magazine and newsletter is certainly a wonderful gift to each subscriber as we wait to receive our next issue.

Joyce Ball Patton, Development Committee National Chairman Atlanta Chapter, Atlanta, Ga.

Hope for a South Dakota Renovation

Editor's Note: In the September/October 2009 issue, American Spirit ran a news item about South Dakota's oldest public institution facing demolition. Work to save this building is in progress, as a reader explains in a recent letter.

An October 29, 2009, article in the Yankton Press and Dakotan reported that the Yankton County Historical Society invited citizens to meander the halls of the Mead Building in early November in an effort to enable the public to grasp its vision of using the building as the future home of the Dakota Territorial Museum. The first phase of an architectural feasibility study has been completed, with the second phase to be conducted when funds become available. The results, and those of a fundraising feasibility study, are expected to reveal the timeline the renovation project must adopt.

An interesting sidelight to this article concerns the art that once hung in this and several other buildings on the hospital grounds. Dr. Mead, for whom the building was named, believed art was good for the patients. In the early 1900s, the patients operated a country store to raise funds. With this money, many original paintings were purchased. Some of this artwork was of major size. Several years ago, the state turned all of these paintings over to the University of South Dakota.

Several of the large pieces were hung in Old Main on the university campus. Many of the rest were offered to museums and historical societies throughout South Dakota. We were fortunate to secure nine of the paintings for our museum and Carnegie Library in Armour, S.D.

Sharon Wiese, Regent Daniel Newcomb Chapter Yankton, S. D.

Granbury Connections

In response to Susan Woodard's letter to the editor titled, "A Texas Road Trip," appearing the July/August 2009 issue, I am Regent of the Elizabeth Crockett Chapter and will gladly assist you in finding the gravesite of Elizabeth Crockett. Her gravesite, however, is not located in Natchitoches, but rather can be found just outside the town of Granbury, Texas. The Elizabeth Crockett Chapter extends an invitation to Susan, and any other DAR members wanting to find the gravesite of Elizabeth Patton Crockett, to visit our lovely town of Granbury.

Kathy Hanlon, Regent Elizabeth Crockett Chapter Granbury, Texas

Bradstreet's Verse

Thank you so much for publishing my eighth-great-grandmother Anne Bradstreet's poem, "Before the Birth of One of Her Children," in your September/October 2009 issue. Anne Dudley published two books of her poems. John Harvard Ellis republished a compilation of all her poetry as The Works of Anne Bradstreet in Prose and Verse. She also kept a journal including details of her life in England and how the Puritans organized to escape England's religious prosecution. It also told of sailing to Massachusetts and life after arriving. This journal, which I highly recommend, is Mistress Bradstreet: The Untold Life of America's First Poet by Charlotte Gordon.

Aleda Kellgren Nancy McKay Harsh Chapter Creston, Iowa

A Centennial Gift

Mollie Baublitz, Registrar for the Bertha Hereford Hall Chapter, Leesburg, Fla., donated the beautiful Centennial Quilt (shown in the National Treasures section of the July/August 2009 issue) to the DAR Museum. Her great-grandmother created this wonderful work of art to celebrate the centennial of our country.

Jane Miller, Regent Bertha Hereford Hall Chapter Leesburg, Fla.
Recently two rare historic letters received national attention, with one commanding a multi-million-dollar price. A letter penned by George Washington in 1787 sold for $3.2 million in a December 2009 auction—the highest price ever paid for a letter written by America’s first president. Washington wrote the four-page letter to his nephew, Bushrod Washington, endorsing the Constitution and citing reasons for ratification.

Washington used the letter to outline his reasons for merging all the states into one nation. “The central issues must be consolidated—and local views as far as the general good will admit, must be attended to,” he wrote.

Originally held by a British family until sold to Christie’s, the letter was written from Washington’s Mount Vernon estate.

Another high-profile letter was uncovered in early December 2009 at the University of Delaware Library. Among obscure financial records and minutes of Quaker meetings was a rare letter from Thomas Jefferson. Discovered by Amanda Daddona, a student at the University of Delaware, Jefferson’s letter was written in 1808 in neat cursive to Joseph Brighurst of Wilmington. It sympathized with Brighurst on the death of his friend, John Dickinson, a lawyer who served as a militia officer during the American Revolution. Dickinson was also a representative to the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

“A more estimable man, or truer patriot could not have left us,” Jefferson wrote.

In addition to illustrating the high esteem Jefferson held for John Dickinson, the letter helps historians better understand the close relationship between the family of Brighurst, Wilmington, Delaware’s first postmaster, and John and Mary Dickinson.

**Clarification on Our Rush Property Story**

Our November/December issue detailed efforts to save a historic home at 930 Adams Avenue in Philadelphia on property owned by Dr. Benjamin Rush, Colonial physician and signer of the Declaration of Independence. A few preservationists believe Rush, who died in 1813, built and lived in the house. However, a recent architectural analysis conducted by the firm of Ewing Cole and confirmed by the historic conservation firm of Milner & Carr reveals that the house was built between 1830 and 1850.

The results of the assessment were announced November 30 by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and the Knights of Pythias Greenwood Cemetery, which has occupied the property since the Civil War. Even though the report’s findings show Rush couldn’t have lived there, the structure “is an important part of the Rush property and the community at large,” says Michelle Mardenborough, president of the cemetery corporation. The report will aid in the rehabilitation of the two-story stone house to its 19th-century appearance. For more information, contact the Philadelphia Historical Commission: www.phila.gov/historical.
Though we know George Washington didn’t toss a coin across the Potomac, nor did he ax a cherry tree, one attribute that has always seemed bankable was what’s been called his disinterest in politics. His biographies are peppered with descriptions of his apolitical stance, such as “rising above the fray,” “centrist” and “nonpartisan.” Washington commanded hyperbole in so many ways it’s possible to believe that, despite commanding armies to victory in one Revolution, presiding over a political one in 1787 and leading the new nation through eight years of intense political debate, he somehow remained above it all.

But did he? That’s the question John Ferling, professor emeritus of history at the State University of West Georgia, seeks to answer in his new book, *The Ascent of George Washington: The Hidden Political Genius of an American Icon* (Ferling, 2009).

Without detracting from Washington’s well-deserved reputation as a leader, Ferling notes that he “was a highly political individual, one of the very best politicians in American history. George Washington was so good at politics that he alone of all of America’s public officials in the past two centuries succeeded in convincing others that he was not a politician.” Washington’s “disinterestedness” lay in his ability to consider all sides and, when necessary, act contrary to personal and factional concerns to secure the best outcome for the nation. He had, as Henry Lee observed in his eulogy of Washington, always acted “from obedience to his country’s will.”

*Ascent* is a narrative-style political biography that helps soften the often-starchy persona of Washington. Ferling notes that Washington sought recognition, wealth and prestige throughout his life. Thanks to a unique combination of talents, intelligence and personality, he succeeded in acquiring all three.

Ferling traces Washington’s rise from very modest circumstances. He early exhibited the self-discipline, determination and drive that would mark his entire life.

The book pulls out some less-than-savory episodes, such as his manipulating the award of land to officers and soldiers of the French and Indian War so he could obtain the best tract.

As a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, Washington increasingly chafed at America’s status as a colony, as well as what he and others saw as British excesses. He was deeply involved in protesting British policies and moving his state toward a break.

Ferling spends considerable time on Washington the general. Politics permeated the American Army, forcing high–ranking officers to consider not only the military aspects of a move, but also the political ramifications. The Continental Congress added further layers of intrigue, as did the state governments. While keeping his army fed, clothed, armed and out of British clutches, Washington had to stay alert to defend himself against schemes to remove him. That he succeeded in doing all those things, Ferling notes, affirmed Washington’s skill as a navigator of stormy political seas.

Washington needed all that skill and more as president. Though in his farewell address of September 1796 he famously warned against political parties, Washington was the acknowledged head of the Federalist party, though Alexander Hamilton carried out much of the party’s maneuvering. Like other Federalists, Washington was no fan of broad democracy; one of his shortcomings, Ferling notes, was misreading the deep public desire for controlling the central government.

Despite this, Ferling writes, Washington repeatedly tempered party interests or put them aside in resolving the many crises of his two terms. He was able to lead an often unwilling Congress and country to take steps that would strengthen the nation economically, financially and militarily, though it would be years before those steps paid off. He also succeeded in dampening some of his colleagues’ wilder schemes, such as Hamilton’s desire to create and lead a large standing army.

While it is often selfish and partisan, politics can sometimes be conducted at a much higher level—something *Ascent* amply demonstrates. In that sense, Ferling proves his point: George Washington was a supreme politician, and America is all the better for it.

— Bill Hudgins
Wonders of the Deep

They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.
—Psalms 107:23–24

Probably no other group of seamen saw more marvels of the deep than whalers, writes Eric Jay Dolin in his fascinating *Leviathan: The History of Whaling in America* (W.W. Norton, 2007). And although Americans didn’t invent whaling, for more than two centuries, Colonial and then independent America dominated this bloody, dangerous and immensely lucrative fishery.

America’s dominance of whaling waned after the Civil War as the drilling of oil wells spurred development of petroleum products for lighting and industry. At the same time, Yankee whalers snubbed innovations adopted by other nations that made the pursuit of dwindling stocks of whales more efficient and profitable. By the early 20th century, America’s whaling history had become a thing of lore.

Nearly 100 years after the last American whale ship cast off (and came to an abrupt, inglorious end), it is hard to imagine that cetacean oil lit the streets of London and other cities, illuminated countless homes, and greased the wheels of the nascent Industrial Revolution. It seems impossible that there could have been so many whales in the oceans—and Dolin’s meticulous accounting of catches shows how these beasts swam to the edge of extinction.

Early on, the author warns readers that *Leviathan* is not an anti-whaling tract; his goal is to provide an accurate, dispassionate history tracing the growth of whaling from scavenging creatures occasionally washed ashore to multi-year expeditions to the Arctic.

Dolin succeeds in doing this. For example, one can feel a certain sympathy for Nantucketers, the most fearless of American whale men, when they found themselves the targets of both sides in the American Revolution, and afterward as Britain and America jostled each other in the lead-up to the War of 1812.

Long the center of American whaling, Nantucket tended to regard itself as a neutral third party to these conflicts. After all, England was its best customer, and America was the nearly nonarable island’s only source of provisions. So its whaling families sought protection, or at least exemption, from attacks by warships and privateers. The islanders’ tactics in these matters make captivating reading—a combination of subtlety and ingenious dodging of blame.

More than half of the book deals with Colonial and early 19th-century whaling, and the role of the fishery in local, national and international commerce. Whales were plentiful, especially off the coast of New England, and colonists early learned to harvest beached whales. Over time, they began to pursue them in small boats, staying close to shore where the captured whales were brought for rendering into oil. Eventually, Colonial whalers ventured farther and farther to sea in ever-larger ships. Their quarry also changed as the fishery decimated whale species.

Besides oil, some species of whale were hunted for their whalebone or baleen—a strong, flexible substance in the mouths of whale species that filters water to collect tiny plants and animals that compose the whales’ food source. Baleen could be made into whips, corset stays, hunting bows and other products that required strength and flexibility.

The successful taking of sperm whales set off a pursuit of something like a gold rush, because this creature’s oil burned with uncommon brilliance and purity; spermaceti—a type of oil found in a pocket in the sperm whale’s skull—made exceptionally fine candles; and, later on, these oils were found to be ideal for lubricating machinery.

The sperm whale was also aggressive and unpredictable, and its occasionally successful attacks on whale ships gave the world another gift—Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick, or the White Whale*. Poorly received when first published, *Moby Dick* was reborn about the time the American whaling industry faded, and is regarded as one of the greatest American novels.

Laced with tales of adventure and high risk on the sea, *Leviathan* brings this perilous industry to life while at the same time making its readers glad that whaling has all but faded from the globe.
After more than 25 years of creating documentaries that explore significant aspects of the American experience, documentarian Ken Burns released his latest work on PBS last fall. “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea” was filmed over the course of six years in some of the country’s most spectacular locales, and it traces the 150-year history that led to the National Park Service as Americans know it today.

More than a narrative about a system that has preserved America’s most beautiful natural areas, “The National Parks” is a biography of the compelling characters who transformed the parks system from an idea into a reality. From scientists to politicians to the natives who gave up the land they occupied for thousands of years, the creation of the National Park Service is a story of visionaries.

With 391 units, including 58 national parks plus 333 national monuments and historic sites, the National Park Service has a history that dates back to the 1830s, when artist George Catlin wrote that America’s wilderness might be protected by government policy. At the time, westward expansion gave pioneers the opportunity to behold for the first time breathtaking vistas in the American West. Catlin’s work spurred President Theodore Roosevelt to protect these lands by designating them as national parks, which laid the groundwork for the National Park Service.

In 1864, the idea gained some acceptance when Congress donated the land in Yosemite Valley for preservation as a state park. In 1872, Congress voted to preserve Yellowstone National Park, and the government began to signify the importance of setting aside land for preservation. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Organic Act that created the National Park Service. In the years that followed, additional parks were created, and they continue to be today.

Burns tells this history, as well as the stories of individuals involved in the creation of the National Park Service, set against breathtaking backdrops and archival photographs.

Although “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea” has already aired on PBS, you can purchase the complete series on DVD for $100. For more details, visit www.shoppbs.org.
Montana Boosts Preservation Efforts With Stimulus Money

IN LIGHT OF TODAY’S ECONOMY, most states don’t have a large budget devoted to preservation efforts. In fact, in nearly every state, stimulus money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is tied up in budget deficits and other efforts to spur job creation and economic recovery. But in Montana, creating jobs and preserving state historic sites go hand in hand, thanks to the Historic Preservation Competitive Grant Program.

The Montana Preservation Alliance played a large role in creating the program, which has three tiers to support public buildings, county courthouses and barns. The program provides $4 million for preservation grants, and makes grants of up to $250,000 available for projects. So far, three projects have been awarded financial assistance:

* Marcus Daily Mansion, Hamilton
* St. Mary’s Mission, Stevensville
* Traveler’s Rest Historic Site, Lolo

Political leaders in Montana believe legislation like the competitive grant program will not only create much-needed jobs in small communities, but it will also preserve structures that honor Montana’s heritage. To apply for funding or learn more about the program, visit [www.recovery.mt.gov](http://www.recovery.mt.gov).

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On Sacred Ground

RECENTLY NAMED a National Scenic Byway, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground is a historic driving route that stretches 180 miles from Gettysburg, Pa., to Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's residence in Charlottesville, Va. This section of land along the Old Carolina Road Corridor features sites from the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and other important historic events. The route traverses four states (Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia) and holds thousands of historic sites, including presidential homes, national parks, Main Street communities and a great concentration of Civil War battle sites.

“This route not only carried this country’s Founding Fathers, but also the not-so-famous men and women whose ideals have shaped this great nation, making this road a destination unto itself,” says John Fieseler, executive director for the Tourism Council of Frederick County, Md.

The creation of the byway was a two-year effort by the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, a group of organizations, politicians and education professionals dedicated to preserving the cultural and historical significance of the Old Carolina Road Corridor. Thanks to the area’s designation as a byway, the region hosts a variety of educational and cultural programs, and will be preserved and protected under federal guidelines.

“It’s only appropriate that this road and the generations of people who have lived, prospered and sacrificed in this region are acknowledged with this highly esteemed and internationally recognized designation,” says Cate Magennis Wyatt, president of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership.

For more information, visit www.hallowedground.org.
WhatNot

Alexander Hamilton’s ‘Spirited’ Letter Uncovered

Last September, the National Archives acquired an original 18th-century letter written by Alexander Hamilton, America’s first secretary of the treasury. The letter, which previously belonged to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), is dated December 18, 1790, and is an original draft of a “circular” letter, which was an official memo that was hand-copied and sent to customs offices at Hamilton’s request. In the document, Hamilton discusses tools that customs agents can use to determine the alcohol content of imported spirits to properly tax the imports.

The letter is notable, as Congress imposed alcohol tariffs to pay Revolutionary War debts in both 1789 and 1790. Americans began distilling their own spirits to avoid the tax, and when the government found a way to tax their spirits, too, citizens revolted with the Whiskey Rebellion. Hamilton’s letter was a precursor to the now famous rebellion.

Archivists aren’t sure of the letter’s early history. In the mid-1970s, Howard Criswell Jr., an ATF spokesman, purchased the letter from an autograph dealer for $100. The document was stored in an ATF safe until officials turned it over to the National Archives. The letter is now locked in a temperature- and humidity-controlled stack in College Park, Md., where it is protected from damaging light and extreme temperatures.

Literary Corner

Every Picture Tells a History

MOST OF THE TIME, photographs can paint a better picture of history than written or spoken words. That’s why American Spirit recommends these three photo-driven history books that detail the history and traditions behind today’s arts, music and fashion and offer a look back at a battle that changed the world.

The Art of the Shoemaker

Shoemaking in the 18th century is the focus of this hardcover book by Colonial Williamsburg master cobbler D.A. Saguto. He translates M. de Garsult’s 1767 writings about the craft of making shoes and includes extensive notes and commentary about the history of shoemaking. With almost 100 photos and more than 300 line drawings, The Art of the Shoemaker gives a glimpse into the little-known lives and work of 18th-century shoemakers.

Cost: $65  Buy: www.williamsburgmarketplace.com

The Battle of the Bulge: A Photographic History of an American Triumph

One of the most famous battles fought in World War II, the Battle of the Bulge was the last major offensive during the war. This photographic history recreates the American triumph over the Nazis in one of the most harrowing battles ever fought. The Battle of the Bulge gives full coverage to the Screaming Eagles at Bastogne, the counterattack of Patton’s Third Army and the nearly 1 million men who fought on both sides. With 300 pages of images detailing the devastation and ultimate triumph of American forces fighting in Europe, the book is a lasting tribute to our country’s vital presence in World War II.

Cost: $50  Buy: www.zenithpress.com

Hands in Harmony: Traditional Crafts and Music in Appalachia

Southern Appalachian culture is full of foot-tapping string music and beautiful handmade crafts. Traveling from North Carolina to Kentucky to Nashville, Tenn., photographer and author Tim Barnwell captures the many faces of Appalachian banjo players, fiddlers, weavers, furniture builders and other personalities. Through his warm, empathetic photography, Barnett showcases the Appalachian traditions passed down through generations.

“In choosing musicians and craftspeople to include, I concerned myself with talent rather than celebrity,” he writes. “Indeed, for every person included there are dozens more who could have been selected. They run the spectrum from hobbyist to accomplished professional, and while many have established national reputations, others create simply for their own enjoyment.”

Hands in Harmony also features an accompanying audio CD of mountain tunes sung by popular artists like Etta Baker and Peggy Seeger.

Cost: $50  Buy: http://books.wwnorton.com

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What’s in a Name
Discover the meanings behind some of the DAR chapters’ interesting names.

The Liberty Bell Chapter, Allentown, Pa., honors the community that hid the nation’s symbol of liberty from the British. In September 1777, the Liberty Bell was transported to safety under cover of darkness from Independence Hall in Philadelphia to Allentown, Pa., and hidden under the floor of Zion Reformed Church. The bell remained there for nearly a year before it was returned to Philadelphia. Two area farmers provided the wagons used to move the bell. A descendant of one of those farmers, Minnie Fogel Mickley, was the chapter’s Organizing Regent. Ellen Hardin Walworth, one of the National Society’s four founders, suggested the chapter name. Today the Zion Reformed Church is still active, and the Liberty Bell Shrine and Museum stands adjacent to the church.

The Eli Skinner Chapter, Arlington Heights, Ill., chose to honor a Revolutionary War soldier with its chapter name not only because of his outstanding military career, but also because he was an early pioneer in northeast Illinois, arriving about 12 years after Illinois became a state. He is buried in a local cemetery, one of only two Revolutionary War soldiers buried in the area. In 1775, when he was 15 years old, Skinner enlisted as a fifer. He served at least three tours of duty in Connecticut regiments, advancing to garrison duty by age 18. He was a farmer in New England for most of his adult life. As a widower in his 80s, Skinner followed his son and family westward, settling in Cook County about 20 miles from Chicago. He died at age 90 in 1851.

In a way, Shining Mountain Chapter, Billings, Mont., owes its name to King Louis XIV of France, who wanted to beat the British to finding the legendary water passage from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Ocean. The Verendrye brothers of Montreal set out to find the route for their king. On their travels, they camped with various American Indian tribes in the hope of learning something definite about a route to the West Coast. On January 1, 1743, while traveling with either a Cheyenne or Crow war party that was set on attacking the Shoshone, the brothers spotted a snow-covered mountain chain to the west. The warriors said the ocean lay beyond the mountains. The Verendrye brothers called the range the Shining Mountains. This range was more than likely the Bighorn Mountains, making the Verendryes the first white men to enter Montana.

Editor’s note: The July/August 2008 issue of American Spirit sparked a name change for Duncan Indian Territory Chapter, formerly known as Duncan Chapter, in Duncan, Okla. The following is an excerpt from the chapter’s letter:

“At a recent chapter meeting a name change was discussed and a motion made to change it to the Duncan Indian Territory Chapter for the following reasons: Duncan, Okla., is situated within the boundaries of ‘Indian Territory’ just east of the line dividing Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory. Many of our members have ancestors who came to Indian Territory years before statehood (1907); some married and had children born in Indian Territory. We also felt that the new name would be more inclusive to our county and therefore attract much-needed prospects.”

The change was approved by the DAR National Board of Management at its February 7, 2009, meeting.

Gerrardstown Residents Fight Quarry Mine

For more than a year, residents of Gerrardstown, W.Va., have been fighting to keep their historic town safe from Continental Brick Company, a major mining company. If mining plans go through, the company will receive permission to dig near 92 properties in the town’s National Historic District. Not only could the development compromise the integrity of the 1,020-acre historic district, but mining could also damage the region’s water supply and natural resources.

Located in the eastern panhandle of the state, Gerrardstown’s history traces back to 1784, when David Gerrard founded the town. A number of 18th- and 19th-century structures remain, including the first Baptist church built west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In 1991, the town earned its designation as a National Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

The company applied for a permit to drill in May 2008, and the State Historic Preservation Office ruled that the drilling would have no adverse effect on the state’s historical sites. But 2,800 of the town’s 3,250 residents say otherwise—and they are calling on the department to deny the permit application.

Many organizations are joining the cause, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Berkeley County Commission and the West Virginia Center for African American Art and Culture. So far, the citizens of Gerrardstown have managed to delay mining the quarry, but the future of the town’s historic sites still remains uncertain. For more information, visit www.northmountain.org.
Women of the Civil War Era: Their Quilts and Their Stories
Virginia Quilt Museum, Harrisonburg, Va., ongoing.

Using quilts, portraits and memorabilia, the Virginia Quilt Museum’s exhibit shows visitors little-known details about the lives of the mothers and wives of Confederate and Union soldiers during the Civil War era. The exhibit tells the story of women like Malinda Flint, who lost her husband in the war and raised three children on her own. Visitors can learn about her life while viewing her Evening Star and Crossed Canoes quilts on display. Also on display are quilts by Lucinda Robinson Rice, the young wife of a doctor, who wrote about the Civil War battles she witnessed first-hand. Don’t miss Julie Ann Faulkner’s Crossed Laurel Leaves quilt. The mother of two Confederate soldiers, Faulkner’s work features exquisite appliqué and quilting skills. For more information, visit www.vaquiltmuseum.org or call (540) 433-3818.

Keeping History
Plains Indians Ledger Drawings

This exhibit features drawings recorded in the 18th century by American Indians from the Northern and Southern Plains. The style of ledger drawings was influenced by traditional documentary traditions, such as the use of petroglyphs. But in the 18th century, Native warriors used ink, lead, colored pencils and paper to tell their stories of battle, bravery and loss. The ledgers give a glimpse of American Indian hunters’ lives on the Plains, the cultural richness of their life and the threat of settlers invading their land. The exhibit also highlights the influence the ledger drawings have had on contemporary native art and history. For more information, visit www.americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions.

The Presidential Carriage Collection
The Studebaker National Museum, South Bend, Ind., ongoing

The Studebaker Museum honors the history of the Studebaker brothers, who turned their Indiana blacksmith shop into a manufacturing company in the mid-1800s, and became one of the few manufacturers to switch from horse-drawn to gasoline-powered vehicles. In addition to being the largest wagon manufacturer in the world, the Studebakers crafted carriages for four presidents: Ulysses S. Grant, Benjamin Harrison, Abraham Lincoln and William McKinley. Today, all four carriages are on display at the Studebaker National Museum. For more information, visit www.studebakermuseum.org.
Peek inside America’s classrooms to discover ingenious ways of teaching history.

ClassAct

very year, Diane Stecker’s students at South Plantation High School in Plantation, Fla., start a revolution. No, they’re not boycotting the cafeteria food or ditching class—they’re crafting their own Declaration of Independence. “Each group of students picks a topic that they want to rebel against, whether it’s the school’s regulations, their teachers or their parents’ rules,” Stecker explains. “Then they air their grievances by crafting a document mirrored after the Declaration of Independence.”

Stecker, who teaches American history, Advanced Placement history and international relations, says this is an effective way to show her students what our forefathers were up against when they created the famous document.

Once the students complete their personal declarations of independence, they present their arguments to the entire school during Constitution Week. “The student body plays the role of the Continental Congress, and they vote on which ‘revolutions’ they want to adopt for the school, and which they don’t,” Stecker says. “I want them to think critically—it’s important to our future.”

Stecker ingrains civic responsibility into her students. “I want them to get involved in civics,” she says. “It’s really important, because I’m shaping the students who are going to shape the direction of our country.”

In the 2008 presidential election, Stecker took 35 kids to the polls to cast their ballots for the first time. “You should have seen their faces,” she says. “They were absolutely thrilled.”

Having taught for five years, Stecker says the most challenging part of her job is changing with the times. “Our school is much more diverse today than it was when I started,” she says. With such a diverse population, Stecker has made it her work to tear down barriers between her students, many of whom are minorities or immigrants. To address her students’ differences, Stecker created an international relations class, which teaches honors students how to communicate across racial lines.

While Stecker enjoys teaching honors classes, she recognizes the need to invest extra time in guiding students in her general classes, especially those who don’t have support at home. “Some kids go home to an empty house every night, or they don’t have food to eat,” she says. “You never know what your students are coming to school with. Giving them lots of attention and hands-on help really makes a difference.”

When she sees a student who has the potential to be an honors student, Stecker takes a personal interest in his or her education. “A few years ago, I pushed one of my students into the A.P. (Advanced Placement) classroom, and I told her I would walk with her every step of the way,” she says. “Every week I went into her classroom and spoke with her to see if she needed help. I told her, ‘I trust you, and I’ll be your support system. I know you’ll do what you need to do.’ And I was right—she passed her exam.”

For Stecker, the key to teaching success is to remain flexible and adjust to change as it comes. “I always said I would never stop learning, and never stop changing my ways,” she says. “I’m a different teacher today than I was when I started.”
Boston Uncommon

The acclaimed artist John Singleton Copley (1738–1815) was a teenager when he painted this portrait of Colonel Thomas Marshall of Boston around 1755. Copley was the portraitist of choice for Boston’s wealthy merchant society until his departure for England in 1774. In London, he continued to paint and exhibit both portraiture and historical paintings, and he became a member of the Royal Academy. He never returned to America and died in 1815 in London.

This image of Col. Marshall (1719–1800) seems spare when compared with Copley’s later dazzling portraiture. Yet the young artist succeeded in portraying the status and taste of Marshall. Seated in a fashionable chair, Marshall’s brown velvet suit and snowy shirt ruffles denote a gentleman of substance. Marshall was a tailor, but as a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts since 1761, he was named a colonel before the Revolutionary War. As a prominent Boston citizen, he was active in civic and government affairs, and served as a selectman from 1772–1776. Copley also painted the portrait of Marshall’s second wife, Lucy Allen Marshall, daughter of a wealthy Gloucester merchant.

The painting is a gift of Mrs. Franklin E. Campbell.

National Treasures
Step inside the DAR Museum for a closer look at its fascinating collection.
Spirited Adventures

A Mountain Retreat

For centuries, indigenous tribes, explorers and Americans seeking a respite have flocked to Asheville, N.C.

Story by Megan Pacella - Photo by Doug Allen
Just over the crest of the ancient Blue Ridge Mountains at the confluence of the Swannanoa and French Broad Rivers, the city of Asheville, N.C., sits on a storied plot of land. With a history that stretches back to the 16th century, Asheville boasts a diverse culture with Cherokee, European and Appalachian heritage.

When Hernando Cortez and his fellow Spanish explorers arrived in 1540 on the land where present-day Asheville sits, they found Cherokee tribes living in isolation in the foothills and valleys of the southern Appalachian Mountains. Cortez had a peaceful interaction with the natives, but the foreign diseases the explorers brought from Spain nearly depleted the Cherokee population.

In 1784, Colonel Samuel Davidson and his family made a grueling trek through the Blue Ridge Mountains to claim his soldier’s land grant. Carrying all their possessions with them, the Davidsens ended their journey at Christian Creek in the Swannanoa Valley. Overwhelmed by the region’s beauty, they called it “Eden Land.” Davidson built a log cabin on the banks of the creek, but shortly after its completion, a group of Cherokee hunters killed him.

Fearing for their safety, Davidson’s wife, young daughter and female slave fled 16 miles away to Davidson Fort (named for Davidson’s father, General John Davidson). When Davidson’s brother, Major William Davidson, and his brother-in-law, Colonel Daniel Smith, learned of Samuel’s death, they put together an expedition to find his body and avenge his murder. While historical accounts don’t detail what became of their journey, they do note that Major Davidson and his extended family returned to the area and settled near Bee Tree Creek.

In 1790, the U.S. Census counted approximately 1,000 residents in the area (not including the few Cherokee still living there). In 1792, Buncombe County was established, and Morristown was named the county seat. Five years later, Morristown incorporated and was renamed Asheville in honor of the state’s governor, Samuel Ashe.

Road to Prosperity
“Thanks to its scenic location at the intersection of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, [Asheville] became a natural crossroads for most trade and travel west of the Blue Ridge,” wrote John C. Inscoe in Mountain Masters, Slavery and the Sectional Crisis in Western North Carolina (The University of Tennessee Press, 1989). “By the late antebellum period, its residents included many of the region’s ablest and most ambitious citizens, who had built over 20 stores or businesses, a courthouse, a jail, three churches, three large hotels, several schools and a female college.”

In the 1800s, the town became a center for commerce in North Carolina, and the population increase spurred the creation of new roads—which further enticed people to settle in the burgeoning mountain community. When a road tracing the French Broad River opened in 1828, Asheville began developing into a resort town. The road made Asheville accessible to the resources and markets of the West. Before long, its breathtaking scenery, coupled with the opportunity to acquire wealth, made the city a prime location for affluent families.

Like most of the South, however, Asheville’s commercial boom suffered as a result of the Civil War. After Union soldiers overpowered Asheville, they plundered and burned a number of Confederate supporters’ homes. In the years following the war, Asheville suffered economic hardship that reversed the wealth of many families who had settled in the once booming town. Asheville’s failing economy found salvation in October 1880, when the first train pulled into the city. Thanks to engineering feats, the railroad system now breached the Continental Divide, opening Asheville to new markets east and west of the state. During the next 10 years, the region grew rapidly, increasing by 13,000 more residents.
The glass-roofed Winter Garden inside the Biltmore House
The Birth of Biltmore

With its boost in commerce, Asheville was gaining the notice of businessmen, artists and intellectuals alike, including the prominent Vanderbilt family.

Throughout the 1800s, the Vanderbilts amassed a huge fortune in New York’s steamboat and railroad industries. When William H. Vanderbilt died of a stroke in 1885, he left behind elegant mansions in New York City and Newport, R.I., and a country estate on Long Island. His fortune totaled nearly $200 million, which was split among his children.

George Washington Vanderbilt, William’s fourth son, who was considered by many to be his father’s favorite, inherited $5 million.

“Of the Vanderbilt males of his generation, only George took no part in railroad management,” wrote John Bryan in Biltmore Estate: the Most Distinguished Private Place (Rizzoli, 1994). “As a boy, George stayed close to his aging parents. He was educated by tutors and said to be bookish; one of his first public acts of beneficence, in 1886, was to commission Richard Morris Hunt to design the Jackson Square branch of the New York Free Circulating Library and to give land, books and buildings to the city of New York.”

When George visited North Carolina in 1888, he fell in love with the area. Soon after his visit, Vanderbilt purchased a plot of land near Asheville and began construction on the Biltmore House, a 250-room estate on 125,000 acres, modeled after the French chateaus of the Loire Valley. The brainchild of architect Hunt, the Biltmore boasted an enormous French Renaissance chateau surrounded by lush gardens and forests.

Today, the Biltmore Estate still holds many of George’s possessions, including original artwork by Renoir, 16th-century tapestries, Napoleon’s chess set and a library filled with 10,000 volumes. The estate gardens are still tended by experts working to preserve George’s original vision. Guests can take a motor coach tour of the estate to learn more about
Outdoor Escapes

While Asheville contains plenty to see within its borders, traveling just a few miles outside of downtown will lead you to dozens of relaxing natural retreats. Don’t miss these outdoor attractions:

Scenic drives. You won’t have to drive far to enjoy the lookouts on top of Town Mountain and Elk Mountain. Catch a sunset along Town Mountain Road, or pause at stop-off points to explore the hiking trails. For more information on Asheville’s scenic drives, visit www.exploreasheville.com. Click on What to Do, then Outdoors and then Scenic Drives.

Hiking. The Great Woodland Adventure, located within Chimney Rock Park, will guide you 1.2 miles through the forest and overlooks Bent Creek. For a moderate hike, try the 3.2-mile Graveyard Field Trail, which leads hikers past the Lower Falls. For a serious climb, tackle the four-hour West Ridge-Graybeard Loop, which features dozens of viewpoints of the Asheville Watershed, Blue Ridge Parkway and Mount Mitchell.

North Carolina Arboretum. For a leisurely look at Asheville’s natural beauty, visit this 434-acre public garden in south Asheville. With 65 acres of cultivated gardens, the arboretum includes the Bonsai Exhibition Garden, 10 miles of forested trails, garden tours and nature activities for kids. For more details, visit www.nearboretum.org.

Roots in Appalachia

Most visitors to Asheville have heard of the Biltmore; fewer are aware of the Appalachian culture awaiting in the Blue Ridge mountains right outside the city. Settled largely by Irish Protestants (commonly known today as the Scots-Irish) seeking freedom from Quaker leaders in the North in the 1700s, western North Carolina was founded by rugged and self-sufficient people who settled a wild region and bucked government regulation.

When hundreds of thousands of Scots-Irish immigrants arrived in America, they found that land in coastal English colonies was already owned or too expensive to purchase. From 1717 to the late 1740s, they migrated to the frontier hill country, eventually moving south to North Carolina. Once settled in the foothills near Asheville, these immigrants adopted a lifestyle marked by traditional Scottish and Irish fiddle music, farming and storytelling—traditions that today make up the fabric of Appalachian culture.

“Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee, like much of rural southern Appalachia, are places where topography has contributed to a strong local identity,” wrote Sam Gray in The Face of Appalachia: Portraits From the Mountain Farm (W.W. Norton, 2003). “It is, and has been for many generations, a country of farmers, burley tobacco, cattle, copious gardens, steep slopes, durable traditions and hard-working families.”

For a look at modern-day Appalachian life, drive down the Blue Ridge Parkway, which offers scenic vistas of the mountain ranges once settled by the Scots-Irish. To see traditional Appalachian artwork, visit the Folk Art Center, which houses work from the Southern Highland Craft Guild, a group of craft artists from southern Appalachia. The center is also home to the Allanstand Craft Shop, which features locally made jewelry, pottery, ironwork, glass and baskets.

Downtown Attractions

Asheville is home to a flourishing arts and cultural scene, which includes performing arts venues, folk music, folk art and handmade mountain crafts. Stroll through the River Arts District, along the French Broad River, and you’ll find more than 100 artist studios.
and art galleries that make their home in abandoned warehouses.

Book lovers shouldn’t miss the independent bookstore Malaprop’s on Haywood Street. For a glimpse of the town’s literary history, visit the Thomas Wolfe Memorial State Historic Site, novelist Thomas Wolfe’s boyhood home and the setting for his 1929 novel, Look Homeward, Angel. The site features personal items owned by the Wolfe family and a video of Wolfe’s life as a writer. To learn more, visit www.wolfememorial.com or call (828) 253–8304.

Although the Biltmore is the town’s most popular historic home, it’s not the oldest. For a glimpse of Antebellum-era Asheville, visit the Smith-McDowell House. Built around 1840, the house once housed prominent citizens such as mayors, a Confederate major and friends of the Vanderbilts. Dubbed the most famous haunted house in Asheville, the home features a weekly ghost hunt. For more information, visit www.wnchistory.org or call (828) 216–3383.

Asheville is an easy place for tourists to navigate. A downtown stroll will take you past Art Deco structures preserved from the 1920s, as well as hundreds of unique local businesses, craft shops and original restaurants.

Megan Pacella explored the John Muir Trail for the July/August 2008 issue.

Revolutionary War Resource Guide Now Available

An unprecedented publication highlighting the contributions of African Americans and American Indians in America’s War for Independence is now available from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Forgotten Patriots identifies more than 6,600 names of African Americans and American Indians who contributed to American Independence. The 9” x 12” hardbound book with 872 pages contains details of the documented service of the listed Patriots, historical commentary and an extensive bibliography of research sources related to the topic.

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Uncovering the mystery of a Real Daughter

The life and legacy of Eunice Davis

By Shannon McRae
Eunice Davis lived a life unlike most other women of her time. Recognized as the first and only known Real Daughter of color, she is perhaps one of the most notable members of the DAR, yet we know very little about her. Now, more than a century after her death, DAR historians are delving into the life of this fascinating and passionate woman.

Eunice Davis was born in Andover, Mass., on October 22, 1800. While many families of the time identified with a single race, Davis' was different. Her father, Prince Ames, was considered a mulatto, but it was more likely that he was triracial, because his mother was of mixed Narragansett Indian and African ancestry and his father was of white ancestry. Davis' mother, Eunice Russ, was biracial, with familial connections to the Penobscot Indians and whites.

Davis’ family ties are what makes her DAR membership distinctive. A Real Daughter was a DAR member who was one generation removed from a Revolutionary War Patriot. Until Davis’ application in 1896, all of the recognized Real Daughters were white. But Davis’ father, Prince Ames, was a noted Revolutionary hero who fought at the battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill, and was even recognized for his bravery by General George Washington. In 1838 his wife, Eunice Ames, applied for and received a federal pension for her husband’s war service.

Eunice Davis’ story is significant because there is a modern-day misperception that the DAR may have not welcomed members of color during its formative period, according to Hollis Gentry, a DAR genealogical researcher. But that wasn’t the case at all, and was only a misbelief that evolved later, Gentry says.

In modern memory, Karen Farmer, who joined the DAR in 1976, was considered the organization’s first African-American member. But the discovery of Davis’ application—and the fact that she was a Real Daughter—revealed an 80-year gap and illuminated the group’s earnest support of Patriots, regardless of color.

“It was a considerable honor to be the daughter of someone who had fought to help free our country,” Gentry says. “And Davis’ race was irrelevant with regard to her acceptance into the DAR.”

Raising a Real Daughter

Yet color did play a major role in Eunice Davis' life. Though Davis was mixed-race, her second husband, John Davis, was an African American, and she identified with and immersed herself in Boston’s black community for most of her adult life. As a founding member of the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society, she worked constantly to end slavery throughout the United States. When she died in 1901 at 100 years of age, she was considered the oldest living female abolitionist in the country.
Her anti-slavery zeal stemmed perhaps from a family tradition of activism. Eunice, along with her mother and daughter, Dorcas A. Amos, were active voting members of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. Davis’ mother was a deeply religious woman who fought tirelessly for the underprivileged. Born to a white mother and an American Indian father, Eunice Russ was raised by a white aunt in Andover, Mass., after her mother died.

Descriptions of her appearance indicate that she favored her American Indian father and was known as a “dainty and devout” young woman who had “many friends among the clergy and laity who delighted to discuss with this prophetess the great issues of her day, for she was a woman of rare intelligence,” according to The Townsman Andover Historical Series by Charlotte Helen Abbott. History shows that she chose her associates carefully and “met the cultured and earnest men and women who joined in the cause of the oppressed.”

This was the woman who later raised Eunice Davis and likely instilled in her daughter (and her nine other children) the same passion for equality for all.

The Active Abolitionist

Eunice Davis married her first husband, Robert Amos, on September 28, 1819, when she was 18 years old. The couple had three children (Charles B., George and Dorcas) before Robert drowned in 1825 in a work-related accident. (Records show he kept boats and fishing bait.) She married John Davis, an African-American Baptist minister, in 1834. They had no children together, but Eunice seems to have been deeply involved in local black churches and knew key people in the community, largely through her family’s connections. Her sister Lavina married John T. Hilton, an African-American businessman and community leader. Her daughter Dorcas married into one of Boston’s prominent African-American families, the Revaleons. (Helen Revaleon, Eunice’s great-granddaughter, became the only known Davis descendant to join DAR.)

Gentry, who has significant experience tracing free people of color during this time period, has spent countless hours searching for more information on Eunice Davis. She first learned about Davis while conducting research on the 2008 edition of the NSDAR’s Forgotten Patriots book. Gentry scoured Massachusetts vital and census records, city directories, cemetery listings and abolitionist newspapers from that time for mentions of this mixed-descent woman who was living as a minority during such a pivotal time for equal rights in our nation’s history.

“What might account for the historical oversight of her contributions is that she lived an ambiguous life: within an African-American context, but also of American Indian heritage and documented primarily within white abolitionist records,” Gentry says. “But what we do know is that she became more involved as an activist in the community after the death of her first husband.”

Davis was an active board member of the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society, which was comprised mainly of three very different groups: white, upper-class Unitarians and Quakers; white, middle-class Congregationalists and Baptists; and elite African Americans from local Baptist and Methodist churches. Formed in 1833, the group was active for about six years and was considered a major force in the women’s abolitionist movement in New England, according to Debra Gold Hansen in her book Strained Sisterhood: Gender and Class in the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society (University of Massachusetts Press, 1993). The members of this interracial group were “anxious to wash away the guilt of slavery from their consciences, and if possible, from the world,” Hansen wrote.

Davis and her fellow BFASS members weren’t simply “petticoat politicians” (as the press dubbed the group). In the first year of petitioning, the Boston women’s organization sent more signatures on petitions in support of abolition than the combined totals of those sent from the states of Maine, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

One of her more exciting moments with the group came on October 21, 1835, when a pro-slavery mob rallied outside a BFASS meeting. Davis recounted the episode in a Boston Daily Globe article published on her 97th birthday. “All the women got out of the hall by crawling through a small window,” she told the newspaper. While the BFASS women escaped unharmed, abolitionist and newspaper publisher William Lloyd Garrison was dragged through the streets and nearly killed. BFASS sponsorship of this
Eunice Davis was a founding member of the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society. Below is an excerpt from the preamble to the group’s constitution:

“Believing slavery to be a direct violation of the laws of God, and productive of a vast amount of misery and crime; and convinced that its abolition can only be effected by an acknowledgement of the justice and necessity of immediate emancipation—we hereby agree to form ourselves into a Society to aid and assist in this righteous cause as far as it lies within our power.”

meeting catapulted its members to the forefront of women’s abolition groups.

Davis’ activism extended beyond the women’s organization. In 1839 Eunice signed a petition along with other Boston women to lift a ban against interracial marriage. Announcements in an 1843 issue of *The Liberator* (an abolitionist newspaper) indicate that she served on a signature-gathering committee of the Colored Citizens of Boston as well. According to an 1889 interview with the *Boston Daily Globe*, her home was a station on the Underground Railroad. Among the many fugitive slaves she assisted were William and Ellen Craft, who escaped to Boston in 1849 from a Georgia plantation.

**A Century of Good Works**

With a delegation from the Old South DAR Chapter attending, Davis celebrated her 100th birthday at her granddaughter’s home in Dedham, Mass., just six months before her death. On her 97th birthday, the National Society had given her a solid gold spoon inscribed with her name.

Spoons weren’t the only tokens of appreciation; the National Society and several chapters also provided pensions. Laura Wentworth Fowler, former Regent of the Old South Chapter, led an effort to get U.S. Congress to pension all Real Daughters at the turn of the 20th century.

A report presented during the 16th Continental Congress in 1907 showed that the National Society paid $11 for Davis’ care two months before her death and then another $41 for her burial expenses. At the meeting, the members discussed whether the stipends should continue, since it was becoming a financial burden to the organization.

President General Emily Nelson Ritchie McLean’s comments during that Congress are an example of how much the Society revered these Real Daughters: “While it may be that our expenses for Real Daughters have increased, it is a sad fact that the list of our beneficiaries must necessarily, very shortly, decrease,” Mrs. McLean said. “So perhaps it is a privilege to be able to perform this duty through the National Society.”

Davis’ legacy has not only benefited her fellow Daughters, but her life’s work, patriotic commitment and passion for civic service is truly an inspiring example to women everywhere.

Shannon McRae explored bridal attire traditions through American history for the July/August 2009 issue.

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Transcription of a letter from Real Daughters of the Old South Chapter, Boston, Mass.

To the National Society

We the undersigned, members of the Old South Chapter, D.A.R., of Boston, Mass., wish to express our gratitude to the National Society, for the gold souvenir spoons sent us by it in recognition of the service our fathers rendered in establishing American Independence [sic].

E. R. Davis   Aged 98
(Eunice Russ Ames Davis – See Prince Ames Mass. Archives)
First President & oldest living member of Anti-Slavery Sc. Boston.

Jane Brown Marshall Aged 92

Sophronia Fletcher, M.D.
First lady Physician at Mt. Holyoke College. First Class New England Female Medical College Class Mch. 1854.

Joanna W. B. Fletcher 87

Adeline Goulding

C.H. Perry Aged 90.
PRESERVATIONISTS MUST TACKLE THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ON HISTORIC STRUCTURES

BY NANCY MANN JACKSON
Nothing lasts forever.

Historic preservationists know that all too well. During the past century, buildings have endured not just normal wear and tear, but also the effects of increased pollution and climate change. Environmental changes like these require new ways of understanding and approaching preservation and restoration.

For the past two years, construction crews have worked painstakingly to restore the NSDAR Headquarters buildings as part of the current President General’s Project. A 2005 building assessment study conducted under the administration of President General Presley Merritt Wagoner identified almost $24 million in needed repairs and improvements. Immediately upon taking office, President General Linda Gist Calvin launched “Open Doors of Hospitality,” a comprehensive restoration project with an aim to prepare the Society’s buildings for another century of use and service.
The NSDAR Headquarters project is a 10- to 15-year initiative, and major progress has already been completed on the roof, gutters and stone restoration. The complex is comprised of three interconnected buildings:

- **Memorial Continental Hall**—built between 1905 and 1910 and now home to the DAR Library and DAR Museum Period Rooms.
- **The Administration Building**—constructed in 1923 and expanded in 1948 and 1980. It now houses the DAR Museum Gallery, Americana Room and many offices.
- **Constitution Hall**—built in 1929 when the need arose for a larger auditorium.

**Understanding the Damage**

Buildings have always aged, but the effects of pollution and climate fluctuations are changing the rules for preservationists. While the effects of pollution on historic buildings are well documented, the consequences of climate change are still being studied, says Tom Whitmore, project executive at The Christman Company, which is managing the restoration of the DAR buildings.

“Pollution is a local, usually urban, condition, often derived from auto traffic and industry smokestacks,” says Rudy Berg, certified sustainable building advisor and owner of Common Practice Building Design in Eugene, Ore. “Acid compounds [such as acid rain] are created that can degrade building materials, including stones like marble and metals. The grime from pollution soils buildings. So the chief impacts [from pollution] are...”
increased maintenance and shortened building lives. But pollution is a reversible problem, and when the pollution is cleaned up, its impacts diminish.”

Both copper and steel are affected chemically by “sulfur compounds in the form of air pollution,” Whitmore says, but because steel is usually a structural material, it’s often protected by a building’s roof and walls. At the DAR buildings, for instance, cracks in the limestone facade of Constitution Hall have resulted in problems with secondary steel systems.

“As the cracks at the joints have become larger, rainwater has penetrated behind the veneer and reached the steel anchors,” Whitmore says. “As the steel corrodes, it actually expands to many times its original thickness and exerts sometimes large forces into surrounding construction. Where we’ve discovered this condition, the stone veneer had cracked or been dislodged by this rust-jacking, and we have replaced the brackets or coated them with epoxy to resist corrosion.”

Because copper is typically used as an exterior building covering, its damage is often more severe.

“At the DAR, copper is used extensively for roofing, flashing and gutters,” Whitmore says. “Copper is much less susceptible to corrosion via rainwater, but is highly reactive with sulfur compounds in air pollution. Although copper systems can easily last more than 50 years in a relatively pristine environment, the copper at DAR, like other facilities in the Washington, D.C., area, shows evidence of deterioration that has been hastened by the presence of air pollution. The green patina that forms over time on exposed copper is actually a coating of copper sulfate.”

Along with copper and steel, marble is also affected by pollution, and the marble veneer, columns and ornament on Memorial Continental Hall have undergone a process called sugaring. “The surface of deteriorated marble, instead of being smooth, resembles a sugar cube and is in some cases much rougher,” Whitmore says. “The breakdown of the cohesion in the structure typically goes deep into the stone pieces so that it can become a structural, not just a cosmetic, problem.”

At Memorial Continental Hall, contractors have applied consolidants to marble areas that are most deteriorated. These chemicals penetrate into the crystalline structure and bind it back together.

While the causes and projections of climate change may be debatable, there is little argument about whether climate fluctuations are occurring. On a local level, this often means more extreme weather events. “The state of Georgia, for example, has just had record flooding on the heels of a record drought,” Berg says.

Storm damage can be one of the biggest weather-related problems for historic buildings. “The lateral and uplift loads from strong winds may be particularly problematic for historic buildings, since many of them were designed before the strengthening techniques and materials employed today existed,” Berg says.

Climate change can also affect how buildings perform, revealing “deficiencies in insulation or the inability of HVAC systems to respond to more extreme temperatures,” Berg says. “Massive buildings such as southwestern adobes that rely on big daily temperature swings may become uncomfortable if night temperatures stay high.
We may find that historic buildings designed around solid local weather wisdom develop performance problems because the rules have changed."

**Developing a Plan**

Like the DAR buildings, every historic structure, including period homes, museums, barns and churches, faces environmental damage. Once the owner understands the damage and its causes, the next step is to decide whether and how to make repairs and restorations.

Whitmore says fixing the problems must start with protection, such as roof maintenance, and continue with restoration using historically appropriate materials. Replacement, he says, is a last resort.

“The goal of preservation is to preserve as much as possible of the original structure,” says John Anderson, a structural engineer with New York-based Robert Silman Associates, which focuses on historic preservation and sustainability. “If you have to replace something, use materials that are as close as possible to the original.”

For instance, Robert Silman Associates worked on the restoration of Craftsman Farms in Parsippany, N.J., where the 1911 log house was built with American chestnut wood, “which is essentially extinct now,” he says. In order to restore the home as closely as possible to its original state, the project team used the wood of Asian chestnut trees.

In addition to retaining historic accuracy, Anderson works to incorporate energy efficiency and other sustainability measures into historic properties. But it’s a balancing act, he says. For instance, "green building focuses on readily renewable materials, which take less time to grow and are more energy efficient in the short term, but they’re not as durable," Anderson says. "For example, carbon steel is more energy efficient than stainless steel, but carbon steel will rust over time.”

While repairs on newer properties are generally geared to last 10 to 20 years, repairs to historic structures are typically expected to last 50 to 100 years. "So you have to balance durability with energy efficiency," Anderson says.

Using modern materials to try to prevent further environmental damage to historic structures can also cause
problems. At the Virginia State Capitol, for instance, “we removed all the historic stucco from the exterior of the building because it had been coated with a waterproof coating to eliminate water infiltration,” Whitmore says. “It worked, but it did not allow water vapor inside the building to get out, as it had been doing prior to the coating, and it caused any woodwork in contact with the exterior walls to rot. It’s much better to try to understand how the building was built and that certain systems, such as roofing and masonry joints, really are sacrificial and will need to be replaced periodically. Trying to solve problems in historic construction by using modern materials and techniques can cause more problems. They don’t build them like they used to.”

Looking to the Future

While environmental changes have presented new challenges for historic structures, some preservationists want to reverse the trend and figure out how “historic buildings can help mitigate climate change,” Anderson says. “Some say preservation in and of itself is inherently sustainable, but others want to push it further. Preservation should lead as an example for new construction in terms of urban planning and energy-efficient design. It would be good to see historic preservationists incorporate renewable energy into historic properties, study new windows versus old and find out what’s really most efficient.”

To that end, Anderson served on a team of experts organized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Friends of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, which earlier this year published the Pocantico Proclamation on Sustainability and Historic Preservation. The proclamation offers guiding principles for the use of historic preservation as a model and a partner for a sustainable society. A follow-up meeting was held in October 2009 in Nashville to focus on how preservation can play a more crucial role in energy efficiency and climate change mitigation. The results of the work, the Nashville Challenge, are due out shortly.

As the President General’s Project shows, historic preservation and restoration are expensive and complex. Without expert attention or funding, many historic structures have succumbed to environmental damage. For instance, “the statues and structures on the Acropolis in Athens have been damaged substantially by acid rain,” says Rob Jackson, Nicholas Chair of Global Environmental Change and a professor in the Biology Department at Duke University.

As global changes in the environment occur, some experts predict that other historic structures will go the way of the Acropolis. “Climate change will produce a heritage of loss,” says Pamela Jerome, partner at New York architecture and engineering firm WASA/Studio A and elected officer of the Scientific Council of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). “We need to make uncomfortable choices about what is savable and what is not.”

Jerome says the choice about whether to save each historic landmark or restore each historic home will depend on location, importance and significance to a local community, as well as how much money is available to spend on it. Surely each choice also will, as it always has, depend on the passion that an individual or group of people has for saving a structure.

President General Linda Gist Calvin says, “Our Daughters take great pride in their NSDAR Headquarters, and we are extremely encouraged by their commitment to seeing that these historic buildings are restored and preserved for future generations.”

Nancy Mann Jackson wrote about Wedgwood’s 250th anniversary exhibit at the DAR Museum for the September/October issue.
GENERAL NICHOLAS HERKIMER

HEROIC SON OF GERMAN IMMIGRANTS BECOMES A MARTYR TO AMERICA’S CAUSE

By Dr. Daniel S. Marrone
British General John Burgoyne had a “Grand Plan” to end the American rebellion. Boasting that he could “crush” the rebels by “splitting in half” the newly created United States of America, Burgoyne would lead a massive invasion force of 7,000 southward from Canada through Lake Champlain with the aim of capturing Albany and the Hudson River—a major city and waterway for transportation and commerce. Accomplishing this, the United States would be divided, with the rebellious New England isolated from the rest of the Colonies.

Burgoyne’s “Grand Plan” to conquer Albany and the Hudson River necessitated military support from two other British invasion forces. Under the command of General William Howe, a British force in New York City was to move north in support of Burgoyne. Unfortunately for Burgoyne, this key part of the plan was never implemented. Instead, Howe decided to move south and capture America’s nascent capital city, Philadelphia. General Howe’s army did indeed eventually capture Philadelphia. The British Army’s conquest and occupation of the city was a major setback for the Americans.

Another British invasion army, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Barry St. Leger, did endeavor to join forces with Burgoyne. Embarking from Canada in July 1777, St. Leger’s army landed at Fort Oswego on the south shore of Lake Ontario. From there, they moved south to Oneida Lake and were headed directly to the strategically imperative Mohawk River. However, these British invaders had to conquer Fort Stanwix first.

TAKING FORT STANWIX

Erected by the British in 1757 during the French and Indian War, Fort Stanwix—briefly renamed Fort Schuyler when the Americans took the fort in July 1776—was situated on the Oneida Carry, a portage route between the Mohawk River and Oneida Lake.

The British attack on the American-held fort began in the early hours of August 3, 1777. The British invasion army was substantially supplemented by four of the six Native American Iroquois Confederation tribes: Cayuga, Mohawk, Onondaga and Seneca. Thankfully, Herkimer and the militia were allied with two of the Iroquois Confederation tribes, the Oneida and the Tuscarora, at the Battle of Oriskany. After seizing the fort and rechristening it Stanwix, the British hoped to then sweep east on the Mohawk River, quashing American resistance along the way to Albany. But St. Leger severely underestimated the opposing forces and failed to reach Albany, let alone seize the fort.

ON JUNE 14, 1912, the Oriskany Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a series of 14 stone markers honoring American Brigadier General Nicholas Herkimer and the Tryon County Militia at the site of the Battle of Oriskany in central New York. These markers were in tribute to the bloody battle that occurred on August 6, 1777, when Herkimer’s militia was ambushed six miles east of present-day Rome, N.Y., at Oriskany Creek. The battle was devastating for Herkimer and his militia, but proved to be one of the pivotal events of the American Revolution.
The first obstacle was the German-speaking Mohawk Dutch settlers, including men, women and children, who refused to surrender at the fort despite being surrounded by St. Leger and his men. The second obstacle was New York’s Tryon County Militia. (Colonial-era militias have evolved into today’s National Guard.) Herkimer’s militia was comprised of local farmers, cheese makers, vintners and trappers whose ethnicity varied widely. However, most of Herkimer’s militia was comprised of sons and grandsons of early 19th-century settlers from Europe’s Palatine German regions.

Six miles before reaching Fort Stanwix, Herkimer and his militia crossed a narrow stream called Oriskany Creek and were ambushed. The brigadier general was among the first to be shot, suffering a serious leg wound. But he steadfastly refused to be taken from battle. Instead, he continued to lead and inspired his militia to “stay and fight” throughout this more than five-hour, hand-to-hand struggle. The 49-year old Herkimer created an unparalleled model of bravery under fire.

Still, the Battle of Oriskany was devastating for Herkimer and his militia. Of the 760 Tryon County militiamen and 40 Oneida Indians fighting on the American side of the battle, 465 were severely wounded or killed. With a 60 percent casualty rate, it was one of the bloodiest engagements of the war. In fact, the Oriskany casualty rate would not be surpassed until nearly a century later during the American Civil War. Herkimer died 10 days after the battle due to loss of blood stemming from a botched leg amputation. While many Americans were lost at Oriskany, Herkimer and his militia exacted a considerable toll on St. Leger’s invasion force. Demoralized and increasingly sensing defeat, the British ended their siege of Fort Stanwix on August 23, 1777.
Unable to suppress American rebel resistance along the Mohawk River, St. Leger’s mission ended in failure, thereby weakening Burgoyne’s plan. Burgoyne’s huge army approaching Albany never reached its target. Defeated at Freeman’s Farm and Bemis Heights, together called the Battle of Saratoga, Burgoyne’s army surrendered to the Americans on October 17, 1777. Saratoga and, it could be argued, Oriskany, were significant milestones in the war. With these American victories, French King Louis XVI was sufficiently convinced that the new country would eventually gain her independence from Great Britain. France then entered into the Treaty of Alliance with the newly formed United States of America on February 6, 1778.

HERKIMER’S LEGACY

The bravery of Herkimer and his militia was reflected in name and spirit with the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Oriskany. Commissioned on September 25, 1950, the carrier took part in numerous battles throughout the Korean and Vietnam wars. In 2006, this warship, with full military tribute, was intentionally sunk in the Gulf of Mexico.

Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1962, Fort Stanwix still stands in Rome, N.Y, and is administered by the U.S. National Park Service. Herkimer’s house and surrounding acreage in Little Falls, N.Y., have been officially designated the Herkimer Home State Historic Site.

Among the 14 stone markers erected by the DAR in 1912, the one at the site where a bleeding Herkimer led his militia best describes the significance of this event:

“Near this spot stood the beech tree which during the Battle of Oriskany sheltered the wounded General Herkimer while he gave orders that made Saratoga possible and decided the fate of the nation.”

Dr. Daniel S. Marrone is a Distinguished Service Professor and Faculty Senator at Farmingdale State College in New York.

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The first decade after the ratification of the Constitution gave America scant respite from internal political divisions and involvement in the seemingly eternal warfare between Britain and France. Our young, pugnacious nation bristled at interference with its maritime trade, and it even came close to declaring war on its old ally, France, over its attacks on Yankee shipping.

At the same time, Federalists and their opponents, known as Democratic-Republicans, or just Republicans, fought for power in the young nation and sparred over how the new government should be run. Just months after the Constitution took effect on March 4, 1789, the French Revolution had electrified the world; its democratic reforms sent shock waves across Europe.

Those tremors reached America, where opponents of the more powerful and centralized national government saw Federalists as robbing the people of their recently hard-won rights. This division would deepen and sharpen through the 1790s, as dissent coalesced into factions and finally into political parties.
Following the end of the Revolutionary War, American merchantmen contended with a host of new and old problems at sea. Trade with Britain resumed quickly after the war, but America had to contend with Britain’s protectionist mercantile policies. Those policies had been restrictive enough when America comprised 13 Colonies, but as an independent nation, America was seen as a potential threat to British commercial interests.

As Frank Lambert put it in The Barbary Wars: American Independence in the Atlantic World (Hill and Wang, 2005), Britain assumed it would remain America’s primary trading partner, so it could set the rules. Britain welcomed shipments of raw materials from America, and Americans clamored for British goods. However, Britain closed its West Indian colonies to American ships—Yankee exports to these islands had to be carried on British ships—and imposed import duties that made American goods less competitive in the former mother country.

On land, Britain refused to honor its pledge in the Treaty of Paris to remove its military presence in the Northwest Territory, where it continued to stir up American Indian attacks on settlers and remained poised, many thought, for an invasion.

France also took protectionist measures to deny American ships access to her ports. Spain refused to negotiate a commercial treaty or to allow Americans along the Western frontier to have easy access to the Mississippi River. In the Mediterranean, pirates from Algiers and other Barbary states preyed on Yankee vessels.

In short, the new nation’s merchant marine and its international trade were hemmed in, thwarted and harassed. This threatened to choke economic growth and, possibly, America’s very existence. As George C. Daughan notes in his history of the American Navy, If By Sea: The Forging of the American Navy — From the Revolution to the War of 1812 (Basic Books, 2009), the world expected America’s experiment in government to fail; if it did, the young country would likely be reabsorbed into the British empire or divvied up among European powers.

When Britain and France went to war in 1793, the situation got even worse for American merchantmen. Both countries began to intercept, board and inspect American vessels for contraband. Additionally, Britain claimed the right to impress, or force, sailors on American ships into service for His Royal Majesty’s Navy.

Britain had declared shipments of foodstuffs contraband in June 1793. In November, Daughan notes, a secret British decree empowered her naval captains to seize any American ship headed to a French port or carrying French goods. British warships captured more than 300 American vessels before the order became known, and her crews were given the choice of prison or impressment.

Because Britain’s navy was much larger and more widely deployed, its actions eclipsed those of the smaller French navy and whipped up anger against Britain to the point that war seemed likely. Hoping to avoid what would likely be a calamity, President George Washington talked tough: He persuaded Congress to beef up American defenses and approved a monthlong embargo in late March 1794. At the same time, he dispatched Chief Justice John Jay as a special envoy to England to negotiate an agreement to resolve the situation.

The Jay Treaty of 1794 made some progress toward relieving the thorniest issues, especially in averting war. In theory, Daughan notes, it affirmed the rights of neutral ships while stipulating that Britain’s foes could not base out of American ports. Britain agreed to withdraw from the Northwest Territory, but other questions, such as Revolutionary War debts and impressment, were left unsettlled.

The treaty fell far short of what Washington had hoped for, and Jay, an ardent opponent of the French, was criticized as allowing Britain to dictate terms. In A Leap in the Dark, historian John Ferling observes that the war with France was going badly, and Jay might have secured better terms if he had pushed harder.
Still, it was enough to avert a new war with Britain, which was Washington’s paramount desire.

**FRANCE REACTS**

However, Washington may not have considered how angrily the French would react to the Jay Treaty. The slight thaw in relations between America and her former foe angered France’s government, called “The Directory,” which saw the Jay Treaty as shattering America’s 1778 treaty of alliance with France, Daughan writes.

In July 1796, The Directory retaliated. It decreed that France had the right to search and seize neutral vessels carrying cargoes it deemed as contraband war material. Almost at once, French warships and privateers along the American coast and in the West Indies began stopping and seizing American ships. Between October 1796 and June 1797, French forces took 316 ships. Most were condemned in prize courts, and the goods sold. Some of the money found its way to the pockets of the corrupt members of The Directory.

France also tried to influence the U.S. election of 1796 in order to blunt the power of the pro-British Federalists by electing the strongly pro-French Thomas Jefferson as president. France recalled her ambassador, and Washington recalled America’s envoy, James Monroe, citing the latter’s well-known pro-French sentiments. In retaliation, The Directory refused to receive Monroe’s Federalist replacement, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney.

With American shipping being decimated by French spoliations and diplomatic ties with Paris all but severed, Washington announced he would not seek a third term. In his last message to Congress, he urged the country to create a strong naval force, though all attempts to do so were blocked by Jefferson, Madison and Albert Gallatin—the Federalist leaders.

John Adams succeeded Washington as president on March 4, 1797, having barely won the Electoral College vote. Two days earlier, The Directory had decreed that French naval vessels could seize neutral ships carrying British goods and hang American seamen serving on enemy vessels as pirates (even if they had been impressed into service).

Furthermore, the French warned that any American ship lacking a *role d’equipage* (a list of crew and passengers that few American ships carried) was a legitimate prize of war.

America had insisted on the principle of “free ships make free goods”—which meant, as a neutral country, it could transport goods to and from either France or Britain without being subject to seizure. This decree voided that principle and, with the other elements of the decree, comprised all but a formal declaration of war, Daughan notes.

Infuriated but leery of committing America to war with a European superpower, Adams followed Washington’s negotiate-while-arming example to try to defuse the situation. In May 1797, the new president appointed a three-man commission to Paris to reopen talks on a new treaty.

At the same time, he pushed Congress to build a navy. Three frigates had been under desultory construction for some time; Adams ordered them completed and sent to sea to protect American shipping. He also ordered the arming of suitable merchant vessels, granting them letters of marque—documents that declared they were in service to the nation, not pirates. Under pressure from his Federalist colleagues, Adams also agreed to augment the regular army with a “provisional army” and reorganize the militia.

In messages to Congress, Adams sounded a martial note, warning that France had judged America’s internal political differences as rendering her unable to unite against a foe. “We shall convince France and the world that we are not a degraded people, humiliated under a Colonial spirit of fear and a sense of inferiority, fitted to be the miserable instruments of foreign influence, and regardless of national honor, character and interest,” he declared.

**ESCALATION**

Adams’ commissioners—Ambassador Pinckney, John Marshall and Elbridge Gerry—had instructions to negotiate for an end to the attacks on American shipping, for recognition of the principle of “free ships free goods,” and, if possible, the termination of the 1778 treaty of alliance that obliged the United States to fight on France’s side.

The Directory wanted the Jay Treaty scrapped. The French believed the Jay Treaty abrogated the free ships principle, according to Alexander DeConde, in *The American Spirit*.
Quasi-War: The Politics and Diplomacy of the Undeclared War with France, 1797–1801 (Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1966). They felt America had abandoned its obligations under the 1778 treaty and had formed an alliance with Britain.

In January 1798, The Directory raised the stakes. They declared France would seize any vessel carrying British goods; anything on board a ship of British origin could also lead to seizure of the vessel. Furthermore, any ship that landed at a British port, except in emergency, was forbidden to enter any French port.

The French had reason to believe they would get their way. Allied with Holland and Spain, her armies continued to sweep across Europe. Napoleon Bonaparte was rumored to be planning a cross-channel invasion that might topple England. DeConde notes this prospect pleased some in America, including Andrew Jackson, then a senator who enthused that “a republic will spring from the wreck” if Bonaparte succeeded. However, Federalists feared that France’s blows on America were aimed at crippling Britain, and, once Britain fell, America could be next.

BACKDOOR INTRIGUE

When Adams’ commissioners arrived in France, they sought an audience with the French foreign minister, Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord. He refused to recognize or meet with them officially. Instead, an intermediary told them in October 1797 that they had to pay a bribe and also guarantee a huge loan to France before any discussions could begin.

The commissioners refused; subsequently, secret agents acting on behalf of Talleyrand and The Directory tried repeatedly to engineer a backdoor deal for the bribe and loan. Outraged, the commissioners sent home a report of the chicanery.

When Adams received the report in the spring of 1798 and shared it with his Cabinet and Congress, they angrily demanded that he make it public. Published on April 2, the intrigue became known as the XYZ Affair, because the three agents were identified only with those letters.

The commissioners refused; subsequently, secret agents acting on behalf of Talleyrand and The Directory tried repeatedly to engineer a backdoor deal for the bribe and loan. Outraged, the commissioners sent home a report of the chicanery.

Talleyrand and The Directory now realized they had badly miscalculated. America might yet embrace Britain and do so with a more powerful army and naval force than it had just months before.

Hoping to keep the situation from deteriorating further, The Directory agreed to revoke the privateers’ commissions, endorse the rights of neutral vessels and lift the embargo on American ships. In practice, the depredations continued unabated, indicating The Directory’s weak control of affairs.

ONE LAST TRY

Realizing they had failed, Marshall and Pinckney left Paris, though Pinckney stayed in France. Gerry remained in Paris—Talleyrand had warned that if Gerry also left, war would surely follow. Adams learned this in June...
1798, through dispatches from his ambassador to the Hague, William Vans Murray, and also from Marshall, who had returned home. Marshall told Adams France didn’t want war, feeling their waiting game would bring them what they sought. He also allayed Adams’ fears that Gerry had been seduced by the French into helping them, saying that Gerry felt he was preventing the outbreak of war.

When Gerry returned to America in November 1798, he confirmed that France did not want war and would negotiate a settlement. Adams named another commission, composed of William Vans Murray, Chief Justice Oliver Ellsworth and North Carolina Governor William Davie. Before sending this trio, however, the president demanded French assurances that they would be received officially. After being promised this, he sent them off in November 1799.

Other factors came into play as these diplomatic maneuvers took place. On August 1, 1798, Admiral Horatio Nelson defeated French forces at Aboukir Bay in Egypt. This eliminated fears of a French invasion of either America or Britain. America’s navy had increasing success against the few French warships left in the Caribbean. An agreement worked out in 1799 with Toussaint L’Ouverture, who was consolidating his hold on Haiti, helped mitigate the threat of privateers based there.

Napoleon successfully staged a coup in November 1799. He dismissed The Directory and assumed power as First Consul. When the commissioners arrived in Paris in March 1800, Bonaparte received them lavishly and negotiations began.

The negotiations would not only determine peace or war—they would also influence the presidential election of 1800. War fever had abated, and protests against high taxes, deficit spending for defense and big government made the outlook bleak for Federalist success. Adams knew that his re-election chances depended heavily on securing a peaceful settlement with France.

It had taken months to dispatch the new commission, which meant the men had to conclude a favorable treaty quickly in order for word to cross the Atlantic before the 1800 election. That didn’t happen. It took six months to create what was known as the Convention of Mortefontaine, which was signed on October 3, 1800. First word of the agreement reached America in early November as Adams and the Federalists lost in the polls.

Not quite a treaty, the convention voided the 1778 treaty and restored the principle of “free ships free goods,” although it dropped the matter of American claims for ships and cargoes France had seized. America would continue to contend with problems at sea, notably the depredations of the Barbary pirates, until her navy had established itself as a power.

The convention meant that Adams had succeeded in avoiding war with France and disentangling America from the European war. In attempting to steer a centrist course, he made serious errors, beginning with retaining his largely disloyal cabinet through most of his term. The passage in 1798 of the Alien and Sedition Acts that severely restricted the right to criticize the government seemed to affirm Republican charges that the Federalists were bent on destroying the freedoms won by war. Federalist sympathy toward France also turned many voters against them. In the end, the party of Washington and Hamilton was another victim of this almost-war.

Bill Hudgins often writes book reviews for American Spirit, and he wrote about America’s campaign for Canada for the September/October 2008 issue.
If Barbara Griffith could change one thing about her life, it would be her last name. In fact, she wishes she had never taken her husband’s name when they married. It’s not that she doesn’t love him; it’s that she wants to make tracing her lineage easier for future generations. As a long-time genealogy sleuth and DAR member, Mrs. Griffith knows how difficult it can be to trace the lineage of female ancestors. “Unfortunately, women, once married, often disappeared behind our husbands’ names,” says the Ohio State Organizing Secretary.

Historically, there are substantially fewer public records about women than men—men more often were the ones who fought in wars, owned land and conducted business. The records that do exist often mention women only in the context of their husbands, not their parents. Many genealogists focus only on the male side of their family tree, but they’re missing out, says Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, a certified genealogist and author of Discovering Your Female Ancestors (Better Way Books, 1998). “Half of your ancestors were women,” she says. “If you think your family history is important, then your whole family history is important—your forefathers and your foremothers.”

Are you ready to unlock the other side of your family tree? Follow these expert tips for finding female ancestors.

**Check Marriage and Death Records First**

When researching a female ancestor, the first document Mrs. Griffith looks for is a marriage application or marriage bond, which often includes the maiden name of the female ancestor. “So many people think they can go to the courthouse and just look at the marriage license, but they need to get their hands on the application. Her maiden name is likely on that application, and maybe even the names of her parents,” she says. Marriage applications might be held with the courthouse, the county or the church in which the women were married.

In some areas, like Virginia and North Carolina, marriage bonds had to be posted by the groom prior to the wedding and included the bride’s maiden name. Depending on the location of your ancestor and her religious affiliation, other marriage records to look for include consent affidavits and banns, which were an early American church custom equivalent to a marriage license.

First comes marriage, and then comes death—at least that’s how it should follow when researching a female ancestor. After pulling marriage records, Mrs. Griffith turns her search to death records, including mortality schedules, cemetery records and gravestones.

“A lot of times cemetery plots were purchased by the wife’s family, which means her maiden name might be on there,” she says. “I once literally tripped over the gravestone of a female ancestor in a cemetery, and it ended up having so much information about her family because she was buried in her family plot.”

*continued on page 46*
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A/S

From the publishers of History Magazine.
When looking for information on a death certificate or obituary, Mrs. Griffith offers a word of warning: “When it comes to death records, you have to consider that the people writing them or reporting the information were going through a traumatic experience. It’s very difficult to focus, so they may accidentally give wrong information or forget their family’s names altogether,” she says. “Or maybe the person reporting the death only knew the ancestor by a nickname. I’ve been on some wild-goose chases because of a nickname given on a death certificate.”

Expand Your Search

If you can’t locate marriage or death records—or if they don’t include the information you need—the next step is to expand your search beyond the female ancestor’s records, DeBartolo Carmack says. “We focus first on the records the woman would have generated,” she says. “The next step is to look for the records generated by her husband and potential in-laws.”

Determining her neighbors and any people in the community who might be connected could also turn up information about your female ancestor.

“As historically, our ancestors tended to cluster together in their relationships,” DeBartolo Carmack says. “They signed each other’s deeds, witnessed each other’s weddings, even married each other’s siblings. As you look at the communities in which your ancestors lived, the same names will all start popping up in your search, which could offer clues about your female ancestors and who they were related to.”

As you look for documents related to your female ancestors, you’ll likely find yourself in courthouse basements or small-town libraries. Mrs. Griffith says the key to finding information among centuries of archived documents is to know what questions to ask—and how to ask them. “Keep your request simple, and librarians and archivists will be more likely to help,” she says. “Instead of asking seven questions in an e-mail, just ask one. Don’t bombard them with information about your family and don’t go in with a know-it-all attitude. Be friendly and tell them that you are on a mission and what you’re looking for.”

Mrs. Griffith also recommends being open to looking in unexpected places. Sources of information that may not seem to have a direct link to your ancestor could hold a vital key. “When I was doing some research on ancestors in Maryland, I pulled a book on Maryland mansions,” Mrs. Griffith says. “The title leads you to believe you are going to be getting information about houses, but surprisingly I found this family’s genealogy in there, and it was exactly...”
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**Don’t Assume Anything**

Searching for female ancestors sometimes requires reading between the lines. Could the elderly woman who lived with the female ancestor be her mother? Could her grandson’s middle name be her maiden name? While either could be possible, that doesn’t make it correct. Like with any genealogy search, verifying the information is a critical step.

“Just because the name’s the same doesn’t mean it’s the right person,” DeBartolo Carmack says. Another common mistake she sees genealogists make is to assume the female ancestor is the mother of all the children. “If there are significant gaps in birth dates, that’s a red flag that her husband may have remarried,” DeBartolo Carmack says.

**Be Methodical**

Read documents thoroughly and then reread them word for word, Mrs. Griffith says. “That special surname you’re looking for may be hidden in the 17th paragraph of a will, but if you don’t read every line, you’ll miss it.”

Also take detailed notes on each document or book you read; otherwise you may find yourself backtracking and having to read something again. “It pays to be very organized and detailed,” says Mrs. Griffith. She writes down the title of every book she picks up, where she looked at it, what relevant information it contained and whether she made a copy of it.

Writing a biographical sketch of an ancestor helps DeBartolo Carmack discover gaps in the story and what documents she might want to revisit. “I start with the bare-bones information, and as I gain new information, I add to it,” she says. “That helps me see what I need to look for next. I’m a strong advocate of bringing these women to life, and writing biographical sketches based on records and other research is a great way to remember them.”

*Lena Anthony writes* American Spirit’s *Today’s Daughters* department.

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**Where Your Female Ancestors Are Hiding**

*Check out these additional resources for clues to finding your female ancestors.*

**Family wills:**

A woman or her parents may be named as an executor or beneficiary of a family will.

**Newspaper articles:**

It was not uncommon for a newspaper to run a short article about a woman paying a visit to her mother in the next county.

**Church records:**

Churches can provide valuable information, particularly if your ancestors were Quakers, who recorded a lot of information about families in minute books.

**Pension records:**

If an ancestor fought in the Civil War, War of 1812 or the Revolutionary War, check pension records, which were often very detailed. They could contain information about your ancestor’s wife, where the couple was married, and where they were born.

**Census records:**

The first U.S. Census was taken in 1790, and these records could be helpful in determining who lived with or next to your female ancestor. Often, once they became widowed, mothers moved in with their daughters.

**Online resources:**

From surname organizations to sites like Ancestry.com and Footnote.com, the Internet offers a wealth of genealogical information that could be useful to your search. Remember to validate any information you find online.
Ever since the first humans built a fire in their dark cave, people have realized the importance of proper indoor lighting. But ever since Edison invented the light bulb, lighting technology has, unfortunately, remained relatively prehistoric. Modern light fixtures do little to overcome problems associated with improper lighting. As more and more of us spend longer and longer hours in front of our computer monitor, these problems are compounded. And the effects of improper indoor lighting are not necessarily limited to a physical problem: the quantity and quality of light can also play a part in both our mood and work performance.

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