the good doctor

Medicine in Early America

A Little-Known Turning Point
The Battle of Kings Mountain

The Library Company
America’s first successful lending library

A DNA Diary
The Genographic Project

A Wartime Romance
at the Schuyler-Hamilton House
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Revolutionary Poet
Phillis Wheatley overcame the bonds of slavery to become an acclaimed poet, paving the way for generations of African-American writers.
BY JAMIE ROBERTS

The Good Doctor
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The Battle of Kings Mountain
In October 1780, a brief battle between American Patriots and loyalists atop Kings Mountain, S.C., proved to be a critical turning point in the Revolution.
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About the Cover
Pastor & Galt Apothecary Shop at Colonial Williamsburg
PHOTO BY DAVID W. NOODY
COURTESY OF THE COLONIAL WILMINGTONS FOUNDATION

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Today’s Daughters
A Worldly Perspective

The former U.S. ambassador to Pakistan first became interested in a foreign service career after seeing an ad in the DAR magazine.

BY LENA ANTHONY

Genealogy Sleuth

DNA Diary: The Genographic Project

National Geographic has embarked on a five-year study to compile a genetic atlas.

BY MAUREEN TAYLOR

Spirited Adventures

Nashville, A Southern Hub for Culture

Discover the history behind Nashville’s most famous nicknames like “Athens of the South” and, of course, “Music City.”

BY LENA ANTHONY

Historic Home

A Wartime Romance at the Schuyler-Hamilton House

This home in Morristown, N.J., hosted the whirlwind courtship of Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler.

BY COURTNEY PETER

in every issue

4 President General’s Message
8 Bookshelf
10 Whatnot
15 Class Act
16 National Treasures
Your love for your daughter... it’s endless... timeless... and forever. Now comes an exquisite reminder of the heartfelt bond the two of you share with the “My Precious Daughter Diamond Pendant.”

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From the President General

As many of you read our cover story about Colonial medicine, you’ll probably feel relieved to be living in a time of 21st-century medical breakthroughs. Some early American medical practitioners had training, but others were barbers or apothecaries with jars of leeches and other homeopathic remedies. But by the turn of the 19th century, significant medical progress was being made, although too slowly to save men like George Washington, as our story illustrates.

Several early American physicians are connected to this issue’s Historic Home. Purchased in 1765 by Jabez Campfield, a Continental Army surgeon, the Schuyler-Hamilton House was built in 1760 in the small village of Morristown, N.J. The house, which served as a medical storage facility during the winter encampment of the Continental Army, is famous as the site of the whirlwind romance of Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler. The Morristown DAR Chapter now maintains the property as a museum and chapter headquarters.

Washington appears in several places on these pages, just in time for his 279th birthday. We review two books about him—one is a highly anticipated biography, the other a coffee-table book about his passion for maps. Washington even makes an appearance in our story about Phillis Wheatley, the slave turned revered poet whose words were celebrated on two continents. He was just one of the luminaries Wheatley met as she defied skeptics with her intellect.

During the nation’s early years, books were not widely available. In 1731, Benjamin Franklin convinced members of the Junto, his “society of mutual improvement,” to pool their resources and purchase a collection of books none could have afforded individually. The result was the Library Company, America’s first successful lending library and renowned cultural institution.

Though brief and involving a small number of troops, the Battle of Kings Mountain on the South Carolina frontier showed the disproportionate effect seemingly small events can have on great matters. Coming at a critical junction in the Southern campaign, the Patriot victory was the tiny stone that triggered an avalanche that came to rest at Yorktown. Several DAR chapters’ names memorialize the battle or the Patriots who fought there.

Since Nashville’s devastating May 2010 floods, city leaders have been doing their best to recover economically. We thought our Spirited Adventures department would be a fitting place to promote the city’s restoration—and spotlight the history that few outside the region know.

Today’s Daughter Anne Woods Patterson, former ambassador to Pakistan, explains how an ad in the Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine prompted her to look into a career in the foreign service. Who knows what direction our magazine can take you!

Merry Ann T. Wright

Merry Ann T. Wright
Beloved Lena Liu art on comfortable stitched cotton canvas
- Rubber soles and foam insole
- Butterfly-shaped sculpted metal charms dangle from the laces

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Excited and apprehensive—that’s how Anne Woods Patterson describes her reaction when she was appointed U.S. ambassador to Pakistan almost four years ago. “It was exciting because I knew it was an important job, but I also was apprehensive because I knew it was going to be difficult—and dangerous,” says Mrs. Patterson, who served as ambassador from July 2007 until October 2010.

For more than three years, Mrs. Patterson oversaw U.S. diplomatic operations in Pakistan, including working with Pakistani officials and managing U.S. assistance programs, which totaled about $3.5 billion in aid each year. Her job also entailed trying to improve the U.S. image in Pakistan. “People there are regrettably quite anti-American, a sentiment that goes back a long way,” she says. “We certainly had problems communicating that America could have a positive place in their lives, but when you talked one-on-one with people, they were quite hospitable and amiable.”

She also worked hard to increase private investment in Pakistan—she even brought a group of Pakistani business leaders to the United States. “I thought American companies were intimidated by the dangers in Pakistan but were missing out on some good opportunities,” she says.

The role of ambassador was nothing new to Mrs. Patterson, who had previously served as the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, Colombia and the United Nations and in other diplomatic roles in Saudi Arabia and Switzerland.

Still, she says her most recent post was definitely the most challenging. Five months after she arrived, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated. Suicide bombing was and still is a regular occurrence. To add to the turmoil, the country also had been plagued by a handful of devastating natural disasters in recent years, including widespread flooding last summer that killed almost 2,000 and directly affected nearly 20 million people. The terrorist attack in Mumbai, India, in 2008, also concerned the ambassador and her staff of nearly 1,000. “We had great apprehension about how that would play out,” she says, “because the terrorists carrying out the attack were based in Pakistan.”

The country also has struggled to hold on to democracy. “There, the idea that you have it and that it lasts until the next year is a huge deal,” she says. “When I got back to the United States, everyone was absorbed in the midterm elections. What many Americans don’t realize is that elections don’t exist everywhere.”

Mrs. Patterson has been in the foreign service since 1973, after seeing a recruitment ad for the foreign service in an issue of the Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine. 

She admits that her time in Pakistan was challenging, but says serving as ambassador was a huge honor. “You get to represent not only the strongest country in the world, but also the strongest country in the history of mankind,” she says. “The United States is an enormous beacon for the rest of the world, and I’ve been proud to represent that. It truly is the best country in the world.”

Mrs. Patterson first saw a recruitment ad for the foreign service in an issue of the Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine.

A Worldly Perspective

Former U.S. ambassador to Pakistan and longtime foreign diplomat Anne Woods Patterson has a unique view on why it’s great to be an American.

By LENA ANTHONY

Today’s Daughters
Boy Scouts of America®
100 Years of Scouting™ Express
An illuminated, electric train collection officially licensed by Boy Scouts of America featuring the art of Norman Rockwell

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FREE Tracks & Powerpack included with Collection—$70 Value!

This larger-than-life (almost literally, given his height) figure had spent nearly all of his life masking his inner emotions. By the time Stuart painted him in 1796, the apotheosis of Washington into legend had begun—he was already becoming a chilly, remote and unapproachable figure to the world at large. And Washington had never liked to pose.

Stuart’s challenge was to somehow slip behind the mask to touch something of the inner man. This challenge also has confronted all of Washington’s biographers: People think of Washington as a two-dimensional figure, the face on the dollar bill, and have little concept of him as a flesh-and-blood man.

In this new, long-awaited biography, Chernow sets out to add that third dimension, drawing heavily on the more than 60 volumes of Washington’s papers that have been newly edited at the University of Virginia (available online at http://gwpapers.virginia.edu). Working from these documents, Chernow attempts to draw forth elements of Washington’s personality and private life that only his wife, Martha Custis Washington, and a few close friends ever saw.

The result is a fine, and at 904 pages, lengthy, overview of Washington’s incredibly busy and rich life, his heartbreaks and triumphs, strengths and weaknesses. At the same time, Chernow’s habit of psychoanalyzing Washington’s undeclared feelings is wearing and at times too insistent.

There are wonderful anecdotes and glimpses of the daily life of an ambitious young man in the Colonial Southern planter society. England produced most of the high-end manufactured goods used in the Colonies, and as he scaled the social ladder, Washington went deep into debt ordering fashionable clothes, furnishings and other goods from sometimes rascally brokers in London.

Familiar as we are with images of Washington immaculately dressed in uniform or formal clothes, it’s startling to accompany him on long, difficult and perilous surveying trips to the frontier, where he paddles canoes, slogs through rain and sleeps in his clothes at a pioneer’s cabin rather than expose himself to fleas and bedbugs.

Born into the lower rungs of planter society, Washington lacked an extensive formal education. Chernow chronicles moments when Washington’s ambition, youth and lack of experience caused him to overreach or to allow his temper to get the better of him. We see Washington learn from such mistakes and mature into the icily controlled figure known to his later associates and to history.

Chernow’s analysis may be on firmer footing when it deals with Washington’s evolution from an ardent supporter of Great Britain to its foremost foe. The process involved repeated blows to Washington’s pride and pocketbook, as well as to the Colonies collectively.

For example, despite Washington’s exploits in the French and Indian War, the British army rebuffed his attempts to secure a commission. Always industrious and attentive to business matters, Washington chafed under Britain’s dominance of commerce. The system tended to keep planters perpetually in debt to British merchants and suppress Colonial trade. The hated taxes that followed the French and Indian War violated Washington’s view of the compact between the Crown and its subjects. These and other factors wore down his allegiance to Great Britain, replacing it with a growing desire to correct them or, finally, break free.

Throughout the work, Chernow’s Washington is heroic. The biographer marvels at the president’s physical prowess and stamina, his seemingly innate talents as a soldier, and his legendary leadership. From his early days as a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, Washington seemed to understand the power of listening instead of talking. This was due in part to his fear of public speaking. But it was also the mark of a man who had learned to read other people well and to act only after thoughtful consideration.

Lively and well-written—and armchair analysis aside—Washington: A Life is an excellent read. Chernow masterfully captures his subject’s complexities and contradictions, if not his soul. And perhaps that is a good thing, because Washington explained would be less fascinating and less imposing.

—Bill Hudgins

To explore an interactive presentation of Gilbert Stuart’s famous portrait, visit www.georgewashington.si.edu/portrait/index.html.
George Washington had a personal and professional passion for maps that lasted a lifetime.

As a young man, his early career as a surveyor was spent mapping parcels of land along the western frontier of Virginia, providing him with a unique understanding of the region's rich bounty and stunning beauty that would serve him well as a military leader, businessman and nation builder.

Knowledge of maps, from those he created as well as the published maps of the era that he studied for long hours, became a mark of distinction for the young officer serving in the French and Indian War. His collection and mastery of maps proved to be a valuable skill in his role as commander in chief of the Continental Army. As the country's first president, that knowledge would once more serve him in the new nation's efforts to fend off aggression at its boundaries.

During his life as a planter and entrepreneur, maps and drawings played a central role in his passion for amassing western land by the tens of thousands of acres and his ultimately futile efforts to champion a plan to connect the Eastern Seaboard with those western lands through a system of canals along the Potomac River.

When Washington died in 1799, an inventory of his Mount Vernon library included more than 90 maps and atlases. Among them was an atlas consisting of 43 map sheets of eastern North America that have perplexed historians through the years. Unlike other atlases in Washington's library that were, in the custom of the day, collected and bound by cartographers, publishers or engravers, this atlas apparently was composed of maps Washington collected. The bound volume came to be known as The George Washington Atlas. It passed down through four generations of Washington nephews as part of the Mount Vernon Library until 1876, when it was sold to a prominent Connecticut family. In 1970, it was acquired by the Yale University Library, where it is now part of the map collection at the university's Sterling Memorial Library.

The maps found in the atlas—along with complementary maps, drawings and sketches by Washington and other portraits and art of the Washington era—serve as the central focus for an ambitious and beautiful coffee-table book by historian Barnet Schecter, George Washington's America: A Biography Through His Maps (Walker & Co, 2010). Don't let the book's size and stunning maps fool you: This is a well-researched biography in which the president's life unfolds in the context of Washington's own maps, providing a geographic context for his journey, both figuratively and literally.

The maps and drawings—ranging from a survey of his half-brother's turnip field to house plans for lots in the District of Columbia—provide the reader a more intimate connection with Washington than the one illustrated by the formal portraits by Charles Willson Peale, Gilbert Stuart and others.

Fascinating to read and study, Schecter's book also serves as a beautiful display of Colonial-era cartography and portraiture. It also helps one to understand how the journey of America did, in part, begin with a young man and his love for maps.

—Harvey King
A record-breaking response to its call for entries flooded the 2010 National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Photo Contest. Entries from all 50 states highlighted varied landmarks ranging from battlefields to mountaintops, cemeteries to prisons, and canals to battleships. The winning image was a shot from Mount Rainier, Wash., by Lost Delta Photography. “Mount Rainier National Park is the first fully developed example of the National Park Service master planning process. Launched in the late 1920s, it remains the best-preserved and most complete example of this process,” stated the NHL announcement. Runners-up included the chapel of the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., the U.S. Capitol Building, Pennsylvania’s Eastern State Penitentiary and the battleship U.S.S. Texas. Visit www.nps.gov/history/nhl/2010photocontest to see all winners and honorable mentions.

In *John the Painter: Terrorist of the American Revolution* (Thunder’s Mouth Press, 2004), Jessica Warner brings back to vivid life the now-forgotten tale of James Aitken, also known as John the Painter, whose torching of the Royal Navy dockyards of Portsmouth and Bristol, England, in 1776–1777 briefly terrorized the country. Warner takes readers through the Scot’s hardscrabble formative years in Edinburgh, his immigration to America as an indentured servant and his stint as a British soldier and frequent deserter. It leads up to Aitken’s destruction of the British naval yards and eventual execution in 1777 at the age of 24. Not only does the author provide a fascinatingly detailed account of these sensational events, she also gives insight into the vengeful, lonely mind behind these early acts of terrorism, drawing an unsettling parallel to the present.
R.G. Grant’s recent book *Commanders* (DK Publishing, 2010) takes readers on a journey through the lives and military careers of the world’s greatest war leaders. From Hannibal to Patton, the collection provides analysis of defining battles, tactics and timelines. In the chapter about the Revolutionary War, Grant describes the wartime leadership of such prominent figures as Horatio Gates, Nathanael Greene, the Marquis de Lafayette and John Burgoyne, closely examining the conflict between Gates and Burgoyne at the Battle of Saratoga. Accompanied by colorful portraits and paintings, *Commanders* offers insight about the difficult choices that shaped the history of war.

The Patriot victory at the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777 stunned the British Empire, raised American spirits, and helped convince France to side with and actively assist the rebels. It thwarted a three-pronged British strategy aimed at isolating New England and separating the rebellion into more easily defeated parts. In *With Musket and Tomahawk: The Saratoga Campaign and the Wilderness War of 1777* (Casemate Publishers, 2010), Army Lieutenant Colonel Michael O. Logusz presents a graphically detailed description of the frequent brutality of what was called the Wilderness War. A collection of many skirmishes, firefight and smaller battles leading up to the main event, the Wilderness War saw desperate fighting and suffering on both sides as well as among the civilian population.

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**Freedom’s Sisters**  
Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture  
Baltimore, through January 17, 2011

Follow this exhibition through the remarkable stories of 20 influential African-American women. From 19th-century historical figures to key contemporary leaders, the interactive stations and images highlight leaders who dared to dream, inspired lives, served the public and looked to the future. These women include Harriet Tubman, Coretta Scott King and Rosa Parks. For more information, visit [www.africanamericanculture.org/home.html](http://www.africanamericanculture.org/home.html).

**Victory Mail**  
Smithsonian National Postal Museum  
Washington, D.C., through May 31, 2011

To reduce the weight of letters to and from the American armed forces during World War II, Post Office, War and Navy Department officials created a method of dispatching messages via microfilm, called Victory mail or V-Mail. Now, the National Postal Museum presents an exhibition that showcases V-Mail correspondence between the WWII front lines and home.  
For more information, visit [www.postalmuseum.si.edu/index.html](http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/index.html).
American Express Makes $10 Million Commitment to Preservation Program

American Express announced in November that it will provide an additional $10 million for the Partners in Preservation program. Launched in 2006, Partners in Preservation is a program to which American Express, in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, originally pledged $5.5 million over a five-year period toward preserving historic places throughout the United States. The program focuses on raising public awareness for preserving our nation’s cultural and historic sites by awarding preservation grants in cities across the country. By engaging the community in a voting competition, American Express helped draw attention to the need for historic preservation in a way that has yielded increased donations, members, visitors and media coverage for the participating historic sites.

“During the last five years, Partners in Preservation has helped more than 100 historic places across the country as diverse as the Paragon Carousel in Greater Boston and the Japanese Cultural Community Center in Seattle,” said Stephanie Meeks, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. “American Express is helping lead the charge to save our irreplaceable heritage and, with this latest grant, Partners in Preservation will reach more Americans and more cities across the nation.”

On the Preservation Bandwagon

Considered a prime example of a rural manufacturing site, the 128-year-old Gruber Wagon Works in Berks County, Pa., is getting a $711,000 facelift. Funds provided by Berks County and public and private grants will fix or replace 140 windows, 28 major support columns and 1,500 square feet of wood siding, according to the Reading (PA) Eagle.

The rambling structure was built in Mount Pleasant, Penn Township, in 1882 by Franklin H. Gruber. His wagon business grew from a one-man shop into a family-operated business that employed as many as 20 men.

The business closed in 1971, and in 1976, it was dismantled and reconstructed at the Berks County Heritage Center in Bern Township. In 1978, the Gruber Wagon Works was designated as a National Historical Landmark, recognizing its historic significance as part of an American craft industry.

The three-story structure contains wheelwright, blacksmith, wood and paint shops, essentially a one-stop shop for farm wagon repair and construction. Much of the machinery and tools was left in place when the business closed, providing a treasure trove for preservationists.

The Grubers used modern innovations to improve products and efficiency. For instance, an elevator added in 1905 enabled two men to lift wagons into the upper levels of the shop in minutes; previously, the process required five to six men and took half an hour. Electric lighting was installed in 1912—the first in the rural Berks County area. Curious residents who came to see the modern marvel also were encouraged to examine the Grubers’ products.

When automobiles came along, the family began making wooden truck bodies and socket wrenches for cars. From 1956 until it closed, the Wagon Works was a wagon repair shop. For more information about the shop or for tours, call (610) 374–8839.
Located along the border between California and Nevada, west of Carson City, Nev., Lake Tahoe has been a tourist destination since the turn of the 20th century, when steam trains and improving roads made it easier to visit.

Winter retreat. The crystal-clear blue lake, which boasts 72 miles of shoreline and depths of up to 1,600 feet, is the largest alpine lake in the United States. The 1960 Winter Olympics, held at Squaw Valley, popularized winter sports at Tahoe. The area now features seven world-class ski resorts and numerous opportunities for sledding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, ice skating and sleigh rides.

Trails beckon. Although most famous for its winter sports, the area offers year-round recreation. Surrounded by the mountain peaks of the Sierra Nevada, the area is a hiker’s dream. The 165-mile Tahoe Rim Trail system passes through California and Nevada and covers one state park, three national forests and three natural wilderness areas. Trails of various lengths can be accessed at several points along the shoreline.

Lake of many names. The first inhabitants of the area around Lake Tahoe belonged to the Washoe tribe of American Indians. The lake’s name comes from the Washoe word for lake, “da’aw,” or edge of the lake, “da-ow-a-ga.” The explorers heard this word as “Tahoe.” The Lake Tahoe Basin was a summer gathering place for three tribes, who considered the lake to be a spiritual site and conducted sacred ceremonies on the South Shore. While American Indians had been there for centuries, American explorers Kit Carson and John Fremont came upon the location in 1844. The lake also had several other names—Bonpland after a French botanist; Mountain Lake; and Lake Bigler after California’s third governor John Bigler—before being officially named Lake Tahoe in 1945.

Know before you go. The region’s two main towns are South Lake Tahoe, located near the border between California and Nevada, where you can gamble at several large casinos, and Tahoe City, a more relaxed mountain town on the northeast shore of Lake Tahoe. Visit the Lake Tahoe South Shore Visitors Association at www.tahoesouth.com or North Lake Tahoe Visitors Bureau at www.GoTahoeNorth.com.
There’s No Place Like Kansas

Did you know aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart, jazz legend Charlie Parker and author Gwendolyn Brooks were born in Kansas? Other famous people had strong ties to Kansas, too, including President Dwight Eisenhower, inventor George Washington Carver, activist Carry (Carrie) A. Nation, groundbreaking athlete Jim Thorpe and authors Langston Hughes and Laura Ingalls Wilder. You can learn more about their contributions to the state and nation during Kansas’ yearlong celebration of its 150th birthday.

The Kansas Sesquicentennial Commemoration is helping organize and promote events in many communities, but the main birthday celebration will kick off January 28–29 at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka. On Friday, January 28, the society hosts its traditional Kansas Day at the Museum event, which will include performances of American Indian music and dances by Dennis Rogers, folk music and stories by Rosie Cutrer, hands-on learning activities tied to Kansas academic standards, demonstrations of historic crafts and skills, and more. Visitors will also be treated to a viewing of “The Wizard of Oz,” a Kansas favorite.

The celebration continues on Saturday, January 29 at the Kansas Museum of History. Performances highlighting the ethnic diversity of the state run throughout the day, and exhibits in the museum’s galleries will cover important milestones in the history of Kansas. Kansas artists will provide insight into their work, and historical re-enactors will interact with guests.

For more information, visit http://ks150.kansas.gov and www.kshs.org.

WHAT’S IN A NAME

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

The namesake of Lieutenant George Farragut Chapter, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, was born in Menorca, Spain, and came to America as a merchant seaman. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, Farragut joined the South Carolina navy. He fought in Savannah and was captured during the siege of Charleston. After his release he took part in the battles of Cowpens and Wilmington. His son, David Farragut, the first full admiral in the U.S. Navy, rendered crucial service to the Union during the Civil War. Few realize that the World War II Farragut Naval Training Station, one of the largest in the United States, was located on Lake Pend Orielle in the Idaho panhandle. Between 1942 and 1945, nearly 300,000 U.S. sailors trained there. The Navy maintains a submarine acoustic testing center at the site.

Fort Pickens Chapter, Gulf Breeze, Fla., is named for a nearby fort whose name honors a Revolutionary War hero. After Spain ceded Florida to the United States in 1819, Pensacola was chosen as the site for a U.S. Navy yard, and four forts were built to protect the bay and harbor. The largest, Fort Pickens, was completed in 1839 and closed in 1947. It is now part of the National Seashore Park. Andrew Pickens, the fort’s namesake, led the Continental Army to victory at Kettle Creek in northern Georgia and also participated in action at Charleston and Cowpens. For his “spirited conduct” at Cowpens, the Continental Congress presented Pickens with a sword and the state of South Carolina promoted him to brigadier general in the state militia.

Nay-osh-ing Chapter, Portage, Wis., is named after a Chippewa American Indian word that means “the point,” referring to a site along the Wisconsin River where an underwater rock formation provided a surface to cross on foot or horseback. Identifiable by the way the water rippled over the rocks, the ford provided the Chippewa access to nearby hunting grounds. According to lore, John Lewis DuBay, a French-Canadian voyageur, spent the winter of 1790 at Nay-osh-ing, and about 40 years later his son, John Baptiste, established an American Fur Company trading post there. An 1855 state map identified the spot as DuBay Point. The Wisconsin River, once a shipping highway for loggers, travels nearly the entire length of the state before emptying into the Mississippi.

The name of Beacon Pole Hill Chapter, Manville, R.I., commemorates a celebrated site in the northwestern section of Cumberland, R.I., known as Beacon Hill, one of the highest points in the state. In Revolutionary times, a 70-foot-tall beacon pole with a kettle of tar suspended near the top stood at the hill’s summit. The tar was fired as occasion demanded to warn townspeople and residents of Boston and Newport of the British fleet’s approach to Rhode Island waters. Cumberland’s beacon was part of a series of signal beacons that played an important part in the Revolution.
Creating Mighty Minds

Swift Creek Elementary School students use art and performance to illustrate history

By MEGAN PACELLA

TO STUDENTS AT Swift Creek Elementary School in Midlothian, Va., important historical figures used to be little more than names to memorize in a textbook. That was before they built their own museum.

Thanks to a grant from the Partners in the Arts Foundation—and a dedicated teaching staff—each year, third graders at Swift Creek Elementary band together to create a living history museum. Coined the Mighty Minds Museum, the project allows students to combine their art, history and science knowledge to create a learning center open to the community.

“The teachers involved are very enthusiastic,” says Dr. Elizabeth Sheehan, director of Partners in the Arts. “This was clearly a well-thought-out, well-crafted proposal, and I knew right away that they could pull it off if they had the funds.”

The students connected with the project right away thanks to help from Swift Creek Elementary art instructor Jimi Herd, Richmond-based artist Matt Lively and a small group of parents and teachers. Together they created 10-by-10-foot murals, wrote plays based on historical figures’ lives and acted out historical plays in two-minute tableaux.

“Art is central to the project. You can teach anything through art,” Herd says. “With this project, we touched all modes of learning. It all started with the students putting together murals, and we ended up with this fantastic museum.”

In addition to painting murals for the museum, students also wrote scripts describing everything from ancient civilizations in Rome, Greece and Egypt to American Indian life and early American settlements. Creative writing projects covered the Civil War, the Reconstruction era, the struggle for women’s suffrage and the Civil Rights movement.

“The school was transformed,” Sheehan says. “Visitors would come around a corner and see this amazing tableau; an entrance to a classroom would look like a theater with students performing inside. The kids came to life as you walked by—they really took ownership of their education.”

One of the goals of the Mighty Minds Museum was to help students meet the Virginia standards of learning.

“We use the Mighty Minds Museum as a review process for third graders, and as a preview for younger students,” explains social studies teacher Katherine Detamore. “We had a phenomenal pass rate for social studies in 2010, and that was a great feeling. It was one of the main purposes of the project.”

While Sheehan never doubted that Swift Creek Elementary School teachers would be able to create a fun learning environment with the Mighty Minds Museum, she never dreamed that the project would turn out as well as it did.

“It absolutely knocked my socks off,” she says. “The idea of a tableau is kind of old-fashioned, but to see it acted out again with third graders was incredible. The students had worked with an acting coach who helped with their scripts. They weren’t just rattling off something from a piece of paper—they wanted to announce these important pieces of history.”

This April, Swift Creek Elementary students will create another Mighty Minds Museum—and this time it’s going to be even bigger.

“We’re incorporating science this year, and we actually put together a 10-foot Tyrannosaurus Rex,” Herd says. “Each of the kids made a replica of a T-Rex bone, and I worked with a student teacher to put together the final product.”

“This project turned into a rite of passage,” he adds. “Kids can’t wait to get to the third grade so they can do this. All of a sudden, learning is fun.”

Class Act

Peek inside America’s classrooms to discover ingenious ways of teaching history.

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

Banjo Time

This unusual timepiece, dubbed a banjo clock because of its resemblance to the instrument, evolved from earlier English clocks of a similar form. Famous clockmaker Simon Willard of Grafton, Mass., first developed this distinctive clock in 1802, calling it his “Improved Patent Timepiece.” It became so popular that other clockmakers imitated the style after Willard’s patents ran out. Many versions of the style, ranging from very plain to highly ornate, were made.

C.A. Lockwood of Providence, R.I., made this elaborate model about 1825. The case features carved and gilt ornamentation, reverse-painted glass panels and a stylized American eagle at the top. The lower, more modern replacement panel depicts a scene of Mount Vernon. The clock is a gift of the Rhode Island State Society.
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YOU’VE PROBABLY READ about DNA and genealogy—the search for your genetic cousins—but did you know there’s a group trying to find our original common ancestor? Meet Dr. Spencer Wells of the nonprofit Genographic Project, whose team of genetic researchers has been working for the past six years on discovering the genetic link that connects us all.

In late 2003, the National Geographic Mission Program began developing the Genographic Project, launching it 18 months later. With funding from the Waitt Family Foundation and IBM, Wells started the project in 2005. The aim is to collect as many DNA samples as possible from indigenous people who have lived in their general area for centuries, as well as the general public, to study historical patterns in DNA movement. If you’re curious about your earliest ancestors, join this fascinating project to be part of a scientific inquiry and find a link to your family’s pre-written history.

Field researchers based in 10 different centers collect DNA from indigenous people who have lived in their general area for centuries. These people include (clockwise from top left): Two women in Khorog, Tajikistan. • Lori Anne Nielsen of the South Naknek (Alaska) Community Council • A native of Chad living in the Sahara Desert region. Wells and his team will combine these field findings with results from

Genealogy’s Bigger Picture
The Genographic Project and the search for the original common ancestor
By Maureen Taylor
If you’ve ever thought about taking a DNA test, now’s the time. The Genographic Test Kit, which can be purchased for $99.95 at genographic.nationalgeographic.com, includes a swab kit with instructions, a multimedia DVD about the project and a genographic map. Specify on the order form whether you want the female mitochondrial DNA test (for women) or the male-only Y chromosome test (for men).

Once you have your results from the Genographic Project, you can transfer them to the Family Tree DNA site (www.familytreedna.com) to help you learn more about your family history. Try the new Your Genealogy tab to create an online family tree using Ancestry.com.

Another purpose of the project is philanthropic. All profits from the Genographic Test Kit go either back into field research or to the Genographic Legacy Fund, which “supports indigenous conservation and revitalization projects.” In Tajikistan, for example, a local organization is reversing the loss of the Yagnobi language using native textbooks and dictionaries, while in Sierra Leone, the People’s Poetry Project is preserving the Kuranko’s oral history of their tribe. Read more about these community profiles on the Genographic Project’s website.


Getting Involved in the Genographic Project

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Once you have your results from the Genographic Project, you can transfer them to the Family Tree DNA site (www.familytreedna.com) to help you learn more about your genetic roots. If you’re new to Family Tree DNA, take the genographic test, then transfer your record for no additional charge. This transfer works only with Family Tree DNA, not other companies. According to Max Blankfeld, vice president of operations and marketing for Family Tree DNA, that helps to maintain the consistency of the database, i.e., the same genetic markers, homogeneity of laboratory work and rules of privacy.

If you’ve already taken a DNA test with Family Tree DNA, then you can add your results to the Genographic Project without an additional test, but there is a $15 fee. Just access your record on the Family Tree DNA website using your kit number and password, and click the Genographic Project tab and follow the instructions. Family Tree DNA can’t transfer that information for you; it must be done through the website.

Blankfeld encourages everyone to take a DNA test. “It is a valuable part of genealogical research since test results predate paper trails,” he says. — M.T.

Note: DNA tests are not admissible as proof of lineage on DAR applications.

The nickname Athens of the South confuses many visitors to Nashville, Tenn. Sure, there’s a replica of the Greek Parthenon in the center of Centennial Park, Nashville’s biggest urban park, and classical architecture abounds in the city, but the title is actually a nod to deeper roots. It speaks to the city’s commitment to education—a tradition that started even before permanent settlers arrived in 1780. As noted in *Classical Nashville* (Vanderbilt University Press, 1996), the level of education among the early settlers was high: Classes were held on board the flatboats carrying Nashville’s first women and children settlers, and “Of the 250 men who signed the Cumberland Compact in April 1780 (which established the settlement), only one had to sign his name with an ‘X.’”

The Settlement of Fort Nashborough

Prior to its official settlement, the area known as present-day Nashville had been on maps since at least the beginning of the 18th century. French fur traders, who knew the area as French Lick, set up trading posts there in the early 18th century. But permanent settlement didn’t stick until 1779, when North Carolina explorers James Robertson and John Donelson (father-in-law of Andrew Jackson) founded Fort Nashborough, named for Revolutionary War General Francis Nash, on the banks of the Cumberland River. Later that year, Robertson led a party of 200 men plus livestock over the Appalachian Mountains, while Donelson and some 300 women and children arrived in the spring of 1780 by boat.

At the time of settlement, Nashville was a part of North Carolina. It later was part of the Southwest Territory, before Tennessee became the 16th state in 1796.

The Classical Connection

In the late 18th century, it would not have been Athens of the South, but “Athens of the West.” While settlers were still clearing land, building shelter and growing food, they were also petitioning the North Carolina Legislature to open a school there. “In 1785, even though Nashville was no more than a few buildings, the North Carolina Legislature chartered and granted 240 acres of land as an endowment for Davidson Academy,” explain Christine Kreyling, Wesley Paine, Charles Waterfield Jr. and Susan Ford Wiltshire in *Classical Nashville*. By the mid-19th century, Nashville was home to a handful of colleges, including some specifically designated for female students and African-American students. The city’s most famous college—Vanderbilt University—opened in 1873.

“We were self-referencing ourselves as the Athens of the West prior to the Civil War, and schools like the University of Nashville, the Nashville Female Academy and Shelby’s Medical College were part of that claim,” says Jim Hoobler, Nashville historian and senior curator of art and architecture at the Tennessee State Museum.

Architecture, too, played a role in the city’s Athens of the South nickname, but building in the Greek Revival style was not something unique to Nashville. Following the Revolutionary War, architects and city planners across the nascent country favored classical designs—both Roman and Greek—over contemporary European designs, including Georgian, Tudor and Spanish. All of these, explain the authors of *Classical Nashville*, “were inadvertent symbols of the very European monarchies, empires and cultures against which the Revolution was directed.” As Hoobler explains, Greek architecture was popular in Nashville and...
Clockwise: Nashville skyline • Fort Nashborough, the area’s first permanent settlement • Columns at Nashville’s replica of the Parthenon • Bluegrass great Bill Monroe inspects a poster at Hatch Show Print, one of the nation’s oldest working letterpress print shops • Detail of a country music star’s stage attire • The Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson
elsewhere in the new nation because, “At some level it read as a symbol for democracy.”

Construction on the Tennessee State Capitol, perhaps the best example of Greek architecture in the city with its Ionic columns and Corinthian tower, started in 1845. In fact, the authors of *Classical Nashville* say the building is one of the nation’s most impressive examples of Greek Revival architecture. Other examples of the style include the Belle Meade Plantation, a mid-19th-century residence that is now a museum, and the Hermitage, the home of President Andrew Jackson.

Jackson’s home, built in 1819 in the Federal style, slowly took on its Greek identity with additions and renovations. In 1831, President Jackson added a two-story entrance portico with Doric columns, as well as a small rear portico. That year, he also commissioned a Grecian monument to his wife, Rachel, who had died three years earlier. The temple remains on the grounds of the Hermitage, where it marks the graves of the president and the first lady.

Not all of Nashville’s architectural gems represent the Greek style. In fact, Hoobler’s favorite is the Downtown Presbyterian Church, which was constructed in the Egyptian Revival style. Built in 1851 by William Strickland, the architect who designed the Tennessee State Capitol, the church is one of the few remaining examples of Egyptian Revival style in the United States. “It looks like a stage setting for ‘Aida,’ or Cecil B. DeMille’s ‘The Ten Commandments,’” Hoobler says, referring to its Egyptian-style columns, winged sun disk and Egyptian scenes covering the sanctuary’s walls.

**Music City Roots**

By the late 19th century, many cities in the South, such as Birmingham, Ala., and Chattanooga, Tenn., were developing major manufacturing bases, but Nashville never followed this trend. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as Bill
Exploring Nashville

Rich in history, culture and architecture, Nashville and its surrounding areas offer a mix of museums and historic landmarks. Don’t miss these when visiting:

- **The Tennessee State Capitol**: The building’s tower, designed after the monument of Lysicrates in Athens, Greece, overlooks downtown Nashville from a hilltop. Construction began in 1845 and was finished 14 years later. Guided tours are available during the week. The grounds include the tomb of President and Mrs. James K. Polk, a statue of President Andrew Jackson on horseback, and statues of President Andrew Johnson (who also served as Tennessee’s governor), Sam Davis (“Boy Hero of the Confederacy”) and World War I hero Sergeant Alvin York. Visit www.tnmuseum.org.

- **The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum**: See artifacts from Music City’s beginnings and experience the evolving history and traditions of country music at this downtown Nashville landmark. Visit countrymusichalloffame.org.

- **The Hermitage**: The home of President Andrew Jackson is one of the few presidential homes with a majority of the original furnishings on display. Visit www.thehermitage.com.

- **Cheekwood**: The estate of Mabel and Leslie Cheek, whose family created the Maxwell House coffee brand, features a botanical garden and museum of art. Visit www.cheekwood.org.

- **Belle Meade Plantation**: Once a Thoroughbred horse farm, this private residence turned historic attraction boasts guided and self-guided tours throughout the property. Also onsite are a winery and an award-winning Southern restaurant, Belle. Visit www.bellemeadeplantation.com.

- **City Cemetery**: Opened in 1822, the City Cemetery is the oldest continuously operated public cemetery in Nashville. The cemetery has just undergone a $3 million restoration that includes tombstone and monument conservation as well as new walkways, roadways and interpretive signage. Visit www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org.

- **James K. Polk Ancestral Home**: Located about an hour south of Nashville in Columbia, Tenn., the Federal-style James K. Polk Ancestral Home was built in 1816 by the president’s father, Samuel. The home and adjacent museum boast more than 1,000 objects that belonged to the president and his family. The home was the subject of a November/December 2005 American Spirit Historic Home feature. Visit www.jameskpolk.com.

- **Centennial Park**: With beautiful views of downtown, the centerpiece of this urban park is the Parthenon, a replica of the Greek temple that was constructed for Tennessee’s Centennial Celebration. Inside the temple stands a 42-foot statue of Athena, as well as the city of Nashville’s art museum. Visit www.nashville.gov/parthenon.

- **Ryman Auditorium**: Originally named the Union Gospel Tabernacle, the Ryman Auditorium was completed in 1892 and was the home of the Grand Ole Opry from 1943 to 1974. The downtown Nashville landmark is open during the day for tours and at night for shows. Visit www.ryman.com.

- **Opryland Hotel**: Opened in 1977, the Opryland Hotel is one of the largest hotels in the country. Heavily damaged in the May 2010 flood, it closed its doors to undergo a multimillion-dollar restoration and renovation project before reopening last November. The hotel is home to the WSM-AM radio station and adjacent to the Grand Ole Opry. Visit www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylord-opryland.

Carey explains in *Fortunes, Fiddles and Fried Chicken: A Nashville Business History* (Hillsboro Press, 2000) “Nashville’s leaders once envied … Birmingham and Chattanooga for their huge iron foundries,” he writes. But horrible air pollution cast those cities as “dirty, grimy places”—an image that was hard to shake. Instead, Nashville focused on other, less gritty industries.

“In the three decades prior to 1854, the city had sent two presidents to Washington (Andrew Jackson in 1829 and James K. Polk in 1845) and was therefore considered the political center of the South,” Carey explains. “Civic spirit was high because a beautiful new state capitol … was under construction. The city’s economy had also received a boost because of the new Louisville & Nashville Railroad, the first leg of which was then under construction.” Later, Nashville would become a hub for that railroad.

Meanwhile, Nashville was developing its own industries, including music publishing and recording, book publishing (the city was selected as the new home of the Southern Methodist Publishing House in 1854) and insurance, which would become a boon for Nashville by the turn of the 20th century. In fact, it was the now-defunct National Life and Accident Insurance Company that helped give Nashville its most famous nickname, Music City. The insurance company started one of Nashville’s first radio stations, WSM-AM. The call numbers stood for the insurance company’s motto: “We Shield Millions.” The station quickly rose to national prominence when it started broadcasting the country music stage show the Grand Ole Opry. Talented musicians, recording studios and record labels began flocking to the former frontier town, thus firmly establishing Nashville as Music City.\(^\text{\textregistered}\)
Thinking about the genesis of the first American lending library leads quickly to a QUESTION that sounds like the set-up to a joke: What do you get when you put a dozen men in their 20s in a bar? Probably not a library, but then BENJAMIN FRANKLIN isn’t usually one of the men.

By Stacey Evers
When Franklin arrived in Philadelphia in early 1723, the city was sleepy compared with the older settlement of Boston that he had just fled. The 17-year-old had broken an unhappy apprenticeship in his brother’s print shop and come to Pennsylvania with nothing. It didn’t take Franklin long to establish himself. By the time he was 21, he was on the verge of setting up his own shop and was on excellent terms with Colonial officials and members of the legislature. He had many friends who were as intellectually curious as he was, and in 1727 he invited several of them to join him in creating a secret Club of Mutual Improvement that they referred to at first as the Leather Apron Club and then as the Junto.

The club served as a forum for moral, political and scientific discussions as well as a writer’s group, where the men shared original essays and poems. So who were these men? The original membership included:

- Joseph Breintnal, a well-respected copier of deeds for the scriveners, or scribes.
- William Coleman, then a merchant’s clerk, but later a highly respected merchant and provincial judge, and a man Franklin described in his Autobiography as having “the coolest, clearest head, the best heart and the exactest morals of almost any man I ever met with.”
- Thomas Godfrey, a glazier and self-taught mathematician who would invent an improved mariner’s quadrant.
- Robert Grace, a “gentleman of some fortune,” as Franklin described him, who gave the Junto a private meeting room and manufactured the first Franklin stoves.
- William Maugridge, a joiner and “most exquisite” mechanic, according to Franklin.
- Hugh Meredith, who entered a print shop partnership with Franklin thanks to the financial backing of his father.
- William Parsons, raised to be a shoemaker but so skillful as a geographer that he would eventually become surveyor general of Pennsylvania.
- Stephen Potts, who worked for Franklin in the print shop.
- Nicholas Scull, a surveyor who succeeded Parsons as surveyor general.
- George Webb, an Oxford scholar who also worked for Franklin.
Several members of the Junto established founding ties to the four main intellectual institutions in Colonial Philadelphia (with Franklin linked to all four): the Library Company, the Academy (now the University of Pennsylvania), the American Philosophical Society and the Pennsylvania Hospital. The first of these civic projects was the Library Company of Philadelphia (LCP), and it was the one to which Franklin showed the greatest dedication. He served as director for 28 years, as librarian twice, and also as book agent during his two stints in London.

Junto members debated both classical and Colonial questions, but when they couldn’t agree on facts, they needed to consult a printed authority to settle the issue. Unfortunately, basic reference materials were expensive and generally unavailable in the Colonies. “There was not a good Bookseller’s Shop in any of the Colonies to the Southward of Boston,” Franklin wrote in his Autobiography. “Those who lov’d Reading were oblig’d to send for their Books from England.”

In 1729, Franklin talked the other Junto members into pooling any books they could spare to create a common library. Soon thereafter, the books “fill’d one End of the Room,” Franklin wrote, although he also expressed disappointment that “the Number was not so great as we expected.” Then some volumes disappeared. Others were badly damaged. In about a year, each member took his books back home.

But Franklin wasn’t put off by the failure. Instead, he continued to consider how the Junto could create a mutual collection, and in 1731 he proposed establishing a subscription library. Subscribers initially would contribute 40 shillings apiece, then another 10 shillings a year to buy more

The Cost of Losing Libraries

Across America, libraries are slashing their budgets, firing staff and, in some cases, closing their doors. Library budgets declined in 41 states in 2010, with the majority of reductions being in the 5 percent to 10 percent range, according to the 2010 State of America’s Libraries Report by the American Library Association (ALA). Those cuts generally were on top of reductions made the previous two years.

A small but typical sampling: The entire Troy, Mich., public library system is slated to close July 1, 2011. Last summer, the Charlotte, N.C., library adopted a budget that cut nearly one-third of its funding and 300 staff positions. Also last year, the trustees of the Boston Public Library voted to shut the doors on four branches. And in late 2009, Philadelphia’s local government planned to shutter all 54 branches of the Free Library until the Pennsylvania legislature stepped in to temporarily resolve the city’s budget crisis.

Ironically, while the majority of library systems are facing drastic budget cuts, they are also being pressed by a soaring demand for services. Library use has risen 20 percent over the last decade as users turn to libraries not just for books and research materials, but for magazines, free Internet access, job counseling, homework help and English language classes, according to a June 2010 study by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

“Libraries are an economic lifeline to the community,” says ALA President Roberta Stevens. “Every time a library closes and its services are not available,
books and maintain the library. On July 1, 1731, Benjamin Franklin and other members of the Junto drafted the LCP Articles of Agreement.

Recruiting subscribers proved to be difficult—“So few were the Readers at that time in Philadelphia, and the Majority of us so poor,” Franklin recorded—but by November 1731, the founders believed they had cultivated a sufficient number of shareholders. A meeting was scheduled at a local tavern to collect subscriptions. The directors anticipated sending a book order to England soon. But, as so often happens with pledges of money, the promised flood of funds only trickled in, and some people who had promised to subscribe backed out.

In March 1732, around the time a note was sent to delinquent subscribers asking them to pay or relinquish their share, the members decided to get on with it, sending a book list and a 45-pound sterling note to London. The bulk of the order arrived in October 1732; a few volumes could not be obtained.

Soon after the order arrived, the company’s directors met for the first time in what would be their library room in Robert Grace’s house. They decided on a librarian, Louis Timothee, who was renting a room from Grace. The collection would be open for one hour on Wednesday afternoons and from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Benefactors began donating gifts and financial contributions. One of the most valued, a print of an orrery (a mechanical model of the planets and moons in the solar system), came in 1733 from Thomas Penn. Five years later, Penn donated a lot for a building site; in 1742, he and his brothers, Richard and John, issued a charter to the Library Company.

Starting in 1743, other lending libraries based on the LCP model began to appear, including three in Philadelphia. These three merged with the Library Company in 1769.

it means a loss of opportunities to the people in that community.”

Of the nearly 17,000 U.S. public library branches, two-thirds provide the only free Internet access in their communities—access that helps people find jobs, research potential employers, submit job applications and file unemployment claims, according to the ALA’s report, Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study 2009–2010.

Also lost is an opportunity to teach media literacy and critical thinking skills to students and other library users, says Stevens, who, because of her position as ALA president, is on an 11-month leave from the Library of Congress.

Nonstop news programming, blogging, Twitter and the Internet have created a complex, sometimes confusing information environment often supported by unreliable sources. “In this information environment, it’s hard to keep up to date. Librarians can teach people how to navigate information and determine what’s useful and what is not,” Stevens says.

Franklin himself credited the Library Company with raising the political and intellectual consciousness of his fellow colonists, observing in his Autobiography that it had “improv’d the general Conversation of the Americans, made the common Tradesmen & Farmers as intelligent as most Gentlemen from other Countries, and perhaps have contributed in some degree to the Stand so generally made throughout the Colonies in Defence of their Privileges.”

Like our Colonial ancestors, Stevens says, modern Americans need to be able to consult reliable authorities and compare sources. Referring to Thomas Jefferson’s quote that a “democratic society depends upon an informed and educated citizenry,” she adds that an informed populace must know how to determine whether information is valuable or not. “We don’t want to be an ignorant nation. We make bad decisions when we aren’t informed.” —S.E.
Franklin noted the imitations in his *Autobiography*, calling the LCP “the Mother of all the N. American Subscription Libraries now so numerous.”

Until 1860, the Library Company was the largest U.S. public library with strong collections in all areas. In the latter half of the 19th century, however, the institution began to decline, and many items published after 1880 ended up being sold. In the 1950s and 1960s, under the invigorating leadership of librarian Edwin Wolf II, the Library Company reinvented itself as a research library of national and international significance.

Two centuries after the Library Company incorporated, six members held shares owned by direct ancestors who had been among the 1742 charter membership. LCP officials today do not know how many, if any, of the current shareholders are descendants of charter members, according to Library Company reference librarian Linda August. The current mayor of Philadelphia receives Franklin’s share, and any subscriber (right now the number of shares is limited to around 600) may obtain a list of all previous owners of his or her share. “Bylaws dictate a finite number of shareholders at any given time, so a share is issued to a new member either as a transfer from one family member to another or a reassignment of an existing share,” August explains.

A number of historical luminaries have been members, including botanist John Bartram (honorary member), Dr. Benjamin Rush, John Dickinson, Chief Justice John Marshall and architect Benjamin Latrobe. The first woman to buy her own share was Sarah Wistar, who subscribed in 1769, August says. (In 1742, the library’s directors permitted Elizabeth North to use James Merewether’s share after his death.)

Today, the LCP is a far cry from the little room where the Junto assembled its meager collection. High-school students, scholars, novelists and other researchers travel to the Library Company to be enlightened by the contents of its nearly 500,000 volumes. It’s a safe bet that many of them are men—and women—just as curious and driven as those who once comprised the Junto.

To learn more about the history or current programs of the Library Company, located at 1314 Locust Street in Philadelphia, visit www.librarycompany.org.

Stacey Evers’ July/August 2010 feature explored the origin and impact of invasive plants on the American landscape.

The Library Company’s first collection contained much less theology and more literature and science than a typical 18th-century Colonial library. Among the first books:

- *Architecture* by Andrea Palladio
  (London: Darby, 1721)
- *Complete Tradesman* by Daniel Defoe
  (London: Rivington, 1732)
- *Discourses Concerning Government* by Algernon Sydney
  (London: Darby, 1704)
- *Dictionarius Britannicum: Or a More Compleat Universal Etymological English Dictionary Than Any Extant* by Nathaniel Bailey
  (London: T. Cox, 1730)
- Two volumes of *The Guardian*, a short-lived periodical by Richard Steele
  (London, 1729)
- *Essay Towards a Practical English Grammar* by James Greenwood
  (London: Bettesworth, 1729)
- *A Grammar of the English Tongue* by John Brightland
  (London: Roberts, 1721)
- *The Historical and Chronological Theatre of Christopher Helvius* by M. Flesher, 1687
- *The History of Philosophy* by Thomas Stanley
  (London: Battersby et al., 1701)
- *An Institute of the Laws of England* by Thomas Wood
  (London: Nutt and Gosling, 1728)
- *Of the Law of Nature and Nations* by Samuel Puffendorf
  (London: Walthoe, 1729)
- Eight volumes of *Lives* by Plutarch
  (London: Tonson, 1727)
- *Memorable Things of Socrates* by Xenophon
  (London: J. Batley, 1722)
- Three volumes of *Miscellaneous Works* by Joseph Addison
  (London: Tonson, 1726)
- Four volumes of *Port Royal Moral Essays* by Joseph Addison
  (London: Parker, 1724)
- Eight volumes of *The Spectator*, a daily publication by Joseph Addison and Richard Steele
  (London: Tonson, 1726)
- Four volumes of *The Tatler: i.e., The Lucubrations of Isaac Bickerstaff*, a thrice-weekly journal
  (London: Nutt, 1728)
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hough involving relatively small forces, the Patriot victory at the Battle of Kings Mountain, South Carolina, on October 7, 1780, demonstrated the disproportionate effect seemingly small events can have upon great matters.

Sir Henry Clinton, the commander of British forces in America, later said the hour-long battle “unhappily proved the first link in a chain of evils that followed each other in regular succession until they at last ended in the total loss of America,” writes John Buchanan in *The Road to Guilford Courthouse: The American Revolution in the Carolinas* (John Wiley & Sons, 1997).

On October 7, 1930, the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, President Herbert Hoover told a crowd of more than 75,000: “This is a place of inspiring memories. Here less than a thousand men, inspired by the urge of freedom, defeated a superior force entrenched in this strategic position. This small band of patriots turned back a dangerous invasion well designed to separate and dismember the united Colonies.

“It was a little army and a little battle, but it was of mighty portent. History has done scant justice to its significance, which rightly should place it beside Lexington and Bunker Hill, Trenton and Yorktown, as one of the crucial engagements in our long struggle for independence.”

The battle pitted American against American—a loyalist militia against a collection of Patriot militia. Relatives fought with—and against—relatives, indicating deeply divided emotions and loyalties. The only non-American on the field was the leader of the loyalist militia, Major Patrick Ferguson, a Scot.
The fight occurred at a low point in Patriot fortunes in the Southern campaign. Until late 1779, most of the fighting had taken place in the North, notes J. David Dameron in *Kings Mountain: The Defeat of the Loyalists, October 7, 1780* (Da Capo Press, 2003). Hoping to subdue the South and split the rebellion, King George III ordered Clinton to step up the war there.

‘Reduce That Province to Its Duty’

A massive force of 13,000 men and 100 ships under Lord Charles Cornwallis sailed on December 26, 1779, for Charleston, S.C., which fell on May 12, 1780. The victory bolstered loyalist sentiment, touching off bitter neighbor-against-neighbor clashes between the loyalists, often called Tories, and the Patriots. Cornwallis’ overwhelming victory at the Battle of Camden on August 16, 1780, seemed to cement British control in South Carolina.

Though still bedeviled by rebel guerilla and militia forces, Cornwallis reported to Clinton that South Carolina was conquered and North Carolina was next. He promised he would move swiftly to “reduce that Province to its duty.”

Cornwallis planned to swing his army northward like a door, with the hinge located at present-day Charlotte, N.C. Once North Carolina was conquered, he could move on to Virginia.

Cornwallis ordered Ferguson to take his militia force westward to protect the left flank of the main army, rally support for the Crown and neutralize rebel threats. Ferguson was an accomplished officer who had invented an innovative breech-loading rifle that he tried to persuade the British army to adopt. It was too revolutionary for the ever-conservative military, and never used widely.
At first things went well for Ferguson, with many inhabitants on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge Mountains flocking to the British cause. After several skirmishes with rebels from the “overmountain” or western side of the mountains, however, he infamously threatened to hang all who did not swear allegiance to the Crown and to “lay their country waste with fire and sword,” explain Theodore P. Savas and J. David Dameron in A Guide to the Battles of the Revolution (Savas Beattie LLC, 2006).

The threat enraged the frontiersmen, whose leaders included experienced fighters such as William Campbell (the overall commander), Isaac Shelby, John Sevier, Edward Lacey, James Williams, Benjamin Cleveland, Joseph Hambright, William Chronicle, William Candler, Joseph Winston and Joseph McDowell.

Shelby called for other militias to join in a unified attack on the loyalists. Accompanied by Sevier, McDowell and Campbell near today’s Elizabethton, Tenn., they rode over the mountains and rendezvoused with more militias from the Carolinas and Georgia.

Ferguson had concentrated his forces around Gilbert Town, now Rutherfordton, N.C. In September 1780, he learned that a Patriot force of undetermined size was moving toward him. He first moved his army southeast, hoping to reach Cornwallis’ main force. Hearing that the rebel force was closing in, he took up a defensive position atop a ridge known as Kings Mountain, about 36 miles west of Charlotte.

‘Those Damned Yelling Boys’

Kings Mountain, which runs from southwest to northeast and is shaped something like a human foot, is about 1,000 feet high. It is topped by a narrow, barren 600-yard-long plateau that is about 70 yards wide at the southwest and widens to about 120 yards at the other end.

The plateau was an odd place for an experienced officer to take a stand. Though it was high ground and had springs to supply water, there was only one road off the height. It had little in the way of natural cover on top, and it was crowded with Ferguson’s 1,075 men, plus their wagons, horses, tents and gear.

Ferguson had trained his loyalists to fight in European-style formations, using massed musket fire and fearsome bayonet charges against similarly arrayed troops. He used a large silver whistle to signal commands over the din of battle. But the plateau offered little room for such tactics.

Moreover, its slopes were wooded and rugged, providing good cover for the 910 Patriots clambering up its sides. These seasoned frontier warriors were accustomed to fighting in small groups or as individuals like the American Indians, using natural cover to protect themselves. Their .50 caliber long rifles shot farther and were far more accurate at long range than the British “Brown Bess” .75 caliber smoothbore muskets. Many of them also carried tomahawks, long knives and other frontier weapons useful in close-quarter combat. When they fought, they uttered wild, wailing war whoops that unnerved their enemies; one loyalist officer called them “those damned yelling boys.” Combined, these factors would make the crucial difference in the fight to take the ridge.

Divide and Conquer

The Patriots’ plan was to split their small army into two divisions of roughly equal strength. One division would swing around the southwestern end of the ridge and move northward, with one company going to the far end to block the road. The other division would align itself along the northwestern side. Taking care to avoid sentries and pickets, they hoped to attack simultaneously, storm the heights and envelop the Tories. The signal to attack, appropriately, would be a war whoop.

As sometimes happens in war, the plan soon began to unravel. The company responsible for cutting the road went astray and barely got into position as the shooting started. Marshy ground on the northern side slowed the Patriot advance there. Tory sentries spotted some of the attackers and opened fire, removing the element of surprise.

The Patriots on the south side reached their jumping-off spots before those on the north and attacked first. Ferguson sent an elite group of his militia known as
the Provincial Rangers to defend the spot with a bayonet charge. The well-trained militia slammed into their enemies, halting the advance and sending the Patriots reeling back down the slope. But the rebels rallied and renewed their assault, only to be repulsed by a second bayonet charge.

In the open-field combat of the era, a bayonet charge was a terrifying tactic that often broke an enemy’s line and will to fight. Here, though it temporarily stopped the advance, the bayonet charge was less effective because the Patriots could use the natural cover to escape, then reform and renew their efforts.

As the Patriot division on the north began scaling the ridge, Ferguson shifted his rangers to that front, again ordering a bayonet charge that produced the same results as before. By this time, the Patriot lines had become dispersed, with individuals and groups fighting their way up under relentless fire.

Fighting in formations and with no cover to speak of, the loyalists were decimated by the Patriots’ superior weapons and marksmanship. They began to run low on ammunition as the Patriots reached the crest and began pushing them into a corner.

A surgeon in the Tory camp noted in his diary the battle commenced at 3 p.m. Although it must have seemed an all-day affair to the travel-weary Patriots, it took them just over an hour to storm the heights and surround the Tories.

Refusing to surrender to “damned banditti,” Ferguson mounted his horse and, together with a few of his men, tried to cut his way through the Patriots. He was shot from the saddle and hit several more times. Mortally wounded, his foot caught in a stirrup and his horse dragged him about the camp until some of his men caught the animal.

The British began waving white flags and asking for quarter, but the fighting did not end immediately. Patriots enraged over the deaths of their kin and friends continued to attack the Tories, killing many of them before order was restored. Casualty tallies conflict: The National Park Service puts the death toll at 225 loyalists and 26 Patriots, while others claim as many as 246 loyalists and 29 Patriots perished. At least 800 loyalists were taken prisoner.

Beginning of the End

Ferguson was buried on Kings Mountain, his grave marked by a traditional Scottish cairn. Tradition says he had declared before the battle that “he was on Kings Mountain, that he was king of that mountain and God Almighty could not drive him from it,” and he remains there today.

Confronted with a large body of prisoners and almost no food, the Patriots decamped early the next day. A number of loyalists escaped, some were killed, and nine were hanged after locals accused them of atrocities. The Patriots eventually delivered the remaining prisoners to the Continental Army at Hillsboro, N.C., and returned home.

Coming on the heels of his crushing victories over the American army in South Carolina, the overwhelming Patriot victory rattled Cornwallis so badly that he decided to postpone the North Carolina campaign. The victory quenched loyalist spirits, and Cornwallis retreated to safer ground in South Carolina to regroup and formulate new plans.

In December, General Nathanael Greene took charge of the southern portion of the Continental Army. With Cornwallis out of the field, Greene had time to rebuild, train and equip the army, and he began to take the initiative.

He and Cornwallis clashed at the Battle of Cowpens, N.C., in January 1781, where Patriots won the day, and again in March at Guilford Courthouse near present-day Greensboro, N.C. Though the British claimed victory at the latter battle, it was a Pyrrhic triumph that convinced Cornwallis to abandon his North Carolina campaign and take the road to Virginia—and Yorktown.

Bill Hudgins wrote about the history of cast iron stoves for the November/December issue.
Revolutionary history pervades Morristown, N.J., a town that twice served as the winter headquarters of the Continental Army. “Most of the famous military heroes of the war visited here; the bitterest and coldest winter of the war was endured here; a famous treason trial and a celebrated courtship were played out here,” recounts Cam Cavanaugh, author of In Light and Shadows: Morristown in Three Centuries (The Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township, 1994).

That celebrated courtship unfolded at the Schuyler-Hamilton House, named for Elizabeth “Betsey” Schuyler and Alexander Hamilton, the young couple whose whirlwind romance it hosted.
Real estate investor John Scott built the home in 1760 on Morris Avenue. Five years later, he sold the house to Dr. Jabez Campfield, a graduate of the College of New Jersey—now Princeton—and a personal friend of George Washington. A Continental Army surgeon, Campfield served with General John Sullivan and General Oliver Spencer during the Revolution. The Campfield home was a natural choice for the home base of the army’s chief physician and surgeon, Dr. John Cochran, throughout the winter of 1779–1780. During that period, the house also served as a flying hospital, a centralized storage space for medical supplies that could be moved quickly to areas in need.

An Unlikely Pair

Cochran’s wife, Gertrude Schuyler, sister of General Philip Schuyler, provided the link to Schuyler’s daughter Betsey. Invited to camp by her aunt, Betsey arrived in January 1780. While the environment may seem unlikely to inspire romance, according to W. Jay Mills, author of Historic Houses of New Jersey (J.B. Lippincott Company, 1902), “A new girl in Morristown, and one as celebrated as Miss Schuyler, did not remain unnoticed in the wartime days of 1780.” Hamilton, serving as an aide-de-camp to Washington, “was among the first to pay ardent court to his Betsey, as he soon commenced to call her,” Mills notes. Tradition holds that Hamilton’s friend Colonel Tench Tilghman helped the courtship along by taking over some of Hamilton’s responsibilities, freeing his friend to spend more time with Betsey.

As evidence of Hamilton and Betsey’s affections emerged, the unlikely pairing of the daughter of a wealthy Albany, N.Y., family with an orphan raised in the West Indies invited gossip and scrutiny. The rapid progression of the courtship also garnered attention. In early spring 1780, Schuyler arrived to meet with Washington and, while in town, check in on his daughter. After he gave the couple his blessing, Hamilton and Betsey became engaged. At the Schuylers’ request, they waited until December to wed in Albany instead of marrying right away as they initially hoped.

Schuyler became a useful political adviser and a friend to Hamilton, who, despite his lack of pedigree, built an impressive career. As Cavanaugh observes, “Hamilton is perhaps best known as the first Secretary of the Treasury...”
and a major writer of the Federalist Papers. However, he was also a brilliant military strategist, a successful lawyer, a member of Congress and the head of the Federalist Party after Washington’s death.”

Betsey, who outlived her husband by half a century, worked for charitable causes later in life. Even though rumors of Hamilton’s infidelity plagued their marriage, she remained devoted to her husband’s memory and helped to secure his legacy by collecting his personal papers.

**Morristown as Winter Headquarters**

The Hamiltons’ tale of young love represents one small event in the midst of the constant activity at camp. For the officers, it was a fairly social time, as games, horseback riding and several fancy dress balls provided entertainment. But not everyone enjoyed the same convivial atmosphere.

When the Continental Army reached Morristown to set up camp in December 1779, residents were acutely aware of the effect its arrival would have. Morristown’s first stint as host of the army’s winter headquarters began in January 1777, when Washington arrived with 3,000 soldiers in tow following American victories at Trenton and Princeton. Bordered by the Watchung Mountains and the Great Swamp, the location provided security and, at just 30 miles from New York City, an ideal vantage point from which to observe the British army.

As the Morris County seat and an economic center boasting iron forges, gristmills and New Jersey’s only powder mill, Morristown was a well-established community. Still, the logistical difficulties posed by the army’s descent on a town of 250 residents proved challenging, and the soldiers spread disease that decimated the population. “In 1777, the army’s stay at Morristown resulted in an epidemic of smallpox and dysentery. Washington had the troops inoculated for smallpox, but 67 town residents died,” Alan Stein, Eric Olsen and Joni Rowe report in *War Comes to Morristown* (Washington Association of New Jersey, 1998). When the army departed in May, residents were able to reclaim their town, if only for a short time.

In December 1779, Washington returned, this time with 10,000 troops. Historians estimate that the influx made Morristown one of the largest cities in the nation. “The populace was not terribly happy to have Washington back for a second winter because it was such a harrowing experience the first time they came,” says Morristown DAR Chapter Regent Patricia Sanftner. High-ranking officers such as Henry Knox, Nathanael Greene and Arthur St. Clair arranged for their own accommodations, with many quartering in residents’ homes, but other officers and enlisted men had nowhere to go. A city of about 1,000 crude log huts was constructed to house them in an area outside town known as Jockey Hollow.

In those makeshift dwellings, the army endured a brutal winter of nearly 30 snowstorms. Privations were similar to those suffered at Valley Forge, but the Morristown weather is believed to have been worse. Storms, shortages and inflation rendered provisions woefully scarce, forcing thousands of soldiers and townspeople to compete for food and supplies. “They have been sometimes without bread, sometimes without meat, at no time with much of either, and often without both,” Washington wrote of the troops in January 1780. Soldiers plundered locals’ supplies during the night, damaging crops and sometimes assaulting citizens in the process, a practice Washington tried in vain to quell.

Finally, camp broke in June 1780 and the army scattered to the South, New England and the Hudson Highlands to resume fighting. By that time, “Years of war and an almost continual army presence cost the town dearly,” Stein, Olsen and Rowe observe.

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*George Washington at the Continental Army’s first winter encampment at Morristown, N.J., 1777. 19th-century line engraving.*

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Historic Home

A Landmark Rescue

Campfield continued to practice medicine following the Revolution. He remained in his home until his death in 1821, when ownership of the Schuyler-Hamilton House passed to his son, William. In 1824, Morristown’s prominent Tuttle family purchased the property. When two builders acquired the Schuyler-Hamilton House in the late 19th century, some feared that the Revolutionary landmark faced demolition. But in 1923, members of the Morristown DAR Chapter raised $5,000 to buy the home within just a few months by holding card parties and collecting donations. Members were able to open the house to visitors less than a year later. The chapter now maintains the property as a museum and chapter headquarters.

Since Campfield’s time, the home has undergone many alterations. Most significantly, during the 19th century the house was moved away from busy Morris Avenue to a plot on Olyphant Place, a portion of the original property that housed Campfield’s extensive garden, where he grew herbs and plants for medicinal use.

A clean-lined, rectangular white house now perched on a rise, the Schuyler-Hamilton House appears both stately and unassuming. Dark green louvered shutters that for years framed the home’s windows were removed recently, as the Morristown Chapter prepares to install period-appropriate, closed shutters instead.

Visit Schuyler-Hamilton House

5 Olyphant Place
Morristown, NJ 07960

The house is open to visitors on Sundays from 2–4 p.m. Or call (973) 539–7502 to schedule a tour.

While you’re in town, don’t miss Morristown National Historic Park, which preserves the areas where the Continental Army encamped in 1777 and 1779–1780. Highlights include Ford Mansion, Washington’s headquarters from 1779–1780, the Jockey Hollow Encampment Area, the Wick House, where Arthur St. Clair spent the winter of 1779–1780, and more. See www.nps.gov/morr for more information.
The interior reveals a number of renovations made by the Tuttles, such as the reconstruction of the central staircase and the removal of a wall that once divided the large parlor into two rooms. A support beam lingering overhead hints at the original dimensions. The enlarged parlor takes up one entire side of the first floor, with a dining room and keeping room across the hall.

When the chapter acquired the home, members located Campfield descendants, who provided two relics of its resident doctor—Campfield's personal Bible, now on display in the upstairs hallway, and his portrait. Ms. Sanftner believes the chapter's early members "did Campfield a disservice by naming the house for its more famous players."

As the chapter works to present a complete history of the home that incorporates all of its principal figures, these tangible links to Campfield are invaluable. Early chapter members supplied most of the remaining furnishings. Ms. Sanftner offers a theory about how they furnished the house so quickly: "I think the ladies competed with each other to see who could find the best antiques," she says. Some members searched antique shops, while others donated family heirlooms for display. The striking tiger maple highboy chest in the parlor, which pairs beautifully with a coordinating linen press, is one such piece.

Other treasures acquired over the years are included as well. Two framed pages from an 18th-century Dutch Bible identical to Philip Schuyler's, a gift from a descendant of Schuyler's brother, grace the dining room walls. The china cabinet holds an 18th-century French plate from the Hamiltons' dinner service. The dining-room chairs came from Washington's 1779–1780 headquarters, the Ford Mansion. It is the third set of dining chairs displayed in the house, according to Ms. Sanftner, who says chapter members seize opportunities to upgrade furniture if the existing example isn't the best fit.

The keeping room, which contains an exhibit of Colonial medical tools and supplies, may have served as Campfield's lab or workroom. Atop a sturdy table, measuring devices and vessels stand at the ready, while dried plants hang from a plank on the wall above. The keeping room also might have functioned as a bedroom for elderly or ill members of the household.

A notable piece of Colonial furniture, a settle, occupies a corner of the keeping room. As a high-backed bench, the settle could be pulled up to the fireplace as a cozy seat. Alternatively, the seat back could be folded down and secured with wooden pegs to form a table. The space beneath the bench seat provided storage for valuables.

Upstairs, a front bedroom is set up as Betsey's room, although in reality a visiting niece likely would have occupied a back bedroom. The bed's fringed canopy and blue-printed linens capture attention, while smaller objects encourage further exploration. A display case near the window contains a collar and cap of Betsey's, as well as a lock of her hair. Ms. Sanftner, a historic costume expert, delights in pointing out some of the extraordinary period garments in the home's collection, such as a pair of 18th-century shoes and a green calash, a pleated hat that "made the wearer look like a rosebud in an arbor," she says. An intricately carved wooden corset busk bearing the inscription "May 1773" sits on the dresser. A traditional lovers' gift, a corset busk was a rigid panel placed at the center of a woman's corset, against her breastbone, to give her torso a flat appearance. Suitors often carved the panels themselves, knowing that their handiwork would rest close to their beloved's heart.

The Schuyler-Hamilton House, as a place where small-town residents forged their own history while participating in the larger narrative of the nation's fight for independence, affords a capsular glimpse of Morristown during the Revolutionary era.
On a bitterly cold day in December 1799, George Washington traveled on horseback through rain and snow to his Mount Vernon mansion. Earlier that day, the president had been working on improvements to his property, laying out the design for a new building. But after spending hours in the increasingly hostile weather, what should have been a welcome ride home turned out to be his last.

Washington became severely ill, suffering from aches and a raw, red throat. After determining that he had a fever, the plantation overseer applied a common remedy. Using a lancet, he opened one of Washington’s veins and collected the dark, red blood that flowed unimpeded. When this initial treatment brought no relief, several experts were consulted, and it was decided that more bleeding was necessary. Several days later (after he was bled of 96 ounces, according to an 19th-century doctor’s unverified estimate), the great man was dead.

The fact that the father of our country was treated so seems unfathomable through the lens of 21st-century medical science. Yet, Washington wasn’t the victim of malpractice. In fact, he was receiving the best treatment the doctors of his time could deliver.

The story of Colonial medicine is a harrowing and confusing tale filled with superstitions and brutal ignorance, but also important
breakthroughs. Woven together, they provide a general picture of disease and medicine of early America.

**Colonial Medical Providers: More Than One Job Description**

Women were the primary medical providers of the time. Childbirth was almost exclusively the province of female midwives, and wives and mothers served the general medical needs of their families with folk remedies from Europe. Some also used natural remedies they learned from their American Indian neighbors, such as the lobelia plant, which was smoked to relieve upper-respiratory distress or eaten as a powerful purgative. Similarly, cinchona bark, from what we now refer to as the quinine tree, was used to treat malaria and a variety of other fevers. (In one of its first military appropriations, Continental Congress gave Washington $300 for cinchona to protect his troops from malaria.)

Apart from the societal medical roles assigned to women, men in the Colonial era established careers through three medical professions: the physician, the barber-surgeon and the apothecary. Although their roles and practices blurred during a time when licensing was mostly non-existent and formal education limited, these professions defined medicine in America’s earliest days.

Prior to the Revolution, American professional medicine relied heavily on British and European textbooks, but after the war, various states developed their own professional pharmacy books. As there was no medical training available in the Colonies in the 17th century, America’s first physicians were immigrants from England. Many of these educated men were also clergymen or politicians, as it was thought that a man who could manage the body politic was a good candidate to manage flesh-and-blood bodies as well.

The Colonial physician was more of an esoteric philosopher than the doctor we recognize today. In the story of Colonial medicine is a harrowing and confusing tale filled with superstitions and brutal ignorance, but also important breakthroughs.

Colonial medicine was the most important institution. In this atmosphere, the metaphysical, obscure and occult theories of physicians were respected specifically because of their impenetrability and appeal to superstitious minds.

Typically apothecaries and surgeons learned through an apprenticeship and physicians went to medical school, although there were some exceptions. Medical schools opened in Philadelphia in 1765 and in New York City in 1767. According to Robin Kipps and Sharon Cotner at Colonial Williamsburg’s Apothecary Shop, there was debate within the 18th-century medical profession about whether an apprenticeship or medical school provided better training.

Medical practitioners going the apprenticeship route became servants of sorts, living with the practicing physician and learning by observation how to mix medicines and treat patients. Eventually apprenticeship paid off, as trained physicians could charge high fees. Yet, the cost also caused many colonists to let an illness run its course, calling a physician only in the most dire situations.

As for barber-surgeons, most of these Colonial medical practitioners were barbers first and surgeons second. (Colonial Williamsburg doesn’t have any record of barber-surgeons after 1720, and London’s barber-surgeon guild split in 1745.) Because of the primitive, bloody, hands-on nature of their work, these early, uneducated medical men were considered tradesmen rather than professionals. A barber-surgeon would be brought in to bleed a patient, perform an amputation or pull a bad tooth before a physician would be sent for. Despite their reputations, America’s barber-surgeons acquired a practical working knowledge of the body specifically because of the intimacy of their manipulations and observations.

The third main medical profession of the era was an apothecary. More than just druggists, these men often prescribed medicines, treated patients, performed surgeries and served as male midwives. Records from 18th-century Williamsburg indicate that some of the medicines that apothecaries used are still recommended today, such as chalk, or calcium, for heartburn and...
calamine for skin rashes. Apothecaries would also commonly stock household goods like cooking spices, salad oil, candles and toothbrushes, just as in today's pharmacies.

Not understanding the systems of the body as we do now, physicians in the 1600s blamed disease on imbalances between the various materials or “humors” inside the body, ideas that dated back to Greek physicians Hippocrates and Galen. This idea of classical humoral theory in professional medicine was replaced by other theories by the 18th century, but textbooks of the time still used the term humor to mean fluids. Bleeding was a widespread and favored practice, and various elixirs and potions would also be prescribed to induce vomiting or to evacuate the digestive tract.

While 19th-century doctors used satchels, the 18th-century doctor's little black bag was actually a wooden chest filled with instruments, ingredients and creatures to aid in balancing the humors: Laxatives, diuretics, scalpels and even leeches all found their way into his valise. Leeches were commonly used on delicate areas of the body; on small children, the bloodsuckers' toothy task was encouraged by a drop of milk placed on the flesh. Leeches were gathered from local ponds and swamps (though many preferred those imported from Europe), and jars full of the hungry creatures could be found in doctor’s offices, barbershops or even the local smithy.

**The Contributions of Benjamin Rush**

From 1700 to 1775, the Colonies witnessed several medical improvements. It is no coincidence that a turn toward rational observation, deduction and record-keeping, concepts perfected by the English physician Thomas Sydenham in the 17th century, paralleled the first stirrings of democratic thinking. The physician/statesman Benjamin Rush was the American embodiment of these impulses toward progress.

Benjamin Rush was born on Christmas Eve 1745 in Byberry, Pa. After receiving his M.D. in Europe, Rush returned to the states in 1769 and opened a private practice in Philadelphia. He was eventually appointed professor of chemistry at the College of Philadelphia. Beloved for his extensive care of the poor, Rush was universally admired, and his writings on the Patriot cause established him as a progressive leader. He played an active role in the Sons of Liberty in Philadelphia, eventually becoming a signer of the Declaration of Independence.
Consider membership in the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), a volunteer women’s service organization that honors and preserves the legacy of our Patriot ancestors. More than 200 years ago, American Patriots fought and sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy today. As a member of the DAR, you can continue this legacy by actively promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America’s future through better education for children.

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

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

How many members does the National Society have?
DAR has 165,000 members in nearly 3,000 chapters worldwide, including chapters in 12 foreign countries. Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 875,000 members.

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of Independence and attending the Continental Congress. During Philadelphia’s yellow fever epidemic, which killed 5,000 of Philadelphia’s 55,000 residents, Rush worked tirelessly to stop the spread of the disease, even writing a book about the experience, *An Account of the Bilious Remitting Yellow Fever, as It Appeared in the City of Philadelphia, in the Year 1793*.

Though a popular physician, he insisted on some primitive practices of medicine. He was criticized for insisting on drastic bloodletting and purging as a treatment long after it was discounted as dangerous.

However, Rush was ahead of his time in other areas of medicine, pioneering humane treatment of patients suffering from mental illness. His groundbreaking 1812 book *Medical Inquiries and Observations Upon the Diseases of the Mind* was used as a reference for decades and earned him the title of the father of American psychiatry.

**Medical Progress Is Made**

During the Revolutionary War, close quarters and unsanitary conditions set the stage for epidemics. In fact, for America’s first 145 years, infectious diseases like smallpox, typhus and dysentery during wartime took the lives of far more of the nation’s military personnel than gunfire, artillery and bayonets, according to Vincent J. Cirillo in the winter 2008 issue of the journal *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*. In her book *Pox Americana: The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775–1782*, historian Elizabeth Anne Fenn writes that smallpox killed at least 130,000 North Americans during the Revolution.

Despite the horrors of triage during the conflict, progress continued. Inoculation for smallpox became a more widely accepted practice during this time. The process involved physically transferring material from a sick person’s sores into a healthy person’s skin with needles or scalpels. Although the inoculated person became ill, most had a far milder form of the disease and were no longer vulnerable to it once they were well. George Washington resisted early suggestions, but he eventually made smallpox inoculations mandatory for his soldiers in 1777.

By the end of the war, inoculation had become an accepted practice for limiting smallpox outbreaks, and by the turn of the 19th century a vaccine had been discovered. Fifty years later, a new understanding of cell pathology and infection would pave the way for modern medicine.

Joe Nolan is a Nashville-based freelance writer and a reporter for Nashville Public Radio.
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phillis wheatley’s Journey to greatness by Jamie Roberts

From a kidnapped African named after a slave ship to a free woman who recited her poetry to the great leaders of her day, Phillis Wheatley overcame the bonds of slavery to defy her detractors and pave the way for generations of African-American writers.

The Phillis schooner arrived in Boston on July 11, 1761, after gathering slaves in Senegal, Sierra Leone and the Isles de Los, off the coast of Guinea. On board the ship was a young girl, probably a native Wolof speaker from the Senegambian coast, whom a relative of the family who bought her later described as “a slender frail, fragile child supposed to have been about seven years old, at this time, from the circumstances of shedding her front teeth.”

Susanna Wheatley, wife of tailor and merchant John Wheatley, went to the wharf to purchase a domestic servant. Finding the child near death and “naked” except for “a quantity of dirty carpet about her,” she bought her “for a trifle”—probably less than 10 pounds. Susanna brought her to the Wheatley home just a few blocks from the Old State House and named the child Phillis after the slave ship that had brought her to America.

Susanna and John had two teenage children, Nathaniel and Mary. The 18-year-old Mary begin teaching Phillis to read, tutoring her in English, Latin and the Bible. Phillis was obviously a bright pupil, and John wrote of her progress: “Without any assistance from school education, and by only what she was taught in the family, she, in sixteen months’ time from her arrival, attained the English language, to which she was an utter stranger before, to such a degree as to read any, the most difficult parts of the Sacred Writings to the great astonishment of all who heard her.”

By 1765, Phillis had written her first poem—an elegy for the pastor of her church—and two years later, when she was 13, the Newport Mercury published one of her poems. In 1770, when she was about 17, she published a poem about the Boston Massacre, and later that year wrote an elegy on the death of English preacher...
Reverend George Whitefield. It was this popular poem, published repeatedly in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and even in London, that brought her acclaim—and scrutiny.

Overcoming Skepticism

John and Susanna wanted to show off Phillis’ talents, sending her to the finest homes in Boston to recite her poems, most of which had classical or religious themes. But Susanna had her eye on a larger audience, and she hoped to find enough interest and subscribers to publish an entire book of Phillis’ poems. However, finding the required number of subscribers proved to be difficult.

There was much skepticism at the time that an African slave had the intellect and reason to write such accomplished, classical poetry. In the 18th century, philosophers debated “what kind of creatures Africans truly were.” As philosopher David Hume wrote in 1753, “I am apt to suspect the Negroes ... to be naturally inferior to the whites.”

It was in this climate that the Wheatleys pushed their powerful friends to recognize what they saw as their slave’s exceptional talent. Susanna worked to convince Archibald Bell, London’s foremost printer, to publish Phillis’ poems. Bell agreed, but required the family to submit evidence that a slave did, indeed, write the poems.

To verify Phillis’ authorship, John Wheatley assembled a panel of 18 men, identified as “the most respectable characters in Boston.” He hoped that the poet’s authentication by leaders such as Governor Thomas Hutchinson, Andrew Oliver, John Hancock and Reverend Samuel Cooper would influence the general public to believe her claims as well.

After questioning Phillis, the 18 men signed a document affirming “that the Poems specified in the following Page were (as we verily believe) written by Phillis. ... She has been examined by some of the best Judges and is thought qualified to write them.” In spring 1773, Phillis traveled to Great Britain with Nathaniel Wheatley to oversee the book’s publication and meet potential benefactors. Bell had already brought the manuscript to the attention of the Countess of Huntingdon, who had helped print one of the earliest slave narratives. The countess was impressed with the poetry and agreed to let Phillis dedicate the book to her—as long as an engraving of Phillis appeared in the frontispiece.

The countess’ patronage was vital in getting Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral printed—making Phillis the first person of African descent to publish a book of poems in English. Its publication made her one of the most famous Africans of her time.

Encounters With the Founding Fathers

Not only did Phillis encounter John Hancock—he was one of the 18 Bostonians who questioned her to prove her intellect—but she also met two other Founding Fathers and garnered the attention of a fourth. While in London in 1773, she met Benjamin
Franklin and later dedicated her second volume of poetry to him. He mentioned the visit with Phillis in a letter to his nephew Jonathan Williams: "Upon your recommendation I went to see the black Poetess and offer'd her any Services I could do her."

Phillis rushed home from London in September 1773 because of the illness of Susanna, whom she cared for until her mistress’ death in 1774. Phillis was granted her freedom by October 18, 1773, but she stayed in the Wheatley mansion until the Revolutionary War forced the entire family to leave Boston.

Phillis dedicated a poem to George Washington to honor him for bravely leading the Continental Army during the early, difficult months of the war. She sent the poem and a letter in October 1775, and Washington replied on February 28, 1776, writing: “I thank you most sincerely for your polite notice of me in the elegant lines you enclosed: and however undeserving I may be of such encomium and panegyric, the style and manner exhibit a striking proof of your poetical talents.” He invited her to visit his headquarters in Cambridge, Mass., where they met in March 1776. In April 1776, Thomas Paine published Phillis’ poem to Washington in The Pennsylvania Magazine.

Although Phillis never met Thomas Jefferson, he critiqued her writing quite harshly. In his 1787 Notes on the State of Virginia, he writes: “Religion, indeed has produced a Phillis Wheatley, but it could not produce a poet.” Jefferson seemed to be asserting that a slave had a soul, but not the reason or intellectual ability necessary to write great literature. As Vincent Carretta observes in his 2001 introduction to Phillis’ Complete Writings, “even those [like Jefferson] who denied the achievement of black writers implicitly acknowledge the developing black canon by disputing the quality of the authors’ literary productions.”

Phillis married John Peters, a former slave, in 1778. He changed occupations frequently, and they lived in poverty. All three of their children died in infancy. The frail Phillis was forced to work at a boardinghouse to sustain the family. She died at age 30 in December 1784, followed soon after by her youngest child. They were both laid in an unmarked grave in Boston. Peters, who had deserted the family, sold her manuscripts to cover his debts.

Two years after her death, Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral was published for the first time in the United States. Phillis’ legacy grew as her achievements were evoked by 19th-century abolitionists. Though her poetry doesn’t necessarily reflect modern beliefs about slavery and equality, modern African-American writers such as Alice Walker and other influential thinkers count her as an inspiration, and the Boston Women’s Heritage Trail, the Boston National Historical Park and other organizations work to educate new generations about her accomplishments.

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An excerpt of Phillis Wheatley’s

To His Excellency, General Washington

Celestial choir! enthron’d in realms of light,
Columbia’s scenes of glorious toils I write.
While freedom’s cause her anxious breast alarms,
She flashes dreadful in refulgent arms.
See mother earth her offspring’s fate bemoan,
And nations gaze at scenes before unknown!
See the bright beams of heaven’s revolving light
Involved in sorrows and veil of night!

---

Meredith Bergmann cast this bronze statue of Phillis Wheatley in 2003 for the Boston Women’s Memorial.
“Well, I finally did it. I finally decided to enter the digital age and get a cell phone. My kids have been bugging me, my book group made fun of me, and the last straw was when my car broke down, and I was stuck by the highway for an hour before someone stopped to help. But when I went to the cell phone store, I almost changed my mind. The phones are so small I can’t see the numbers, much less push the right one. They all have cameras, computers and a “global-positioning” something or other that’s supposed to spot me from space. Goodness, all I want to do is to be able to talk to my grandkids!

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