A PATRIOTIC MEMORY
How Women Pass on the Spirit of Patriotism

WRITING HISTORY
The Stories Behind the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence

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Happy Anniversary, American Spirit!

What better way to celebrate the magazine’s 10-year anniversary than with a scrumptious—and meaningful—cake? The layers represent stories and themes we’ve covered in the past decade. Part of a Revolutionary uniform makes up the top layer, bolstered by a draping quilt accented by eagles, stars, and other patriotic symbols. The next layer features silhouettes of Patriots and other noteworthy Americans against a backdrop of Wedgwood blue. The cake’s base is a decorated column that hints at our focus on historic preservation. And don’t miss the “We the People” portion of the Constitution—printed on sugar with edible ink.

Cake by Jay Qualls, celebrity cake designer
Photo by Sheri O’Neal

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BY JACKIE ROSS

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From the President General

We celebrate our magazine’s 10th anniversary not only with a symbolic cake on the cover, but also with a glance back at some favorite covers and layouts in the Whatnot department. As we look forward to the next 10 years, the magazine will continue to be the Daughters’ national outreach for promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism. We thank our readers for their loyalty and dedication to spreading the American Spirit.

After you virtually dig into our 10th anniversary cake, explore our feature on the signers of the Declaration of Independence to learn fascinating details about the lives of all 56 brave men. Though the document’s author, Thomas Jefferson, is well known, some of the other signers’ stories might be surprising. As we showcase the DAR Americana Collection’s complete collection of original signatures, we also give you the background on how the DAR obtained such historical gems.

For even more detail about the life of Button Gwinnett, one of the signers from Georgia, don’t miss the Our Patriots department. Gwinnett’s biography was full of political intrigue, military ambition and ultimate tragedy. Even today he makes headlines—and his rare signature fetches a fortune.

Some of us are lucky enough to have a large and ornate family Bible, full of family birth, marriage and death records, that has been passed down through several generations. Our feature on the history of Bible publishing in the United States gives us a broader understanding of these genealogical treasures.

In our Historic Homes department, we enter one of the earliest surviving masonry buildings in Illinois. The Jarrot Mansion was built in 1807 by Nicholas Jarrot, a French-born entrepreneur and land speculator, who owned land that covered the Cahokia Mounds and Camp River DuBois, the winter camp for the Lewis and Clark expedition. Jarrot insisted on a Federal architectural design for his home, instead of the area’s more common French Colonial style, to spotlight his pride at being an American.

Who inspired your sense of patriotism? The DAR members in “A Patriotric Memory” reminisce about the women who taught them what love of country means, sparking a greater desire for service.

If you know anything about cars, you know that the 1964 Mercury Comet Caliente is a vehicle to be coveted. DAR member Rachel Veitch, this issue’s Today’s Daughter, has kept hers running for more than half a million miles.

Merry Ann T. Wright

Merry Ann T. Wright
The We Will Never Forget Collection
Honoring the 10th Anniversary of September 11th.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, the Towers fell, but out of that tragedy there rose a new America hardened in spirit and resolve. To commemorate the 10th Anniversary of 9/11, Hawthorne is proud to introduce the first issue in the stunning We Will Never Forget Collection.

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You wouldn’t be able to guess it today, but Rachel Veitch didn’t care for the beautiful new sports car her then-husband brought home more than 46 years ago. Though it was a top-of-the-line, soft yellow, 1964 Mercury Comet Caliente, she “wasn’t too happy about it,” she recalls. “But after I had driven it a few years and realized how easy she was to handle, I warmed up to her.”

Since then, it’s been nothing but love for the car she dubbed “Chariot.” In 47 years, Ms. Veitch has logged 564,000 miles on the car—and has no intention of trading her in.

“People ask me all the time why I never bought a new car,” says the retired cardiac nurse, DAR member for 68 years and present member of the Orlando Chapter, Orlando, Fla. “And I tell them, ‘I didn’t need one. I had a perfectly fine car, and I still do.”

Ms. Veitch says the past year has been a whirlwind. She and Chariot attended various car shows across the country, from Milwaukee, Wis. and Charlotte, N.C., to the nation’s largest antique car show in Carlisle, Pa. She also appeared on “The Tonight Show With Jay Leno” in August 2010. “While I was waiting in the green room, Jay came and presented me with a box of the most beautiful long-stemmed roses I have ever seen,” she says. “The next day I was also taken to see Jay’s private collection of automobiles, which is not open to the public. It was all so exciting. I tell people that my cup runneth over with blessings, because I cannot believe I’ve had such an exciting year.”

While Ms. Veitch drives Chariot for day-to-day trips, the rising price of gas and Chariot’s poor gas mileage have kept them off the open road for a while. One of Ms. Veitch’s most memorable journeys was to Erie, Pa., for her 70th high-school reunion in 2007. She made the 2,200-mile round trip by herself. She also has made several trips with Chariot to car shows in Michigan. More recently, Chariot has been loaded onto a truck and shipped to the shows, while Ms. Veitch has traveled by plane.

So how does one keep a car running for more than 500,000 miles? Regular service, according to Ms. Veitch, who wisely chose car parts with lifetime guarantees when things started to break. Chariot is on its 18th replacement battery, eighth muffler and third set of shocks. Ms. Veitch also has kept meticulous records on Chariot, even logging every time she fills up at the gas station. Chariot just got a tune-up from a new mechanic, and Ms. Veitch is happy to report that “she’s spunkier and spicier than she’s been in a long time.”

Ms. Veitch still takes care of her car as if it were brand-new. “I keep her safe,” she says. “I don’t ever park in a parking lot between two cars. I’ll park way out at the grocery store. It’s good for her, and good exercise for me.”

Not only does Ms. Veitch, a great-grandmother and Orlando Police Department volunteer, hold great affection for her car, she also demonstrates her pride in being an American. Unless there’s a hurricane warning, Ms. Veitch’s home is draped with a 5-foot-wide American flag. A spotlight shines on the flag “so that it’s always in the light,” she says. “This is my flag and my country. I love it and I want everyone to know it.”

The duo will travel to Geneva, Fla., to participate in the city’s Fourth of July parade.

Meet Rachel Veitch, a 92-year-old who has made a name for herself and her 1964 Mercury Comet Caliente, which has 564,000 miles on it—and counting.

Still Running Strong
By LENA ANTHONY
Photography by SCOTT COOK

You wouldn’t be able to guess it today, but Rachel Veitch didn’t care for the beautiful new sports car her then-husband brought home more than 46 years ago. Though it was a top-of-the-line, soft yellow, 1964 Mercury Comet Caliente, she “wasn’t too happy about it,” she recalls. “But after I had driven it a few years and realized how easy she was to handle, I warmed up to her.” Since then, it’s been nothing but love for the car she dubbed “Chariot.” In 47 years, Ms. Veitch has logged 564,000 miles on the car—and has no intention of trading her in.
Keep Cool

ENGLAND’S COALPORT PORCELAIN FACTORY made these elaborate ice pails around 1815. Founded in 1795 by John Rose, Coalport is now owned by Wedgwood. Coalport bone china was famous for the bold “British Imari” pattern, which was inspired by Japanese design and became popular during the early 19th century. While these pails feature the dark red and dark blue colors typical of the Imari style, yellow dragons can also be seen meandering along the bottoms.

Ice pails were used at the dining table to keep items stored inside cold—such as frozen fruit or ice cream, a rarity in the days before electric refrigeration. Crushed ice was placed in the recessed area of the lid.

The ice pails came from the estate of Lady Mary Coventry, daughter of the 10th Earl of Coventry, whose family seat, Croome Court, is located in Worcestershire, England. Rolfe Towle Teague gave them to the DAR Museum.
“HEY, MR. BLAND, did you watch the debate last night?” That was one of the questions Greg Bland heard from seniors last semester as they walked into his U.S. government and politics class at South Brunswick High School in Southport, N.C. Many teachers dream of the day their students exhibit such engagement with a subject. For Bland, who has taught U.S. history and related topics at South Brunswick for 19 years, it’s a regular occurrence—and one that instills a sense of pride.

“I’m always telling students, ‘I don’t care how you vote, just that you vote,’ or ‘I don’t care what you think, just that you think,’” he says. “When they come to class with these questions, I know they’re thinking about the world around them. I want them to be full-fledged, informed citizens. That’s essential for our democracy to continue.”

Bland believes understanding history and government makes life easier to navigate. “If you have a working knowledge of U.S. history and a basic timeline in your head of when things happened and how they’re connected, then the world just makes more sense to you.”

Unfortunately, Bland says, many students leave history class with little knowledge of the subject—a problem Bland blames at least partially on textbook teaching. “Students just aren’t into reading, and it’s hard for them to comprehend what they read.”

Bland supplements textbook lessons with more engaging activities, from something as simple as connecting a lesson to a current event in the community to more involved activities like acting out skits or making scrapbooks of news articles and op-eds. “You’ve got to sell the lesson,” he says. “It’s like a performance. You have to be on the stage every day motivating them. I’m a little over the top sometimes, and they may think I’m a geek, but at the same time they enjoy coming to my class.”

One of Bland’s favorite teaching moments was when his students put together a skit for Constitution Day. The setting was “Jeopardy!” and the contestants, played by students, were President James Madison, President Bill Clinton and former Governor Sarah Palin. Contestants answered questions about the U.S. Constitution. Bland videotaped the skit and later broadcast it to the entire student body on the school network. “Watching their fellow students on TV kept their attention better,” Bland says. “The students all got a good laugh, but they still were able to learn a few facts about the Constitution.”

Unlike many teachers who always pictured themselves at the front of the classroom, Bland says he backed into the career choice. “I had no intentions of becoming a teacher, but when I had to declare a major as a sophomore in college, I asked myself, ‘What do I love?’” he recalls. “Since I love history and political science, and I like working with teenagers, teaching was just a natural fit.”

Outside of the classroom, Bland pursues his passion for history by reading and traveling with his family. Last summer he spent several days working as an intern at the U.S.S. North Carolina Battleship Memorial in nearby Wilmington, N.C.
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The crew of the battleship U.S.S. South Carolina didn’t use tin utensils to eat off of tin trays in an ordinary mess hall. The ship, commissioned in 1907, was home to a lavish silver service presented by the people of South Carolina comprising an astonishing 66 pieces. The service has been known as the Battleship Silver since the ship was scrapped in 1921. South Carolina Society Daughters of the American Revolution (SCDAR) brought the fully intact service back to the state in 1922 and is still its custodian. In 1947, SCDAR loaned the service to the South Carolina Governor’s Mansion, where it is used at formal state dinners.

According to Marilyn Altman, South Carolina State Regent, the Battleship Silver remains a great source of state pride. “It’s in an excellent state of preservation,” she says. “It’s in an amazing and beautiful setting, and those 66 pieces aren’t tiny—they are magnificent.” As Mrs. Altman points out, it’s not the type of item a battleship would typically have on board. Battleships aren’t known for hosting elaborate dinner parties, which makes the collection all the more mystifying.

The Gorham Silver Company, a well-known Providence, R.I., manufacturer of stemware, flatware and customized silver pieces, designed and produced the one-of-a-kind service. South Carolina’s legislature approved $5,000 to be used for the purchase (today the collection is insured by the state for more than $500,000, according to Mrs. Altman). The service, which was sold by Greenville, S.C.-based Gilreath-Durham Company Jewelers, and a state flag contributed by the SCDAR were presented to the great ship by Governor Martin F. Ansel in a lavish ceremony at the Academy of Music in Charleston, S.C., on April 12, 1910. Today, Ansel’s great-granddaughter-in-law, Nancy Bunch, is the curator and tour director at the Governor’s Mansion, where the Battleship Silver is a popular attraction for both locals and out-of-towners alike.

The style of the finished product was later used as a model for the Louis XVI, English Georgian and American Colonial flatware patterns. Each piece is similar yet distinctive in its own right. The photo at left gives only an idea of the size of some of the pieces—many are quite large. Palmetto leaves, tobacco plants, trees and fruits decorate many of the pieces, with portraits of important figures, flags and scenes from the state’s history replicated on others. The
The Patriot Mason: Freemasonry in American Society
Library and Museum of Freemasonry, Freemasons’ Hall London, through December 22, 2011

For travelers heading overseas in the next six months, “The Patriot Mason: Freemasonry in American Society” is now open at London’s Library and Museum of Freemasonry. The exhibition explores the role of Freemasonry in American society from the 18th century to now, drawing on rarely seen objects, books and documents from the museum’s own collections. One of the world’s rarest Masonic books, *The Constitutions of the Free-Masons*, published by Benjamin Franklin in 1734, will be displayed alongside the elaborate costumes and medals (known as jewels) worn by American Freemasons.

Freemasonry arrived in the American Colonies in the early 1700s, fostered by British immigration and trade. It was as popular among leading colonists as it was in London and Paris; 13 of the 39 men who signed the Constitution were Freemasons, including George Washington.

The exhibition, free to the public, is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.freemasonry.london.museum.

Capital Portraits: Treasures from Washington Private Collections, 1730–2010

Presenting 60 portraits from the mid-18th century to 2008, this exhibition gives a window into some of the treasures in private Washington, D.C., collections. Marquis de Lafayette and artist John James Audubon are some of the subjects represented, and John Singleton Copley, Gilbert Stuart, Charles Willson Peale, Mary Cassatt and William Merrit Chase are among the artists on display. The exhibit demonstrates how portraiture provides a window into the life of the sitter, the career of the artist and the era in which they lived. See a preview at www.npg.si.edu/exhibit/capital.

Declarations of Independence
DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum Colonial Williamsburg, Va., through August 2011

In anticipation of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, printers competed to produce versions that would allow every household to own a copy. In 1823, William Stone created an official version and presented it to the few remaining signers of the original Declaration. Today, only about 30 of the original 200 copies survive; this exhibition features five of those official versions. Learn more about Colonial Williamsburg’s collection of historical documents at http://research.history.org/pf/index.cfm.

The Battleship Silver is a symbol of the patriotism exuded by South Carolinians throughout the state’s history.

service contains many pieces that are not found on today’s average dining table, such as compotiers (dishes for holding fruit compotes—a dessert made of pieces of fruit in sugar syrup), bonbon dishes for after-dinner treats, a cedar humidor and a complete six-piece tea service. One of the centerpieces of the collection is the 7-gallon punch bowl that sits on a silver plateau and still has its original ladle and cups. The mansion’s staff polishes each piece to dazzling perfection—a task, Bunch says, that takes approximately five hours.

As with any valued treasure, the Battleship Silver has had its share of adventures. According to one popular story, shortly after the outbreak of World War II, Mrs. A.E. Baker, custodian of Charleston’s Old Exchange Building, ordered bricks removed from the floor and the silver put in vaults in the building’s cellar. The collection remained hidden until 1947, when SCDAR loaned it to the decidedly safer Governor’s Mansion.

In early 2000 as the Governor’s Mansion underwent renovation, the Battleship Silver was put on temporary display at the Charleston Museum. Thousands of visitors were able to admire the collection during its brief installation. Since its return to the Governor’s Mansion in 2001, the collection remains a vital link between the state’s past and present. As Bunch explains, “The Battleship Silver is a symbol of the patriotism exuded by South Carolinians throughout the state’s history.” —Sara Hodon
The DAR has published a magazine since July 1892, but it wasn’t until July 2001 that the organization premiered American Spirit magazine, a new focus for one of the nation’s oldest continually published periodicals. American Spirit was launched to share the Daughters’ love of American history with the nation. Just as the DAR Museum and DAR Library house world-class collections related to the founding of our country, the magazine is an award-winning periodical designed to celebrate our uniquely American story with a beautifully designed, well-illustrated compendium of interesting topics focused on God, Home and Country. In the decade since its debut, the magazine’s editors have chosen stories with the central goals of the National Society—promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism—in mind.

On the following page, we remind you of some of the ways we have creatively expanded our purposefully narrow editorial timeline—focusing on historical subjects from the Colonial period through the early decades of the new republic. We have been particularly mindful of the great but often-unlauded contributions women have made to our country. Today’s amazing DAR members continue to blaze a path, and our pages have honored women who balance career and service in ways that illustrate DAR ideals within communities across the nation and around the globe.

We’ve earned awards for our editorial and design work, and we’ve grown our circulation 23 percent over the past four years, thanks to a loyal readership. Along the way, we’ve been amazed at the detailed knowledge our readers have about so many of these subjects as well as the compelling ideas they propose for us to research.

We’ll continue to look for new ways to tell old stories, and shed a spotlight on parts of our nation’s proud history that few Americans know—but that all should celebrate.

—The Editors
Discover the meanings behind some of the DAR chapters' names.

The name of *Aurantia Chapter, Riverside, Calif.*, which means "golden," comes from the scientific name of the orange tree, *Citrus aurantium*. Navel orange trees were introduced to the area in the latter half of the 19th century. They thrived in the Southern California climate, and the citrus industry grew rapidly. By 1882, California boasted more than 500,000 citrus trees, almost half of which were in Riverside. One of the chapter's most treasured items is a gavel made of the wood from the parent navel orange tree of Riverside County, which was replaced by Theodore Roosevelt in the courtyard of the historic Mission Inn.

The *Comte de Grasse Chapter, Yorktown, Va.*, honors a pivotal ally of the Revolutionary Era, Admiral François Joseph Paul, Marquis de Grasse-Tilly. In addition to serving in the Mediterranean, India and the Caribbean, the French naval officer also commanded the French fleet during the Revolution. Six weeks before the siege at Yorktown, de Grasse and his force of 3,000 men prevented the British navy from entering the Chesapeake Bay to connect with Lord Cornwallis’ army on land. The defeat in the Battle of the Chesapeake doomed Cornwallis and forced the surrender of the last operational British army on the mainland.

The *Mary Butler Chapter, Laconia, N.H.*, is named for a local legend. Mary Butler Eastman gained fame for riding from her home in Gilmanton, N.H., to Charlestown, Mass., to learn the fate of her husband, Ebenezer Eastman, commander of a company in Colonel John Stark’s brigade, after the Battle of Bunker Hill. While Mary attended church, word of the battle reached the congregation. She set out on horseback to find out whether Ebenezer had survived the battle; she found him alive and well. Benjamin F. Taylor described her journey in the poem “Mary Butler’s Ride.” Of their reunion, Taylor rhymed, “She from the howling wilderness—he from the hell of men/The little woman called the roll; he called it back again!” The chapter placed a historic marker at the site of the couple’s log cabin in 1922.

*Helen J. Stewart Chapter, Las Vegas, Nev.*, shares the name of the “first lady of Las Vegas.” Helen Jane Wiser, born in Springfield, Ill., in 1854, married Archibald Stewart in the early 1870s and moved with him to Nevada, where they eventually acquired Las Vegas Ranch. Archibald was murdered in 1884, leaving Helen to run the ranch and raise their five children. By 1890 she was the largest landowner in the county, and she was appointed the first postmaster of Las Vegas in 1893. In 1902, Montana Senator William Clark arrived, hoping to build a railroad connecting Los Angeles to Salt Lake City, with Las Vegas as a midpoint. Helen sold most of her land and the water rights to Las Vegas Creek to Clark for $55,000. Considered an authority on southern Nevada history, Helen built a new house nearby where she remained for the rest of her life.

A Legendary Life

Elizabeth Griscom’s birth on New Year’s Day 1752 coincided with the first day of the first year of the Gregorian calendar, the earliest in a series of momentous shifts that marked her life. Griscom watched the United States claim its independence from the vantage point of Philadelphia, a city her grandfather and father had helped build. Anyone living in the same place at the time would have become entangled in Revolutionary history. Griscom is no exception.

Although she held the name for just over three years, she is better known as Betsy Ross. Raised as a Quaker, Betsy left the Society of Friends to marry Anglican John Ross in 1773. The two met as coworkers in an upholsterer shop; Betsy, an “heir to generations of craft skill,” entered the trade as a teenager. Two years later Ross died, but Betsy’s work remained a constant in her life. She made countless chair covers, draperies and mattresses, and more than a few flags, during her decades-long career.

After a brief marriage to mariner Joseph Ashburn, Betsy found lasting partnership with third husband John Claypoole. Her spouses shared a common trait: They all engaged in the Revolutionary effort, while Betsy’s father, following the Quakers’ pacifist principles, avoided it.

The Claypooles built a large family and became early members of the Free Quakers, a society of former Quakers disowned by the Society of Friends. Betsy was one of the group’s last surviving members. Stewart chronicles the rise and fall of the family fortunes, from the wealth and prestige they enjoyed during John Claypoole’s appointment as a customs officer to the poverty they endured after a stroke left him disabled. In times of affluence and scarcity, Betsy’s household often included widowed daughters, nieces and their children, some of whom followed their matriarch into the upholstery business.

About 20 years after Betsy’s death in 1836, her descendants decided to record the story of the first American flag heard often in their youth, but a lack of documentation makes verifying the tale difficult, if not impossible. Most records of Betsy’s work as a flag maker date to the early 19th century, Stewart notes. Whether George Washington, Robert Morris and George Ross actually commissioned that famous first flag from Betsy becomes almost immaterial as part of the larger story of a young craftswoman shaped by the independence movement. “If the legend indeed tends to overstate the known facts,” writes Stewart, “the life does not.”

—Courtney Peter
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In A Space For Faith: The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England (Jetty House, 2009), Paul Wainwright’s haunting black-and-white images evoke a sense of how central these simple buildings were to inhabitants of scattered villages and even larger towns and cities. They were physical manifestations of the spiritual, communal and political heart of each community.

Except for the photo of Boston’s Old Meetinghouse, which is surrounded by skyscrapers, the structures stand apart from any other buildings. By photographing them in isolation, Wainwright emphasizes their uniqueness. This approach also conveys their architectural simplicity and the absence of frills, and prepares the reader for his wonderfully detailed images.

As Peter Benes notes in an accompanying essay, most New England communities were required to build a meetinghouse to serve as a gathering place for Congregational or Presbyterian believers. Some 2,000 were built between 1630 and 1830, according to Benes.

Built out of logs in the earliest days of colonization—when they also served as forts—meetinghouses went through design phases. Rooflines changed, half-circle windows topped rectangular windows, and bell towers and steeples appeared. Later meetinghouses adopted Georgian architectural...
points, while still eschewing more ornate decoration that was considered too “Anglican.”

The photos in A Space for Faith encompass these evolving designs. Working with available light streaming through windows grown cracked and wavy with age, Wainwright captures the clean, spare look of time-worn pews, heavily trodden floorboards and aging, flaking paint. Weathered tombstones lean like carved Towers of Pisa in well-tended churchyards, their presence both solemn and oddly comforting.


From July 22 through September 4, 2011, the Hallmark Institute of Photography in Turners Falls, Mass., will host a show of Wainwright’s meetinghouse photographs. The exhibit is free and open to the public, Friday through Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Photographs from this exhibit will be available as a traveling exhibit following the close of this show. For more information, visit http://gallery.hallmark.edu/future.php. — Bill Hudgins

New Bibliographic History of America’s Revolutionary Women

America’s Women in the Revolutionary Era 1760–1790: A History Through Bibliography, the newest publication from NSDAR, provides an exhaustive listing of sources pertaining to the women of the Revolutionary War period. The compilation of thousands of references in one place makes it easier than ever to locate information about our nation’s earliest female citizens. The hardbound, three-volume set will be an invaluable resource for any library or research center, especially those with collections pertaining to history and women’s issues.

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ON PAPER, the names of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence may look ordinary, but behind each one is an extraordinary story. This summer, the Daughters of the American Revolution will unveil an online exhibit of some of the original signatures of the signers, with others being added gradually until a complete set is posted. “We hope to provide enough information to spark an interest and get people looking for their favorite signer,” says Tracy Robinson, director of archives and history for the Daughters of the American Revolution. Researching the lives of these men has given Robinson a deeper appreciation for many of them. “They worked really hard, and they exhausted themselves doing what they did,” she says. “They were very loyal to their individual Colonies, and they went to a great deal of trouble for us.”

Robinson estimates that the NSDAR’s complete collection of signatures is one of around 30 such collections in the hands of public or semi-public institutions. When the Americana Collection was founded in 1940, the DAR already had signatures in its holdings; Thomas Jefferson’s signature, for instance, was acquired in 1919. Beginning in the early 1970s, the DAR began an organized attempt to create a full set. By late 1977, it was missing only three signatures: Thomas Lynch, George Taylor and Button Gwinnett. Lynch and Taylor were both acquired in 1985, and Gwinnett’s signature was purchased on March 27, 2002, with the Georgia State Society pledging more than half of the cost. It was, however, not the last signature acquired. It was determined at some point that George Ross’s signature was not his but that of his son. The “real” George Ross was purchased by the DAR on July 1, 2002, making his signature the collection’s last.

How much do you know about the signers of the Declaration of Independence? Read on to test your knowledge.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

A principled physician and politician who refused to bow to pressure from the royal governor, Josiah Bartlett was the first to vote for independence and the second to sign the Declaration of Independence, after John Hancock. He helped draft the Articles of Confederation and lobbied hard for ratification of the Constitution.

An Irish immigrant turned prominent surgeon, Matthew Thornton joined the Continental Congress after the Declaration of Independence was adopted, but still signed the document. A political essayist on the side, he drafted New Hampshire’s first official constitution after the royal government was dissolved.

A merchant who made his fortune at sea, William Whipple represented New Hampshire in the Continental Congress while also commanding the New Hampshire militia. He led his men in a successful expedition at the Battle of Saratoga and inspired the loyalty of his slave, Prince, who followed him into battle.

MASSACHUSETTS

The first vice president of the United States and the second president of the republic, John Adams was one of the most active and influential delegates of the Continental Congress. An early protestor of British rule, Adams published a scholarly critique of its oppressive policies in the popular article, “Essay on the Canon and Feudal Law.” In the Continental Congress, he seconded Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee’s resolution for independence and nominated George Washington as commander in chief of the Continental Army. Appointed ambassador to France, Adams joined Benjamin Franklin and others in negotiating and signing the 1783 Treaty of Paris that ended the Revolutionary War. A controversial
presidential term put Adams at odds with fellow signer Thomas Jefferson, but the archrivals later reconciled. Both died on the same day—exactly 50 years after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

The radical cousin of John Adams, **Samuel Adams** lead the charge for republicanism, inciting colonists to show resistance against the Crown by stirring up revolts and agitating the British. As a clerk in the Massachusetts Assembly, he was the first to propose a Continental Congress, and his fiery speeches and fierce loyalty to the cause inspired many to follow in his footsteps.

Massachusetts Bay Colony delegate **Elbridge Gerry** served two terms in the Continental Congress and attended the 1787 Constitutional Convention, but refused to sign the Constitution, fearing it gave the federal government too much power over individual states. Gerry, who later served as vice president under James Madison, was one of the first politicians to switch parties—from Federalist to Democratic-Republican. The term “gerrymandering” was coined by detractors who criticized him for redistricting the state to the advantage of his party.

Best known for his easily recognizable signature, **John Hancock** was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence and one of the most charismatic members of the Continental Congress. Orphaned as a boy, Hancock was raised by an uncle from whom he inherited a prosperous shipping company. Despite his wealth, Hancock was a firm believer in the rights of the common man and became a popular hero among revolutionary activists for his fearless confrontations with the British. Hancock aided the Boston Tea Party and tried to smuggle a shipment of wine into Boston Harbor in his schooner Liberty to avoid paying taxes on it.

Known as the “Objection Maker” for his habit of making frequent objections to the proposals of others, **Robert Treat Paine** was an opionated member of the Continental Congress who served on committees forming the rules of debate. He is also known for signing a final appeal to King George, known as the Olive Branch Petition, in 1775.

**RHODE ISLAND**

Chosen to succeed his deceased friend, Samuel Ward, in the Continental Congress, Rhode Island Sons of Liberty activist **William Ellery** served on several key committees, including foreign relations and marine, but left his most lasting mark, some sources say, as an advocate for the abolition of slavery.

An outspoken opponent of British taxation and the slave trade, **Stephen Hopkins** is known for having the most illegible signature on the Declaration of Independence due to his shaking palsy. Inscribing his name, Hopkins was noted to have said, “My hand trembles, but my heart does not.”

**CONNECTICUT**

**Samuel Huntington** was outspoken as a Sons of Liberty activist protesting British taxation, but was a calming force as president of the Continental Congress from 1779 to 1781. The Articles of Confederation were ratified during his term, and Huntington spent most of his time in office urging states and their legislatures to support taxes to generate necessary funds to fight the Revolutionary War.

A self-trained surveyor and lawyer who became a distinguished statesman, **Roger Sherman** was a member of the committee selected to draft the Declaration of Independence as well as the group that formed the Articles of Confederation. One of the most vocal members of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, he gave 138 speeches and offered the Great Compromise, which proposed adding a House of Representatives to the legislature to allow smaller states like his to be represented proportionally.

A Harvard-educated theology scholar, **William Williams** had planned to enter the ministry, but when the French and Indian War broke out, he decided to join the militia instead. Establishing himself as a merchant after the war, Williams was elected to replace ailing Connecticut delegate Oliver Wolcott. He arrived too late to vote for independence but did sign the Declaration of Independence and served on the committee to frame the Articles of Confederation.

The son of Royal Governor Roger Wolcott, **Oliver Wolcott** raised men to fight for the Crown on the northern frontier during the French and Indian War, but as tensions with Great Britain grew, he joined the Connecticut militia to command troops for the other side. Military affairs consumed most of his attention, though he was appointed commissioner of Indian Affairs in 1774 to help secure treaties with tribes.

**NEW YORK**

A soldier in the Suffolk County militia in the early stages of the American Revolution, **William Floyd** attained the rank of major general and served in the
first Continental Congress and later the first U.S. Congress. Just after he signed the Declaration of Independence, his family was forced to flee from the British, and the Redcoats plundered his Long Island home and used it as a barracks.

Captured during the French and Indian War and imprisoned in France for many years, British mercantile agent Francis Lewis received a large land grant from the Crown upon his release, and returned to America, where he joined the revolutionary movement. Despite being instructed not to vote for independence by the Tory-dominated state government, Lewis cast his vote in favor of the resolution and served on the marine, foreign affairs and commerce committees.

As a delegate to the Albany Congress in 1754, Philip Livingston led one of the earliest attempts at independence when he and other delegates proposed the “Plan of Union for the Colonies.” King George promptly rejected the plan, but Livingston continued efforts to raise funds and troops for war and promoted separation from Great Britain as president of the New York Provincial Congress and a Continental Congress delegate.

Raised among British affluence, Lewis Morris sided with the Patriots as conflict with England began and risked his wealth and inheritance to oppose the Crown. He served on the defense and Indian Affairs committees in the Continental Congress, but torn between his work there and defending New York as commander of the state militia, he returned to his local duties.

NEW JERSEY

Known as a “poor man’s counselor,” Abraham Clark used his expertise as a lawyer and a surveyor to counsel farmers on legal matters and got elected to several offices, including the Second Continental Congress. But signing the Declaration of Independence had unforeseen consequences for Clark, whose officer sons were captured by the British and tortured because of his patriotism. Urged to give up the fight for independence in exchange for his sons’ release, Clark refused and continued to serve.

Dubbed “Honest John” for his strong work ethic, John Hart had acquired a number of mills by the time his popularity propelled him into politics and an unlikely spot in the New Jersey delegation at age 65. In June 1778, he invited 12,000 soldiers to encamp on his farm, and George Washington dined with him before holding his Council of War nearby.

A writer whose works were inspired by the fight for independence, Francis Hopkinson expressed his criticism of the British government through satirical essays penned during his service in the Continental Congress. His speeches and writings favoring the Constitution were known to sway public opinion. Historians debate the assertion that Hopkinson designed the American flag.

Son of a wealthy landowner, Richard Stockton was among the first graduates of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University). When the British occupied New Jersey in November 1776, he returned home just in time to move his family to safety before being captured, imprisoned in New York and treated with extreme brutality by the British troops. Continental Congress attempted to obtain his release, but Stockton was held captive for months. Finally released in 1777, he returned home to find his property destroyed and his papers burned.

When delegates in the Continental Congress expressed doubts over whether the Colonies were “ripe” for independence from England in 1776, Scottish Presbyterian minister John Witherspoon famously declared that they were “in danger of rotting.” As president of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University), he supported and often participated in student-led protests against the Redcoats.

NEW YORK

One of the few to sign the Constitution as well as the Declaration of Independence, Philadelphia merchant George Clymer led early revolts against the Tea Act and the Stamp Act and worked to strengthen General Washington’s authority and improve provisions for troops. When the rest of Congress fled Philadelphia in December 1776 to escape the British, Clymer stayed behind to keep the executive side of the government running. He was targeted by Redcoats, who destroyed his property and possessions. Clymer also happened to be Pennsylvania’s revenue officer during the Whiskey Rebellion. While working to maintain order, one of his sons was killed in the fighting.
The son of a candlemaker, Benjamin Franklin at age 70 was the oldest delegate elected to the Continental Congress but one of the most accomplished. An author, inventor and statesman, Franklin’s desire for independence began early when he ran away from an apprenticeship at age 17 and started his own printing business. His Poor Richard’s Almanac was popular for its witticisms, and his social activism drew him to public service. The founder of the first American lending library and the inventor of the Franklin stove, bifocals and the lightning rod, Franklin tried to use his influence to encourage Parliament to change its policies toward the Colonies. Once separation was inevitable, he played a key role in the rebellion, serving as postmaster general, negotiating an alliance with France that reinvigorated the war effort and, along with fellow signer John Adams, negotiating and signing the Treaty of Paris that ended the war.

One of the wealthiest merchants in the Colonies, Robert Morris helped finance the Revolutionary War, procuring arms, ammunition, supplies and funds for Washington and his troops. He used his fortune to secure the finances of the republic, founding Philadelphia’s Bank of North America.

A reluctant revolutionary who lived in a Tory stronghold, John Morton owed much of his political success to the British establishment and was hesitant to embrace the Patriot movement—until the 1765 Stamp Act. Outraged by unnecessary taxation forced upon the Colonies by Parliament, Morton committed himself to the cause, casting a critical vote for independence in a deadlocked Pennsylvania delegation. His constituents—mostly Quaker pacifists and Loyalists—felt betrayed and withdrew their support. Abandoned by many of his friends, Morton grew ill in 1777 and became the first signer to die.

As a former prosecutor for the Crown, George Ross hoped that the Colonies could resolve their differences with England peacefully. But as soon as he realized war was inevitable, he switched sides, supporting the fight for independence in the Continental Congress and on the battlefield. His greatest legacy turned out to be a legendary pamphlet, “Considerations of the Nature and Extent of the Legislative Authority of the British Parliament,” which argued against taxation without representation. When it came time to vote for independence as a delegate, Wilson initially opposed the measure because he refused to vote against the will of his constituents, but he later reversed his decision.

DELAWARE

Had it not been for Thomas McKean, Delaware might have never cast its vote for independence. When McKean discovered that fellow delegate George Read had voted against the resolution to break free from England, he summoned colleague Caesar Rodney to Philadelphia to...
break the tie. McKean held public offices in Delaware and Pennsylvania and, due to a delay while commanding a battalion in New Jersey, was the last person to sign the Declaration of Independence, which sources speculate he did as late as 1781.

Federalist-minded lawyer George Read favored independence but believed the resolution to cut ties from England was introduced too soon and voted against it, causing a tie in the Delaware delegation eventually broken by Caesar Rodney. As a Constitutional Convention delegate, Read pushed for a strong national system of government.

A tireless political and military champion who sacrificed personally to advance the cause of liberty, Caesar Rodney rode 80 miles through the night to Philadelphia to break a tie between Delaware delegates on the resolution for independence. As commander of Delaware’s militia, he recruited a record number of volunteer troops in a Loyalist-dominated region and earned the loyalty of his men with his brave service in the field.

MARYLAND
The only Roman Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence, Charles Carroll was a refined intellectual who identified strongly with the Patriot cause, joining Stamp Act protests and writing articles sparring with royal officials over taxation of the Colonies. Because of the lack of political, religious and educational rights for Roman Catholics, Carroll was educated in France, and though he couldn’t win public office, his political career flourished thanks to high-profile appointments. Joining the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, he missed the vote for independence, but signed the Declaration and served on the Board of War through the Revolution. The last surviving signer, he died in 1832 at age 95.

Without the persuasive powers of revolutionary Samuel Chase, the Maryland delegation never would have cast its unanimous vote for freedom. When Chase heard that Maryland delegates had been instructed to vote against the resolution, he rushed home to make speeches urging colonists to support it. Enthusiasm for independence was so high that fellow delegates switched their stance. Chase was tenacious about causes he believed in, organizing protests against the Stamp Act in 1765 and lobbying vehemently against the adoption of the Constitution because of the power it gave the government. Chase went on to serve as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Annapolis lawyer William Paca joined the Patriot movement soon after entering politics and, along with delegate Samuel Chase, organized against a poll tax levied by the royal governor to pad the pockets of the Anglican clergy. Though Paca was appointed federal district judge by George Washington, he made his greatest impact in Maryland, where he helped draft the state constitution and raise funds for Washington College, the state’s first institution of higher learning.

A prosperous landowner and lawyer, Thomas Stone was one of the most conservative members of the Continental Congress, favoring negotiations with the British up until the approval of the Declaration of Independence. He helped draft the Articles of Confederation but left public service before signing them to care for his ill wife. He died just months after her.

VIRGINIA
Father of 18 children, Carter Braxton was a reluctant signer, hoping until the war began that a compromise could be reached to avoid separation from Great Britain. Despite his reservations, he loaned part of his fortune to support the republic, losing most of his wealth by the end of the Revolution.

The ancestor of two future presidents, Benjamin Harrison helped mediate debates preceding the signing of the Declaration of Independence. His family followed his example of public service. His son, William Henry Harrison, was the nation’s ninth president and his great-grandson, Benjamin Harrison, was its 23rd president. President Benjamin Harrison’s wife, Caroline Scott Harrison, was the first President General of the DAR.

Francis Lightfoot Lee served in the Virginia House of Burgesses before joining his brother, Richard Henry Lee, in the Continental Congress. Though he was not as dynamic or as politically active as his brother, he took an active part in the Revolution and also signed the Articles of Confederation.
Considered one of the most radical patriots of his time, Richard Henry Lee introduced the official resolution for independence, first adopted by the Virginia Convention in May 1776 and by the Continental Congress a month later. An early advocate for liberty who argued against oppressive British taxation without representation, Lee organized a boycott against the British. Later he expressed his support for states' rights by opposing the Constitution, outlining his case in the highly circulated “Letters of the Federal Farmer.”

In addition to serving in the Continental Congress, Thomas Nelson Jr., helped create and finance the Virginia militia and acted as its first commander. When Thomas Jefferson declined re-election as governor in 1781, Nelson succeeded him. He also fought the British during the Siege of Yorktown, commanding his men to fire on the governor’s mansion, where he knew the enemy was hiding.

Thomas Jefferson was only 33 years old when he penned America’s most famous document. His ideas about the basic “inalienable” rights of individuals and his eloquent way of expressing them continue to inspire Americans today. Tutored in the classics as a boy, Jefferson developed a knack for language early on, and his ability to distill large volumes of information into a single, enduring point made him an invaluable member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. Selected as an alternate delegate to the Continental Congress to replace Speaker of the Virginia House Peyton Randolph, Jefferson wasn’t the most vocal member, but his writing spoke for itself. He outlined his theories on self-governance and freedom in an article titled, “A Summary View of the Rights of British America,” and by the time he arrived in Philadelphia, it had been turned into a pamphlet and circulated widely. After the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence chose Jefferson as the designated writer in June 1776, he finished the document in less than three weeks, with minor corrections from John Adams and embellishment from Benjamin Franklin. Congress modified it somewhat, but its impact was undisputed. Jefferson went on to build a reputation as America’s foremost son of enlightenment for his contributions as an architect, inventor, scientist and philosopher, and served in many roles, including Virginia governor, U.S. diplomat, secretary of state, vice president and the third U.S. president. But his most lasting work was the Declaration of Independence, which turned 50 years old on the day that Jefferson, its masterful author, died.

George Wythe was so admired by other Virginia delegates, including former student Thomas Jefferson, that in respect for the elder statesman who missed the initial signing of the Declaration, they left a space for his signature. A mentor to Jefferson and other notable Americans, Wythe shaped many of the minds and views of the revolutionary movement as a professor of law at the College of William and Mary. After briefly serving in the Continental Congress, he was called home from Philadelphia to help form the new Virginia government. Late in life, he freed his slaves and provided for their support in his inheritance, but his great-nephew plotted to enlarge his share by poisoning them with arsenic and accidentally murdered Wythe in the process.

Joseph Hewes was a self-made man who started a successful shipping business in Edenton, N.C., before entering politics. Hewes, a bachelor, devoted his life to the Patriot cause, and as secretary of the Naval Affairs Committee, he oversaw the U.S. Navy during wartime.

William Hooper supported the Crown as North Carolina deputy attorney general but eventually embraced patriotism. He was rejected by his Loyalist family and targeted by the British for his shift in loyalties. Hooper was respected for his oratory skills and legal expertise.

Self-taught lawyer John Penn migrated to North Carolina, where he practiced law in Williamsboro and served in public offices. He signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of
Confederation and served on North Carolina’s Board of War during the invasion of Lord Cornwallis.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

Raised in one of South Carolina’s wealthiest families, Thomas Heyward Jr. helped draw up the state’s constitution before serving in the Continental Congress. Captured in Charleston while commanding militia troops, he was imprisoned for a year but eventually returned to public life as a judge and legislator.

Thomas Lynch Jr. wanted to fight the British on the battlefield, but a bout of swamp fever forced him to give up his commission as a commander of a South Carolina regiment. Instead he was elected to the Continental Congress to replace his delegate father, who had suffered a stroke. Lynch voted for independence, but never lived to see it—before the Revolution ended, he was lost at sea on a ship bound for the West Indies.

The son of a plantation owner, Arthur Middleton replaced his ailing father, Henry Middleton, in the Continental Congress. While fighting in the Siege of Charleston, he was taken captive by the British and held for a year. He rejoined the Continental Congress for a second term upon his release.

English native Button Gwinnett established a trade business in Savannah, Ga., and became friends with revolutionary Lyman Hall, who coaxed him into politics. Gwinnett joined Hall in the Continental Congress, but the job he coveted was rival Lachlan McIntosh’s as commander of the Georgia militia. Settling for serving as legislator and governor, Gwinnett led an ill-fated attempt to invade Florida to secure Georgia’s border against Loyalist strongholds. He died from fatal wounds received in a duel with McIntosh.

Orphaned as a boy and apprenticed to a carpenter who recognized his intelligence and encouraged him to pursue formal schooling, George Walton went from law student to local Patriot leader within a few years. Wounded and captured while commanding troops during the defense of Savannah, Walton gained freedom through a prisoner exchange and returned to the Continental Congress, helping to negotiate treaties with American Indian nations while battling fellow signer Button Gwinnett back home for state control.

Emily McMackin uncovered the history of hats for the July/August 2010 issue.
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Alaska
Untamed
A Journey Into Pure Wilderness

As far as states go, Alaska is a youngster. Admitted to the union in 1959, it’s barely 50 years old. In many ways it’s still evolving, but it’s that continual shifting that makes Alaska what it is. The place has been shaped by the people who have gone there chasing a dream or a chance or an opportunity.
“WHEN IN ALASKA, it’s easy to believe that you’ve come to the beginning of something still in process, something untamed,” write Sonya Senkowsky and Amanda Coyne in Alaska Then and Now: Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau (Thunder Bay Press, 2008).

A Great Land

Walter Borneman echoes the idea in Alaska: Saga of a Bold Land (HarperCollins, 2003): “Throughout Alaska’s history there has always been another wave cresting, another frontier to cross.”

This pioneer spirit started thousands of years ago when people first migrated from Asia across the Bering Land Bridge, a 1,000-mile stretch connecting Siberia and present-day Alaska. Exactly when people first reached North America’s upper west region is subject to debate—some say 30,000 years ago, and others say 14,000.

“What is without question,” Borneman writes, “is that Alaska was the gateway to the Americas.”

Evidence shows a pattern of migrations spreading from Asia to Alaska and then throughout North and South America. By 1750, more than 57,000 people called that northwestern chunk of the Americas home, including Aleuts, Alutiqs, Athabascans, Haidas, Inupiats, Tingits and Yup’iks. Today more than 100,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives live there, making up 16 percent of the state’s residents.

The name Alaska comes from an Aleut word, Alyeska, meaning “great land.” And great it is, with 586,412 square miles of pristine wilderness.

Russian America

It wasn’t until 1741 that Russia discovered the greatness of Alaska’s land. Russia was at war, so Peter the Great sent Vitus Bering, a Danish navigator, on an expedition. According to Borneman, the czar wanted to know how much of North America his European rivals had claimed—“and how long it would be before they were also knocking on his eastern door.”

Bering set off in 1728 and again 10 years later, but while he spotted the Aleutian Islands on his second trip, he never landed on the Alaskan territory. Bering died of scurvy on what is now called Bering Island, but his reports made it back to Russia—along with a pile of sea otter pelts.

Soon the promyshlenniki, or fur hunters, showed up in the Aleutian chain looking for sea otters and seals. When the Russians made themselves masters of the land and its people, “conflicts eventually turned catastrophic,” Senkowsky and Coyne write. “Violence and European diseases killed 80 percent of the Aleut population during the first two generations of Russian contact.”

By 1867, the Crimean War had put Russia in such financial straits that it sold Alaska to the United States for $7.2 million (about 2 cents per acre). Critics mocked the purchase of a frozen wasteland, calling it “Seward’s Folly” and “Seward’s Icebox” to make fun of Secretary of State William Seward, who brokered the deal.

The Rush to Juneau

It was famed naturalist John Muir (featured in American Spirit’s July/August 2008 issue) who introduced America to what he considered “one of the most wonderful countries in the world.” Muir can also be credited in part with initiating Alaska’s first major gold rush. Commissioned to explore the territory, he mapped areas through the Inside Passage, including Glacier Bay, but he also noted spots where gold might be found. The report reached the military post at Sitka in 1880, and information slowly leaked to prospectors.

Chief Kowee, of the Auk Tingits, showed gold ore samples to mining engineer and Sitka resident George Pilz, then the chief accompanied Richard Harris and Joe Juneau to the area around the Gastineau Channel. They returned lugging a thousand pounds of ore, and the rush took off.

After first being called Harrisburgh, the town they returned to was renamed
Juneau and eventually became Alaska’s capital. Legend has it that Joe Juneau offered to buy everyone drinks at the saloon to secure his place in history.

“Although only a few people found enough gold even to pay for their trip,” Borneman writes, “the rush left an indelible mark on the nation’s imagination.”

And that impression led to the next rush: tourists coming to explore the setting of the storied gold rush for themselves. Today, long after the mines closed, tourism remains Juneau’s most profitable industry.

Accidental Fairbanks

According to Alaska historian Jane Haigh, Fairbanks—another gold-rush town—quite literally “started by coincidence.”

Inspired by Canada’s Yukon gold rush, E.T. Barnette was bent on finding wealth in Alaska. He bought enough goods to open a trading post and hired Captain Charles Adams and his small steamboat, the Lavelle Young, to take his party all the way up the Tanana River in the summer of 1901.

Haigh explains in Searching for Fannie Quigley: A Wilderness Life in the Shadow of Mount McKinley (Swallow Press, 2007) that the plan was doomed from the start. “Adams, like every other northern river man, knew that Barnette would get no farther than the rapids, but the trader was determined,” she writes.

The captain told Barnette he would carry him as far as possible, but then Barnette would have to unload his supplies. And so, when the boat ran aground on the Chena River, Adams left Barnette, his wife, Isabelle, and their group on the river’s bank with their crates and barrels.

As luck would have it, an Italian prospector named Felix Pedro saw the steamer’s smoke and headed that way. Pedro bought supplies from Barnette and left with a promise that he would strike gold. “Barnette, with his goods setting [sic] on the riverbank, his new wife in tears, and the Lavelle Young...”
disappearing downriver, hoped that he was right,” Borneman writes. When Pedro did find gold, Barnette’s trading post expanded into a gold-rush town filled with businesses, saloons and houses of ill repute. Barnette named the town after Charles Warren Fairbanks, an Indiana senator. That way, Borneman says, “there would be at least one friendly ear” if they needed something in Washington.

Senator Fairbanks became Theodore Roosevelt’s vice president and, “in the proverbial manner of the times, was never heard from again,” Borneman explains.

When the town incorporated in 1903, Barnette schemed to have himself named mayor. By 1905, there were 5,000 people living in Fairbanks, and the women of the town added churches, schools and hospitals to compete with the bars and brothels.

In Gold Rush Women (Alaska Northwest Books, 2003), Haigh and Claire Murphy note that unlike other pioneer towns in Alaska, “Gold-rush Fairbanks was a law-abiding town. Women, many of whom were experienced stampeders ... were an essential part of Fairbanks’ development from the beginning.”

Today Fairbanks is the largest town in Alaska’s interior. Home to the main campus of the University of Alaska, it serves as an educational center, as well as a hub for transportation, military and business. Yet with its extreme winters, Fairbanks is, in many ways, still a pioneer town.

Anchorage: A New Kind of Boom Town

No gold was found in Anchorage, but its boom came in the form of a railroad. “The next best thing to gold to encourage a boom,” Borneman writes, “was the hoot of a steam whistle and the signs of railroad construction.”

Anyone who could cash in on the opportunities provided by railroad construction, from business owners to laborers, was ready to work in a tent city then known as Ship Creek. In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson officially announced that the line would begin there. Tents gave way to permanent structures, and the city’s name was changed to Anchorage.

During World War II, the federal government turned toward Alaska during its campaigns in the Pacific. And Anchorage also benefited from those war efforts. Borneman suggests that those government dollars and projects initiated the next boom to shape Alaska. “Nothing altered the face of Alaska more than the Second World War,” he writes. “The buildup of population, transportation networks and concomitant infrastructure—all of which remained and was infused with returning GIs at war’s end—made December 7, 1941, and the period that followed, the most pivotal in Alaska’s history.”

Part of that infrastructure was the Alaska Highway, a 600-mile road built to connect a series of airfields. The cost was $500 million, and Colonel Heath Twichell, commanding officer of the 95th Engineers, called it the “biggest and hardest job since the Panama Canal.” Without the resources of the government, that road most likely never would have been built.

A boom in the late 1960s is shaping the future of Anchorage. With the discovery of crude oil at Prudhoe Bay, the city has positioned itself as a home for administrators of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and the center of support industries related to that black gold.

When a friend asked William Seward to name the greatest act of his career, he answered, “The purchase of Alaska; but it will take the people a generation to find it out.” In the 144 years since, generations of Alaskans have continued to define the place. And people continue to go, exploring the untamed possibilities. 

Beth Clayton Luthye explored the history of early American courtship and marriage for the March/April 2011 issue.

Choose Your Adventure

Whether you’re looking for wilderness, culture or history, Alaska is filled with possibilities that won’t disappoint. Experience Juneau’s combination of turn-of-the-century flair and sophisticated politicking. Explore the heart of Alaska in Fairbanks, a quintessential Alaskan town with a mix of rough-edged sourdoughs (old-timers), artists, military personnel and students. And visit Anchorage, a city that mixes urban amenities with wild adventure. A historic walking tour is a must in each, but beyond that you can choose your adventure.

JUNEAU

Tongass National Forest is a temperate rainforest that covers 17 million acres. See eagles, bears and spawning salmon as you hike boardwalk trails or fish in one of the many streams. www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass

Mendenhall Glacier, fed by the Juneau Icefield, is unique in its accessibility. Hiking trails take you face to face with a piece of the Little Ice Age, a glacier 12 miles long and a mile and a half wide. The visitor center offers highly interactive and educational exhibits. www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/districts/mendenhall

The Alaska State Museum offers extensive exhibits on various Alaska Native cultures, including a 34-foot Inupiaq umiak, a boat made from walrus skins; a natural history exhibit featuring a two-story eagle nest

St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, built in 1894 by the local Tlingit community, is the oldest surviving Russian church building in southeast Alaska and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The church conducts services in English with some Tlingit and Old Church Slavonic. www.stnicholasjuneau.org >>

American Spirit • July/August 2011 29
Spirited Adventures

**Glacier Bay National Park** is a short flight or boat ride from Juneau. The powerful beauty of the continent’s largest collection of tidewater glaciers, along with snow-capped mountains, coastlines and fjords, inspired naturalist John Muir to describe it as “a picture of icy wilderness, unspeakably pure and sublime.” www.nps.gov/glba

**FAIRBANKS**

**Creamer’s Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge** is a stopping point for thousands of ducks, geese and sandhill cranes migrating north in the spring and back south in late summer. The barn complex, farmhouse and other buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places functioned as the northernmost dairy in North America from 1910 to 1966. http://fairbanks-alaska.com/creamers-dairy.htm

The **University of Alaska Museum of the North** houses Alaska’s largest display of gold, 2,000 years of Alaska art, artifacts of Alaska Natives, Ice Age relics that include “Blue Babe,” a 36,000-year-old steppe bison, and an exhibit dedicated to the detainment camps that housed Japanese Americans during World War II. www.uafl.edu/museum

**Gold Dredge No. 8** is a National Historic District that recreates gold fever from the prospectors’ perspective. You’ll get the history of the miners, have a chance to pan for gold yourself, and learn about the move to more sophisticated mining and dredging techniques. www.golddredgeno8.com

**The Aurora Borealis**, or Northern Lights, is a spectacular natural phenomenon best seen in Fairbanks. They are more difficult to see in bright summer months, but you have a 90 percent chance of seeing them if you stay for three days, fall through spring. http://fairbanks-alaska.com/northern-lights-alaska.htm

**Denali National Park** should be a required stop on the scenic Alaska Railroad train ride from Fairbanks to Anchorage. Home to Mount McKinley—the highest peak in North America—stretching 20,320 feet toward the sky, the park is also renowned for its breathtaking vistas and sightings of moose, caribou, grizzly bears, wolves and Dall sheep. www.nps.gov/akra/index.htm

**ANCHORAGE**

The **Anchorage Historic Depot** connects the city’s history as headquarters for construction of the Alaska Railroad in 1915 with its current position as a modern rail hub. Be sure to see the totem poles and a locomotive built in 1907. http://alaskarailroad.com

The **Anchorage Museum** of dance, sport, craftsmanship and art. Along Lake Tiulana you’ll also see examples of Alaska Native dwellings from all five of the state’s major regional groups. www.alaskanative.net

The **Anchorage Museum** offers a stellar collection of historic and contemporary Alaska art, along with artifacts of Alaska Native history spanning thousands of years. In 2010, it completed an impressive expansion that added the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center, a collection of 600 Alaska Native artifacts on long-term loan from the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., as well as the Imaginarium Discovery Center and Thomas Planetarium. www.anchoragemuseum.org

**Potter Marsh** is one of the most accessible and scenic spots for viewing the state’s spectacular natural beauty. A protected wetland at the southern end of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, it’s a birder’s paradise. A long boardwalk with interpretive signs allows you to get up close without disturbing the many varieties of birds, from bald eagles to red-necked phalaropes.

**Flattop Mountain** in Chugach State Park is a 3,510-foot mountain nestled in the third-largest state park in the country. You can drive to the Glen Alpine trailhead and walk along a well-maintained trail to the summit, which boasts a panoramic view that features Denali, Mount Foraker, Mount Spur and several active volcanoes. If you want to stay longer, the state park encompasses a half-million acres of high alpine wildflowers, glacier-fed rivers, mature spruce forest, howling wolves, meandering moose and soaring eagles. http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chugach
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KEEPING THE COUNTRY FED

Women of the Revolutionary generation established the patriotic paradigm for their time. In the 20th century, the mothers, wives and sisters of the World War II era fulfilled a similar role. By supporting family members serving in the military, assuming the jobs left vacant by men fighting the war, and volunteering at home and abroad, American women helped sustain their country.

In 1943, a proclamation by President Franklin D. Roosevelt designated November of that year as Food Fights for Freedom Month to remind Americans of the importance of food rationing as the biggest feast day of the year approached. The Food Fights for Freedom advertising campaign encouraged citizens to “Produce and Conserve, Share and Play Square with Food” to help the country stretch its domestic food supply while also feeding troops serving in World War II.

As a 4-year-old girl, Nelly Galloway Shearer, a member of Chickasaw Bluff Chapter, Memphis, Tenn., was unaware of her mother’s role in the program during the latter part of the war. Later, Mrs. Shearer learned that her mother, Mildred Hale Galloway, worked as the Food Fights for Freedom coordinator in Memphis under the direction of retired General Benjamin Lear, who was soon called back to action overseas.

“The general has turned his command over to a housewife. She is carrying on,” proclaimed an April 22, 1948, article in the Memphis Press-Scimitar. “She took the job on a temporary basis, as she has always been interested in civic work and believes it is essential to being a good American. Now she is knee-deep in writing radio skits and doing all the other jobs pertaining to food conservation.” Actress Madeleine Carroll portrayed Mrs. Galloway in a radio program based on her work for the campaign.

Today, Mrs. Shearer is grateful to have had such an example in her own home. “[It] resulted in her genealogy search for a Revolutionary ancestor.”

LEAVING THEIR COMFORT ZONE

Frances McDavid Haynsworth did all she could to support the war effort, including growing a victory garden and rationing food. Her actions are representative of many of her contemporaries, yet they did not come naturally to her.
AN INHERITED SENSE OF DUTY

Bridget Ward Perez, a member of Stone Bridge Chapter, Sterling, Va., was raised in a family with a long military tradition. “Both of my grandfathers served this country in World War II,” she notes. While Mrs. Perez certainly takes pride in her grandfathers’ service, she names another source as her primary patriotic inspiration. “To this day, I keep a framed, wallet-size photo of my maternal grandmother on my nightstand. A DAR member herself, she left her small town in Ohio to join the United States Navy during World War II,” says Mrs. Perez. Ruth May Davis, who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, calls this uniform her “greys” in a handwritten note on the back of the photo.

Ruth May Davis, who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, calls this uniform her “greys” in a handwritten note on the back of the photo.

“My mother, who had been raised as a Southern belle, was a young wife with a new baby and very few life survival skills,” says Connie Grund of Lily of the Cahaba Chapter, Hoover, Ala. But that changed when Mrs. Haynsworth followed her husband around the country while he completed military training. “She endured hours on a crowded train carrying baby food in a bucket of ice, slept in the apartments of strangers who made space for the families of soldiers, and, before it was over, she was sharing her two-room apartment with other wives. My mother came home a changed woman.”

Mrs. Grund also recalls that her grandmother, accustomed to a privileged lifestyle, helped feed trainloads of soldiers bound for World War II as they traveled through Alabama on their way to various military bases. “One of the greatest joys for these two women was hearing that somehow my mother’s brother, two first cousins and my father had been able to arrange a short rendezvous in the South Pacific,” Mrs. Grund says.

COINCIDENCES OF HISTORY

One of Mindy Kammeyer’s favorite pieces of family memorabilia is the Red Cross uniform her grandmother wore during World War II. The member of Cherokee Chapter, Atlanta, Ga., credits her grandmother with teaching her how to be a good volunteer, a lesson she put to use in her own life.

“When the United States became involved in Vietnam, I decided to do my part,” says Mrs. Kammeyer. “I was already flying as a stewardess for Continental Airlines when I volunteered to work our military contract flights overseas.” She flew with Marines traveling to and from Vietnam and also on R & R trips.

Mrs. Kammeyer was working a military flight on July 20, 1969, when the captain announced “The Eagle has landed.” Mrs. Kammeyer was at first disappointed to be flying the day Apollo 11 had landed on the moon, but her regret vanished when the 165 Marines on board stood and began singing “God Bless America,” “America the Beautiful,” the national anthem and “The Marine Hymn.” It’s a scene she will never forget.

Seventeen years after the lunar landing, another historic event united the nation. Many DAR members who were girls at the time of the U.S. Bicentennial Celebration remember the swell of patriotic sentiment it created.

“My favorite childhood memories were of the summer of 1976,” says Morgan Lake, a member of John Guild Chapter, Jackson, Mo. “Maybe I was just the right age to remember the Bicentennial experience, but it seemed like an idyllic time. I remember my mother explaining what a bicentennial celebration meant and showing me the new historic event united the nation. Many DAR members who were girls at the time of the U.S. Bicentennial Celebration remember the swell of patriotic sentiment it created.

“My favorite childhood memories were of the summer of 1976,” says Morgan Lake, a member of John Guild Chapter, Jackson, Mo. “Maybe I was just the right age to remember the Bicentennial experience, but it seemed like an idyllic time. I remember my mother explaining what a bicentennial celebration meant and showing me the new quarters. Our community really seemed to be united and happy. July 4, 1976, was the experience of a lifetime for me, and I was only 7!”

SPANNING GENERATIONS

By including her granddaughter, Carrie Venable-Byrd, now a member of John Kendrick Chapter, Wenatchee, Wash., in her custom of hanging the American flag outside her home on national holidays, Myrtle Cowles Huffaker Wilson showed how to make simple patriotic observances part of everyday life. “Each time, she’d explain the holiday and why it was important,” Mrs. Venable-Byrd says.
Later, when she had children of her own, Mrs. Venable-Byrd remembered her grandmother’s influence. “Raising two daughters, I thought it was also important to establish that patriotic service is not only for men, but also for them,” she says. Signs indicate that her efforts succeeded—her daughter and fellow John Kendrick Chapter member Megan Venable is enrolled at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., where she was recently selected as one of very few female submarine officer trainees.

Several summers ago, mother and daughter—along with an aunt, Mary Huffaker Wagner, a member of James Billingsley Chapter, Richardson, Texas—shared a poignant moment while touring Arlington National Cemetery. The tram they were riding stopped to allow a funeral procession to pass. Other passengers complained about the delay, but Megan explained a custom she learned at the Naval Academy. As the casket came into view, the three women and one other man stood in respect for the fallen soldier. “Some people gave us weird looks and wondered aloud why we were standing, but then I guess it clicked and they followed our example and stood up as well,” Megan says.

Occurrences like this reaffirm Megan’s certainty that joining the military was the right choice for her. “Many ask me if I get scared knowing my daughter will most likely find herself in harm’s way. My honest reply is that I may have some fears, but because of her I am also more confident in our country’s future,” Mrs. Venable-Byrd says.

PATTERNS ESTABLISHED AS CHILDHOOD GUIDES

Some find that a sense of patriotism is awakened in them as a result of a significant event, while for others the feeling is cultivated by routine. The gravity of patriotic rituals was imprinted on LeAnn Turbyfill at an early age. “Growing up in a rural area, my love of country was developed as a member of the Junior Grange,” says Mrs. Turbyfill, a member of Fort Lewis Chapter, Salem, Va. She credits the local Junior Grange leader, Linda Hausamann, for fostering a love of country among members of the group with a mixture of programs, activities and heritage tours. “I can still recall how we were taught to furl and unfurl the flag and to stand at attention to sing the national anthem. Twice each month for 10 years, we followed this opening ritual.”

These patterns established during childhood guide Mrs. Turbyfill as an adult. She has attended naturalization ceremonies as part of her work on behalf of the DAR, and her involvement also presented the opportunity to forge an unexpected personal connection. “I volunteer as a tutor to a refugee woman,” Mrs. Turbyfill explains. “While she is learning conversational English, I have come to realize that I represent the face of America to her and her family. Our interactions will continue to impact her as she successfully lives her life in her newly adopted country.” A lifetime of practice prepared her for the role.

LESSONS IN APPRECIATION

The perspective of immigrants who had to actively seek the rights and freedoms native-born Americans inherit by birth can be a reminder to resist treating these privileges complacently. Lynn Brackey, a member of Sandy Springs Chapter, Sandy Springs, Ga., remembers that when she was a teenager her parents befriended a couple who had escaped from Cuba on a small raft, carrying little more than the clothes they were wearing. “Once wealthy and well-established, they were grateful to be free. Starting with basically nothing, they began to work and build a future for themselves and their children,” Mrs. Brackey recalls. The situation parallels that of the earliest settlers who traveled to the New World. “I will never forget their passion and gratefulness for the opportunity to live in the United States. Through them I gained a deeper love and respect for my country,” Mrs. Brackey says.

“I have been in a great book club for 10 years,” Mrs. Lake says. “During one of our discussions, I found myself repeating the American’s Creed as an explanation of what I believe to be the responsibilities of American citizenship. Only one other woman in the group joined me. It caught me by surprise, because Ifat Kahn was born in Pakistan. She memorized the creed while studying to become an American citizen more than 20 years before.”

Having learned the value of active patriotic expression from the women around them, members carry on by teaching schoolchildren about our country’s history and traditions, supporting veterans of military service, welcoming new United States citizens, and continuing to find new and creative ways to inspire those around them. When asked which methods of spreading patriotic spirit work best, over and over again DAR members stressed the importance of doing rather than watching.

As Mrs. Turbyfill attests, “Patriotism is not something that can be experienced in a passive way. It must be displayed; it must be shared.”

The May/June issue featured Courtney Peter’s Spirited Adventures story on Chicago.
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Pam Moore recalls the moment she almost threw out a priceless family treasure. Mrs. Moore, who is a member of the Kan Yuk sa Chapter, Jacksonville, Fla., was sorting through her late mother’s belongings when she came upon a small, non-descript book. "It was a tiny thing, probably only about 3 by 4 inches. It was in my mother’s boxes; I almost tossed it. I was tired, toward the end of the day. It didn’t say ‘Holy Bible’ on the front. It was kind of like a black binder, and the pages were yellowed." But Mrs. Moore looked and discovered the tiny book, printed by the American Bible Society in 1856, was a Bible that had belonged to her great-grandmother, Mary Anne Johnson. Unlike the massive, ornate family Bibles that adorned countless 19th-century parlors, it had no designated family history pages. Instead, her great-grandmother wrote the names and birthdates of children on some blank pages in the back.

By BILL HUDGINS
Her mother had never spoken much about family history, so the genealogical information deeply intrigued Mrs. Moore. With its quaint handwriting and unique details, “this little book is such a treasure to me,” she says.

Mrs. Moore also found another Bible, which measured 5 by 7 inches and belonged to her grandmother’s sister, that did have designated pages for births, marriages and deaths.

Many of us possess ornate family Bibles passed down across several generations. “The Book of Life,” as the Bible is often called, was used to record lives for centuries, says Bob Sanford, a vice president and associate publisher with Bible and book publisher Thomas Nelson Inc. of Nashville, Tenn.

“Today we think of family Bibles as oversized Bibles, often displayed on coffee tables or in hutches, and containing color plates of art masterpieces and elaborate family record sections,” Sanford says. “Historically, though, the family Bible was simply the family’s prized possession without regard to size or elaborations and, as such, the place to record a family’s births, deaths, baptisms, marriages and genealogy.

“This shouldn’t surprise us, considering the importance given to the Bible,” Sanford adds. “These notes could be personal reflections or thoughts. How many of us look at our grandfather’s or grandmother’s Bible and admire the marginal notes they’ve made?”

The Bible Trade

In a very real sense, the American Revolution liberated Bible publishing in the United States. Although the Bible crossed the Atlantic with the earliest colonists, no English-language Bible was printed in America until 1781. As it did with so many goods, Great Britain reserved exclusive rights to print English Bibles and export them to the Colonies.

The first Bible printed in the Colonies was a translation in a dialect of Algonquian, produced in 1660–1661 by John Eliot, a Presbyterian minister in Massachusetts, according to A Light to the Nations: America’s Earliest Bibles, 1532–1864, by Liana Lupas (Museum of Biblical Art, 2010).

The next domestic Bible was printed in German in 1743 by Cristoph Saur in Germantown, Pa. His son, also named Cristoph, took over the printing business and republished the German Bible in 1763 and 1776. In 1778, the Continental Army confiscated Saur’s property, including printed sheets for about 1,000 Bibles. Another printer bought them at auction, then sold them to be used in making cartridges for bullets, according to A Light to the Nations.

The Revolution interrupted the Bible trade, but American printers did not rush to fill the void. The Bible is an enormous work, noted David Daniell in The Bible in English: Its History and Influence (Yale University Press,
2003). It required a considerable investment in scarce, expensive type, ink and paper, and much labor to set type by hand and print on primitive presses.

It also required meticulous proofreading, because typographical errors could cause scandal. (The so-called “Wicked Bible” or “Adulterous Bible” printed in England in 1631 omitted the word “not” from the commandment against adultery.)

Printers hoping to produce multiple editions of a book had to choose between resetting all the type or storing the bulky forms between printings. “Standing type,” as it was called, meant a considerable investment in type as well as storage space. But with its resources, huge market and long-established printing and publishing industry, Great Britain could easily print quality, inexpensive Bibles.

Early ‘American’ Bibles

England’s Bible trade with America resumed at war’s end. This derailed sales of the first domestically produced English-language Bible, printed in 1781–1782 by Robert Aitken of Philadelphia.

Aitken, who was printer to the Continental Congress in 1776, had published a New Testament in 1777 in Philadelphia. Determined to publish a Bible but leery of the financial risk, he persuaded Congress to endorse his Bible in the hope this would spur sales. Despite the unique endorsement, sales foundered in the wave of cheaper British imports.

In 1790, printer Matthew Carey of Philadelphia published an English Bible based on the Latin Rheims-Douay version used by the Catholic Church. This was an odd decision, since Catholics were a decided minority in that era. The edition did turn a small profit, but his printing company Carey, Stewart and Co. did not issue another Bible for 11 years.

Meanwhile, in 1791, Isaiah Thomas produced what is regarded as the first illustrated English Bible in America. His high-end edition included “a register for births, marriages and deaths between the Old and New Testaments in 1791,” says Timothy X. Salls, manuscripts curator at the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston.

Preservation and Restoration

Both the Americana Collection and the DAR Library own several family Bibles, including an English Bible (top right) printed in Edinburgh in 1791. Family records of the owner, Paul Stuart, dating from 1762–1871 are written inside.

It also contained 50 exquisite copperplate engravings bound at the end of the New Testament. Engraved by four New England artists, the rococo images caused a stir among purists who feared people would look at the pictures and not read the words.

A Bible printed by Isaac Collins in Trenton, N.J., also appeared in 1791. Though rather plain, this edition was renowned for its accuracy and became the standard against which future publishers checked their editions, according to The Bible in English.

In 1796, Matthew Carey hired Parson Mason Locke Weems, the future biographer of George Washington, as a traveling salesman. Weems sensed a new Bible edition would sell well and urged Carey to print one. In 1801 Carey, Stewart and Co. produced a King James Version (KJV) that included an index, charts, maps, and tables of proper names and significant dates.

Carey believed the extra material would make it more appealing to consumers, writes Paul C. Gutjahr in An American Bible: A History of the Good Book in the United States, 1777–1880 (Stanford University Press, 1999). However, Weems often complained that penny-pinching consumers preferred to pay less for a competitor’s basic edition than for a more elaborate Carey Bible.

Nevertheless, Carey’s Bibles sold well enough that he eventually could leave an edition in standing type. By winnowing out errors over several printings, he could also...
minimize proofreading, further reducing his costs and increasing profits.

Thanks to mass production and distribution, Carey soon became one of the largest and most successful Bible publishers of the era, according to *The English Bible in America: A Bibliography of Editions of the Bible and the New Testament Published in America, 1777–1957* (American Bible Society and the New York Public Library, 1961; edited by Margaret T. Hills). In addition to publishing several more English editions of the Catholic Bible, he also produced more than 60 editions of the KJV.

**The Primacy of The Word**

America’s printing industry grew explosively after the Revolution in order to feed a voracious appetite for reading material. Some citizens were concerned that the Bible was getting lost in the flood of printed material. To counter this threat to the Good Book’s primacy, Bible societies formed in a number of cities and states to promote Scripture reading.

In 1816, Elias Boudinot helped found the American Bible Society (ABS) whose goal was to provide every American home with a Bible. Boudinot, of Elizabeth, N.J., had served as the second president of Congress under the Articles of Confederation, president of the Continental Congress from 1782 to 1783, and director of the U.S. Mint from 1795 until 1803.

The society declared its mission “was to encourage a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment,” and that it would print only the King James Version. Its members believed that making the Bible the most accessible book in America would result in its reclaiming its status as the most important.

From the start, the ABS used new printing technologies to hold down costs while printing thousands of Bibles. The ABS relied on state Bible societies instead of retailers or sales agents to distribute its editions, further reducing costs while giving it immediate access to most of the nation. Its first “General Supply” sold a half-million copies from 1829 to 1831, according to Gutjahr. Although it never achieved its goal of placing an ABS Bible in every home, the Society dominated the marketplace for inexpensive Bibles by out-producing and underselling its competitors.

Ironically, Gutjahr asserts, its success undercut its original purpose. “In its fervor to flood the United States with Bibles, the American Bible Society had laid the groundwork for an American Bible marketplace filled with increasingly diverse versions of the sacred Scripture. ... By the end of the 1830s, it had become strikingly clear that a Bible was no longer just a bible; it could be any one of myriad different editions.”

**‘Mega’ Bibles**

Increasingly, those myriad editions included features besides the Scriptures. “Although other publishers could not beat the society’s Bible prices, they could outdo the society’s Bibles in terms of ornamentation and content,” Gutjahr writes. “Often weighing as much as 15 pounds, these mega-bibles offered a wide array of expensive accoutrements, including sculpted leather bindings, metal clasps, gilded pages, complex tables of information, portrait galleries, countless family records pages, extended commentaries and hundreds of illustrations,” he noted.

With their rich, ornate bindings and sheer heft, these large family Bibles soon earned a prominent place in genteel parlors as “sacred furniture,” according to Daniell. They served as a symbol of virtues such as piety, gentility and affluence, which were near-obsessions for the middle class in the 19th century.

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**400th Anniversary of the King James Version**

This year marks the 400th anniversary of one of the milestone events in Bible (and book) publishing—the first printing of the King James Version.

Commissioned in 1604 by King James I of England, the Authorized King James Version of the Bible was completed in 1611. It gained a reputation as “the people’s Bible,” and was described by the normally acerbic H.L. Mencken as “probably the most beautiful piece of writing in all the literature of the world.”

The Thomas Nelson Inc. publishing house issued a deluxe commemorative family Bible in honor of the anniversary. The company also launched a website, www.kjv400celebration.com, that details the history of the KJV’s creation and its remarkable popularity through the years.

Meanwhile, New York’s Museum of Biblical Art is opening a new exhibit, “On Eagle’s Wings: The King James Bible at 400.” Running from July 8 through October 16, 2011, the exhibition will explore the historic context in which the King James Bible was translated and published. The exhibits include printed Bibles, manuscripts, letters, portraits and visual meditations on the meaning of the biblical text. Visit www.mobia.org for more information.
One of the earliest examples of the genre was the 13-plus-pound Harper and Brothers’ Illuminated Bible published in the 1840s. Using new printing technologies, the massive tome contained more than 1,600 illustrations; no previous American Bible had more than 100. Illustrations also appeared on the same pages as text, instead of bound in separately as had been the practice.

Another popular line of family Bibles came from John Holbrook, a publisher in Brattleboro, Vt., who issued 42 editions between 1816 and 1852. These lavish volumes coincided with a surge in tourism and archeological research in the Middle East. Many of the illustrations and maps featured details from the faraway Holy Land, producing a “you are there” experience.

The National Publishing Company (also called the National Bible Press) issued an edition in the 1870s and 1880s that boasted “100,000 marginal references and readings,” almost 2,000 engraved illustrations, a history of Bible translation, details of manners and customs “of the ancients,” a dictionary and a history of the books of the Bible, and space for family photos, Gutjahr noted.

Treasuring them as repositories of family history and memories, owners sometimes pasted newspaper clippings, photos and other important items in their Bibles; at least one bride sewed pieces of her wedding dress in her Bible to commemorate her wedding day, Gutjahr reported.

The ‘Book of Lives’

Although family record sections made it easy to list genealogical data, the publishers were simply repackaging and marketing what had long been a tradition.

Salls says the New England Historic Genealogical Society owns two Bibles printed in London in the late 16th century that were used by families in America to record family vital statistics during the mid-1600s. Harvard’s Houghton Library has similar examples, as does the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Sanford notes that a Bible in Scottish poet Robert Burns’ family that was printed in 1459 by Fust and Schoeffer contains entries in Burns’ own handwriting.

Another example is the Penn Family Bible, a KJV printed by Robert Barker and Assigns of John Bill in 1654. It belonged to the Penns of Buckinghamshire, a branch of the family of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, and contains the following contemporary entries: “Thomas the Son of Thomas Penn was born August 12th, 1660; Mary the Daughter of Thomas Penn was born October 30th, 1662; Francis the Son of Thomas Penn was born June 5th, 1666.”

“The Penn Family Bible is just one of many instances I found of people using the Bible as a place to record family information,” Sanford adds. “For this reason, family Bibles are a rich resource for genealogical research. So the addition of a section especially dedicated to family history was a natural outgrowth of the practice.”

“Most of the family Bibles that are submitted with a DAR application contain information on births, deaths and marriages,” said DAR Genealogy Director Terry Ward. “Very rarely, however, are the places for those events listed. Family relationships are not always stated, but a couple is usually listed first and then the names and dates of birth for their children follow. Many of the Bibles are passed down from one generation to the next, so we find that several different generations are listed in different handwriting. Certainly the people and events listed in the Bible record can be used to prove relationships in the family.”

The family lineage information in her family Bibles sparked an interest in genealogy for Pam Moore. Using the data, she discovered she had a Revolutionary War ancestor and was accepted into the DAR.

“I remember going to Washington, D.C., as a little girl and visiting the DAR building and seeing plaques about things they had done,” says Mrs. Moore. “One reason I am so proud to be a member is that DAR is not just a genealogical organization, they also do a lot of good work, and it’s wonderful to be part of that.”

As Mrs. Moore discovered, the size and format of a Bible is not nearly as important as what’s inside—both spiritually and genealogically.

Bill Hudgins detailed the creation of “The Apotheosis of Washington” for the May/June 2011 issue.
French-born entrepreneur, shrewd land speculator and pioneer on the western border of a brand-new country, Nicholas Jarrot worked to transform his community and build a home befitting his pride in being an American.

Jarrot, a French immigrant who arrived in America in 1791, found incredible business success and prosperity in his newly adopted country, especially in the French Colonial town of Cahokia, near the Mississippi River, in present-day Illinois. To demonstrate that success and showcase his identity as an American citizen, Jarrot decided to construct a truly American-style mansion. That choice caused a stir among the town’s tightly knit, traditional denizens, but the home became a social center of the community and remains an enduring piece of the area’s history.

THE PATH TO CITIZENSHIP

Jarrot was born in 1764 near Vesoul, in southeastern France. As a young man, he migrated to Paris and began working for Sulpician priests as a clerk. The Sulpician Fathers were teachers, educators and publishers of maps and books. He received a sound education under their employment and he may even have studied to become a priest. After the French Revolution broke out and clerics began to be targeted, the Sulpicians fled to Baltimore—and Jarrot followed.

In 1791, he settled in St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore, a city that had become a haven for the Catholic population in Colonial America. It was a city teeming with energy and excitement in the days of the early republic, says Molly McKenzie, an expert on Jarrot and site manager at the Jarrot Mansion State Historic Site from 1981 to 2010. “Jarrot was influenced by the tenor of the times, as well as the people and architecture and power of the city,” she says. “He was ready to seize the opportunities found in this new country.” He lived in Baltimore, where he likely established U.S. citizenship, for two years.

FINDING SUCCESS IN CAHOKIA

Jarrot moved to New Orleans in 1793, and then traveled up the Mississippi River. His presence was first recorded in Cahokia, then a 100-year-old village settled by French-speaking Canadians from Quebec, in 1794. Part of the Northwest Territory that George Rogers Clark claimed for the United States, Cahokia is thought to be the oldest settlement on the Mississippi River—older than St. Louis by 65 years.

Cahokia was a central area for fur trading, and Jarrot jumped on the bandwagon. He swapped commodities produced in Cahokia and back east for furs with American Indians at Prairie du Chien, Wis., a major trading crossroads. He branched off into the role of town merchant, managing a general store in Cahokia and building and operating several mills. Public service was yet another responsibility: He worked as a lawyer, served as a county judge and became a social center of the community and remains an enduring piece of the area’s history. 

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a major in the town militia. More than any other venture, however, Jarrot proved savvy at making land deals—at one time he owned 25,000 acres. He was also a slave holder, owning between 12 and 21 slaves who tended to his 68-acre estate while he handled his various businesses.

As his wealth grew, Jarrot became one of the most prominent, well-connected men in the area. Though he came to be well-regarded, he made a different impression when he first settled in Cahokia, McKenzie says. When he arrived, Cahokia was still practicing the medieval tradition of common fields—land commonly owned by the community and parceled out by the church for cultivation, but owned by no one individual. Jarrot, believing the practice was antiquated, broke this tradition and claimed land as his own.

In 1795, he married Marie Louise Barbeau of Prairie du Rocher. She died shortly after the birth of their only daughter. In 1799, he married Julie Beauvais, and they had six children. Jarrot died in 1820 after catching a fever while tending one of his mills.

AN ARCHITECTURAL STANDOUT

The French who first settled Canada then relocated to Louisiana and towns along the Mississippi—particularly in villages like Sainte Genevieve, Mo., near Cahokia—traditionally built homes in an architecture style called *poteaux-sur-sol*, or posts-on-sill. Builders framed timbers vertically, then filled the gaps with sturdy stone rubble held together with soft mortar and whitewashed for protection from the weather.

Jarrot’s neighbors probably thought that he would build in this French Colonial, log style after he purchased land for his mansion in 1799. But, recalling the houses of successful families he grew to admire in Baltimore, he had a Federal-style home in mind.

Construction began in 1807. The upper part of the home was made of soft bricks. An excavation discovered a kiln, suggesting the bricks were made on site. Although the home can claim to be one of the earliest surviving masonry buildings in Illinois, it was actually built by craftsmen not used to working with bricks. As a result, its doors, windows and chimneys are slightly askew and unevenly spaced, and the facade of the house is asymmetrical. Such idiosyncrasies, McKenzie says, probably developed because area craftsmen were unfamiliar with the Federal style.

To usher along the masons, carpenters and other workmen, Jarrot employed master carpenter and joiner Russell Hicock from Maryland, McKenzie says. The two men had a contentious relationship—they sued each other 36 times, by one count. The disputes arose for various reasons—Jarrot didn’t like the staircase initially built and ordered a new one; Hicock didn’t approve of the modifications to the house that Jarrot demanded. But most of their arguments seemed to center on personality differences, McKenzie says.

Despite the strain between the owner and builder and the home’s structural oddities, its footprint is sound—foundation walls are 26-inch-thick, native limestone.
It even survived the major New Madrid earthquakes of 1811–1812 that thundered out from nearby Missouri.

FROM THE INSIDE OUT
Although the Jarrot Mansion is not perfectly well-balanced from the exterior, “the best place to look at the house is from the inside out,” McKenzie says.

Because the mansion has had only five owners, the building remains remarkably intact. The well-preserved interior retains almost all of its original features, including plaster walls, pine flooring, woodwork and even some panes of glass.

The first floor features a grand hallway with a dramatic, floating staircase. The large central room was used as a reception area, dining room and breezeway. It was flanked by two bedrooms, a room Jarrot used as an office and what was probably a multipurpose room.

A large ballroom is the focus of the second floor, which also has two small guest bedrooms and a drawing room, where Jarrot entertained guests and played cards and games of chance with friends.

“A two-story brick house with many windows, vivid colors and wallpapers must have been a stunning departure for his neighbors, who had utilitarian homes with two rooms and whitewashed inside and out,” McKenzie says.

The mansion complex includes a springhouse built of cut limestone that dates from around 1810. Springhouses were constructed over natural springs where food could be protected from spoilage for short periods of time.

ALWAYS IN USE
The secret to the home’s longevity as a historic site, McKenzie says, is that “it has always had a use. If a building has no use, it will not survive.”

After Julie Jarrot’s death at age 95, family members continued to live in the house. Later, those relatives used it as a summer retreat when they relocated to St. Louis. In 1905, a descendent leased it to the Holy Family Parish, which used it as a schoolhouse and a convent.

In the mid-1960s, a local historic society took interest in the site. By 1980, members realized it was too big of a challenge to restore, so they donated it to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Professional restoration of the mansion began in 1999, and it was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2001. The home is part of the Colonial Cahokia State Historic Sites complex that includes the Cahokia Courthouse (where Jarrot served as a judge of St. Clair County), the Martin-Boismenue House (built around 1790 by Canadian-born Revolutionary War veteran Pierre Martin) and a visitors center.

Restoration progress is slow because of state budget cuts, but the nonprofit organization Jarrot Mansion Project Inc. is assisting with restoration efforts. Wallpaper is currently being stored under museum preservation conditions until it can be installed in Nicholas and Julie Jarrot’s bedroom. Tuck-pointing, a mortar repair technique, is planned to preserve brick strength and mortar preservation.

Though generally closed to the public, the mansion is opened periodically for special events: Autumn Open House in September and Fête du Bon Vieux Temps, or Festival of the Good Old Days, held the Saturday prior to Ash Wednesday.

The historic site is located at 124 East First Street, near the intersection of Illinois Route 3 and Highway 157 in Cahokia, Ill., about 8 miles from downtown St. Louis. For further information or to schedule a tour (allow for sufficient lead time), call (618) 332–1782.

A LEWIS AND CLARK CONNECTION
In a December 19, 1803, letter to President Thomas Jefferson, Meriwether Lewis wrote of meeting Nicholas Jarrot: “I arrived at Cahokia on the 7th and immediately took occasion to make myself acquainted with Mr. John Hay (the Post Master of this place) and a Mr. Jarrot … these gentlemen readily consented to accompany me, and on the next day (the 8th) I set out in company with them to visit Colo. Lasuse (Charles Debeau de Lassuse, the Spanish Lieutenant Governor of Upper Louisiana).”

By the time Lewis and Clark arrived in Cahokia in December 1803, Jarrot had achieved considerable success as a land speculator and owned large tracts of land in the region. The Corps of Discovery’s connection to Jarrot proved to be indispensable. When Lewis asked the governor for permission to travel into Spanish Territory, Jarrot served as the interpreter. After the Spanish refused Lewis’ request to base the expedition in territory west of the Mississippi, Jarrot granted permission for Lewis to build the Corps of Discovery’s 1803–1804 winter headquarters on one of his properties, along the River Dubois, near present-day Wood River, Illinois.

Jarrot most likely received Lewis as a guest in his home, and, ever aware of an opportunity, he also may have sold gear or supplies to the expedition for the journey.
The Curious Case of Button Gwinnett

The quest to make political and military history drove one passionate Patriot—whose story doesn’t end at his death.

By Jackie Ross
Gwinnett lived to only age 42, but his biography is far from brief, including tales of several troubled business ventures, involvement with one of America’s most important historical documents, a series of controversial military acts, and a fatal duel in a Georgia pasture. Two centuries after his death, bones believed to be Gwinnett’s instigated a series of lawsuits, multiple forensic investigations and a feud over a monument and Gwinnett’s final resting place.

Path to Philadelphia

Gwinnett first worked as a merchant in Bristol, England, exporting goods to America and struggling to make ends meet. Sinking into debt and seeking a better life, Gwinnett and his family sailed to America in 1765, landing first in Charleston, S.C., and then in Savannah, Ga., where Gwinnett acquired a 36-square-mile island off the coast of Georgia called St. Catherine’s. Originally an ardent Whig, Gwinnett’s foray into politics began in 1767 when he was appointed Savannah’s justice of the peace. A year later, he became a member of the Georgia Colonial Assembly, but he remained relatively inactive in subsequent years, likely the result of financial and personal woes. During this time, three of his four daughters died young, and his farming business waned.

Gwinnett continued to struggle in business and farming, but new friendships and a passion for the future of the Colonies paved the way for a career in politics. It is believed that one such friendship, with New England physician Lyman Hall (who later migrated to Georgia), stoked Gwinnett’s political fire and ultimately inspired him to join the Revolution. Initially, Gwinnett had strong doubts about the Colonies’ ability to resist the mighty power of the United Kingdom, but Hall allegedly convinced him to become a supporter of their independence.

In pursuit of the cause, and fueled by his personal desire for military leadership, Gwinnett united a coalition that elected him commander of Georgia’s Continental battalion in 1776. He stepped aside shortly thereafter, accepting appointment to the Continental Congress—a move that led to a far more lasting legacy. Later that year, Gwinnett was sent to Philadelphia, where he and his friend Hall supported and signed the Declaration of Independence. While Gwinnett was not known to be an active participant in the debates, John Adams is quoted as saying, “Hall and Gwinnett are both intelligent and spirited men, who made a powerful addition to our Phalanx.”

Fighting Words

His significant historical achievement in Philadelphia did not dissuade Gwinnett from his military aspirations. Upon returning to Savannah, he attempted to regain leadership of the Georgia militia. To his chagrin, he lost the appointment to a young general and longtime rival, Lachlan McIntosh.

Gwinnett was loathe to admit defeat, and the two men continued their bitter rivalry. In 1777, the first president, or governor, of the state of Georgia died suddenly, and Gwinnett was appointed by the assembly to succeed him as president and commander in chief of the army. In the interest of securing Georgia’s southern border, Gwinnett led a controversial attempt to invade Florida. Among the opponents were McIntosh and his brother, who actively thwarted Gwinnett’s attempt.

Fed up with his nemesis, Gwinnett had McIntosh’s brother arrested for treason and relieved McIntosh of his command on the grounds that he,
too, must be a traitor by association. A furious McIntosh called Gwinnett “a scoundrel and a lying rascal,” which proved to be fighting words. In retaliation, Gwinnett challenged McIntosh to a duel.

On May 16, 1777, Gwinnett and McIntosh met in a pasture a few miles east of Savannah. With 12 feet between them, both fired their pistols—and both took a hit. Gwinnett, wounded in the left thigh, died of a gangrenous infection three days later.

Aside from his famed signature, Gwinnett left little behind. He has no known descendants, as his one surviving daughter died in 1786 with no children. The Gwinnett History Museum holds no original artifacts, and the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah has a limited array of Gwinnett memorabilia, including the pistols used in the fatal duel. Although the DAR Americana Collection has a rare copy of his signature (see story on page 18), Gwinnett’s likeness is missing from a mural titled “The Declaration of Independence,” depicting 26 signers of the document. Even the exact location of Gwinnett’s remains is uncertain.

No Bones About It

Over the years, professional and amateur historians have attempted to recover more information about the Patriot, including the location of his remains. In 1957, American Heritage magazine detailed the quest of retired school principal Arthur J. Funk, who traced Gwinnett’s grave to Colonial Cemetery in Savannah. Determined to prove the authenticity of the remains, Funk requested that the Georgia Historical Commission excavate the bones and verify their identity. A damaged femur—the spot where Gwinnett was shot in the duel—was the most promising evidence to support the theory that this was, in fact, the famed Patriot.

Seeking further confirmation, the femur was sent to archaeologist Marshall T. Newman at the Smithsonian Institution, whose report stated, “Neither the surface appearance of this crushed area, nor the X-rays … show any indication of trauma during life” and instead were damaged after burial. Further, Newman found that the femur likely belonged to an adult woman rather than a man—one of a much smaller stature than Gwinnett. “In summation,” the report states, “it is highly unlikely, if not fully impossible, for this bone to be that of Button Gwinnett.”

Outraged, Funk and his supporters demanded a second opinion. The issue reached the Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission, an official arm of the city government, which ultimately issued a 34-page report stating that the femur could, in fact, be Gwinnett’s, as he may have been far shorter than previously documented. While the report did not confirm the identity of the bones, it raised sufficient questions regarding the accuracy of Newman’s findings in the minds of Funk and others.

The controversy grew even more heated in the 1960s when the city of Augusta—home to the graves of Georgia’s other signers of the Declaration, Lyman Hall and George Walton—claimed that Gwinnett’s bones should be moved there to join his peers. Years of bickering ensued, during which time Funk won a seat in the state legislature—some say to ensure Gwinnett’s remains would stay in Savannah and that a monument would be built. Funk successfully secured a $5,000 public appropriation for a monument in Savannah honoring Gwinnett, ending Augusta’s attempt to commandeer the Patriot’s remains.

It’s been argued that Funk had an unhealthy preoccupation with Gwinnett, which is supported by the fact that Funk actually housed Gwinnett’s bones in his home for more than five years during the controversy. In the interest of protecting the remains, Funk said, he placed them in a new, copper-lined oak coffin in his guest room. “It was talked about as a hush-hush thing,” Funk told historians. “People said, ‘He’s got the bones in his garage, and he won’t let anybody see them.’ That was ridiculous. They were in the guest room, and nobody ever asked to see them.”

The bones were returned to Colonial Cemetery, where they rest today, along with a monument installed in 1964. Gwinnett is also memorialized by the Signers Monument, a granite obelisk in front of the courthouse in Augusta that also honors Hall and Walton.

Even in death, Gwinnett keeps good company. His signature is said to be valued as highly as those of Julius Caesar and William Shakespeare—fitting for a man who embodied such historic significance and poetic defeat. 

Jackie Ross, originally from Atlanta, is a freelance writer in San Francisco.
Finally, a cell phone that’s... a phone!

“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! The people at the store weren’t much help. They couldn’t understand why someone wouldn’t want a phone the size of a postage stamp. And the rate plans! They were complicated, confusing, and expensive... and the contract lasted for two years! I’d almost given up when a friend told me about her new Jitterbug phone. Now, I have the convenience and safety of being able to stay in touch... with a phone I can actually use.”

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