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Let in the Light
The DAR is embarking on an ambitious plan to restore the DAR Library’s strikingly beautiful lay light.

BY COURTNEY PETER

Reviving Revolutionary Hopes
James Monroe’s role in the Battle of Trenton at age 18 remained one of the future president’s proudest memories.

BY RICK BRITTON

In the Land of Columbus
We take a closer look at the stories behind Columbia, Yankee Doodle and other American icons—some of which remain fresh and vibrant, while others have faded into a footnote.

BY BILL HUDGINS

About the cover:
In this view, three of the 25 leaded-glass lay light panels decorating the DAR Library ceiling hover above another iconic feature, the Library’s historic clock.

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRAMAN
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2 Daughters of the American Revolution
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From the President General

If you have ever had the pleasure of reading or working in the 100-plus-year-old DAR Library, you have likely marveled at its many beautiful architectural features, including a unique ceiling that allows natural light to filter down on its visitors. Up until last year, I used to refer to this feature as a skylight, but now I know it’s much more than that—the decorative leaded-glass feature is called a lay light. Sadly, the DAR Library’s lay light has seriously deteriorated and requires an extensive and immediate restoration. Learn more about the Library’s historic lay light—and the vital restoration process the DAR is embarking on to save it—in our cover feature.

Uncle Sam, the U.S. flag and the White House are symbols other countries automatically associate with America. But pictures of a rattlesnake chopped into eight parts or coiled to strike would probably draw a baffled look outside our borders. And how many people would recognize drawings of Brother Jonathan or Columbia as emblematic of the United States? Yet all of these have at some time reigned as widely known symbols of our nation. We take a closer look at some, like the Great Seal and the bald eagle, that were deliberately chosen, as well as others whose origins are wrapped in folklore. Although James Monroe is remembered as our nation’s fifth president, few Americans recall his service during the Revolution. At the Battle of Trenton the 18-year-old Monroe was in the thick of the fighting, emerging as a leader when his captain was wounded. He considered the engagement one of his proudest moments. The sidebar to this article reveals how DAR helped a well-known actor discover his family’s connection to the Battle of Trenton.

This issue’s Our Patriots department salutes another man who served his country admirably both on and off the field of battle—the “greatest son” of North Carolina, William Richardson Davie. After playing a critical role in the Southern arena during the Revolution, he went on to be one of the top lawyers in his state, serve as an ambassador to France and help found the University of North Carolina, placing him among the most influential men of his era.

Have you wondered how to filter the treasures from the overwhelming piles of stuff in your home? Consider the helpful hints in our Genealogy Sleuth story. DAR members explain how they decided what family heirlooms to keep, donate or recycle. DAR is also a presence in this issue’s Historic Homes department, as we visit Point of Honor, a Federal-style mansion in Lynchburg, Va.

Six years ago, the Today’s Daughters department profiled Winter Olympian Catherine Raney. This summer, we’re proud to add a Summer Olympian to our esteemed roster. Good luck to Amanda Clark as her team represents the United States in the women’s 470 sailing event at the 2012 London Games.

Merry Ann T. Wright

Merry Ann T. Wright
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Discover new ways to reconnect with your past, learn about great destinations across the country, and read about fellow Americans who share your values of heritage, history and family.
FOR HER SECOND Olympic Games appearance, Amanda Clark wants only one thing: a medal. It’s an ambitious goal for the sailor, who started training with a new partner just three months before the Olympic Trials began in 2011. But it’s a dream she hopes to make a reality this August, when Mrs. Clark’s Team GO SAIL will represent the United States in the women’s 470 sailing event at the London 2012 Games. (The event is named for the boat—the two-person International 470, which measures 4.7 meters long.)

Mrs. Clark found a shared determination and drive in her partner, Sarah Lihan. The past year has pulled Mrs. Clark away from home and her husband, Greg, for long stretches of time so Team GO SAIL could participate in worldwide sailing events and log grueling training sessions on the water.

When the team isn’t training together (Mrs. Clark lives in Shelter Island, N.Y., while Ms. Lihan resides in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.), its members are getting stronger on their own. Every day they lift weights for two hours and do cardio exercises for another hour.

“When it’s light air, sailing is about balance, flexibility and patience,” Mrs. Clark explains of the sport. “But when it’s windy, it’s more about physical strength and endurance. And athletes who are in better shape have an advantage.”

All of the tough training has been done with that Olympic goal in mind: “We want to prove to ourselves and also to the world that we have what it takes,” says Mrs. Clark, who has been sailing since she was 5 years old. “If things continue to go well, we could really be in the running [for a medal], which is crazy to think about, since we’ve only been sailing together about a year.”

Mrs. Clark has envisioned winning an Olympic medal since she was a teenager. “As a family we watched the Olympics on TV. It was the only TV we were allowed to watch, so it was a big deal to me,” she says. “When I was in my early teens, I started to make the connection that it was something I could do.”

At the age of 15, Mrs. Clark became the youngest woman to qualify for the U.S. Sailing Team. She went on to perform well in two Olympic Trials—in 2000 and again in 2004—but fell just short of the top ranking needed to qualify for the Olympics.

Mrs. Clark made her first Olympic appearance at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, China, where her team finished 12th in the women’s 470 event.

She says being an Olympic athlete is the experience of a lifetime. “It spans a whole bunch of emotions,” she says. “It is just amazing when all of your goals come together. And then competing in the Olympics—something that brings the whole world together on such a positive note—is absolutely incredible.”

Mrs. Clark says she feels great patriotism as an Olympic athlete representing the United States. “Modern patriotism expresses itself in a variety of ways,” says the member of Shelter Island Chapter, Shelter Island, N.Y. “Being an athlete is just one aspect of expressing loyalty to the country.”

No matter the results of the London Games, Mrs. Clark looks forward to spending some downtime at home this fall. “I hope to be able to share my experiences with my community and other DAR members,” she says. Fans can follow the team and chart its progress at www.teamgosail.org.
“HOME SWEET HOME,” a segment in the DAR Museum exhibition “By, For, and Of the People: Folk Art and Americana at the DAR Museum” (open until September 1) highlights everyday objects used in the early American home. The rare wooden butter stamps and tin-plated cheese coaster were practical and often-used 19th-century household items. These complementary forms illustrate the production and serving of dairy products, past and present staples of our diet.

A cow on one stamp reminds us of the source of butter, while the eagle on the companion stamp conveys patriotic sentiment. Such images were pressed on the top surface of molded butter both to decorate and identify the maker.

Cheese coasters held wheels of cheese. Elaborate wooden examples were often fitted with casters to roll the cheese down the dining table. The DAR Museum example has no casters, but the lightweight tin is decorated with leafy sprigs of delicate flowers.

The eagle butter stamp was a gift of Mary Vail Collier donated in 1940. The cow butter stamp was a gift of Lillian Stites Eshleman donated in 1940. The cheese coaster was a gift of the Albemarle Chapter, Charlottesville, Va., in memory of Mildred C. Brown in 1987. It’s one of more than 300 objects included in this gift, today known as the Mount Walla Collection, named for the historic home of Mrs. Brown.
Singing About a Revolution

The Beatles recorded their boisterous song “Revolution” in 1968, a time of turmoil at home and abroad. In writing the song, John Lennon said he was “painting in sound a picture of revolution.”

America’s Revolution produced its share of revolutionary sound pictures. Take for example J.W. Hewlings “American Heart of Oak,” written in 1775:

Come rouse up my lads, and join this great cause
In defence [sic] of your liberty, your property and laws!
’Tis to honor we call you, stand up for your right,
And ne’er let our foes say, we are put to the flight.
For so just is our cause, and so valiant our men,
We always are ready, steady boys, steady;
We’ll fight for our freedom again and again
The Scotch politicians have laid a deep scheme,
By invading America to bring Charlie in;
And if the Scotch mist’s not remov’d from the throne,
The crown’s not worth wearing, the kingdom’s undone.

In 1776 Benjamin Dearborn also sounded the call to arms in “War Song”:

Hark, hark, the sound of war is heard,
And we must all attend;
Take up our arms and go with speed
Our country to defend.

“On Independence”—another tune from 1776—was written by Dr. Jonathan Mitchell Sewall of New Hampshire. Besides its martial tone, the song stresses the noble purposes that underlay and justified the rebellion against “merciless tyrants”:

Come all you brave soldiers, both valiant and free,
It’s for Independence we all now agree;
Let us gird on our swords, and prepare to defend,
Our liberty, property, ourselves and our friends.

In a cause that’s so righteous, come let us agree,
and from hostile invaders set America free,
the cause is so glorious we need not to fear,
but from merciless tyrants we’ll set ourselves clear.
Heaven’s blessing attending us, no tyrant shall say
That Americans e’er to such monsters gave way,
But fighting we’ll die in America’s cause,
Before we’ll submit to tyrannical laws.

In 1789, violinist Philip Phile composed the victorious, celebratory tune “The President’s March,” for George Washington’s inauguration. In 1798, Joseph Hopkinson wrote lyrics that led to the tune’s being renamed “Hail Columbia.”

Hail Columbia, happy land!
Hail, ye heroes, heav’n-born band
Who fought and bled in freedom’s cause,
And when the storm of war was gone
Enjoy’d the peace their valor won.
Let independence be our boast, ever mindful what it cost;
Ever grateful for the prize, let its altar reach the skies.

CHORUS: Firm, united let us be,
Rally round our liberty,
As a band of brothers joined,
Peace and safety we shall find.

“Hail Columbia” served as our unofficial national anthem until 1931, when Congress gave that honor to “The Star-Spangled Banner.” The words to this song were written by 35-year-old Maryland lawyer Francis Scott Key following the frightful bombardment of Fort McHenry in Baltimore on the night of September 13–14, 1814.

Earlier that day, Key and Colonel John Skinner were aboard a British ship in the harbor negotiating for the release of a prisoner, Dr. William Beanes. The negotiations eventually succeeded, but the British detained the trio, who were aware of the imminent bombardment. Transferred to another British ship, Key and his companions could only watch and wonder about the outcome through that “perilous night.”

Catching sight of the American flag still flying on the morning of September 14, Key rejoiced. He and his companions were put ashore, and, as they made their way back to Baltimore, Key scrawled a poem on the back of a letter in his pocket. He published the verses six days later, and they were soon set to the tune of a British drinking song:

O say, can you see, by the dawn’s early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming!

And the rockets’ red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there:
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

—Greg Nethercutt, a former congressman, is author of the book In Tune with America: Our History in Song (Marquette Books, 2010).

Celebrate a Capitol Fourth

Join an audience of millions celebrating “A Capitol Fourth” on PBS, airing live on July 4 from 8 to 9:30 p.m. ET (check local listings). Emceeing this year’s Capitol Fourth broadcast will be Tom Bergeron, host of the TV series “Dancing With The Stars.” The show will feature Broadway and TV star Megan Hilty (“Smash”), singer-songwriter Javier Colon (winner of “The Voice”), four-time Tony-nominated Broadway star Kelli O’Hara, and the National Symphony Orchestra. There will also be a tribute to Team USA honoring U.S. Olympians and Paralympians.
American History
A Click Away

Rich online sources for American history information await the budding historian. From blogs to podcasts to online courseware, here are seven websites that make early American history accessible and relevant to visitors.

**U.S. History: Pre-Columbian to the New Millennium**
Operated by the Independence Hall Association, ushistory.org provides a free online textbook covering American history from European discovery to the current day. Topics include “The New England Colonies,” “Societal Impacts of the American Revolution” and “Jeffersonian America: A Second Revolution?”
www.ushistory.org

**MIT Courseware: American History to 1865**
For those looking for a structured online learning environment, American History to 1865 offered through MIT’s Open Courseware provides syllabi, a detailed reading plan and sample class assignments.
http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/history/21h-101-american-history-to-1865-fall-2010

**“America: The Story of Us”**
“America: The Story of Us” is a 12-episode History Channel presentation covering American history from the founding of Jamestown to the present. In keeping with other History Channel programs, extensive use of computer-generated imagery, recreations and expert interviews provides an entertaining and informative overview of the nation’s history. Episodes are $2.99 each on iTunes.
www.history.com/shows/americathe-story-of-us

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Teaching American History provides an extensive library of primary source documents, as well as a series of audio lectures from university professors on various topics. Documents include papers written by Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and other Founding Fathers.
The podcasts section of Teaching American History deserves special mention—it provides weekly seminars from the site’s archives on a given topic in American history. Topics include “Foundational Ideas in American Political Thought” and “A Patriot’s History of the United States.” Download the free MP3s, or listen immediately on your computer.
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**Have Fun With History**
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http://havefunwithhistory.com

**American Revolution and Founding Era**
Updated about once a week, this blog provides tidbits of interesting information and commentary about the Revolution, often relating current events to the era. Some recently posted topics include “George Washington vs. Napoleon Bonaparte,” and “How John Adams Believed America Should Celebrate Independence Day.”
http://americanfounding.blogspot.com

**“O Say Can You See?”**
Managed by employees of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, the “O Say Can You See?” blog and its Twitter handle, @amhistorymuseum, provide frequent articles and links on American history.
http://blog.americanhistory.si.edu
Colonel Polk Chapter, Raleigh, N.C., is named for Colonel William Polk, who helped draft the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Polk joined a South Carolina regiment at age 17. He was severely wounded in the Battle of Great Cane Break, near the Reedy River. On November 26, 1776, he became a major in the 9th Regiment of North Carolina, which marched into New Jersey to join Washington’s Army in 1777. Polk fought at Brandywine, Germantown, Kings Mountain and Guilford Courthouse, and wintered at Valley Forge.

The Crab Orchard Chapter, Crossville, Tenn., was named for the Crab Orchard Inn, an early rest stop on the Avery Trace, which linked the eastern settlements and the Cumberland section of early North Carolina. The station was a favorite stop along the trail for travelers because of the Crab Orchard valley’s beauty and native grasses, which were surrounded by cliffs and precipices. Two bloody battles were fought with the Creek Indians in 1792 and 1794 in the shadow of Spencer’s Rock above I-40 outside the Crab Orchard community.

The namesake of Francisco Garces Chapter, Las Vegas, Nev., was a Franciscan monk believed to be one of the first Europeans to visit present-day southern Nevada. Garces visited nine different tribes during his years as a missionary on the Old Spanish Trail, and his travels included expeditions to San Gabriel Mission and Monterey. In 1780, Garces went to assist the Yuma American Indians, who had been promised a missionary. Against the wishes of Chief Palma, the Yumas killed him. The chapter placed a plaque in the Lorenzi Park rose garden in remembrance of its namesake.

The Louisa St. Clair Chapter, Grosse Pointe, Mich., formed in 1893 is named after “a daughter of the Revolution in every way.” Louisa, born in 1773, was the daughter of General Arthur St. Clair. The Scotland-born military man served in the British army during the French and Indian War but switched sides in 1775. During the Revolution, St. Clair used his own money to feed and clothe troops and ordered a strategic retreat from Fort Ticonderoga, avoiding a massacre. He also served as the first governor of the Northwest Territory.

If your chapter has an interesting story, send it to americanspirit@dar.org.
“Every Four Years: Presidential Campaigns and the Press”
Newseum, Washington, D.C.
Through January 2013

The Newseum’s “Every Four Years: Presidential Campaigns and the Press” explores the history of the relationship between the press and presidential campaigns since 1896. The exhibit includes a video and many artifacts from presidential campaigns, including handwritten notes from John F. Kennedy’s 1960 campaign and a microphone used by Franklin D. Roosevelt during his fireside chats.

Another current exhibit, “First Dogs: Presidential Pets in the White House,” on display indefinitely, features images of 23 dogs that have shared the White House with various presidents. The exhibit tells the stories of such presidential best friends as Abraham Lincoln’s dog Fido, Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Fala (who had his own press secretary) and George W. Bush’s Scottish terrier, Barney.

Highlights of the seven-floor museum dedicated to the history of the news and professional journalism include a 9/11 exhibit, a gallery of front pages from different eras and a large collection of Pulitzer Prize-winning photographs.

In addition to the temporary exhibits, the Newseum also houses many historical artifacts, including a section of the Berlin Wall, an East Berlin watchtower, the door that was taped open during Watergate and the cabin where Unabomber Ted Kaczynski lived while plotting his mail bomb scheme.

The Newseum uses modern technology to illustrate the impact of the press throughout history. Guests can try their hand at reporting the news in an interactive newsroom, or watch an actual news broadcast in the Knight Studio. A photography exhibit includes a simulation that lets you cover a breaking news event.

Hint: Buy tickets to the Newseum online (www.newseum.org) for a 10 percent discount.

Letting the Right Nelly Play

The March/April 2012 American Spirit article, “Let Them Play: Women and Musical Instruments in Early America,” contained a mistake. We said “George Washington’s stepdaughter-in-law Nelly Custis was praised for her musical aptitude. She regaled guests at the White House with instruments the president purchased for her.” The Nelly Custis that Washington bought the instruments for was his step-granddaughter, and she most likely played at the president’s homes in New York and Philadelphia. The Washingtons never lived in the White House.

Thank you to Diana J. Dinsick for the correction. We regret the error.
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Named for an Ojibwe American Indian woman and once a center of the North American fur trade, Madeline Island, Wis., today draws visitors eager to return to a simpler way of life that is intimately connected to the land and water.

“In some ways Madeline Island is one of the last vestiges of the American frontier, like Alaska and some places in the Rocky Mountains,” says Steve Cotherman, historic site coordinator at the Madeline Island Museum. “We’re a little bit out of the way, and we believe in taking care of ourselves and our neighbors. There’s a sense of freedom here that’s the soul of the place.”

Madeline Island, the largest of the 22 Apostle Islands, is located at the southern end of Lake Superior. It lies about 2.5 miles offshore from the mainland town of Bayfield, Wis., which serves as the gateway to Madeline and the other Apostle Islands. Ice Age glaciers shaped the archipelago, nearby Chequamegon Bay and lakeshore areas more than 100,000 years ago, setting the stage for what has become an outdoor enthusiast’s paradise.

Over the centuries, four peoples have claimed Madeline Island. The earliest known inhabitants were members of the Ojibwe (also known as Anishinabe or Chippewa) American Indian tribe, who are believed to have arrived sometime in the 15th century. Their legends say a vision guided them, promising them a home where “food grows upon the water.” And indeed, when they reached the marshes of Chequamegon Bay, they found wild rice growing abundantly. The Ojibwe named the 14-by-3-mile island “Moniwunakauning Miniss”—“home of the golden-breasted woodpecker”—and still revere it as a spiritual center.

Around 1629, French voyageur Etienne Brule explored the area and made first contact with the Ojibwe. In 1660, two fur trappers and traders named Groseilliers and Radisson entered the area, followed in 1665 by Jesuit Fathers Claude Allouez and Jacques Marquette. The Jesuits established a mission called La Pointe du Saint Esprit (“Place of the Holy Spirit”) near what is now La Pointe, the island’s only town. The settlement that grew up around the mission became a thriving center for the fur trade.

France held the area until 1763, when it surrendered Madeline Island to the British under the Treaty of Paris that ended the French and Indian War. The British relinquished the area in 1783, when the Treaty of Versailles ceded the Northwest Territory—present-day Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and part of Minnesota—to the United States.

At least, that was what the treaty said. In practice, Great Britain continued to exploit the area and encroach on America’s northwestern borders—actions that would help ignite the War of 1812. In 1793 Great Britain felt confident enough of its position to base the British North West Company on the island at a trading post built by fur trader Michel Cadotte.

Cadotte also was instrumental in renaming the island. A historical marker on the island describes the event: “When Equaysayway, daughter of Chief White Crane and a member of the Ojibwe aristocracy, married Michel Cadotte, she was given the Christian name ‘Madeline.’ Her pleased father declared the island should be named in her honor.”
The British North West Company controlled the fur trade until 1816, when the Treaty of Ghent that ended the War of 1812 halted English claims and activities in the region.

After more than 150 years of commercial trapping, the fur trade dwindled in the first half of the 19th century, prompting the American Fur Company to launch a fishing operation to exploit the rich waters of Lake Superior.

The area boomed in the mid-1800s when locks were built at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., taming the rapids on the Saint Mary River and opening an easy east-west passage between Lake Huron and Lake Superior.

Ferryboats shuttled goods and people until the construction of railroads and roads killed off all but the ferry that still runs between Bayfield and La Pointe. Improved transportation also spurred tourism: Early visitors included Mary Todd Lincoln and her son Robert, who visited the island in 1868.

By the 1890s, affluent Midwesterners had discovered Madeline Island’s quiet charm, and many built sumptuous summer homes there. Some of these still stand on La Pointe’s Nebraska Row, which was named for Colonel Frederick Woods of Lincoln, Neb., who built a cluster of summer homes for himself and family members. Other wealthy tourists followed suit, and some of the homes are still owned and used by their descendants. Tourism has been the area’s major industry ever since.

Between 250 and 300 people live full-time on the island, Cotherman says, and tourists can swell the daily summertime population to 2,000. Visitors can sample most of Madeline Island’s treasures in a day—or two, if they spend some time on one of the island’s beaches or hiking trails.

History buffs should plan to visit the Madeline Island Historical Museum operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Located on the edge of downtown, the museum traces the history and influences of the various cultures that have lived in the area. Other noteworthy places include the Lakeview School House, the Protestant Parsonage, the Angus Family Cheese Shop and the Madeline Island Heritage Center run by the Madeline Island Historical Preservation Association.

Visitors up for a more active day can enjoy Joni’s Beach near the dock or Big Bay Town Park’s Big Bay Beach. Other options...
include taking a fishing charter or renting kayaks and canoes to explore the Apostle Islands’ sea caves. Hiking and camping are also popular activities. The island has 45 miles of paved roads perfect for sightseeing by car or bicycle.

Craft shops and art galleries display works by local artisans and artists, ranging from woven goods to chainsaw carvings. No visit would be complete without a stop at Tom’s Burned Down Bar, featuring an eclectic array of handmade signs, metal sculptures and “found-object” creations, as well as live music on the weekends.

Though tourism falls off steeply after Labor Day, hardy souls come in the winter to ride snowmobiles, snowshoe and admire the sea caves that winter transforms into ice caves. Though the weather can get very cold, it’s often milder on Madeline Island than on the mainland because Lake Superior retains warmth into winter.

When the lake freezes hard in January, the ferry is replaced by a flat-bottomed wind sled that whisks people across an ice road to Bayfield. If the lake freezes deep enough, vehicles can use an ice road marked with felled evergreen trees to make the short trip.

If you visit Madeline Island, be advised that, like the Ojibwe, you may feel the island calling you back. “There are people who come here year after year, and some of them move here permanently when they retire,” Cotherman says. “We’re also seeing a growing number of young families with kids looking for a more sustainable way to live and a better environment to raise their children.”

### Getting There
Madeline Island is located in the Chequamegon Bay area of Lake Superior about 2.5 miles from Bayfield, Wis., on the mainland. Duluth, Minn., is 90 miles away, Madison, 315 miles, Milwaukee, Wis., 360 miles, and Chicago, 450 miles.

### Accommodations
From camping to cabins, cottages, condos, houses and inns, Madeline Island offers lodging for every need and taste. For details, visit **[www.madelineisland.com](http://www.madelineisland.com)**, or contact the Madeline Island Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 274, La Pointe, WI 54850, (715) 747–2801.

### Outdoor Fun
- **Open year-round, the 2,350-acre Big Bay State Park has 60 campsites, more than seven miles of pristine hiking trails, and snowshoe and ski trails for winter. Big Bay Beach was recognized as one of America’s “Top Secret Beaches” by *Budget Travel* Magazine in 2011. To reach the park, visitors must take a ferry ride from Bayfield. For details, call (888) 947–2757.**
- **Separate from the state park, Big Bay Town Park’s Big Bay Beach in La Pointe offers swimming, canoeing, kayaking and fishing. It has 36 tent sites in its rustic campground (reservations required).**
  - Hike one of many nature trails at the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve.
  - Joni’s Beach is perfect for families, providing a kid-friendly playground and picnic area, as well as public restrooms.
  - Play a round at the Madeline Island Golf Club, one of the only signature Robert Trent Jones Sr. courses in the Midwest. [www.madelineislandgolf.com](http://www.madelineislandgolf.com), (715) 747–3212.
  - Rent a bike or moped at [www.motion-to-go.com](http://www.motion-to-go.com).

### Arts and Culture
- The Madeline Island Historical Museum preserves the island’s past and contains one of Wisconsin’s richest historical collections. [www.madelineislandmuseum.org](http://www.madelineislandmuseum.org), (715) 747–2415.
  - Several galleries offer art classes for kids. Adults can take weeklong seminars in writing, painting, photography and quilting at the Madeline Island School of the Arts, which also sponsors yoga retreats. [www.madelineartschool.com](http://www.madelineartschool.com).
  - Take a yoga class at [www.yoganotherock.com](http://www.yoganotherock.com).
  - Indulge your passion for locally produced arts and crafts at the La Pointe Center Art Guild & Gallery’s “Back Door Gallery,” the Katherine Parfet Studio and Turtle Tracks Studio. The Island Carvers shop features chainsaw carving demonstrations and finished works.
  - Musically inclined children can perform their talents at The Madeline Island Music Camp, which features appearances by nationally renowned musical ensembles for summer chamber music concerts.
  - The Big Top Chautauqua in Bayfield attracts nationally renowned artists such as B.B. King and Garrison Keillor, as well as local performers throughout the summer. See [www.bigtop.org](http://www.bigtop.org) for a schedule and tickets.
WHAT ARE THE ODDS that a Hollywood blockbuster could spark a student-led program benefiting veterans? That’s exactly what happened when Barbara Hatch’s history students at Judson School in Scottsdale, Ariz., began to ask her about the movie “Saving Private Ryan.” The students wanted to know if the movie’s story line was true.

Hatch wrote to a local VFW post to investigate. She learned that “Saving Private Ryan” is fictional, but it is loosely based on the story of four brothers from Tonawanda, N.Y., who served in the U.S. military in World War II. After the reported deaths of three of the Niland brothers, brother Fritz was sent back to the United States to complete his service. But more important, that first letter put Hatch in contact with World War II veteran Ralph George, who created the Veterans in the Classroom program. Hatch was inspired by George to invite veterans to her classes to tell their stories.

“It was amazing to see how the veterans responded to the students and the students to them,” Hatch explains. What started as a classroom visit grew into a school club—the Veterans Heritage Project (VHP), a program developed to capture and share veterans’ stories. Each member of the club is matched with a local veteran, and students then interview, film and write the veteran’s story. The compiled essays now comprise eight published volumes, available at www.veteransheritage.org.

“Many of the students have started with their grandfathers,” says Hatch, who now teaches at Cactus Shadows High School in Cave Creek, Ariz. “It’s amazing to see the generations merge in this way. They create a strong bond while preserving some of the previously untold history of our country’s servicemen and servicewomen.” Almost 500 veterans have been interviewed to date. The work has become part of the Veterans History Project in Washington, D.C., and the stories are archived and preserved by the Library of Congress.

“This process of intergenerational interaction is definitely a win-win,” Hatch explains. “My students learn character building, confidence, conflict management, public speaking, responsibility and integrity. They learn to take ownership of this project, and they make friends at the same time. Many of the people interviewed are local residents, and they stay in touch through local events, birthdays or a chance meeting at a store.” She says some of the students have delivered eulogies when one of their veterans has died.

Hatch has no doubt that this project has spilled beyond the classroom. Two of her female students have been accepted into military academies this year—one to the U.S. Naval Academy and the other to the U.S. Air Force Academy. This year her student Madi Pascale became the youngest guardian in history to accompany a veteran on an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., to see the World War II Memorial. Four other high schools in Arizona follow the VHP model.

The project culminates each year with a reception and book-signing event attended by community leaders and the general public. The veterans who have contributed sign copies of the book and share more of their lives with the attendees.

Due to the overwhelming interest in the project from parents and veterans, the Veterans Heritage Project became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2010. Hatch’s next goal is to expand the program throughout Arizona and nationally. She hopes this educational model that preserves history for future generations will also promote patriotism among today’s youth.

“It’s exciting and rewarding to see schools publishing for the community. It’s a new way to give back,” she says.

One of the veteran contributors to the project is Larry DeSanto. His wife, DAR member Loralee DeSanto, was so impressed with the students’ work that she made her chapter—Grand Canyon Chapter, Scottsdale, Ariz.—aware of the program. The chapter nominated Hatch for the Mary Smith Lockwood Founders Medal for Education, which she accepted at the 120th DAR Continental Congress in 2011.
Symbols of war and peace are the focus of Judith Price’s latest book, *Lest We Forget: Masterpieces of Patriotic Jewelry and Military Decorations* (Taylor Trade Publishing, 2011). Price, president of the National Jewelry Institute, a nonprofit organization formed to preserve, research and exhibit fine jewelry from all over the world, named the volume after Rudyard Kipling’s “Recessional,” a poem often used as a tribute in war memorials. It’s a fitting title for a book that not only examines the meaning, origin and historical context of military objects, but also honors the sacrifices of servicemen and servicewomen that the objects symbolize.

*Lest We Forget* highlights 150 items from museums and private collections around the world, including the British Museum, the American Numismatic Society, the West Point Museum, the Musée de l’Armée and the Imperial War Museum. Limiting her scope to American, British and French military history since the Revolution, Price gives readers a glimpse of our republic’s earliest military homages, such as Washington’s Peace Medal to the American Indians and the first medals of honor.

The book also features Q&As with museum curators whose scholarship adds a helpful historical framework to objects that, while beautiful, might not hold as much meaning to the average viewer. For instance, Yvonne Markowitz, curator of jewelry at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, discusses trench art and sweetheart jewelry, providing insight into the role of women during wartime and the decorations produced to honor them. We learn that trench art refers to objects first made by World War I soldiers while in combat. While confined to harsh and remote trenches, these soldiers used battlefield knives and metal from spent cartridges to produce mementos for loved ones at home. One of the loveliest images of war-related ornaments is the “caged bird” brooch made by Cartier. When Hitler’s eagle was finally removed from the occupied city of Paris in 1944, the firm celebrated by creating the “freed bird” brooch, shown on the next page, depicting a singing bird emerging from its cage.

—Jamie Roberts
Diamond Eagle Pin
United States, c. 1812–1820
Courtesy of A La Vieille Russie

Society of the Cincinnati Medal
Origin Unknown, c. 1870
West Point Museum Collection, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

Columbian Order
(Tammany) Badge
United States, 1789
Courtesy of The American Numismatic Society

Oliseau Libéré
(Freed Bird) Brooch
Paris, 1944
Cartier Collection

George Washington Peace Medal
United States, c. 1776
The British Museum

American Flag Brooch
United States, 1900–1910
Tiffany & Co. Archives

General Society of the War of 1812 Medal
Origin Unknown, c. 1880
West Point Museum Collection, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

The FDR Cartier Victory Clock
New York, 1930
Presented to FDR, 1943
Private Collection

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When natural light filters into a building from above, undulations in intensity highlight the interplay between sun, wind and clouds, drawing an element of the outdoors inside. Any skylight can be a capable conduit of natural light. But in some historic buildings—including Memorial Continental Hall, the oldest of the three buildings in the DAR Headquarters complex in Washington, D.C.—a skylight merely shields from the elements a decorative leaded-glass feature beneath it, called a lay light.
MEMORIAL CONTINENTAL HALL’S 25-paneled, leaded-glass lay light floats nearly 50 feet above a space that first served as an auditorium and now houses the DAR Library, a renowned genealogical research center. While Daughters, staff and the public have admired its brilliance for more than a century, few considered the historic fixture’s provenance or its ability to withstand the effects of time—until recently.

Last fall, searches for the source of a water leak in the DAR Library and possible damage caused by the Virginia earthquake led upward, to the lay light. The comprehensive structural assessment that followed, performed by Quinn Evans Architects, revealed that the lay light had reached a state of advanced deterioration. The effects of temperature fluctuation, gravity, water leaks and dust accumulation left its metal framework weakened and its glass panes marred by cracks and stains.

According to Baird M. Smith, director of preservation for Quinn Evans and principal on the Library lay light project, it is not unusual to make such a discovery by accident. “Nonprofits, churches and governments can’t do maintenance as often as they want to,” says Smith, who adds that evidence indicates the Library lay light has been repaired at least twice.

Limited accessibility also can deter regular upkeep. “Much of the nation’s stained glass and leaded glass has recently passed, or is quickly approaching, its 100th anniversary—yet much of this glass has not been cleaned or repaired since the day it was installed,” write Neal A. Vogel and Rolf Achilles in their brief, “The Preservation and Repair of Historic Stained and Leaded Glass.”

In recent months, with its critical condition exposed and a $1.6 million restoration looming, the lay light has been examined in exhaustive detail. Gaining a greater understanding of the lay light’s composition and environment is an essential step toward the creation of a customized restoration plan that can produce lasting results.

‘Our Temple of Patriotism’

In terms of design, Memorial Continental Hall is a product of its era. As the 19th century waned, the White City that Chicago constructed for the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 impressed the nation with buildings faced in brilliant white stone. The resulting City Beautiful movement propelled Beaux Arts Classical architecture to popularity. French for “fine arts,” the style mined inspiration from ancient Greece and Rome, as well as 18th-century England and France. Every available surface presented an opportunity for embellishment.

Also during the late 19th century, the domestic glass manufacturing industry boomed. Freed of the cost concerns and Puritan design sensibilities that had guided the use of glass toward functional rather than ornamental applications, decorative windows, transoms, sidelights, skylights and lay lights became more prevalent. “Stained glass domes and ceilings were very popular throughout the Victorian and Classical Revival periods. They are often principal interior features of churches, hotels, restaurants, railway stations and civic buildings,” write Vogel and Achilles.

As these trends converged, members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, formed in 1890, dreamed of building a home of their own. They compiled a list of requirements: Its main feature should be an auditorium with a maximum seating capacity of 2,000; it must serve as both a monument to the heroic men and women of the Revolution and as an administration building for the National Society; and it must be fireproof, to safeguard the organization’s relics and documents. From the early planning stages, it was determined that the building also should contain a lay light.
With encouragement from Senator James McMillan, leader of a Senate committee charged with reviving and expanding Pierre L’Enfant’s original city design, DAR purchased land in Northwest Washington, D.C., bound by 17th, 18th, C and D streets. Having secured a site, the National Society held an architectural competition to solicit designs. The winning entry was submitted by architect Edward Pearce Casey, who studied at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and supervised the interior work on the Library of Congress following the dismissal of the original architects. Casey’s Beaux Arts design aligned perfectly with the McMillan Commission’s vision for 17th Street as “one of the great park approaches, and a thoroughfare of importance.”

The cornerstone of Memorial Continental Hall was laid on April 19, 1904, during the National Society’s 13th Continental Congress. By 1910, the building was complete. In offering greetings to the Continental Congress that year, DAR member and Children of the American Revolution founder Harriet M. Lothrop directed gazes toward the lay light when she said, “The Stars of Liberty are above us; beyond them stretch the eternal years of God in which we may rejoice for the work done within these sacred walls, our Temple of Patriotism.”

Uniting Form and Function

In Casey’s blueprints, the lay light is easy to locate. Each of the 25 panels measures approximately 9 feet by 8 feet and weighs about 400 pounds. One of three slightly different stylized scrollwork motifs rendered in metal and affixed to the underside of the glass decorates each unit. The 16 panels in the outer ring share the same design, as do the middle eight panels, while the center panel features a unique ornamental pattern.

DAR Museum Curator Patrick Sheary explains that the Neoclassical design of the panel ornaments is of British origin. “We often call the lay light ‘Adam-esque’ after 18th-century British architect Robert Adam. You’ll see skylights that look similar in English country architecture, particularly with ovals and pointed squares.”

The panels themselves are made of rolled glass and a matrix of zinc came, grooved metal rods that hold the panes of glass together. Machine-rolled glass, first seen in 1888, is relatively rare, according to Smith, who says that only a small number of manufacturers produced it. Fabrication involved pouring molten glass onto a flat surface, and then passing it between two rollers. This method yields textured, translucent glass that is useful in applications that do not require transparency—for example, to obscure the structural framework in the attic between a skylight and a lay light.

A pyramid-shaped, modern skylight above the lay light protects the intricate glass configuration. “Leaded glass cannot be sufficiently weatherproofed in a horizontal (or arched) position,” Vogel and Achilles explain. “It must always be protected by skylights or ‘diffusers’—rooftop features that diffuse the natural daylight and protect the leaded-glass ceiling or dome from the elements.” A network of metal supports gives the attic space between the lay light and the skylight an industrial look that contrasts sharply with the view from below. In tandem, the skylight and the rolled glass, which allows between 50 percent and 80 percent light transmission, achieve the desired gentle glow. As a passage from the April 1911 issue of American Monthly Magazine describing Memorial Continental Hall explains, “The ground glass in the ceiling . . . softly admits the daylight.”

The building utilized electrical light from the beginning; the four gilded, cast-bronze chandeliers suspended from the DAR Library ceiling are original to Memorial Continental Hall. But in the early 1900s, when “electricity wasn’t expected to do as much as it is today,” as Sheary says, the sunlight was a helpful supplement. Casey exploited this benefit elsewhere
too, boosting visibility in the building’s two main stairwells by including an additional lay light panel above each one.

Initially, the National Society planned to replace the rolled glass with stained-glass renderings of the various coats of arms of the states and chapters that sponsored the cost of the panels. The idea was later abandoned.

“Last Congress referred the matter of leaving these squares of glass as they are, white, to the Continental Hall Committee for action, and a motion to that effect was adopted at the Committee meeting in October,” note the minutes of a Memorial Continental Hall Committee meeting held February 3, 1910.

The role the lay light once played in the building’s ventilation system is less obvious. Pathways for ventilation were incorporated into the design of the building. The decorative, plaster-encased steel beams between the panels appear to form a solid grid. But a booklet on Memorial Continental Hall dating to 1915 explains that, “A narrow opening around this glass roof, with large windows on the north and south sides of the galleries, provides ample ventilation.” Pocket doors on either side of the Library open to long, narrow galleries in which French doors, each topped by a transom, access the building’s North and South Porticos. Opening the transoms and pocket doors allowed air to circulate into the attic above the lay light and, finally, to an exhaust fan inside the wooden cupola that sits at the peak of the skylight. “The transoms acted like a chimney,” says DAR Museum Director Diane Dunkley. “Air would escape through the lay light and the cupola.”

Preparing for a Critical Restoration

Protected as it is from the brunt of the elements, it may seem as if the lay light serenely rests within its framework, entirely free from agitation. In reality, “The lay light has been failing for a long time,” says Baird Smith.

Gravity and thermal expansion and contraction stress the zinc cames, eventually leading to metal fatigue. The initial lay light evaluation provided by Quinn Evans explains, “Because this glass assembly is in the horizontal orientation, gravity forces on the glass are constantly pulling downward. When the cames are heated by the solar exposure from the skylight above, the whole assembly is strained.”

Improperly placed support wires added during an attempted repair put even more pressure on the cames. As cames deteriorate, so does their ability to hold the pieces of glass in place. The metal warps and the glass shifts, causing deformation, or deviation from a true horizontal plane. In the worst spots, the lay
light exhibits a dangerous degree of deformation—more than 2 inches out of plane. “When bulges exceed 1 ½ inches,” Vogel and Achilles write, “they cross into a precarious realm; at that point, glass pieces can crack from severe sagging and pressure.” Panes of glass in the Library lay light have cracked, but fortunately they have remained in place.

A lay light’s metal framework is more likely to fail than the glass itself. “Cames are intended to be a sacrificial element of a glass unit assembly, as mortar is to brick and paint is to wood,” write Vogel and Achilles. “A came typically lasts 75 to 200 years, depending on quality, design and environment.”

In addition to its structural problems, the lay light also has suffered staining due to dust accumulation and water damage. The dust that has collected on the horizontal surface of the glass has darkened large areas, some severely. Water enters through the cupola, which is no longer able to block rain out completely, worsening the discoloration.

The disassembly, restoration and reconstruction of the first panel, estimated to take four weeks, will determine whether the team is on the right track, Smith says. At this point, some questions remain. For example, “Because the lay light glass is so dirty, you can only see shadows of the structure above,” says Smith. “When the glass is cleaned, we’re concerned that structural supports will be much more visible, perhaps disruptive.” If that proves to be the case, translucent sheeting could be installed over each panel to soften the light and collect dirt.

For information and updates about the DAR Library lay light restoration, visit www.dar.org/laylight.
LOOK UP

Many historic lay lights dating to the turn of the 20th century are still in place today. “Leaded-glass panels survived in uncommon numbers throughout the country, and are now once again appreciated as virtually irreplaceable features of historic buildings,” Neal A. Vogel and Rolf Achilles observe in their brief “The Preservation and Repair of Historic Stained and Leaded Glass.” Lay lights can be found in churches, museums, hotels, railway stations and civic buildings across the country, so the next time you find yourself in one, be sure to look up. The following list provides a small sampling of historic lay lights.

Baltimore Penn Station, Baltimore, Md.
A number of early 20th-century train stations glamorized rail travel with elaborate designs, some of which incorporated lay lights. The stained-glass lay light in Baltimore Penn Station’s main entrance area is considered one of the most magnificent features of the building, which celebrated its centennial last year. Lattice-patterned rectangular mosaics separate large pieced circles, resulting in a long, narrow form. During World War II, the fixture was painted black due to the threat of air raids. It was restored in the early 1980s.

Bayonne Community Museum, Bayonne, N.J.
The original tenant of this Beaux Arts Classical structure, designed by architect Lansing C. Holden Sr. and opened November 8, 1913, was the Bayonne Trust Company. A succession of subsequent banking occupants followed before the building was sold to the city in 2001. Currently, the space is in the process of being converted into a museum. According to the Bayonne Community Museum, the interior lay light, which was restored in 2008, “features a garland of fruit and leaves, symbolizing wealth and abundance that is appropriate for a bank of its kind.”

Unity Temple, Oak Park, Ill.
The linear design of Unity Temple’s lay lights differs drastically from the other elaborate examples, but the deviation can be explained simply—they were designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. After a fire destroyed the church’s original Gothic Revival building, Wright, whose mother was a friend of the church’s pastor, volunteered to design its replacement. His nontraditional temple, dedicated September 26, 1909, employs a cubist design and is made of poured, exposed concrete. The sanctuary sits at the center of the building, away from exterior views. To forge the connection to nature central to Wright’s Prairie School aesthetic, his lay lights use glass in shades of green, yellow and brown to conjure images of the outdoors.

The design of the Library of Congress’ Jefferson Building, opened to the public in 1897, was modeled after the Paris Opera House. The structure overflows with Classical detail to the point of near-sensory overload. In the Great Hall, the coordinating designs of the Italian marble floor and stained-glass lay light bookend the ornamentation between. A decorative scale pattern rendered in red and yellow marble on the floor is reflected by the six lay light panels, which introduce blue into the palette. (See below.)

The Plaza Hotel, New York City, N.Y.
New York City’s iconic luxury hotel would not be complete without its own breathtaking lay light, yet for decades the signature feature of the Palm Court restaurant in the lobby was absent. When the hotel debuted in 1907, the Palm Court sat beneath a partially domed, stained-glass lay light decorated with a central medallion, twisting vines and a latticed outer frame. Its original glass and iron framework was removed about mid-century when air conditioning was installed. “The loss or unsympathetic alteration of leaded-glass ceilings and domes is a widespread problem,” write Vogel and Achilles. The Plaza was just one example. As part of a restoration in the mid-2000s, a team consulted old photographs in order to recreate the Palm Court lay light, which once again floats above the dining area. (See below.)

The Hermitage Hotel, Nashville, Tenn.
Nashville’s opulent Hermitage Hotel, designed by Tennessee architect J.E.R. Carpenter, opened in 1910. Named after Andrew Jackson’s nearby estate, the hotel was a focal point of the city’s social, political and musical scenes for decades. In the vaulted lobby, massive columns point attention toward the ceiling, where a frame of 16 panels surrounds a central nine-paneled, stained-glass lay light, forming a canopy above visitors. An attempt to control leaks left the light smothered in black tar, but a 1980 restoration uncovered the multicolored mosaic.
Although James Monroe is well-remembered as our nation’s fifth president, few Americans recall his service during the Revolution. At the Battle of Trenton—one of the war’s pivotal conflicts—Monroe was in the thick of the fighting. He considered the engagement one of his proudest moments.
Born in Westmoreland County, Va., on April 28, 1758, James Monroe enlisted in the Third Virginia Infantry in the spring of 1776. Many of the unit’s men hunted in the backwoods and, consequently, were expert marksmen. In August 1776 the regiment—numbering 700, with Monroe then serving as a lieutenant—marched north to reinforce General George Washington’s greatly outnumbered army in New York. It arrived in mid-September, but within a few months, the British army of more than 30,000 troops forced Washington out of New York and southwestward across New Jersey in a disastrous winter retreat. When the last of Washington’s 3,000 men were finally ferried over the Delaware River from Trenton into Pennsylvania on December 8, pursuing Hessian grenadiers marched into the town with “flags flying and music playing.” It had been a narrow escape, according to Lieutenant Colonel Joseph B. Mitchell in *Decisive Battles of the American Revolution* (Westholme Publishing, 1962).

The American situation was grim. The desertion rate was high and enlistments were expiring fast. Washington had few options. “Some enterprise must be undertaken in our present circumstances,” Colonel Joseph Reed wrote him on December 22, “or we must give up the cause … Our affairs are hastening fast to ruin if we do not retrieve them by some happy event.” The “happy event” Washington conceived was a surprise attack on the 1,500-man Hessian garrison on December 26. Washington knew—thanks to his spies—that the commander at Trenton, Colonel Johann Rall, was “averse to winter fighting” and overconfident, according to historian W.P. Cresson in *James Monroe* (University of North Carolina Press, 1946). Washington planned to catch Rall with his guard down.

Monroe’s company of the Third Virginia Infantry was one of the first units across the
ice-clogged Delaware. Monroe later remembered that on the
Jersey side, north of Trenton, a “very profane” man whose
last name was Riker came out of his house asking “what we
were doing there [on] such a stormy night.” When Monroe
prepared to advance, Riker told him: “I know something is
to be done, and I am going with you. I am a doctor, and I may
help some poor fellow.”

The Third Virginia Infantry spearheaded the assault on
Trenton from the north with Captain William Washington
and Monroe’s company out front as the vanguard. Trotting
forward, they saw Hessians spilling from their quarters. Some
managed to loose a few rounds. Under fire, the Virginians
dodged behind cover. From the corners of buildings and
behind fences, the Third Virginia marksmen picked off many
Hessians. With reinforcements advancing down King Street,
they felt confident of victory.

As street fighting near the center of Trenton intensified,
the Hessian soldiers hurriedly formed a battle line spanning
King Street. When American cannon belched grapeshot
down the roadway, several blue-coated Germans screamed
and tumbled onto the snow-covered street. Moments later,
however, the Hessian position was strengthened when two
three-pounder cannon were hauled into position among the
infantrymen. New weight was suddenly added to the German
side of the argument.

The critical moment had arrived, as Richard Hanser
describes in his book The Glorious Hour of Lt. Monroe
(Atheneum, 1976). The Hessian force on King Street had
to be broken up. Without hesitating, the commander of the
American advance party, Captain William Washington,
ordered his Virginians to charge the enemy artillery and cap-
ture the guns. As they surged forward, Capt. Washington fell
wounded.

“When Capt. Washington went down, command fell on
his 18-year-old lieutenant—James Monroe. Monroe shouted
for his men to take the cannon, reminding them of Gen.
George Washington’s countersign for the engagement—
“Victory or Death.”

“Soon after, I was shot through by a ball,” Monroe
wrote in his Autobiography (from a version edited by Stuart
Gerry Brown, Syracuse University Press, 1959). The slug
pierced Monroe’s chest and severed an artery. Blood poured
up through his uniform. “I would have bled to death,” he
later admitted, “if this doctor [Riker] had not been near and
promptly taken up the artery.” Monroe never learned the first
name of the man who had saved his life.

Nonetheless, despite the loss of officers, the attack was a
success. The Virginians, wrote Monroe, “rushed forward …
and put the troops around the cannon to flight, and took pos-
session of them.” From Trenton the Hessians fled eastward

A 19th-century line engraving of Continental soldiers under Gen. George Washington marching to Trenton N.J.,
for a surprise attack on the Hessian forces stationed there, December 1776.
into an orchard, where the rattled fugitives were surrounded on three sides. So quickly had the Americans advanced that 896 Hessian officers and men, including their wounded, were captured. Many had never fired a shot, and 22 were killed, according to David Hackett Fischer in *Washington’s Crossing* (Oxford University Press, 2004). On the American side, two officers, Monroe and William Washington, and three privates were wounded. Two American soldiers were later found frozen to death along the route of the march.

“[Gen.] Washington’s victory at Trenton was complete,” Cresson writes. “It turned the trick of revitalizing the cause and rousing the fainting spirits of the patriots.” According to a staff officer who witnessed the action, Washington had “pounced upon the Hessians like an eagle upon a hen.”

Monroe had played an important role. “The capture of the two Hessian cannon was, in fact, a turning point of the Battle of Trenton,” Hanser writes. Monroe was rewarded for his conspicuous gallantry. “I take occasion to express the high opinion I have of his worth,” wrote Gen. Washington to Virginia Patriot Archibald Cary in May 1779. “The zeal he discovered by entering the service at an early period … and the manner in which he distinguished himself at Trenton … induced me to appoint him to a captaincy.”

James Monroe’s army career continued, but in his later life no memory shone so brilliantly as the decisive fighting on King Street. During an 1817 tour of the country, President Monroe stopped in Trenton. Although the town had changed, the old Revolutionary delivered a stirring address in which he referred to Trenton as “the site where the hopes of the nation had revived at the ebb tide of the Revolution.”

DAR genealogists helped actor Rob Lowe discover his family’s connection to the Battle of Trenton. Lowe, who 12 years ago filmed scenes from his series “The West Wing” at DAR Headquarters in Washington, D.C., came back to the building as the focus of a “Who Do You Think You Are?” episode. The NBC show follows celebrities as they discover their ancestry and more details about their family trees.

Lowe decided to explore his mother’s lineage and learned more about a Hessian ancestor who fought against George Washington in the Revolutionary War. Lowe’s fifth-great-grandfather John Christopher East was born in Germany as Christoph Oeste. Oeste was 22 years old when he joined a Hessian regiment, subsequently making his way to America to fight. He and his group were captured after their defeat in the Battle of Trenton and forced to march to a prison outside Philadelphia. Lowe was happy to discover his ancestor later took the opportunity to switch his allegiance to the American side.

Lowe’s journey took him from Washington, D.C., to New Jersey and Pennsylvania and finally to Germany—with an important stop along the way at the DAR Library. Here are some behind-the-scenes details:

The DAR was first contacted almost two years ago by researchers at “Who Do You Think You Are?” (WDYTYA), who were working on a story line that included a Revolutionary War-era ancestor. The researchers utilized the DAR Library Search Service as well as the DAR Genealogical Research System. Their lead researcher started working closely with Terry Ward, then-director of the Office of the Registrar General and head genealogist. Without being told who the celebrity subject was, Ward worked with the WDYTYA researcher on and off for about a year and a half. Lynda Carter (a staff genealogist at the time, now assistant director of RG Data Entry) was brought in to help for her expertise in Pennsylvania resources and records. Carter helped discover, thoroughly evaluate and confirm that Lowe’s ancestor actually did have documented service during the American Revolution, making his ancestor eligible to be accepted as a DAR Patriot.

See behind-the-scenes photos at www.facebook.com/TodaysDAR.
Legend has it that Dr. George Cabell Sr.’s Federal-style mansion got its name for the duels rumored to have taken place on its grounds. In 1805, the Cabell property was just outside the town limits of Lynchburg, Va.—where dueling was illegal at the time—so the land on which Point of Honor later stood could have been the perfect site for local gentlemen to settle matters of honor.
More likely, however, the house that sits atop a hill overlooking the James River and Blackwater Creek got its name for the pointed shape of the hill itself. Today, Point of Honor is a beautifully preserved 19th-century historic home that portrays the typical lifestyle of an affluent central Virginia family, like the Cabells, in the period of 1815–1830.

By Lindsay A. Fiesthumel
George Cabell’s Life and Occupation

In the late 18th century, the Cabells were among Virginia’s most prominent families. Best known as the builder of Point of Honor, Cabell was born in 1766 in Buckingham County, Va., at the home of his parents, Colonel John Cabell (1735–1815) and Paulina Jordan.

Cabell was the first in his family to have a formal medical education. As a young man, he attended Hampden-Sydney Academy from 1777–1779 and then went on to graduate from the Medical College of Philadelphia, one of the best medical schools of his time, in 1790. Among local physicians and surgeons in Lynchburg and the surrounding counties, “Dr. Cabell’s skill in surgery was unsurpassed,” according to J. M. Elson in Lynchburg, Virginia: The First Two Hundred Years (Warwick House, 2004).

The Cabells were acquainted with some notable Virginians, including Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry. Jefferson, whose Poplar Forest estate is located just outside Lynchburg, was a neighbor with whom Cabell frequently corresponded.

Cabell had a more personal relationship with Patrick Henry, however. Not only did his oldest daughter Paulina marry Alexander Spotswood Henry, one of Henry’s sons, but Cabell also served as Henry’s physician.

Perhaps the most interesting connection between the two men is that Cabell attended Henry at the time of his death. It is said that he administered a dose of liquid mercury to Henry in his final attempt to heal him. The mercury dosage was unsuccessful, and Cabell stood at his patient’s bedside as Henry passed away at the age of 63.

Building Point of Honor

In November 1792, Cabell married Sarah Winston (1770–1826), and the couple moved into a home that they built within the Lynchburg town limits. Between 1792 and 1809 they had eight children together, several of whom had grown to adulthood and moved away prior to the construction of Point of Honor.

In 1805, Cabell purchased the 856 acres on which he would later build Point of Honor. Within a year, he built a tobacco warehouse on the property and developed the land into a plantation for growing cash crops such as tobacco, wheat and corn. Cabell shipped his crops down the James River to sell or trade in Richmond. He also chartered his boats to other local farmers, including Thomas Jefferson, for the same use.

Neither the architect of Point of Honor nor the official year of its completion is known. Little documentation has survived about the daily activities and events that took place in the home during the Cabell period. Tax records do indicate, however, that the Cabell family had moved from their home in Lynchburg to Point of Honor in 1815 and that they lived there until 1830.

Early DAR Connections

George Cabell died in 1823 from injuries he suffered in a fall from his horse. The home changed owners in 1830, following the deaths of Cabell’s widow, the couple’s son and their daughter-in-law. Judge William Daniel Sr., the father of Cabell’s daughter-in-law, Elizabeth Daniel Cabell, became the heir to the home due to Virginia state inheritance laws. And so the Daniel period of ownership—and the home’s connection to the DAR—began.

Mary Virginia Ellet Cabell, charter member of NSDAR and Vice President Presiding under President General Caroline Scott Harrison, was born on January 24, 1839, at
Point of Honor, the site of the 1836 wedding of her parents, Elvira Daniel and Charles Ellet Jr. By the time she became the National Society’s only President Presiding, Mrs. Cabell, who married William D. Cabell, was very well-traveled—she had seen much of Europe and was the first woman to view Niagara Falls from its suspension bridge—but she always considered Point of Honor a place that she “loved dearly.” Before her death in 1930 at the age of 91, Mrs. Cabell made a point to visit her birthplace in Lynchburg one last time. A year after her death, the Lynchburg DAR Chapter, Lynchburg, Va., placed a bronze marker in Mrs. Cabell’s memory on the front lawn of Point of Honor.

Over the years, the home was owned by several prominent Lynchburg families who made architectural and aesthetic changes to the building’s façade. Prior to its restoration, the house served as a soup kitchen during the Great Depression, a nursery for working women during World War II and a community center. Then, in the 1970s, at the bequest of Lynchburg schoolteacher Katharine Garland Diggs, Point of Honor was renovated and restored. It was opened to the public as a historic home in 1977.

Daughters have had a hand in Point of Honor’s transformation into a historic home. In 1977, the Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution donated five pieces of furniture—including beautiful Sheraton chairs—to the home. Marie Hirst Yochim, Virginia State Regent from 1977–1980, presented the furniture as part of her State Regent’s Project. (Mrs. Yochim later served as President General from 1989–1992.) The next year, the NSDAR made another gift to Point of Honor—the set of French porcelain that had been given to the Society by the home’s benefactor, Katharine Garland Diggs.

Architecture and Design

Point of Honor is built in the Piedmont Federal style—a style that is defined by clean, straight lines and symmetry. The two semi-octagonal bays on either side of the home, while atypical in the Lynchburg area, were probably modeled after the polygonal houses found in Richmond at the time. The home is set in an expensive Flemish bond brick pattern. While many homeowners at the time could afford this pattern only on the front of the home, Cabell was wealthy enough to pay for the Flemish bond around the entire structure.

Today, the woodwork throughout the home is painted in the original Cabell colors—blues and greens—that were discovered during the home’s restoration. The mantels are...
particularly stunning. Intricately carved with bellflowers, wheat and pineapples, they serve as the decorative highlight in each room.

Located on the first floor, the parlor is undoubtedly the most lavish room in the home. The Cabells did most of their entertaining in this room, and the vibrant color, beautiful mural wallpaper and extraordinary furnishings all reflect this fact. On the wall hangs Joseph Dufour’s extravagant “Monuments of Paris” wallpaper, depicting a lush panoramic view of the city’s monuments as seen from the banks of the Seine. The parlor also houses the home’s only Cabell family artifact, a pianoforte that belonged to one of George Cabell’s brothers.

The dining room and master bedroom are also located on the first floor. The dining room was new to homes in the early 19th century. During the warmer months the family would have done most of their entertaining in the parlor and dining room; however, these rooms were sometimes closed off in the winter and the master bedroom became the center of family activity. The master bedroom, often used by Mrs. Cabell to entertain her friends, also served as her office and the schoolroom for the young Cabell children.

The three rooms on the first floor contain elaborate woodwork and expensive furnishings that would have been impressive to Cabell visitors. At the other end of the scale, the second floor of the home, made up of extra bedrooms and storage space, features modest woodworking and simple furnishings.

During the renovation period, every effort was made to return the home—both structurally and decoratively—to the way it might have looked when Dr. George Cabell and his family lived there. But because few records about the home’s interior have survived, Point of Honor instead sets out to represent an entire time period rather than attempting to recreate the Cabells’ exact home. Today, Point of Honor receives thousands of visitors per year. From its striking vistas to its exquisite interiors, this historic home stunningly represents the proud history of an early central Virginia city.

Lindsay Fiesthumel is a freelance writer in Philadelphia.
Visiting Point of Honor
112 Cabell St.
Lynchburg, VA 24504
For tours, demonstrations, admission rates and other information, call (434) 455–6226 or (434) 847–1867.
www.pointofhonor.org

Daily Tours
Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Sunday, Noon–4 p.m.
Personalized tours offered.

Demonstrations
Seasonal programs at Point of Honor include cooking demonstrations using traditional recipes from the region. These are prepared in the open-hearth brick oven of the reconstructed plantation kitchen.

Upcoming Events
- Independence Day, Labor Day and Veterans Day
  Free for visitors.
- October 6, 2012—Day at the Point
  This fall festival brings together living history, food, kids’ games and crafts, period music, a full-size bateau, gift shop sale, and more. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Free.
- December 2, 2012—Holiday Open House
  Point of Honor will host its 30th Annual Open House December 2 from noon to 4 p.m. The home will feature holiday decorations from 1815, with native greens, a yule log and customs of the day. Free.

Historic Home

Left: The parlor’s wallpaper is a reproduction of Dufour’s “Monuments of Paris.” The mantel boasts carved pineapples, swags and acorns. Its black centerpiece may relate to the English black basalt ceramics popular at the time of construction. The settle rests on a Brussels weave carpet, reproduced from early 19th-century patterns.

Below: The dining table is set up for a dessert course with faux food. • Point of Honor is one of the very few octagonal bay homes remaining in Virginia. • The parlor features a pianoforte owned by Dr. Cabell’s brother, John.
In the LAND of COLUMBUS

Early Symbols of America

By Bill Hudgins

Around the world, if you showed anyone a picture of Uncle Sam, the U.S. flag or the White House, they’d almost invariably associate it with America and Americans. Many others would also recognize the Great Seal of the United States, the Liberty Bell and the bald eagle.

But pictures of a rattlesnake chopped into eight parts or coiled to strike would probably draw a baffled look outside our borders. And how many people anywhere would recognize drawings of “Brother Jonathan” or “Columbia” as emblematic of the United States of America?

Yet all of these have at some time reigned as widely known symbols of our nation. Some, like the Great Seal, were deliberately created, while the origins of others are wrapped in tradition, legend and folklore.

As our nation celebrates its 236th birthday, American Spirit presents some of our most well-known and iconic symbols and their often quirky histories.
‘DON’T TREAD ON ME’

The deadly rattlesnake often symbolized the Colonies and Patriot fervor in the years leading up to and during the Revolution.

In 1754, Benjamin Franklin’s Pennsylvania Gazette published a picture of a rattlesnake cut into eight parts with the warning “Join, or Die.” At the time, it was a commentary on the Albany Conference, where Colonial representatives discussed Franklin’s idea of a more formal union—though approved, none of the Colonial legislatures agreed to it.

By July 1774, the individual parts had joined: The Massachusetts Spy newspaper carried an image by Paul Revere of the united rattler attacking the British dragon.

The now-whole rattlesnake became a popular symbol of American patriotism. In late 1775, Franklin reported seeing the image of a coiled rattlesnake and slogan “Don’t Tread on Me” painted on drums carried by the newly commissioned Continental Marines. The design also appeared on a yellow flag designed by Christopher Gadsden, a delegate to the Continental Congress from South Carolina.

YANKEE DOODLE, BROTHER JONATHAN and UNCLE SAM

Like a character from Dickens, “Yankee Doodle” had a tough beginning but rose to greatness along with America.

Yankee Doodle was originally a mildly derisive British term for the colonists: “Doodle” was slang for a silly person or bumpkin; the origins of “Yankee” are not clear.

As a song, “Yankee Doodle” was popular long before the Revolution. The original American lyrics are credited to a British military surgeon, Dr. Richard Schackburg. According to tradition, he wrote the words in 1755 while attending a wounded prisoner of the French and Indian War quartered at Fort Crailo in Rensselaer, N.Y. (Also known as Yankee Doodle House or Crailo State Historic Site, the house lent its name to the Fort Crailo DAR Chapter, which was actively involved in getting it listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1962.) The tune’s origins are far murkier, ranging from Great Britain to Eastern Europe.

Reportedly, British troops sang or played the song while marching to reinforce units at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. But when the smoke cleared, it was the victorious colonists who sang the song at the backs of the retreating Redcoats—and again some years later when the British surrendered at Yorktown.

“Brother Jonathan” was another early personification of Americans, often in contrast to England’s “John Bull.” His origins are unclear, though the most common explanation is that George Washington used it as a nickname for Connecticut Governor Jonathan Trumbull. In meetings,
Washington often reportedly said, “Let us hear what Brother Jonathan has to say about this.”

Later, the image of Brother Jonathan evolved into a man in his prime, brawny and stalwart. His name was attached to everything from a newspaper to a steamship. An 1827 book called *The Diverting History of John Bull and Brother Jonathan* by American author James Kirke Paulding was a satirical allegory on the rocky relations between the United States and Great Britain. And on March 25, 1861, Oliver Wendell Holmes penned “Brother Jonathan’s Lament for Sister Caroline,” which grieved for South Carolina and the imminent catastrophe of the Civil War.

In the Civil War, Brother Jonathan symbolized the Union. He was sometimes depicted as wearing striped trousers, a top hat, a long-tailed coat and a star-spangled shirt, imagery that would soon transfer to his successor, Uncle Sam.

Uncle Sam’s origins are popularly traced to Samuel Wilson, of Troy, N.Y., where he was widely known as “Uncle Sam.” He and his brother, Ebenezer, won a contract to supply meat to the Army during the War of 1812. The barrels of meat were stamped “U.S.,” meaning they were government-issue, but New York residents and soldiers who knew him quickly redefined it to mean “Uncle Sam.”

As Brother Jonathan receded from the public mind during and after the Civil War, Uncle Sam assumed many of his characteristics, while aging and growing a beard. Today, the most famous depiction of Uncle Sam is the World War I-era “I Want You” recruiting poster created by James Montgomery Flagg. That stern, craggy visage clad in red, white and blue has become the benchmark for all other variations.

**COLUMBIA**

Like Brother Jonathan, the figure of Columbia as representative of America has faded from public awareness; today, she is probably most often associated with the logo of the Columbia Pictures movie studio. Yet, Columbia’s name is everywhere, from the District of Columbia to dozens of counties, towns and natural features such as rivers, creeks and mountains.

A Latinized version of Christopher Columbus’ name, Columbia means “Land of Columbus.” Envisioned as a woman since at least the early days of the Revolution, Columbia’s parentage is obscure. In 1697, Chief Justice Samuel Sewall of the Massachusetts Bay Colony wrote a poem proposing the feminine name Columbina for the Colonies as a whole. As a reference to America, Columbia appeared as early as 1738 in a British newspaper’s report on Parliamentary debates as a euphemism for the American Colonies.

By the Revolution, Columbia was firmly associated with America as a kind of guiding spirit. In 1775, former slave and poet Phyllis Wheatley invoked Columbia in her poem “To His Excellency General Washington,” following his appointment as head of the Continental Army:

> Celestial choir! enthron’d in realms of light,  
> Columbia’s scenes of glorious toils I write.  
> While freedom’s cause her anxious breast alarms,  
> She flashes dreadful in refulgent arms.

Throughout the 19th century and early 20th century, Columbia reigned as queen of female symbols for America until she was eclipsed by the Statue of Liberty. She was often portrayed wearing an American flag and a soft cap of some kind. “Hail Columbia” was the unofficial national anthem until the selection of “The Star-Spangled Banner” in 1931. “Hail Columbia” is now the vice president’s official entrance music.
THE BALD EAGLE and GREAT SEAL

After years of debate, in 1782 Congress finally adopted the bald eagle as America’s national bird and also settled on a design for the Great Seal of the United States. Believed to be unique to the United States, the eagle deserved to be our national bird, Congress thought, because it symbolized strength, courage, majesty and freedom.

Benjamin Franklin, however, famously derided the eagle as a symbol, at least as it was depicted on the badge of the Society of the Cincinnati. In a letter to his daughter Sally, he wrote:

“I wish that the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country, he is a bird of bad moral character, he does not get his living honestly, you may have seen him perched on some dead tree, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing-hawk, and when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish, and is bearing it to its nest for the support of his mate and young ones, the bald eagle pursues him and takes it from him … Besides he is a rank coward; the little kingbird, not bigger than a sparrow attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district. He is therefore by no means a proper emblem for the brave and honest … of America … For a truth, the turkey is in comparison a more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America … a bird of courage, and would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British guards, who should presume to invade his farmyard with a red coat on.”

Sadly, both the eagle and the wild turkey came close to extinction in the next two centuries, due to destruction of habitat and overhunting—farmers shot eagles whenever they could to prevent them from preying on young animals. Eagles again became endangered in the mid-20th century before being declared a protected species.

While every member of Congress knew what an eagle looked like, the nation’s Great Seal was an abstraction. Congress adopted the seal on June 20, 1782, without ever seeing an actual drawing of the design. What Congress approved was a highly detailed description and explanation of the two-sided seal drafted by Charles Thomson, the Secretary of Congress, whose design included elements from several previously rejected designs.

A nation’s seal represents that country’s core beliefs, virtues and values through symbols and imagery. The Secretary of State is the official custodian of the Great Seal. According to a Department of State publication “The Great Seal of the United States,” Thomson told Congress:

The red and white stripes of the shield “represent the several states … supporting a [blue] Chief which unites the whole and represents Congress.” The colors are adopted from the American flag: “White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness & valour, and Blue, the colour of the Chief, signifies vigilance, perseverance & justice.” The shield, or escutcheon, is “born on the breast of an American Eagle without any other supporters to denote that the United States of America ought to rely on their own Virtue.” The number 13, denoting the 13 original states, is represented in the bundle of arrows, the stripes of the shield, and the stars of the constellation. The olive branch and the arrows “denote the power of peace & war.” The constellation of stars symbolizes a new nation taking its place among other sovereign states. The motto E Pluribus Unum, emblazoned across the scroll and clenched in the eagle’s beak, “expresses the union of the 13 States.”

There have been seven official seals made since 1782, and none has fully translated Thomson’s description into perfect physical reality. Each seal has varied from the approved description. Engravers interpreted or visualized elements in different ways and introduced errors or innovations that later craftsmen copied and perpetuated.

In 1885 Secretary of State Frederick Frelinghuysen commissioned Tiffany & Co. to execute a new seal faithful to the original description. This design was notable for giving what had been a rather spindly eagle a much more powerful, muscular appearance.

In 1986, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing made a master die for the seal, which was the template for the seal that is actually used on some 3,000 documents a year. Barring redesign, this master template will be the standard for the future.

OUR NATIONAL FLAG

As with many symbols, the precise origins of our national flag are a blend of fact and tradition. On June 14, 1777, the
Continental Congress passed the original Flag Act: “Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.”

These vague instructions led to a number of variations, with stars arrayed in rows or circles and having different numbers of points. Elizabeth “Betsy” Ross was only one of several prolific flag makers who interpreted these instructions. Others included Cornelia Bridges and Rebecca Young of Pennsylvania, and John Shaw of Annapolis, Md. The design known as the Betsy Ross flag, with 13 stars in a circle on a blue field, was in use until Vermont and Kentucky joined the union in the mid-1790s.

By the War of 1812, the U.S. flag had 15 stars and 15 stripes. This was the flag that was raised over Fort McHenry near Baltimore on September 14, 1814, after British bombs and rockets rained down through the night. In the “dawn’s early light,” Francis Scott Key could see the U.S. flag still flew and that the British were withdrawing.

The original Star-Spangled Banner, measuring 30 by 42 feet, was sewn by Mary Pickersgill (1776–1857) with the assistance of her 13-year-old daughter Caroline; teenage nieces Eliza Young and Margaret Young; and Grace Wisher, a 13-year-old African-American apprentice.

Within a few years, the flag acquired another nickname, this one attributed to shipmaster William Driver of Salem, Mass. As he was about to set sail in 1831 for the Pacific, he was given a handmade flag for his ship, the brig Charles Doggett. As the flag was run up and caught the breeze, it unfurled smartly, prompting Driver reportedly to exclaim “Old Glory!”

When Driver retired in 1837, he moved to Nashville, Tenn., taking “Old Glory” with him. When Tennessee seceded from the Union, Rebel soldiers who knew of the flag tried repeatedly and unsuccessfully to find it. Old Glory came out of hiding after Union forces captured Nashville, when it was removed from its hiding place—it had been sewn inside a quilt—and flown over the state capitol building.

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

No other monument so exemplifies America today as the Statue of Liberty. Her far-seeing gaze has welcomed millions of immigrants and travelers to the Land of Liberty since 1886.

The statue was designed by Frédéric Bartholdi as a gift to the United States from her Revolutionary War ally, France. She represents Libertas, the Roman goddess of freedom; her tablet, which symbolizes the rule of law, is inscribed with July 4, 1776.

Bartholdi completed the head and torch-holding arm first, and these were shipped to America to fire enthusiasm and raise funds for the pedestal. The arm was displayed at the 1876 Centennial Exposition and then stood in Madison Square Park from 1876 to 1882.

The remaining pieces of the statue were shipped to New York in 1885 aboard the French ship Isere, which nearly sank in rough seas before it arrived on June 17, 1885.

However, the statue’s pedestal on Bedloe’s Island had not been completed when the shipment arrived, so the crates had to be stored. Fundraising had gone slowly, prompting New York World publisher Joseph Pulitzer to launch a massive campaign in his newspaper. The campaign succeeded: Some 120,000 individuals contributed, many of them chipping in less than $1. The pedestal was completed, the pieces assembled and she was dedicated on October 28, 1886.

Another symbol of America—the liberty bell—was featured in the May/June 2007 issue of American Spirit.

Today the Star-Spangled Banner is preserved at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.
What do I do with all this stuff?

By Nancy Mann Jackson
When her mother moved to a skilled nursing facility, Nancy Richardson, a member of the Governor Nelson Dewey DAR Chapter, Maple Bluff, Wis., was tasked with cleaning out the house where her mother and late father had lived for decades. The house was filled with heirlooms that had been in the family for generations and had belonged to Richardson’s parents, grandparents, other family members and close family friends.

“I was paralyzed by the sheer volume of possessions as well as the difficulty of the task,” Ms. Richardson says. “Further complicating the matter was the fact that I’m a history buff and a genealogist, so I naturally wanted to keep as much as I could, or at least keep it in the family for posterity.” Ms. Richardson says she was finally able to move forward when she realized that by hanging onto everything, she was doing a disservice to the original owners. Instead, she focused on placing each item with “the person who was next in line to love it,” rather than on her desire to keep everything nearby.

“Take a photo of any of the possessions that you feel you must let go but that still have meaning. Make a photo book of those items so that they can be viewed forever.”

Getting Through the Heaps

While history buffs may want to spend time documenting and cataloging every item, sometimes that’s not possible. Thomas MacEntee, founder of High-Definition Genealogy, has learned that firsthand through cleaning out the homes of relatives who lived a long distance from his current home. “When the goal is to get the house sold or rented and cleaned out quickly, I recommend a triage method, and try to avoid making any important decisions on the spot,” he says.

That triage method involves setting up a system, such as designating a room for charity donations, a room for items to keep and a room for items to sell. Take pictures using a smart phone or digital camera, in case you need to show items to family members who are not nearby. MacEntee also recommends keeping a log of each item and what you are doing with it. His logs have helped solve family disagreements years later.

Even if you need to complete the job quickly, remember to look everywhere, MacEntee says, especially if the owner of the home suffered from Alzheimer’s or dementia. “This means go through books to look for money or jewelry,” he says. “My mother used her gold bracelets as bookmarks. Every wadded up tissue might hold a treasure.”

Deciding What to Keep

While you may initially feel like you can’t part with certain items, eventually “the realization comes that you can’t save everything,” says Noreen Alexander Manzella, a member of the Mary Clap Wooster DAR Chapter, New Haven, Conn., who cleaned out her sister’s house after her death last year. “Take a photo of any of the possessions that you feel you must let go but that still have meaning. Make a photo book of those items so that they can be viewed forever.”

For many descendants, decisions about what to keep are based more on sentiment than value. Ms. Richardson says she limited herself to just a few “truly precious” items that had meaning for her, such as her mother’s charm bracelet and her parents’ wedding rings. Mrs. Manzella, whose sister was a knitter, cross-stitcher and needlepointer, kept all of her
sister’s handmade pieces, as well as a collection of Christmas ornaments family members made for each other.

For items that are not sentimental, consider hiring an appraiser. “Just because something is old does not make it valuable,” says Helaine Fendelman, owner of New York appraisal firm Helaine Fendelman & Associates. However, she says, “It’s better not to throw anything away until one knows the value.”

Keeping It in the Family

For items you are unable or unwilling to keep, make them available to other family members first. “People should find homes for items like Grandma’s collection of letters and photographs,” says Debbie Boe, owner of Debbie’s Historical and Genealogical Services in Chaska, Minn. “And when it comes to family heirlooms that have a known financial value, other family members should be notified when the items might be put up for sale.”

For instance, Sandy Johansen, a longtime genealogist and member of the Denver DAR Chapter, Denver, Colo., used Facebook to keep the extended family up to date on her mother’s estate, posting pictures of items that needed good homes. Rather than selling collectibles for rock-bottom prices in a struggling economy, Ms. Johansen ended up giving many items to younger family members who were just starting their own households, she says.

Finding New Homes for Treasured Items

After offering items to family members, Ms. Richardson made efforts to give individual pieces to people for whom they had meaning. For instance, she gave her father’s hunting knife to a neighbor who had previously hunted with her dad and now hunts with his own sons. She gave her father’s set of antique farm tools, which had originally belonged to an elderly neighbor, to a local museum, accompanied by a history of the neighbor’s family, which had been in the area for generations. She gave her mother’s china, which had been in the family for at least two generations, “to a cousin who loves dishes as much as my mother did,” she says.

After sharing with family and friends, Ms. Richardson decided to sell the rest of her parents’ items, but she worked to ensure that they landed in the right hands. “I trusted that the right people, meaning those who would love the items as much as my parents, would simply show up,” she says.

For instance, she listed a complete set of discontinued Oneida flatware for sale online. A man from Joliet, III., contacted her because the set was the same pattern as the first set of flatware he and his wife bought when they married. She told him the set had belonged to her mother, Kathryn. When they met in person and he bought the flatware, “he told me that his wife’s original intention was to buy the set to replace pieces that were missing from their set but, after hearing my story, they decided to save the entire set of flatware for their daughter, also named Kathryn, when she becomes an adult in honor of my mom,” Ms. Richardson says. “I’m still touched by their gesture.”

Ms. Richardson also sold a set of children’s books online that she and her siblings had read over the years. “The right person showed up in the form of a woman who had enjoyed these same books as a child, but was having difficulty finding them for her grandson because they are no longer in print,” she says. “The grandson’s birthday was coming up, and she wanted to give him the books as a gift. I sold her the books, and she sent me a photo of him with the books at his birthday party.”

While her method of seeking people who would enjoy and cherish each item was time-consuming, “the reward has been huge,” Ms. Richardson says. “I know that I honored my parents and my ancestors to the best of my ability by sharing their stories and items with the people who seem to be the next caretakers of their possessions.”

If you don’t have the time or inclination to hand-pick buyers for individual items, Boe recommends finding a local...
Genealogy Sleuth

When cleaning out the homes of parents or other relatives, keep in mind that you’re likely to find documents that can offer clues to the family’s past. “Papers, letters, cards—all can have value,” says Helaine Fendelman, owner of New York appraisal firm Helaine Fendelman & Associates. “They may be sentimental for the family and historical for the town, village, state or country.”

For instance, when Sandy Johansen, a longtime genealogist, cleaned out her mother’s home in Massachusetts, she and her sister uncovered “a number of wonderful breakthroughs in our family history,” she says. “While we did not find priceless family heirlooms, we did find a treasure of information buried in records.”

One item, a funeral guest book, eventually provided the link between previously unrecognized surnames and narrowed the dates of death of many ancestors. A box of old photographs led to the discovery that a Swedish ancestor became a member of the U.S. Navy and served in Honolulu at the time of the Hawaiian revolution. Behind the top photographs in broken picture frames in the attic, Ms. Johansen found a tintype and an officer’s photograph of her great-great-grandfather, Gideon Parker Simmons, who served as regimental quartermaster of the 92nd Colored Infantry from Connecticut. “The house was eventually cleaned out in December 2010, but the wealth of materials I gathered and saved continue to provide more and more information as I have time to research and catalog them,” Ms. Johansen says.

Avoid discarding such important historical items by keeping “original documents pertaining to life events, and any similar items pertaining to your ancestors, such as Grandma’s collection of letters or photographs,” says Debbie Boe, owner of Debbie’s Historical and Genealogical Services in Chaska, Minn. “If you aren’t interested in the letters or photographs, you should check around to see if other family members might want them or be willing to take them until a new caretaker is found. Some things just need to stay in the family for the next generation.”

If your ancestor held political office or some other prominent role in the community, check with the local or state libraries or historical groups to see if they are interested in old letters, campaign signs, brochures or collections of newspaper clippings, Boe says.

Nancy Mann Jackson’s story about the significance of the 1940 Census records appeared in the May/June 2012 issue.
The “greatest son” of North Carolina was, ironically, not born there. William Richardson Davie, son of Archibald Davie, was born in Egremont, Cumberland County, England, on June 20, 1756. But he left England as a child and grew up to have a profound impact on his adopted state and the new nation.

After coming to America at the end of the French and Indian War in 1763, Davie was well educated. He attended Queen’s Museum, later Liberty Hall, in Charlotte, N.C., and then the College of New Jersey, later known as Princeton University. In 1776, before his graduation, he volunteered with several other students to join the Patriot cause in New York. He served in the Continental Army for several months during the summer before returning to college in the fall and earning a master of arts degree.

After graduation, Davie moved to Salisbury, N.C., to study law. His studies were interrupted when he felt compelled to serve his country again. Charleston, S.C., was being threatened by British forces, and he joined a detachment under General Allen Jones in 1777. He returned after three months without having seen combat and resumed studying law.

But his studies were soon interrupted again when Congress called for additional forces in North Carolina in 1778. William Barnett, a friend of Davie’s, responded by raising a troop in 1779, and Davie was commissioned as a lieutenant in this force. After Barnett resigned, Davie took over as captain, earning a promotion to major shortly thereafter.

Davie saw his first military action on June 20, 1779, at the Battle of Stono Ferry near Charleston. He was wounded and fell from his horse, but a soldier carried him off the field, preventing his capture and possibly saving his life. During his long recovery, he finally obtained his license to practice law.

In 1780 and healthy again, Davie raised his own cavalry troop along with two companies of mounted infantry. Davie, who had inherited 150 acres of land from his uncle, sold his inheritance to equip the soldiers, and he immediately began military operations on the South Carolina border during the summer. North Carolina Governor Abner Nash soon promoted him to the rank of colonel.

After participating in the Battle of Hanging Rock (near present-day Heath Springs, S.C.), Davie and his forces spent the next several months continually harassing the British with small, mounted attacks. Although they inflicted little damage, the raids wore down the British and reduced morale. For these actions he was sometimes called “the Hotspur of the Southern Army,” as 20th-century historian J.G. de Roulhac Hamilton wrote in *William Richardson Davie: A Memoir* (University of North Carolina, 1907). A “hotspur,” from the name of an English soldier killed in a rebellion against Henry IV, is another word for a rash and impetuous person.

Rash or not, Davie’s most memorable military accomplishment came at the Battle of Charlotte at the Mecklenburg County Courthouse on September 26, 1780. With a small force, Davie denied Cornwallis and his entire army entrance to Charlotte for several hours before being forced to retreat.

In January 1782 he was approached by General Nathanael Greene to serve as commissary. By all accounts, he fulfilled the role ably and was appointed the Commissary General of North Carolina during the Siege of Ninety Six, S.C.

Around this time Davie married Sarah Jones, the daughter of his former commanding officer, General Allen Jones. Relinquishing the position of commissary at the close of the

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Scholar, Soldier, Statesman

The *Revolutionary Roles* of William Richardson Davie

By Chris Honiball

The “greatest son” of North Carolina was, ironically, not born there. William Richardson Davie, son of Archibald Davie, was born in Egremont, Cumberland County, England, on June 20, 1756. But he left England as a child and grew up to have a profound impact on his adopted state and the new nation.

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war, he relocated to Halifax, N.C., and resumed his law practice in 1783. He was reportedly a talented lawyer—James Iredell, one of the original justices of the Supreme Court, ranked him one of the top two lawyers in North Carolina, according to the North Carolina History Project. His success was perhaps due in part to his height and demeanor. Hamilton writes, "In appearance he was very tall with fine features and eyes full of fire. His voice was resonant, yet melodious and capable of every inflection, and his speeches were distinguished for their fiery eloquence."

Davie was appointed to the North Carolina delegation to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, and he played a role in helping secure the Great Compromise, which provided equal representation in the Senate and proportional representation in the House.

He returned home for the fall court term before the convention ended, and so did not sign the Constitution. But he immediately began supporting it in North Carolina. His motion resulted in its ratification in a convention at Fayetteville, N.C., in November 1789.

Education was important to Davie. On November 12, 1789, he proposed a bill to the North Carolina House of Representatives, then known as the House of Commons, that established the University of North Carolina. He was closely involved in selecting the first instructors, curriculum and location for the university, and, as a Masonic Grand Master, he officiated at the laying of cornerstones for two of its buildings. The board of trustees named him "Father of the University" in 1810, and awarded him a doctor of laws degree the following year.

Davie also remained active in the military after the end of the Revolutionary War. He held various appointments, culminating in an appointment by President John Adams to brigadier general in 1798.

Returning home in the winter of 1798, he defeated Benjamin Williams to become the 10th governor of North Carolina. He would not complete his term, however, as Benjamin Franklin appointed him a commissioner to France the next year to help negotiate a treaty to end the conflict known as the Quasi-War. (For more on the Quasi-War, see the January/February 2010 issue of American Spirit.) He spent several months overseas, and, along with his fellow delegates, was successful in negotiating the Convention of 1800, also known as the Treaty of Mortefontaine.

Davie returned home and tried to resume public service in North Carolina, but the nation was moving away from his federalist ideals, and he lost a race for Congress in 1802. This loss, coupled with his wife’s death that same year, caused him to grow tired of politics and the public eye. He retired to his estate in South Carolina in 1805, and remained there until his death in 1820.

With his contributions to both the war in the South and post-war efforts to develop the new nation, Davie played an important role in the foundational era of America. He was a brave soldier, an inspired and accomplished lawyer, a successful diplomat, and an unceasing advocate for education. His tombstone reads: "In the Glorious War for American Independence he fought among the foremost of the Brave … A true lover of his Country, Always preferring the People’s good to the People’s favor … A Great Man in an age of Great Men, In life he was admired and beloved by the virtuous and the wise, In death he has silenced calumny and caused envy to mourn."

Chris Honiball is a writer in Nashville, Tenn.
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