~ THE GREAT COLONIAL HURRICANE OF 1635 ~

American Spirit

Daughters of the American Revolution

MAY/JUNE 2013

Andrew Jackson's Hermitage

The Society of the Cincinnati
A Revolutionary Band of Brothers

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The Marblehead, Ohio, lighthouse has been maintained by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources since 1972, while the United States Coast Guard operates and maintains the lighthouse beacon. CORBIS
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Daughters of the American Revolution

American Spirit

From the President General

The Society of the Cincinnati is the nation’s oldest patriotic organization, founded in 1783 by officers of the Continental Army and their French counterparts who served together in the American Revolution. Though it had a rocky beginning, as some in the early Republic questioned its mission, today it is an esteemed educational organization that promotes knowledge and appreciation of Revolutionary ideals. The modern society maintains its headquarters, library and museum at Anderson House in Washington, D.C., a little more than a mile away from DAR Headquarters.

The United States Coast Guard was created by Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton as a revenue-generating service for a nation mired in war debt. We explore the 223-year history of an agency that has, through many different incarnations, evolved into a multipronged maritime service with 11 core missions, including search and rescue, environmental protection and homeland security.

James Parton, Andrew Jackson’s first biographer, referred to our seventh president as “A democratic autocrat. An urbane savage. An atrocious saint.” Despite complex and often contradictory qualities, the heroic general in the War of 1812 did have a facet to his personality that longed for his peaceful home near Nashville, Tenn., now a well-preserved presidential home and museum. We explore the Hermitage and what it can tell us about this influential and imposing figure of the early 19th century.

Letters, diaries, photos and other documents can provide unique insight into the history of your family, and they also can become a valuable part of the community’s collective memory when donated to the right repository. Our story gives hints on what museums seek for their collections, and it also includes information on the DAR Museum’s Adopt-an-Object program.

The subject of this issue’s Our Patriots story is the namesake of my home chapter, Col. Marinus Willett-Mohawk Valley DAR Chapter in Frankfort, N.Y. My personal connection to Willett extends even further, as two of my Revolutionary Patriot ancestors from my maternal side, Private Peter Eckler and John Henry Genter, fought with him in New York's Mohawk Valley. Specifically, Eckler joined Willett in action at the Battle of Oriskany, which is well-known as the first battle in which American Indians fought alongside the colonists. Many of the Oneida tribe have become members of DAR as a result.

It has been a pleasure to serve the DAR as President General during this administration as we have worked to Preserve the Past, Enhance the Present and Invest in the Future with projects that benefit not only the National Society, but also the nation. American Spirit strives to do the same in our pages, as we seek out fascinating stories that serve the NSDAR mission of promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism.

Merry Ann T. Wright

4 Daughters of the American Revolution
Through a Veteran’s Eyes

A TV reporter’s focus on the Honor Flight Network leads to a touching personal journey.

By Lena Anthony | Photograph courtesy of Laura Kennedy

SINCE SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL, Laura Kennedy knew she wanted to perform in front of a camera. In high school, she fine-tuned that goal and set her mind to becoming a TV reporter, later graduating from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University with a degree in broadcast journalism and human communication. Today, she’s a reporter for the CBS station in Springfield, Mo.

Now that she’s been a TV reporter for more than three years, she says her favorite part of the job isn’t being on camera—it’s being out in the community and meeting the people behind the stories she reports. She met dozens of World War II veterans while working on a story about the Honor Flight Network, which enables World War II veterans from across the country to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., free of charge. Then a TV reporter for the NBC affiliate in Billings, Mont., Ms. Kennedy was selected as the media representative for Montana’s second Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

“The whole thing was a whirlwind,” says Ms. Kennedy, a member of the Anasazi Chapter, Glendale, Ariz. “And it was really touching. For most of them, it was their first time to Washington, D.C. Most of them hadn’t even left the state since the war. The receptions in Washington and when they arrived back home were just incredible, as if the war had just ended.”

Among the veterans on her flight were three women who, once at the memorial, migrated to the inscription dedicated to women. “They started taking pictures and talking to tourists,” she says. “And I realized that visiting our nation’s capital with veterans can add a whole new level of depth to that journey. We’ll never be able to meet George Washington or Abraham Lincoln, but we can meet these veterans who experienced war.”

Ms. Kennedy says her involvement in the DAR, which she joined shortly after her 18th birthday, helped her appreciate the experience. “One veteran I talked to said his grandchildren never want to hear his World War II stories,” she says. “I wish that all 20-somethings were as interested in talking to veterans. Those 20-somethings are going to grow into 50-somethings and wish they could have heard these stories when they still had a chance.”

After returning to Billings, Ms. Kennedy became an advocate for the Honor Flight Network. In fact, when she was visiting family in Arizona last Christmas, she found out that her grandmother was eligible for the program and helped her get on the waiting list for Arizona’s next Honor Flight.

Ms. Kennedy submitted a DAR application on her own when she was still in high school, after discovering that her great-grandmother on her father’s side had been a member. “I wanted to join because it’s a really great organization that you have to be born into,” she says. “I’m the only female grandchild, so I knew that if I didn’t join, it wouldn’t be a part of our family in the current generation.”

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Ms. Kennedy says she also appreciates the support she receives from her fellow members. “They’re a wonderful group of friends. They look out for me and care so much about my career,” says Ms. Kennedy, who, despite living in Missouri, is still active as her chapter’s corresponding secretary.

Outside of work and the DAR, Ms. Kennedy stays busy scuba diving, singing in a community choir, and volunteering at local elementary schools and through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Before leaving Montana, she received a community service award from the governor’s office.
National Treasures
Step inside the DAR Museum for a closer look at its fascinating collection.

THESE ELEGANT CLASSICAL URNS were made in England in the late 18th century. Though unmarked, they are attributed to the potter Ralph Edwards II (1748–1795). Pottery with a marbleized surface is known as agate ware. Made by molding colored clay onto the surface of the pottery, agate ware mimics the variegated appearance of its namesake stone.

Decorative sets like these are called garnitures. They were crafted in sets of three, five or seven, and often placed upon a fireplace mantel shelf. Visitors to NSDAR Headquarters can see these agate ware garnitures displayed on the mantel in the DAR Museum’s West Virginia period room. The Museum purchased the set in 1964. ⬆️

Ornamental Trio
My Granddaughter...

I Love You to the Moon and Back

Diamond Pendant

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Celebrating 150 years as a state in 2013, West Virginia’s path to statehood was turbulent. Admitted to the Union on June 20, 1863, during the Civil War, it’s one of only two new states created during the war (Nevada is the other) and the only one created by separation from a Confederate state.

Tension between western and eastern Virginia can be traced to the Virginia Constitution of 1776 that granted voting rights only to white males owning at least 25 acres of approved land. This requirement favored eastern Virginia, which also had more representation in the House of Delegates than the geographically larger western part of the state. The final break between the two regions occurred with Abraham Lincoln’s election in late 1860 and the start of the Civil War in 1861.

In 1861 Virginia seceded from the Union, while many western Virginia delegates were against the move. These pro-Union delegates formed the Restored, or Reorganized, Government of Virginia. The federal government recognized this new government as legitimate and approved the formation of the new state. West Virginia was officially declared a state on June 20, 1863. Today it’s known as the Mountain State for its setting within the Appalachian Highlands. Its official motto is montani semper liberi, or “mountaineers are always free,” and its state slogan is “Wild and Wonderful,” reflecting the rugged wilderness that draws tourists looking for adventure.

West Virginians are celebrating the state’s 150th birthday with a roster of events. Here are a few in venues throughout the state:

**150 Years: West Virginia Sesquicentennial Celebration**

June 20, 2013

The West Virginia Independence Hall in Wheeling, W.Va., is hosting a sesquicentennial celebration June 20, 2013. The all-day event will include Civil War re-enactors, historic speeches, the Wildcat Regiment Band and a birthday cake. For more information, visit [www.wvculture.org/museum/WV1Hmod.html](http://www.wvculture.org/museum/WV1Hmod.html) or call 1 (800) CALLWVA.

Famous and infamous West Virginians (left to right): Arthur I. Boreman, a U.S. senator and first governor of West Virginia • Abolitionist John Brown, who led an unsuccessful raid on the federal armory at Harpers Ferry in 1859 • The Hatfield side of the Hatfield-McCoy feud: Anderson “Devil Anse” and Lavisa Hatfield and their grandchild Robert Anderson Browning • Mother Jones, a labor and community organizer, cofounded the Industrial Workers of the World and was called “the most dangerous woman in America” in 1902.
Though it sounds like a name from a Harry Potter novel, Grumblethorpe served as a country summer home for the Wister family, notable for its contributions to American letters, horticulture and historic preservation, as well as the setting for quite a few Revolutionary stories.

Built in 1744 by wine importer John Wister in the Germantown area of Philadelphia, Grumblethorpe was originally known as “John Wister’s Big House” because of its multiple stories. Styled in the Pennsylvania German architecture of the period, the house was built from stone quarried on the property, as well as oaks hewn from Wister Woods, also owned by the family.

In October 1777 the home served as the headquarters of British General James Agnew. Legend says after he was wounded in the Battle of Germantown he was brought back to the Wister house, where blood from his fatal wounds supposedly stained the floorboards.

John’s daughter Catherine Wister married Samuel Miles, a Revolutionary War colonel who later became mayor of Philadelphia. Catherine’s niece Sally Wister became famous for her diary about her time spent in the country home. The 16-year-old Sally was sent to the home for safety in 1775 when the British invaded Philadelphia, and while there wrote Sally Wister’s Journal: A True Narrative: Being a Quaker Maiden’s Account of Her Experiences With Officers of the Continental Army, 1777–1778.

Originally a summer retreat, the Wisters sought refuge in the home from the yellow fever epidemic raging in Philadelphia in the winter of 1793. In the early 19th century, Charles Jones Wister Sr., grandson of John, made the home his year-round residence. He named it Grumblethorpe after reading the humorous 19th-century book Thinks I to Myself by Edward Nares. Charles Wister was known as an outstanding horticulturist and botanist, and he was a founder of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Interested in astronomy and meteorology, Charles kept a meticulous weather diary, in which he recorded the weather every day for decades.

The Wister family retained ownership until the 1950s, when the home was acquired by the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks. The home—now a National Historic Landmark—has been restored and refurnished to match the original period, as well as to display certain personal items of the Wister family.

The large gardens surrounding the house have been restored to resemble the gardens as they appeared when Charles Wister lived there. Popular plants of the early 19th century include hyacinths, pinks, hellebores, flags and a variety of irises. The seedling for the garden’s ginkgo tree, thought to be more than 250 years old, came from one of the first U.S. botanists, John Bartram.

For more information on the home, visit www.philalandmarks.org/grum.aspx. To set up a tour, call (215) 843–4820.
For information on other noted quilt museums and their upcoming exhibitions, see the following:

National Quilt Museum
Paducah, Ky., www.quiltmuseum.org

The National Quilt Museum has more than 320 quilts in its collection, and at any given time, 50–60 of these quilts are on public display in the gallery. The majority of the quilts in the collection are award winners from regional and national contests. Others have been chosen for their uniqueness or historic relevance.

Two of the museum's quilts are shown on this page, and here are some of its current and upcoming quilt exhibitions:

❋ New Quilts from an Old Favorite
Through June 11, 2013
Each year an international contest organized by the National Quilt Museum challenges quilt makers to create an innovative quilt based on a specific traditional pattern. Quilts are selected for their excellence in design and techniques, their innovations, and their contributions to an exhibit showing the wide range of designs and styles the selected traditional pattern can inspire. This year’s selected block is Jacob’s ladder.

❋ Alexandra and Loeb
Through July 9, 2013
The complex quilts of Emiko Toda Loeb are composed of log cabin blocks and are often two-sided. Regina Alexandra quilts reflect the spare sensibilities of the modern quilt movement.

❋ Two Approaches: Now and the Future of Quilting
October 11, 2013—January 14, 2014
The exhibit will explore the works of modern quilt maker Denyse Schmidt and innovative quilt artist Marianne Burr.

New England Quilt Museum
Lowell, Mass., http://nequiltmuseum.org

The New England Quilt Museum (NEQM) is located in historic downtown Lowell, Mass., in a Greek Revival-style building constructed by master craftsman Josiah Peabody in 1845. Originally built for the Lowell Institute for Savings, the structure boasts an unusual rhomboidal footprint, with curved corners and an ornate wrought-iron balcony along two sides. The museum moved into the building in 1987, and today the 18,000-square-foot space holds exhibition galleries, a library and resource center, classrooms, a museum store, and storage for more than 400 antique and contemporary quilts in the permanent collection.

The NEQM’s current and upcoming quilt exhibitions are:

❋ Silk: Luxurious Antique and Contemporary Art Quilts
Through July 7

❋ A Slice of Cheddar: A Selection of Antique Pennsylvania Quilts, July 11—October 14

❋ Roots of Modern Quilting: Everything Old Is New Again, October 17—December 28

Shelburne Museum
Shelburne, Vt., http://shelburnemuseum.org

Located in Vermont’s scenic Lake Champlain Valley, Shelburne Museum is one of the nation’s most unconventional museums of art and Americana. More than 150,000 works are exhibited in 39 exhibition buildings,
In 2002, **Colonel John Washington-Katherine Montgomery Chapter**, Washington, D.C., was created by the merging of two chapters—one named for an ancestor of the Father of our Country, the other for an ancestor of one of the four DAR Founders. Colonel John Washington, George Washington's great-grandfather, came to the Colonies from England in 1657. Katherine Montgomery is said to have been a spy who concealed messages in her hair. Her great-granddaughter Mary Desha, the chapter's organizing regent, named the chapter in her honor.

**Leedstown Resolutions Chapter**, King George, Va., is named after a forerunner of the Declaration of Independence. Before the repeal of the Stamp Act and 10 years before the Declaration, Thomas Ludwell Lee wrote his brother, Richard Henry Lee, “We propose to be in Leedstown in the afternoon of the [February] 27th, where we expect to meet those who will come from your way. This would be a fine opportunity to effect the scheme of an association ...” The resulting document bears the signatures of 115 Virginia colonists, including six Lees, five Washingtons and Spence Monroe, father of future President James Monroe.

The name of **Old Kings Highway Chapter**, Bunnell, Fla., pays tribute to Old King’s Road, a 126-mile highway built from 1766–1775. Running from Colerain, Ga., to New Smyrna, Fla., it was one of the most important roadways in America, traveled by armies, Minorcan refugees, men seeking wealth in the live oak trade and settlers hoping to realize their dreams in Florida. The road served as the area’s primary artery for land communication until the 20th century. Today it is a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

**Stamp Defiance Chapter**, Wilmington, N.C., looked to November 1765 for inspiration for its name. In protest of the hated Stamp Act, several hundred Wilmington residents with drums and flags in hand gathered at an inn belonging to stamp distributor Dr. William Houston. The citizens escorted Houston to the courthouse, where they forced him to publicly resign his office. And that was not the only local stamp protest: Two months later in the Cape Fear River, 1,000 armed colonists liberated two ships seized by the British navy for sailing with unstamped papers.

If your chapter has an interesting story, send it to americanspirit@dar.org.

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**WHAT’S IN A NAME**

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

Electra Havemeyer Webb, a pioneering collector of American folk art who founded the museum in 1947, relocated several 18th- and 19th-century buildings from New England and New York to display the museum’s collection. These buildings include houses, barns, a meetinghouse, a one-room schoolhouse, a lighthouse, a jail, a general store, a covered bridge and the 220-foot steamboat *Ticonderoga*.

The museum’s collection includes 400-plus 18th- and 19th-century American quilt masterpieces from New England, the Mid-Atlantic, the Midwest and the South. Styles include album, Amish, appliqué, chintz, crazy, pieced, white work and whole cloth.

An upcoming quilt exhibition is:

**Larger Than Life: Quilts By Velda Newman**

*May 12—October 27, 2013*

An internationally recognized contemporary textile artist, Velda Newman’s award-winning quilts have a three-dimensional quality. The Californian artist works in vivid colors and close-up detail of her subjects, such as shells, flowers and fruit.
“Huzzah!”
USS Constitution
Museum Receives DAR Grant

The NSDAR Special Projects Grants program invites nonprofit organizations to apply for matching-fund grants to support local projects related to historic preservation, education and patriotism.

The USS Constitution Museum in Boston, Mass., recently received a $10,000 NSDAR Special Projects Grant to help fund the publication of Men of Iron: USS Constitution’s War of 1812 Crew, a book about the crew’s life at sea. Not only is the USS Constitution a popular monument in Boston, but it also holds an important place in American history. Launched in Boston in 1797, the ship scored four victories, including one against HMS Guerriere, during the War of 1812.

The book officially debuted on August 19, 2012, the 200th anniversary of Constitution’s defeat of the Guerriere. During this battle, American sailors witnessed British cannonballs bouncing from their ship’s thick wooden hull and shouted “Huzzah! Her sides are made of iron!” thus giving Constitution its nickname, “Old Ironsides.”

The 56-page book tells the story of sea life from the perspective of the ship’s officers and crew, brought to life through full-color photographs, illustrations, maps and other historical documents.

Written primarily for a general adult audience, Men of Iron nonetheless offers enough detail to appeal to serious naval history fans as well, especially because few nonfiction books about this period of American naval history are available. For more information or to purchase a copy of the book, visit http://store.ussconstitutionmuseum.org.

The grant application was sponsored by the Massachusetts State Society in support of the State Regent’s Project 2010–2013. The contributions of the state society, individual chapters and donors are recognized in the book.

For more information about the DAR Special Projects Grants program, visit www.dar.org/grants.
According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress’ 2010 Civics Assessment, students in the nation’s secondary schools lack a proper understanding of civics. Among some of the report’s key findings:

- Fewer than half of American eighth graders knew the purpose of the Bill of Rights.
- Only one in 10 eighth graders demonstrated acceptable knowledge of the checks and balances among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
- Three-quarters of high-school seniors were unable to name a power granted to Congress by the Constitution.

That’s why the work of American history teachers like William Anthony Malone of Horace Maynard Middle School in Maynardville, Tenn., is so essential to building the critical thinking skills needed to help students become responsible citizens. Malone tries a number of inventive strategies to get his students on board with the subject he loves—including sponsoring a club that promotes civics education and historic appreciation, encouraging the use of primary sources to illustrate the lives of historical people, and using a team-teaching approach that allows him to share his passion for favorite eras.

His sponsorship of the eighth-grade History Club sparks students’ interest in civic involvement. The club establishes a government of its own, electing a president, vice president, secretary, and representatives from each class and senators. Many of Tennessee’s current state senators and representatives, Maynardville’s mayor, and other community leaders have attended the club officers’ formal swearing-in ceremony. The club also takes trips to living history museums and historic landmarks, and for the past 16 years, members have taken a weeklong trip to Washington, D.C.

In his classroom, Malone utilizes primary sources to help students connect to the people behind historic events. He and his wife Renita Disney Malone, a fifth-grade history teacher, are participating in a three-year grant from the East Tennessee Historical Society to establish guidelines for teaching American history from primary sources.

“So many original documents, such as journals or diaries, are available online and often are more effective than reading textbooks,” he says.

Three years ago, he and fellow history teacher Kristie Dean started a class swap experiment—and that experiment is paying off. Sharing the instruction of around 240 students, the educators teach their favorite eras of American history. Malone’s favorite time periods are the road to the Revolution, the westward expansion of the United States, and the Lewis and Clark expedition. Partially as a result of this teamwork, the eighth grade’s annual standardized test scores have improved, and Malone says scores “went through the roof” last year.

Malone, a University of Tennessee graduate, says, “I was fortunate in college to have had a history teacher who seemed to bring it all to life. I knew then that teaching was what I wanted to do. But it’s not enough to take the courses and memorize dates; to be effective, you need to be passionate, the subject needs to excite you and the ensuing enthusiasm has to be passed on to the students.”

That enthusiasm was noticed by one of his students’ grandmothers, a member of the Bonnie Kate DAR Chapter, Knoxville, Tenn., who nominated him for the Tennessee DAR Outstanding Teacher of American History award, which he won in 2012. (Through the DAR, Malone found out that one of his ancestors, John Ousley, served in the Revolution.) A popular vote by students and citizens recently named him Union County School System’s Teacher of the Year.
Paducah

Since its founding in 1827 by General William Clark as a strategic river town, Paducah, Ky.—located halfway between Nashville and St. Louis where the Tennessee River empties into the Ohio—has transformed itself into a community that creatively celebrates its heritage. Within 20 blocks of the city’s downtown, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, visitors will find impressive 19th-century architecture housing an abundance of unique arts, shopping and dining destinations. For its preservation efforts the National Trust for Historic Preservation recognized the town as one of its 2011 Distinctive Destinations.
Putting Culture at Its Heart

The cobblestone streets of downtown radiate from the town’s heart, and at its epicenter is Market House Square. Here visitors will find an array of museums and performing and visual arts offerings that larger towns would envy. The 1905 Market House cultural complex encompasses the Yeiser Art Center, the Market House Theatre and the William Clark Market House Museum. The Market House Museum—the centerpiece of which is the ornate interior of the 1877 List Drug Store—features displays on Paducah history, including a Civil War Room with furniture used by Ulysses S. Grant. Nearby are the Maiden Alley Cinema and the Carson Performing Arts Center, home to the Paducah Symphony Orchestra.

Steps from the square lies the riverfront. The Ohio River flows just to the northeast, but because the city is prone to flooding, a two-block-long floodwall obscures the view. Making the most of this necessity, Paducah asked artist Robert Dafford to cover the wall with 50 evocative murals depicting Paducah’s history. Visitors can learn about the town’s roots as a key river port by checking out the child-friendly River Discovery Center. The center is a Save America’s Treasures project housed in downtown’s oldest standing structure, the circa-1843 Petter Building. Its interactive exhibits spotlight the history and habitats of the four rivers region, marked by the Ohio, Tennessee, Cumberland and Mississippi rivers.

Paducah’s largest tourist attraction is the National Quilt Museum, a landmark cultural destination featuring rotating quilting and fiber art exhibits. (See page 10.) The American Quilter’s Society’s QuiltWeek in April brings a worldwide audience of more than 35,000 quilters and art enthusiasts to the area. The show features educational workshops given by world-renowned instructors.

Celebrating Arts and Architecture

Quilting plays the lead in Paducah, but it shares the stage with many forms of art. A short trolley ride away from downtown is the Lower Town Arts District, a newly revitalized 26-square-block area dotted with galleries and working studios in beautifully restored Classic Revival and Italianate homes. Now a robust artists’ enclave, this part of Paducah was once its most crime-ridden. In 2000, a few determined art lovers partnered with the city to provide financial assistance to artists so they could buy dilapidated housing at little cost. (Some houses were sold for as little as $1). The Artist Relocation Program, which now has more than 70 artists-in-residence, has become a national model for pairing arts and economic development. Spurred on...
by the Paducah Renaissance Alliance, Lower Town resident artists have invested more than $30 million in restoring the community and fostering an environment where the arts can flourish.

Visitors to Lower Town can participate in hands-on creative workshops with resident artists across an array of visual arts including textiles, painting, multimedia, photography, metal and glass sculpture, ceramics and jewelry. The district holds the annual Lower Town Arts and Music Festival in May, and on the second Saturday of each month, Lower Town studios host an art crawl featuring new exhibits and entertainment and extended gallery hours.

Though lesser-known, Paducah’s historic Upper Town is worth a stop. A century ago this neighborhood was the heart of a thriving African-American community. The Hotel Metropolitan, built in 1909, was one of the area’s first hotels for African-Americans. It attracted black musicians who were invited to perform in Paducah’s finest establishments but weren’t allowed to stay in the city’s best hotels. Hotel guests read like a hall of fame induction list of America’s quintessential 20th-century artists, including Louis Armstrong, B.B. King, Chuck Berry, Ray Charles, Little Richard, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and Tina Turner. The hotel was slated for destruction in 1999 but was saved and has been restored as an African-American heritage museum (www.thehotelmetropolitan.org). The Upper Town Heritage Walking Tour showcases the hotel and other key sites where African-Americans owned homes and businesses during the time of segregation.

Some of Paducah’s finest architectural treasures lie outside of its central districts. Along Alben Barkley Drive, named after Paducah resident and vice president to Harry S. Truman, there is a stretch of historic homes on the National Register. One such gem is the circa-1869 Kenmill Place. The home showcases both its revitalized 1923 Classical Revival exterior as well as some of its original 19th-century Italianate interiors. Paducah’s most notable home, Whitehaven, dates to 1860 and can be found just off Interstate 24. The antebellum mansion now serves as a Kentucky Welcome Center and houses a collection of Vice President Barkley’s memorabilia and furnishings. For more adventures in the Bluegrass state, turn to page 18. >>

For More Information:
Paducah Convention and Visitors Bureau
128 Broadway St.
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 443-8783
www.paducah.travel

Dining
Some downtown dining highlights include Max’s Brick Oven’s wood-fired pizzas. Next door to Max’s, Kirchhoff’s Bakery & Deli has served old-world-style baked goods since 1873. Nearby, Cynthia’s Ristorante has modern Italian favorites. The riverfront is home to numerous seasonal concerts and festivals, including the popular BBQ on the River. If you’re not around for the barbecue, check out Whaler’s Catch seafood restaurant and take advantage of its outdoor seating, providing prime views of the river beyond the floodwall.

Lodging
If you’re looking for historic lodging on your visit to Paducah, 1857’s Bed and Breakfast is located in one of the historic buildings along the Market House Square and just two blocks from the National Quilt Museum. Also in historic downtown Paducah are the recently restored Fox Briar Inn at Riverplace and Paducah Harbor Plaza, with condos available for a night, a weekend or an extended stay.
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Along the Martha Layne Collins Blue Grass Parkway, devoid of billboards and truck stops, many of Kentucky's hallmark attractions, including storied distilleries, legendary horse farms and notable historic sites, can be found amid rolling hillsides. Renamed after Kentucky’s first female governor, the Blue Grass Parkway opened in 1965 and stretches a little more than 70 miles from Elizabethtown to Lexington.

East of Elizabethtown lies Bardstown, first settled in the 1780s. Best-known for being the “Bourbon Capital of the World,” it sits at the heart of the Bourbon Trail and hosts the Kentucky Bourbon Festival. In 2012 Bardstown was named the “Most Beautiful Small Town in America” by the RandMcNally/USA Today’s “Best of the Road” contest.

Anchored at the center of historic Bardstown is the Old Talbott Tavern. Since 1779, the Old Talbott Tavern on Court Square has provided accommodations, food and drink to Kentucky travelers. Notable guests have included Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Boone and the exiled French King Louis Philippe. The tavern, which offers up soul-warming Southern food, including the decadent Kentucky Hot Brown (an open-faced hot sandwich filled with bacon, turkey and Mornay sauce), also boasts one of the oldest bourbon bars in the United States.

If you’re looking for a unique way to “do time” in Bardstown, you can check into the circa-1819 Jailer’s Inn. Have a fear of confined spaces? Despite the iron bars and 30-inch stone walls, the rooms are luxurious, and they’ve allowed guests to check out since 1987, the last year the inn operated as an actual jail.

Just 12 miles south of Bardstown in New Haven, Ky., a Catholic Trappist monastery, the Abbey of Gethsemani, has operated for more than 150 years. Hospitality is an essential element of the monastic life, and guests have been welcomed since the abbey first opened in 1848. Visitors are free to attend church services and walk the nearly 1,200 acres of woodlands, gardens and fields. As its most famous resident, writer, poet and priest Thomas Merton expressed, the abbey has been a place apart “to entertain silence in the heart and listen for the voice of God—to pray for your own discovery.” Speaking of discovery, no stop on this bluegrass road trip is devoid of opportunities to sample great local food—even at the monastery: Try out the monks’ handcrafted homemade fruitcakes, cheeses and bourbon fudge.

The next stop off the Blue Grass Parkway reveals another unique religious community. Just east of Harrodsburg lies the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, the largest restored Shaker community in America. Set across 3,000 acres, the village has 14 pristinely restored Shaker buildings (see photo at left) and offers self-guided walking tours in addition to guided tours and demonstrations on Shaker life, history and crafts as well as musical performances.

The Inn at Shaker Village has more than 70 guest rooms, suites and private cottages spread throughout restored 19th-century buildings. Inn accommodations feature remarkable hand-hewn Shaker furniture and architecture. Guests can dine by candlelight on locally farmed Kentucky foods and Shaker specialties at the renowned Trustees’ Office Dining Room.

Bourbon may be the first beverage that comes to mind when one thinks of Kentucky, but an unlikely star in the American wine scene has recently arisen at a winery outside of Lexington. Just 30 miles east of Shaker Village, passing through historic Nicholasville and the area’s many thoroughbred horse farms, the Jean Farris Winery makes wines through sustainable practices and has won numerous international wine awards. In addition to tastings, the winery has a farm-to-table bistro with a seasonal menu featuring locally sourced ingredients. The winery and bistro were recently honored by the James Beard Foundation.

For more information about these sites and others along Kentucky’s Blue Grass Parkway, visit the Kentucky Tourism Office website at www.kentuckytourism.com.
An 18th-century House Beautiful

The phrase “coffee table book” generally conjures the image of an awkwardly oversized, hardback volume with a glossy cover that is rarely opened. Fortunately, this expanded second edition of Houses of the Founding Fathers: The Men Who Made America and the Way They Lived by Hugh Howard (Artisan, 2012) is none of those things. It is a book with which you can spend hours, curled up on the sofa on a pleasant afternoon or lazy weekend morning.

Houses is a grand (in every sense of the word) tour of historic homes that once accommodated famous, and some less-well-known, leaders of the Revolution. Some are grand—such as Mount Vernon and Monticello—while others are humbler, such as the home of Revolutionary pamphleteer and U.S. Supreme Court Justice James Iredell in Edenton, N.C.

Some of the houses are famous because of who built them or who lived in them around the time of the Revolution. Others are notable because of events—such as Cliveden, which was practically the site of the Battle of Germantown, Pa. Several are included at least in part because George Washington used the home as a headquarters or slept, ate or attended an event there.

But Howard gives us more than an accounting of architectural details and significant dates and names. The essays accompanying each entry comprise concise and fascinating histories of the builders, owners and occupants.

Howard also includes dozens of short sidebars touching on multiple aspects of how people lived then. These include cooking methods and regional gustatory tastes; the lives and travails of slaves and servants; “paperhangings” (we call it wallpaper); candle-making and tending; bathing; and weaponry. There are a number of short biographies with the headline “The Widow …” that describe the life of a noteworthy owner’s widow.

Besides these, Howard often provides a brief history of a nearby home or civic building that had some link to his primary subject’s life.

In short, Howard assumes of the role of a knowledgeable tour guide, passing along juicy asides and family stories, as well as providing context for better understanding the time, place and people. His prose is clear, conversational and engaging throughout.

This makes Houses an easy book to browse: You can open it anywhere and immerse yourself with total comprehension, independent of what’s gone before.

The photography by Roger Strauss III perfectly complements Howard’s structure and style. Many shots use natural light to illuminate or accent as needed. The result is a warm depiction of the homes and their furnishings. The reader can almost smell the beeswax painstakingly rubbed into the burnished furniture; glass and silver gleam softly beside creamy dinnerware.

Even in cases where the homes have yet to be restored, such as Drayton Hall in Charleston, S.C., the photography hints at what was and may one day be again.

As a further guide to the reader, Howard provides a “Cast of Characters” section containing the principal figures mentioned in the text. Timelines precede each of the three parts of the book to set the historical context in which the subsequent individuals and their homes acquired prominence.

There also is a glossary of terms specific to the era, as well as an appendix with visitor information for each of the sites.

Houses of the Founding Fathers is a book to savor slowly—there’s so much detail that you’ll probably want to read about only a couple houses at a sitting. If you want to put it on your coffee table, do so by all means—but it won’t stay there for long.

—Bill Hudgins
The Great Colonial Hurricane of 1635

How early Americans dealt with severe weather

By Nancy Mann Jackson

17th-century oil on canvas of English ships in distress by Dutch painter W. van de Velde
In August 1635, a category-3.5 hurricane slammed the coast of New England, with storm surges reaching 22 feet and completely flooding Buzzards Bay and Boston Bay. The winds, estimated by the National Hurricane Center to have reached 130 miles per hour, were stronger than the winds of Hurricane Sandy.

Ocurring just 15 years after the settlement of Plymouth Plantation, the Great Colonial Hurricane of 1635 was not only the greatest meteorological event of the Colonial period, but “it may have been the strongest hurricane ever to hit New England,” says Chris Landsea, Ph.D., science and operations officer at the National Hurricane Center.

Even with today’s high-tech weather radars and forecasting tools, raging hurricanes can uproot thousands of people, destroy homes and buildings, and wreak general havoc on an entire region. In Colonial America, hurricanes resulted in the same destruction to life and property, but they occurred completely without warning. In addition to the flooding and damages, such storms also puzzled colonists who had little understanding of the natural world.

“As is the case today, great disasters like the 1635 hurricane in New England were major events in the 17th and 18th centuries,” says Matthew Mulcahy, associate professor and chair of the department of history at Loyola University Maryland. “They often caused extensive damage, sometimes significant deaths, and always raised key questions about the operations of the natural world.”

Recording Weather Events
Most of what is known about the Great Colonial Hurricane of 1635 comes from the works of two well-known Colonial writers, John Winthrop and William Bradford. (See page 22.) Winthrop, especially, was quite conscious of the weather. He noted the course of the winds each day on his voyage across the Atlantic, chronicled the variety of the seasons he experienced during his 20 years in New England and compared them to the seasons in his homeland, and described in detail all the unusual weather and storms that afflicted the early colonists, according to David Ludlum, author of Early American Hurricanes, 1492–1870 (American Meteorological Association, 1963).

But Winthrop and Bradford weren’t the only ones recording the weather they experienced in Colonial America. “Weather events were major topics in Colonial writing,” Mulcahy says. “Unusual events, including hurricanes, earthquakes, drought, great snowstorms and the like frequently became fodder for sermons, many of which were published.”

Such weather events also became the subject of specific treatises, the most famous of which was Increase Mather’s “An Essay for the Recording of Illustrious Providences,” Mulcahy says. Colonial diaries and the letters colonists wrote to friends and relatives in England also frequently discussed storms and weather events. “John Hull’s diary, for example, is filled with commentary about the weather, as is Samuel Sewall’s,” Mulcahy says.

While all weather events attracted colonists’ attention, hurricanes were “particularly terrifying and fascinating to English colonists, because England does not really experience hurricanes, and colonists were just starting to learn about them in the 17th century,” Mulcahy says.

In 1635, colonists’ understanding of the weather was rudimentary. “They didn’t even know that storms moved,” says the National Hurricane Center’s Chris Landsea.

In 1635, colonists’ understanding of the weather was rudimentary. “They didn’t even know that storms moved,” says the National Hurricane Center’s Chris Landsea.
In their words

These are the published writings of John Winthrop and William Bradford regarding the Great Colonial Hurricane of 1635.

John Winthrop’s Account

The wind having blown hard at S. and S.W. a week before, about midnight it came up at N.E. and blew with such violence, with abundance of rain, that it blew down many hundreds of trees, near the towns, overthrew some houses, and drove the ships from their anchors. The Great Hope, of Ipswich, being about four hundred tons, was driven aground at Mr. Hoffe’s Point, and brought back again presently by a N.W. wind, and ran on shore at Charlestown. About eight of the clock the wind came about to N.W. very strong, and it being then about high water, by nine the tide had fallen three feet. Then it began to flow again about one hour, and rose about two or three feet, which was conceived to be, that the sea was grown so high abroad with a N.E. wind, that, meeting with the ebb, it forced it back again.

This tempest was not so far as Cape Sable, but to the south more violent, and made a double tide all that coast ... The tide rose at Narragansett fourteen feet higher than ordinary, and drowned eight Indians flying from their wigwams.

William Bradford’s Account

This year, the 14th or 15th of August (being Saturday) [Editor’s note: When converted from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, this would be August 26] was such a mighty storm of wind and rain as none living in these parts, either English or Indians, ever saw. Being like, for the time it continued, to those hurricanes and typhoons that writers make mention of in the Indies. It began in the morning a little before day, and grew not by degrees but came with violence in the beginning, to the great amazement of many. It blew down sundry houses and uncovered others. Divers vessels were lost at sea and many more in extreme danger. It caused the sea to swell to the southward of this place above 20 feet right up and down, and made many of the Indians to climb into trees for their safety. It took off the boarded roof of a house which belonged to this Plantation at Manomet, and floated it to another place, the posts still standing in the ground. And if it had continued long without the shifting of the wind, it is like it would have drowned some part of the country. It blew down many thousand trees, turning up the stronger by the roots and breaking the higher pine trees off in the middle. And the tall young oaks and walnut trees of good bigness were wound like a withe, very strange and fearful to behold. It began in the southeast and parted toward the south and east, and veered sundry ways, but the greatest force of it here was from the former quarters. It continued not (in the extremity) above five or six hours but the violence began to abate. The signs and marks of it will remain this hundred years where it was sorest. The moon suffered a great eclipse the second night after it.
THE COAST GUARD
ALWAYS READY SINCE 1790
By Courtney Peter
The United States Coast Guard has a history as rambling and varied as the 95,000 miles of shoreline it protects. Although the current name dates only to 1915, the organization originated in 1790 as the Revenue Cutter Service, created on the recommendation of the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, for the primary purpose of enforcing customs laws. Over time several maritime agencies such as the U.S. Lighthouse Service, the U.S. Life-Saving Service and the Steamboat Inspection Service either were absorbed by or merged with the Revenue Cutter Service to form the Coast Guard. The amalgamation resulted in a uniquely multifaceted agency devoted to marine safety, security and stewardship.

“All of the various federal agencies that were brought together to form the modern-day United States Coast Guard dealt in some manner with assisting those that were in distress or in helping the prevention of loss of life at sea,” writes Dennis L. Noble in “A Legacy: The United States Life-Saving Service.” The collective heritage of these predecessor agencies prepared the Coast Guard for its role as America’s maritime guardian.

During the spring of 1799, the young United States faced its first international challenge in an undeclared naval war with France called the Quasi-War. Most available American forces were employed in the Caribbean to protect American commerce from French cruisers. The brig Eagle was the most successful vessel in the Revenue Cutter Service during this period, capturing 10 French vessels and retaking four American prizes. This painting depicts the Eagle chasing the French sloop Bon Pere in April 1799.
Practical Beginnings

Today the Coast Guard’s daring rescues may be its most recognizable function, but the impetus for its creation was much more mundane—the government’s need for revenue. Even as the government learned how to sustain a nation founded on the principles of independence and liberty, the country’s debt still demanded attention. In Federalist Paper No. 12, dated November 27, 1787, Alexander Hamilton wrote, “A nation cannot long exist without revenues. Destitute of this essential support, it must resign its independence, and sink into the degraded condition of a province.”

Hamilton knew that taxes would provide a viable revenue stream. He realized, however, that Americans would resist direct taxation as fervently as they would cleave to their newly won independence, so he focused on taxing commercial imports instead of individuals. Because the Continental Navy was disbanded after the Revolution, the United States had no force available to collect customs duties and tonnage taxes from incoming ships. To address the void, Hamilton proposed that, “A few armed vessels, judiciously stationed at the entrances to our ports, might at a small expense be made useful sentinels of the laws.”

In a report to the House of Representatives on April 22, 1790, he recommended a force of 10 revenue cutters and detailed the cost of construction, crew pay, provisions and maintenance for the entire fleet, which he estimated at $18,500 per year. On August 4, the Tariff Act of 1790 authorized the building of 10 cutters and the hiring of 100 men and boys to staff them, marking the creation of the Revenue Cutter Service as part of the Department of the Treasury.

The act failed to provide an official name, however. “The service had no statutory designation but was variously known as the system of cutters, Revenue Marine, Revenue-Marine Service and even Revenue Service until the title Revenue Cutter Service found its first statutory use in an act passed in 1863,” writes former U.S. Coast Guard Historian Truman Strobridge in “Chronology of Aids to Navigation and the U.S. Lighthouse Service 1716–1939.”

The Coast Guard having begun as part of the Treasury Department now seems strange, but the fact that the majority of the country’s revenue came from import taxes helps explain the oddity. Hamilton, who was deeply involved with the daily operations of the Revenue Cutter Service, also had some experience with maritime commerce. As a teenager in the Caribbean, he worked as a clerk for Beekman and Cruger, a small import-export business.

“He first job afforded him valuable insights into global commerce and the maneuvers of imperial powers,” explains Ron Chernow in *Alexander Hamilton* (Penguin, 2004). “He developed an intimate knowledge of traders and smugglers that later aided his establishment of the U.S. Coast Guard and Customs Service.”

Furthermore, Hamilton knew it would be difficult to convince a culture that considered smuggling to be a patriotic evasion of British tyranny to submit willingly to the new customs laws. In a 1791 letter Hamilton urged Revenue Cutter Service officers to refrain “from whatever has the semblance of haughtiness, rudeness or insult” and to resolve issues “by a cool and temperate perseverance in duty—by address and moderation, rather than vehemence and violence.”

Although the service endeavored to do its job peaceably, it was not without the capacity to employ force. The cutters were armed vessels, after all. The same 1798 act that created the United States Navy authorized the president to transfer revenue cutters to the Navy Department as needed during times of war. As a result of this provision, the Coast Guard has taken part in every war involving the United States since the Quasi-War with France. (See sidebar on page 27.)

Lighting the Seas

A year before the government created the Revenue Cutter Service, it established a federal agency charged with aiding navigation. It made sense: If ships couldn’t reach the shores safely, no taxes could be collected. The U.S. Lighthouse Service, also known as the Lighthouse Board, the Bureau of Lighthouses and the Lighthouse Establishment, was created by Congress on August 7, 1789, as part of the Treasury Department. It assumed responsibility for the maintenance and repair of existing lighthouses, beacons and buoys, which previously had been handled at the local or state level.

Rugged coastlines and treacherous currents swiftly demonstrated the Colonies’ need for navigational aids. The Boston Lighthouse on Little Brewster Island, the first constructed in the United States, guided ships into Boston Harbor beginning in 1716. During the Revolution the British destroyed the original tower. New Jersey’s Sandy Hook Lighthouse, built in 1764 at the south point of the entrance to New York Harbor, is the oldest original light tower still
standing. By 1820 the service had set up its first lightship station in the Chesapeake Bay. Of course, lighted beacons are useful only when they can be seen. When fog cloaked the sea and its shores, signals in the form of literal bells and whistles, as well as cannons and sirens, helped compensate.

If the Revenue Cutter Service was the earliest example of the modern Coast Guard’s law enforcement duties, the Lighthouse Service can make a fair claim as the model for its vigilance. “The lighthouse and the lightship appeal to the interests and better instinct of man because they are symbolic of never-ceasing watchfulness, of steadfast endurance in every exposure, of widespread helpfulness,” said George R. Putnam, who served as commissioner of lighthouses from 1906–1935.

As the United States expanded farther and farther west, lighthouses colonized the shores of the Great Lakes, the Mississippi River, the Ohio River and the Pacific Coast. Later, Lighthouse Service jurisdiction expanded to include Alaska, Hawaii, the Midway Islands, Guam and the American Virgin Islands. Navigational aids became so pervasive that from 1886–1901, even the electric lights in the Statue of Liberty’s torch were called into service. In 1936, the annual report of the Department of Commerce, to which the Lighthouse Service was transferred in 1903, proclaimed, “The Lighthouse Service is perhaps the most extensively decentralized agency of the federal government, less than 1 percent of total personnel of about 5,000 persons being located at the seat of government.”

Ripple Effects

Navigational aids prevented countless accidents, but it was impossible to eliminate them entirely, especially given the increase in maritime traffic. When accidents occurred quick action was imperative. Beginning in the 1830s, Revenue Cutter Service vessels began patrolling the seas during wintertime to aid distressed mariners. And according to The Coast Guard: Its History, Activities and Organization by Darrell Hevenor Smith and Fred Wilbur Powell (The Brookings Institution, 1929), the first federal appropriation for rendering assistance to the shipwrecked from the shore came in 1847 in the form of a provision for “furnishing lighthouses on the Atlantic coast with a means of rendering assistance to shipwrecked mariners.” The result was the formation of the U.S. Life-Saving Service which, according to Noble, was “the organization that contributed most to the U.S. Coast Guard’s image as a lifesaver.”

At life-saving stations along the country’s waterways, service members known as surfmen used beach carts to ferry their lifesaving gear to the scene. Initially they pulled the carts themselves; horses later did the job. From the beach, rescuers launched a lifeboat into the surf then fought to reach survivors and load them aboard before heading back to shore. When the water was too rough surfmen used a Lyle gun to shoot a messenger line to the wrecked or stranded vessel. The messenger line was connected to another line strong enough to pull a submarine-like life car that held enough air to sustain 11 people for three minutes.

Surfmen held regular drills to prepare them to react in pressure-packed, life-or-death situations. When the weather was clear onlookers gathered to watch the drills as if they were theater performances. “In order to have the men react automatically in an emergency, the boats would be deliberately capsized and righted. This was a great crowd pleaser,” Noble writes.

The Life-Saving Service experienced its heyday in the 1870s, but its usefulness declined as the widespread use of steam power decreased vessels’ vulnerability to the wind and as faster gas-powered boats gained popularity.

The advances in boating drew attention to the need for updated regulations. In the early decades of the 19th century, the emerging steamboat industry helped power the nation’s economic development. As the largely unregulated industry grew, so did the number of shipboard casualties due to boiler explosions, fires and collisions.

The Act of February 28, 1871, established a marine safety code and licensing requirements and created the Steamboat Inspection Service. Improving upon the earlier, ineffective maritime safety and steamboat acts of 1838 and 1852, respectively, the Act of 1871 empowered inspectors to enforce the new laws by authorizing them to revoke licenses and impose other penalties.

Parts of a Whole

After the Civil War, Treasury official Sumner Kimball reformed the Revenue Cutter Service and the Life-Saving Service to increase efficiency, centralize control and update regulations. The Revenue Cutter Service also assumed more civil and humanitarian duties, including protecting fish and game, conducting scientific studies, charting polar ice activity, and establishing a federal presence in Alaska. With these

THE 11 CORE MISSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

In an average day the Coast Guard saves 12 lives, responds to 64 search and rescue cases, screens 720 commercial vessels, investigates 13 marine accidents and 10 pollution incidents, and keeps 842 pounds of cocaine off the streets. Its 11 core missions are:

developments, the modern Coast Guard began to take shape. The decades that followed included attempts to move the Lighthouse Service, Life-Saving Service and several other agencies to the Navy Department, a reorganization plan the Treasury Department strenuously resisted. The inevitable consolidation of these early seagoing agencies eventually happened in stages.

The Steamboat Inspection Service was transferred to the newly established Department of Commerce and Labor in 1903. In 1932 it merged with the Bureau of Navigation, which oversaw the regulation of merchant seaman, to form the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation.

In 1915, the Life-Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service combined to form the United States Coast Guard, with Ellsworth Price Bertholf as the first Coast Guard Commandant. The Lighthouse Service and its 30,000 navigational aids became part of the Coast Guard in 1939. During World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt temporarily transferred the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to Coast Guard control. The transfer became permanent in 1946, finally uniting all aspects of the nation’s maritime safety under the control of one agency. In 2002, the Coast Guard was moved to the newly formed Department of Homeland Security.

Today, the nation’s oldest continuous seagoing service includes more than 40,000 active-duty personnel, 7,500 reserve members, 30,000 all-volunteer auxiliary members and 8,000 full-time civilian employees. Junior officers train at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, which became the first service academy in the nation to admit women in 1975 and celebrated its 100th year at its New London, Conn., campus in 2010. The Coast Guard workforce performs a staggering array of duties including search and rescue, securing ports and waterways, defense operations, drug interdiction, enforcing fisheries laws, and inspecting commercial and recreational vessels. The Coast Guard provides emergency aid in the wake of natural and man-made disasters domestically and abroad, such as Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and both the earthquake in Haiti and the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

The sheer breadth of these responsibilities could be seen as a burden capable of splintering the service’s focus and decreasing its effectiveness, but instead it has become a strength. “No branch of service has been in the business of saving lives longer than the Coast Guard,” said President George H.W. Bush. “No other branch does more to protect our environment. Few do as much to defend our homeland against the shadowy threats of illegal drugs and, now, terrorism. … this remarkable institution is so special not [only] because of its storied history—but because it is also so clearly indispensable to America’s future.”

More than 220 years of history fortified the Coast Guard with the knowledge and experience required to live up to its motto, Semper Paratus—Always Ready.

The Coast Guard at War

From 1790 until the United States Navy was established eight years later, the country’s only armed vessels belonged to the Revenue Cutter Service. Today the Coast Guard operates under the Department of Homeland Security during peacetime and is transferred to the Navy Department during wartime. The following timeline highlights just a few of its many acts in defense of our country.

From 1798–1799, during the Quasi-War with France, eight cutters placed under Navy control served along the southern U.S. Atlantic Coast and in the Caribbean, providing defense and harassing French shipping vessels.

In June 1812 the cutter Jefferson captured the merchant ship Patriot as the first British prize of the War of 1812.

During the Civil War, the Lighthouse Service assisted the Union Army by placing special buoys, lights and lightships to facilitate military operations and also discontinued the lighting of many beacons to make navigation more difficult for Confederate ships.

Many revenue cutters served the Union in the Civil War by setting up blockades and patrolling shipping lanes. The first naval shots of the war were fired by cutter Harriet Lane.

During the Spanish-American War, eight cutters joined in blockade duty off Cuban shores, and another cutter provided escort and dispatch support at Manila Bay in the Philippines. Lighthouse Service tenders also transferred to Navy service.

World War I saw the entire Coast Guard transferred to Navy control for the first time. Cutters escorted convoys between Gibraltar and the British Isles and patrolled the Mediterranean Sea. In the United States, the Coast Guard increased port security and members of the Life-Saving Service acted as lookouts at the coastlines.

The Coast Guard’s extensive World War II operations involved antisubmarine patrol, beach patrol, manning Navy destroyer escorts, search and rescue, and amphibious invasions, including the Normandy invasion.

The Coast Guard provided 26 fully crewed patrol boats to aid Operation Market Time, which aimed to stop the flow of men and material to resupply the enemy during the Vietnam War.

More recently, Coast Guard personnel have served in Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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A REVOLUTIONARY BAND OF BROTHERS

The Society of The Cincinnati Stirred Fears of Aristocracy and Monarchy in the New Nation

— By Bill Hudgins —
As America’s oldest patriotic and hereditary organization, the Society of the Cincinnati promotes awareness and knowledge of our Revolutionary past (www.societyofthecincinnati.org). However, shortly after Continental Army officers founded it 230 years ago in May 1783, many of their fellow revolutionaries attacked the society, declaring that its real aim was to subvert the republic by establishing an aristocracy and possibly even a monarchy. The society survived the furor, which largely subsided after a few years, but declining membership and the death of its founders almost extinguished the organization by the 1840s.

Changes in membership criteria and renewed interest in the Revolutionary era as the nation’s centennial approached helped save the society. Today its headquarters in an elegant, early 20th-century mansion in Washington, D.C., serves as a resource for historians, genealogists and others interested in the period.

Fears for the Union

The Society of the Cincinnati was conceived by Henry Knox, the bookseller who became General George Washington’s master of artillery. As early as 1775, Knox proposed creating a fraternal organization of Continental Army officers, similar to many European military brotherhoods. (See more about Knox in the November/December 2007 issue of American Spirit.)

Knox revived the idea in May 1783, when Washington’s army was encamped at Newburgh, N.Y., awaiting the outcome of peace negotiations in Paris. The Continental Army had been one of the few institutions that united the 13 states in a common purpose. Though greatly desired, peace would sunder that bond as the army disbanded. According to the society’s website:

“With its dissolution, one of the only institutions binding together Americans from Georgia to New Hampshire would vanish. They [the officers] worried that the Union, which had been forged in the pressure of war, would weaken and dissolve as soon as that pressure was removed. They also worried that the people of the United States, returning to the pursuits of peace, would forget what the officers of the Continental Army had accomplished and would ultimately forget that American liberty had been established by men who bore arms in its defense.”

The reference to recalling the officers’ service perhaps referred to a more mundane, though equally pressing, reason to keep the officers united: Many had not been paid. Congress had promised to make up the arrears and also to provide lifelong half-pay pensions, but the officers were skeptical.

Washington had repeatedly pressed the Confederation Congress to honor its pledges, but as the war drew to a close, resistance—especially to the pensions—in Congress and the states grew. This was due in part to the already enormous cost of the war and the damage caused by battles. Some also felt that granting special privileges to the officers conflicted with the egalitarian nature of the Revolution itself.

The officers likely worried that without a united voice to keep the pressure on Congress, their claims would continue to be ignored and ultimately forgotten.
Knox drew up a founding charter called “The Institution” that set forth the principles, goals, structure and membership requirements for the organization. (See box on pages 32–33.) The Army officers formally adopted it on May 13, 1783, at a meeting at the headquarters of General Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben at Mount Gulian in nearby Fishkill. Though he wasn’t present or involved in the founding, Washington was elected as the society’s first president general.

The society drew its name from the Roman leader Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus. He was former consul of Rome who had given up public life to live on his farm near the city. But in 458 B.C., he was recalled to service when the city was endangered by a people called the Aequi, who had encircled a Roman army and appeared poised to crush it.

Rome’s leaders pleaded with Cincinnatus to rescue the city and appointed him dictator. According to tradition, he immediately left his plow in the field to take command—which is the source of the society’s motto, *Omnia reliquit servare rempublicam* (He gave up everything to serve the republic).

Cincinnatus quickly defeated the Aequi. But instead of exploiting the victory to seize permanent power, he resigned and returned to his farm.

Washington had already been dubbed the American Cincinnatus, because he showed no desire to use the army to seize control of the government. Instead, he made it widely known he would return to private life at Mount Vernon.

The same applied to his men, according to the society’s website: “By disbanding the army and returning home without having secured this compensation, the officers acknowledged the subordination of the military to civilian rule.

“Unlike the military leaders of other successful rebellions, before and since, they would not use the army to impose their will on the government. In this sense, their return to civilian life re-enacted the return of Cincinnatus to his farm without claiming or accepting political power.”

**Plotters in the Shadows?**

As the war ended, Americans were only beginning to understand what they had wrought and that peace could be as perilous as war. Far from being truly united, the states and regions were deeply divided over how to govern this new nation—and even whether it could be governed as a republic.

The states jealously guarded their powers under the Articles of Confederation and opposed almost all efforts to strengthen the national government. Rumors of plots to overthrow the fragile government abounded, including supposed plots to install a monarchy.

In *The Society of the Cincinnati: Conspiracy and Distrust in Early America* (Berghahn Books, 2006), Markus Hünemörder notes that some of the earliest complaints about the society involved Congress’ proposal to pay a lifetime pension—which was later changed to a lump sum offer. Some of the first complaints arose at a town meeting in September 1783 at Killingworth, Conn., and were soon echoed in other town meetings and state legislatures.

The issue rose to national attention thanks to a pamphlet written in October 1783 by Aedanus Burke, a South Carolina judge and ardent opponent of anything that smacked of aristocracy or monarchy. The pamphlet’s long title summarizes its content: *Considerations on the Society or Order of Cincinnati; lately instituted by the Major-Generals, Brigadiers, and other Officers of the American Army. Proving that it creates a race of hereditary Patricians, or Nobility. Interspersed with remarks on its consequences to the Freedom and Happiness of the Republic.*
Or as Joseph Ellis in His Excellency George Washington (Vintage, 2005), put it, Burke and others saw the society as: “an avowedly elitist enterprise designed to sustain the aristocratic ethos of superior virtue that officers in the Continental Army had been harboring since Valley Forge. Most ominously, membership was defined in hereditary terms, passing exclusively to the eldest male descendant in the next generation.”

Like the 18th-century version of a 21st-century viral blog post, Burke’s pamphlet was widely circulated, quoted and reprinted, and alarmed citizens demanded that their local, state and national representatives put an end to the society.

Much of the anger centered in traditionally egalitarian New England, Ellis writes. Founding Fathers such as John and Samuel Adams, Elbridge Gerry, and Thomas Jefferson condemned the group. From France, Benjamin Franklin (though he accepted honorary membership in the society) savagely lampooned it in a letter to his daughter Sarah Bache dated January 26, 1784:

“I only wonder that when the united Wisdom of our Nation had, in the Articles of Confederation, manifested their Dislike of establishing Ranks of Nobility, by Authority either of the Congress or of any particular State, a Number of private Persons should think proper to distinguish themselves and their Posteriority from their Fellow Citizens, and form an Order of hereditary Knights.”

And though the context is often omitted now, the letter became famous for stating Franklin’s supposed preference for the turkey as America’s national bird instead of the eagle. In fact, Franklin was criticizing the eagle image that formed part of the society’s medallion, which had been designed by Pierre l’Enfant.

**Damage Control**

The vehement, unexpected reaction astonished George Washington, who was quickly embarrassed by the glare of unfavorable publicity. He shared the “fraternal ethos” of his officers and saw no conflict between overthrowing monarchical rule and being part of an aristocratically oriented social class and organization, Ellis writes.

Washington said he thought the accusations were “conjured up by designing men, to work their own purposes upon terrified imaginations,” Ellis notes.

A Southern planter and member of the Virginia elite, Washington did not believe the Revolution “was also a social revolution that destroyed the world of privilege, rank and deference in which he had risen to prominence before the war. For him, the Society of the Cincinnati did not defy the best ideals of the American Revolution; it embodied them,” according to Ellis.

Always careful of his reputation, Washington had typically shunned anything that might involve controversy or damage his image. But now he found himself as the leader of a suddenly notorious organization.

Washington asked friends such as Thomas Jefferson what he should do. These friends agreed the controversy could seriously damage his reputation and urged him to use his influence to change the society’s hereditary structure.

At the society’s first national meeting in March 1784, Washington demanded that it eliminate the hereditary requirement and “every word, sentence, and clause which has a political tendency.” If it refused, he threatened to resign as president general.

Though the General Society agreed, the reform movement stalled when the proposals were submitted to the state societies for approval. Drawing from the Confederation Congress model, the General Society had only limited powers, and there was no clear-cut mechanism to amend their founding charter.

The 14 constituent societies possessed considerable autonomy and could effectively thwart actions of the General Society. Some of the state societies balked at changing anything of substance, especially the hereditary membership requirement.

But Washington was mollified by the General Society’s vote. His efforts to repudiate the objectionable clauses were widely publicized and helped him distance himself, at least partially, from the controversy.
The Storm Subsides

When the society held its second national meeting in May 1787 in Philadelphia, Washington declined to attend, citing nagging health problems and the press of personal business. But then the Virginia legislature chose him to lead the state’s delegation to a convention to reform the Articles of Confederation—to be held in Philadelphia in May 1787.

Washington also tried to refuse the convention appointment, but eventually he accepted. He was far from the only Cincinnatus at the convention. Twenty-one of the 55 convention delegates belonged to the society. While in Philadelphia, Washington dined with fellow Cincinnati but did not attend any of the organization’s sessions.

He allowed the society to continue to elect him as president general until his death on the condition that his role would be ceremonial, and that the vice president general would do all of the work.

The coincidence that both groups met at the same time and place helped reignite controversy. According to Purdue University historian Patrick Allan Pospisek, writing on the Mount Vernon website, “Anti-federalists revived strong criticism of the society in 1787 when they proclaimed the new federal Constitution as the fruition of the society’s plans to overthrow the national government. Although he remained a member until his death, Washington himself claimed critics of officers who didn’t join in the beginning could become members.

“Ratification of the Constitution and the political debates of the new republic gradually silenced criticism of the society, allowing Washington to distance himself from those earlier charges,” Pospisek adds.

Decline and Rebirth

Within the first decade of its existence, 2,270 officers joined the society, but it faltered after Washington’s death. By 1828, the society had fewer than 300 members. Revolutionaries in France abolished that branch and executed many of the members who were part of the aristocracy.

The society enjoyed a brief burst of renewed interest in 1824—1825 when the Marquis de Lafayette toured America. But by the 1840s, the North Carolina, Delaware, Connecticut, Georgia, Virginia, New Hampshire and Rhode Island state societies had ceased to exist.

However, the South Carolina, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey state societies remained active. The society’s website notes that all but New Jersey were “intimately associated with the social life of particular cities—Charleston, Baltimore, Boston, New York and Philadelphia—where members have lived in numbers sufficient to maintain the traditions of the organization” and often were deeply involved in efforts to commemorate and honor the Revolution.

Hoping to increase membership in 1854, the General Society broadened its eligibility requirements, though it retained the hereditary provision. Previously, male descendants of officers who weren’t founding members were ineligible to join. Under the new rules, descendants of officers who did not join in the beginning could become members.

The remaining state constituent societies survived the Civil War and, with the centennial of independence in 1876, public interest in the Cincinnati grew. Over the next 30 years, the dissolved constituent societies were revived. The French Society also was reborn in 1925.

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THE SOCIETY’S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As set forth in the society’s founding charter, “The Institution,” the Society of the Cincinnati comprises an umbrella organization known as the General Society of the Cincinnati that is headquartered at Anderson House in Washington, D.C. There are 14 constituent societies based in and named for each of the original 13 states and in France (the Société des Cincinnat de France).

Members belong to the constituent society of which their Revolutionary War ancestor was or could have been a member. The constituent societies handle admissions as directed in The Institution (with one exception); have their own officers; and hold regular meetings, events and programs.

In 1854, The Institution was amended to broaden eligibility. The state societies adopted the change. However, the Pennsylvania Society discovered that under the terms of its original founding documents, it could not change its admission requirements without an act of the Pennsylvania Legislature, which has yet to happen.

The constituent societies elect delegates to attend the General Society’s Triennial Meeting to elect General Society officers—the president general (who is limited to one three-year term), vice president general, secretary general, treasurer general, assistant secretary general and assistant treasurer general.

Between Triennial Meetings, the General Society is governed by six officers and a Standing Committee consisting of a member and an alternate from each constituent society.

The Institution laid out the following principles of Society of the Cincinnati as follows:

“An incessant attention to preserve inviolate those exalted rights and liberties of human nature for which they have fought and bled, and without which the high rank of a rational being is a curse instead of a blessing.”
The reinvigorated organization put much effort into erecting memorial plaques and statues commemorating Revolutionary events and figures. These included finding the remains of Nathanael Greene and relocating them to the Greene Monument in Savannah, Ga., and also placing a monumental equestrian statue of George Washington in Philadelphia in 1897.

In 1937, the General Society acquired its first permanent headquarters in Washington, D.C., at Anderson House. (See story at right.) The organization has more than 3,900 members in the United States, France and more than 25 other countries. Through its library, museum, exhibitions and educational outreach, this group that once struck fear in the hearts of Patriots today helps keep the flame of liberty burning bright.

Bill Hudgins wrote about Paul Revere’s lesser-known Revolutionary rides for the March/April issue.

The Society of the Cincinnati is headquartered in the Anderson House in Washington, D.C. Completed in 1905, this National Historic Landmark served as the winter home of Larz Anderson, an American diplomat and Cincinnatus, and his wife, Isabel, an author and benefactress.

**THE MANSION**

The 50-room mansion showcases the work of skilled craftsmen with carved wood walls, gilded papier-mâché ceilings, ornate iron staircases and intricate marble floors, as well as what then were state-of-the-art conveniences such as electricity, central heat, telephones and two elevators, according to the society’s website.

Active in Washington, D.C., social circles, the Andersons hosted glittering receptions, formal dinners, parties and concerts. They had no children and, after Larz Anderson died 1937, Mrs. Anderson donated their home to the society. The home has been open to the public since 1939. The society’s website includes a virtual tour of the mansion.

**THE LIBRARY**

The society’s library collection includes works on 18th-century military and naval history, and on the art and science of 18th-century warfare. The library also houses the society’s archives as well as materials such as photographs and books related to Larz and Isabel Anderson.

**THE MUSEUM**

The society’s museum collections include works of art, armaments and other military equipment, personal artifacts from the Revolutionary War period, items related to the society’s history, and decorative arts owned by the Andersons.

**EXHIBITIONS**

Anderson House presents a number of special exhibitions throughout the year. The current exhibition, “Pierre L’Enfant’s Vision for the American Republic,” will be on view until July 20, 2013, and will be followed by “Remembering the Revolutionaries: Heroes of the Revolutionary War in American Culture, 1783-1863” from August 2013–March 2014.
Andrew Jackson’s home, the Hermitage, near Nashville, Tenn., was the seventh president’s respite from his tumultuous, and often controversial, life of public service. Though he sporadically lived at the property until he retired as a two-term president in 1837, the mansion two miles from the Cumberland and Stones rivers became a peaceful, quiet place for the citizen-soldier to settle after his many fierce military and political battles, and it was a hospitable site for his frequent guests. Because the home stayed in the Jackson family until being purchased by the state of Tennessee and was subsequently preserved by the Ladies’ Hermitage Association, much of its integrity as a historic home has been maintained since the 19th century.

Becoming ‘Old Hickory’

In 1804 Jackson—who had served as attorney general for the Middle Tennessee region, the state’s first representative to Congress and a U.S. senator—purchased the Hermitage property, originally settled by Nathaniel Hays in 1780, for $3,400. Hays had grown cotton on the 420-acre farm, and Jackson continued to raise the cash crop with the help of an increasing number of slaves. By 1820 the farm had expanded to 1,000 acres and was nearly self-sufficient, producing much of its own food, some clothing and many of the building materials to construct living quarters and barns. From 1804 to 1821, Andrew and his wife Rachel occupied a two-story log farmhouse near the present Hermitage mansion.

Although they never had biological children, they adopted an infant in 1809 (one of a set of twins of Rachel’s brother Severn Donelson and his wife Elizabeth) whom they named Andrew Jackson Jr. Young people were a constant at the Hermitage, with Jackson serving as a guardian for eight children, including Rachel’s brother Samuel Donelson’s three sons after he died in 1804. Jackson also adopted an American Indian child, named Lyncoya, orphaned after the Creek War in 1813. Educated along with Andrew Jr., Lyncoya died of tuberculosis in 1828 at age 16.

It was during the Creek War that Jackson first earned fame as a military hero. A leader of the Tennessee militia, Jackson
was sent to quell a pro-British band of Creek American Indians, called the Red Sticks, in northern Alabama and Georgia. The Red Sticks had been attacking whites encroaching on their land, and in August 1813, they killed 400 white settlers at Fort Mims, near present-day Mobile, Ala. Jackson gathered troops in October 1813 and headed south, where in March 1814 his army decisively defeated the Creeks at Horseshoe Bend, effectively ending the Creek War.

Following the punishing defeat, the American Indians of the region were forced by the Treaty of Fort Jackson to give up more than 20 million acres of land. Jackson’s victory led President James Madison to commission him as a major general in the regular U.S. Army and send him to defend New Orleans from British attack.

In the Battle of New Orleans, the last major battle of the War of 1812, Jackson’s ragtag army of militia, Marines, regular army, free blacks, slaves and pirates defeated the Redcoats, who suffered more than 2,000 casualties and the death of their commander, Sir Edward Pakenham. It was this victory on January 8, 1815, that made “Old Hickory”—so named by his Tennessee soldiers to honor his fierce mettle in the wilderness and on the battlefield—a legend.

A Changing Footprint

Jackson returned to a hero’s welcome at the Hermitage in the spring of 1815, but left in 1817 to lead troops against Seminole American Indians in Florida who were violating the Treaty of Fort Jackson. In 1818 he seized Spanish Pensacola (a reckless conquest, thought many of the leaders in Washington), and was eventually appointed to serve as the first governor of the Florida Territory. He longed for home, though, and soon retired as governor and returned to the Hermitage, where he began making improvements to the property.

Between 1819 and 1821, Jackson built a two-story, eight-room Federal-style brick mansion—a substantially larger footprint than most frontier homes—on the property. Though the Federal style was outmoded at the time, it reminded Jackson of founders’ homes he had seen when he worked in Washington, D.C., as a young congressman.

In November 1828, Jackson was elected president; however, Rachel died on December 22 before he could be inaugurated. Though she had long suffered from various maladies, the grief-stricken Jackson believed the stress and personal attacks of the campaign led to her death. (Jackson and Rachel married after believing that her first husband, Captain Lewis Robards, from whom she had long been separated, had obtained a divorce. Robards had not finalized the divorce, however, and the Jacksons had to remarry in 1794. The general’s opponents used this scandal to attack his and Rachel’s characters.) Jackson had a Classical temple constructed for Rachel’s grave in the Hermitage garden, and he was later buried beside her.

In 1831, while Jackson was serving his first term in the White House, he had the mansion remodeled, adding the library and dining-room wings as well as a one-story colonnade supported by 10 Doric columns beneath a second-story pediment.
A different kind of renovation happened during Jackson’s second term. A chimney fire broke out in 1834 and spread to the roof. Though slaves formed a bucket brigade, the upper story was destroyed and the first floor was severely damaged. Jackson began renovations with carpenters Joseph Reiff and William C. Hume, who designed the current Greek Revival structure. Completed two years later, the home’s imposing Greek façade featured six two-story columns, topped with Corinthian capitals decorated with acanthus leaves. (Reiff and Hume also constructed the nearby Tulip Grove for Andrew Jackson Donelson, Jackson’s nephew, in 1836. Donelson sold the property in 1858, and it was acquired by the Ladies’ Hermitage Association in 1964.)

Guests Welcomed

The Hermitage’s central hallway features scenic block-printed wallpaper, designed by Joseph Dufour of Paris, depicting Telemachus, a figure of Greek myth and a central character in Homer’s Odyssey, in his search for his father Odysseus. After the 1834 fire destroyed much of the home, including the wallpaper that Rachel loved, Jackson ordered the same wallpaper from Paris remounted. The upstairs hallway is decorated with an exact copy of the Telemachus wallpaper that would have originally been in the house. In the early 1990s curators found the Dufour wallpaper hanging on the walls of a French chateau and transferred it to the Hermitage.

The front parlor, to the left of the central hallway, displays expensive furniture chosen to impress guests. The room also features Jackson’s many military awards, including a gold sword presented to him by the state of Tennessee. “Jackson was proud of his awards, and showed them off in this room,” says Jason Nelson, vice president of sales and marketing at the Hermitage. The room also has a portrait of Jackson riding Sam Patch, his favorite stallion.

Parties and dances often took place in the rear parlor, and music often could be heard coming from this room—Jackson’s granddaughter played the piano-forte, and his daughter-in-law Sarah York Jackson played the French guitar.

Beyond the double parlors, family members and numerous guests would gather in the dining room for their main meal, which usually took place at 3 p.m. The room showcases the Jacksons’ silver from Philadelphia, French porcelain and glassware from Pittsburgh.

Across the hall from the parlors are two bedrooms. A portrait of Rachel hangs in Jackson’s room, as well as a striking portrait of the ailing 78-year-old president commissioned by King Louis Philippe of France. The painting belies Jackson’s “Old Hickory” personality; in fact, artist George Healy completed the portrait just days before Jackson died on June 8, 1845. Everything now displayed in the room belonged to Jackson, including a Bible, a prayer book thought to have been used on the day he died and size 7 slippers, unusual for a tall man. (Jackson was 6’1”.)
Across the hall was the bedroom of Andrew Jr. and Sarah Jackson. Jackson wanted his son’s bedroom to be of equal size and prominence to his, in a subtle message to the household that father and son were to be treated as equals and that he supported the son’s inheriting the mansion. This choice wasn’t clear to everyone, as Andrew Jr. was a terrible manager. His lack of financial acumen led some to believe that Jackson should have left the mansion to his more capable daughter-in-law, but he refused, saying that would have humiliated his son.

Jackson’s personal library, on the first floor, was his favorite room. “He was a news junkie,” Nelson says, “and he was always surrounded by penny magazines and newspapers from at least 15 different cities.” Across the hall from the library is the business office, where Andrew and the slave overseer managed the farm. Because farm workers often were dirty, tracking in mud and manure, they were restricted to this wooden-floored room.

Up the staircase from the office were the grandchildren’s bedrooms. Born in 1832, “Little Rachel” was the oldest grandchild, and her room features furniture original to 1836. The room is decked in “summer dress”—a white bedspread and draperies that functioned as a bug netting for hot summer nights when the windows were opened to let air circulate. A child’s tea set is a copy of the China service from the downstairs dining room. Across from little Rachel’s room is a bedroom for Andrew III, born in 1834, and Samuel, born in 1837. Their room also has original wallpaper and furniture.

The two other upstairs bedrooms, showcasing the house’s most expensive furnishings, were reserved for extended family and the home’s frequent visitors. A very social man, Jackson was quite popular after his presidency. “He had an open-door policy, and visitors showed up all the time, many times unannounced,” Nelson says. His guests included Martin Van Buren, James K. Polk, Sam Houston and Marquis de Lafayette. Jackson, a great admirer—and some say imitator—of Napoleon, mounted a portrait of Marshal Michel Ney, a French military commander under Napoleon, in one guest room.

The home’s expansive front and back porches were places to enjoy refreshments, watch visitors driving up the cedar-lined path and observe the work taking place on the farm.

Opening the Home to a Larger Audience

Unsuccessful moneymaking ventures and mounting debts forced Andrew to mortgage the Hermitage in 1853. He sold a 500-acre...
section of the 1,050-acre farm to the state of Tennessee for $48,000 in 1856, and the following year, he sold the remaining acreage to private buyers. The state intended to make the farm a national military academy, but those plans fell through, and the Jacksons returned to the property as tenants. The last Jacksons to live at the Hermitage left in 1893 when the Ladies’ Hermitage Association took over the property, began the process of restoring it, and opened it to the public as a museum.

The last Jacksons to live at the Hermitage left in 1893 when the Ladies’ Hermitage Association took over the property, began the process of restoring it, and opened it to the public as a museum. The Hermitage, one of the most visited presidential residences in the country, was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1960 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. The museum features artifacts and historical insights on Jackson’s life as well as relics from 19th-century South and archaeological finds from the slaves who worked his property.

SLAVERY AT THE HERMITAGE

By the 1840s, when 140 slaves worked his farm, Andrew Jackson had become a major slaveholder in Middle Tennessee. The enslaved African-Americans were involved in every aspect of running his farm, picking cotton, cooking, cleaning house, constructing buildings, blacksmithing, making bricks, helping to raise children and even training Andrew’s racehorses.

Each slave family, averaging about seven members, lived in a small, 20-square-foot room in the slave cabins, some located near the main house and others closer to the cotton fields.

Though most of the slave dwellings no longer exist, Hermitage archaeologists have excavated the outline of about 13 of these cabins and interpreted their findings for visitors. Today the museum’s collection features many artifacts retrieved from the slave sites, including guns, knives and fishing tools, as well as tiny good luck charms thought to have been passed down for generations. Also found were China dolls called “Frozen Charlottes,” dominoes, marbles and parts of musical instruments such as harmonicas.

“We have a good relationship with Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello and worked with them to understand these artifacts and bring their meaning to light,” says Jason Nelson, the Hermitage’s vice president of sales and marketing. “We plan to eventually put our collection’s catalog online.”

Although the Jackson family’s financial troubles forced them to sell many of their slaves in the 1850s, Alfred Jackson was one of the slaves who remained on the property. Alfred remained at the home with his family after emancipation, and he served as a visitor guide to the property in the 1890s. When the property was sold, Alfred bought some of the mansion’s furniture, which he sold back to the Ladies’ Hermitage Association under the agreement that he would be buried near Jackson. Upon Alfred’s death in 1901, the promise was kept, and he was buried in the Hermitage garden’s family cemetery.
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MJ 2013
Your family’s letters, diaries, photos and other documents may be precious keepsakes to you and your relatives. But what if they could serve a greater purpose? Museums and historical societies across the country seek these firsthand accounts of history—whether it’s an 18th-century newspaper or letters written from a World War II camp—to enrich the stories they can tell the public about America’s past.
“These items are much more useful to a greater number of people when donated to a museum or historical society than they are in a box under your bed,” says Bob Beatty, vice president for programs of the American Association for State and Local History. “History is built upon layers and layers of primary sources, including documents, photos and artifacts. By donating these items to museums, people are ensuring that the history they’re entrusting is preserved in perpetuity and that a wider circle of researchers can access the material.”

There’s another reason to donate your family’s historical documents and other keepsakes: It’s a public way of honoring a family member, whether a Revolutionary Patriot or more recent war veteran.

Are you considering donating pieces of your family’s history but aren’t sure where to start? Here’s what you need to know about the process.

**Parting With Your Keepsakes**

The first step in donating your family documents, photos or artifacts to a historical organization is to decide whether you—and your family members—feel comfortable parting with them. That’s because most museums and other institutions will require that your donation be a gift—not a loan. Once you’ve donated the item, it won’t be returned.

Requiring donations to be outright gifts helps avoid complications later, preventing, for example, a relative from deciding she wants an item back after the original donor has died.

Even though your family’s historical keepsakes can play an important role in advancing the public’s understanding of America’s past, archivists also recognize that they can be sentimental.

“We would never pressure people to give up their items too soon,” says Toni Kiser, registrar and assistant director of collections and exhibits at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. “I’ve often talked to people who are interested in donating items but are hesitant about giving them up. In those cases, I always encourage them to keep their items until they’re ready.”

**Finding the Right Repository**

Between national museums for America’s major wars, historical organizations like the DAR, and state and local historical societies, how do you find the repository that’s right for your items?

Initially, people tend to reach out to organizations or museums with which they are familiar. That can be a good place to start, but it’s important for potential donors to realize that it might take several tries to find the ideal repository for their item.

Beatty suggests contacting your local or state historical society. “They might be interested in the item, or could know of an organization that would be,” he says.

Even if an item doesn’t fit the collection of the organization they serve, archivists have an ethical obligation to suggest an appropriate repository for your item. The goal is to unite the historically significant item with its ideal repository.

When you find an organization that you think fits with your item, call or email before sending in your keepsakes.
Help the DAR Museum By Adopting an Object

Those who don’t have family heirlooms or historic records to donate can help preserve the early American decorative arts objects others entrusted to the care of the DAR Museum through the Adopt-an-Object program. Since the program was established in 1991, donations have provided for the conservation of more than 350 items in the DAR Museum collection, from paintings and furniture to tableware and textiles.

Anyone with experience in the maintenance and repair of antiques knows that the expert care historical artifacts require can be expensive. The DAR Museum often has to wait until funds become available before addressing the collection’s conservation needs. In terms of a museum object, the goal of conservation is not to restore the object to its original condition or even to make it usable, but rather to stabilize and preserve it so that future generations can continue to study and enjoy it.

The DAR Museum’s staff continually assesses the conservation needs of the collection and consults skilled conservators to obtain estimates for the treatment of specific objects in need of care. Information about each object, the work required and the cost of conservation is then added to the Adopt-an-Object list. Items currently awaiting adoption include dresses and small metal objects that require about $100 of work to a quilt in need of thousands of dollars’ worth of conservation attention.

A number of dresses featured in the current DAR Museum exhibition “Fashioning the New Woman,” on display until August 31, 2013, are graduates of the Adopt-an-Object program. This late 1890s silk chiffon evening dress (shown above) embellished with ostrich feathers, ribbons and beading would not be strong enough for display on a mannequin if not for hours of painstaking conservation work to realign and support the shredded fabric of its bodice and lining, among other repairs.

For more information about Adopt-an-Object or to obtain a copy of the list, contact the DAR Museum Office at (202) 879-3241 or museum@dar.org.

Not for Display Only

Kiser says donors often are disappointed when their gifts don’t go on display immediately—or ever. But that’s not to say they don’t serve an important purpose.

“It’s sometimes hard to explain that we can’t put everything on exhibit,” she says. “If we did, the exhibit would become meaningless. Instead, we might pick three or four examples that make a story really clear or are visually interesting so people are drawn to come read the label.”

For other items, it might just take time for them to appear in an exhibit. Objects on display require a certain period of rest, depending on how long they were exhibited.

“For example, for every six months a propaganda poster is on display, it needs to rest for 10 years so that it doesn’t get damaged,” Kiser explains. “That’s why we collect so many of the same types of artifacts, to be able to rotate and protect the items that do have a chance to be exhibited.”

When items aren’t on display, they’re available for researchers. Increasingly, many archives are available digitally and online, helping expand your keepsake’s reach even farther.

Preparing Your Gift

Before delivering a gift, don’t attempt any repairs. A repository accepting a donation will be better able to evaluate the repair and conservation needs of an item than most donors would be.

Most repositories will provide donors with a photocopy or a digital image of their item, both as a thank you and as a way to help the donor hold on to the memory of the item. For some people, knowing that they can still look at a photocopy or image of their item is what enables them to make the final decision to let it go.
Marinus Willett

New York City’s Forgotten Revolutionary War Hero and Statesman

By James S. Kaplan

On June 6, 1775, a column of heavily armed British troops, with carts full of rifles and muskets, began evacuating New York City to join the British forces in Boston for the Battle of Bunker Hill. As the troops moved out, an unarmed cabinetmaker named Marinus Willett jumped in front of the lead horse, approximately two blocks north of Fraunces Tavern at the corner of Broad and Beaver streets in Lower Manhattan, and refused to let the carts pass. He announced to the surprised British that no arms other than those personal to the soldiers were permitted to leave the city, and that under an agreement with the city’s ruling council, the carts of light arms would have to remain.

David Matthews, a Tory who was the city’s mayor, arrived to protest that there was no such prohibition on the British taking the guns to Boston, but Willett stood his ground. Soon a crowd gathered at Broad and Beaver streets, and other Patriot members of the city’s ruling committee arrived to voice agreement with Willett.

Perhaps fearing that firing on the crowd would create an incident like the Boston Massacre and alienate the city’s divided populace, the British commander acquiesced to Willett’s ordering of the cart drivers to turn away from the evacuating troops and take the arms to the property of Patriot sympathizer Abraham Van Wyck.

For the Sons of Liberty and other Patriots, this “Broad Street incident” would make Willett a hero—one whose bravery in defiance of the British would be repeated many times in his subsequent career as an officer commanding New York regiments.

After the Revolution Willett became an important figure in New York City politics, fighting for democracy against aristocracy, until his death at the age of 90 in 1830, 55 years after he faced down the British troops.

Climbing the Ranks

Born on July 31, 1740, Willett came from an established English family that had fallen into what one contemporary called “reduced circumstances.” His father, Edward Willett, was a schoolteacher and tavern owner. In his late teens Willett enlisted to fight with the militia in the French and Indian War and participated in the unsuccessful English attack on Fort Ticonderoga. Injured in the attack, he was hospitalized at the newly constructed Fort Stanwix.

When he returned to New York City he took up the cabinet-making trade. Like a number of working-class artisans, he also became involved with the Sons of Liberty, a quasi-secret society opposed to the British monarchy and its Colonial representatives.

In June 1775, Willett received a commission as a lieutenant colonel in Alexander MacDougall’s New York regiment.
Under the command of General Richard Montgomery and Colonel Benedict Arnold, Willett participated in the Americans’ failed attempt to take over Canada.

After George Washington was defeated at the disastrous Battle of Brooklyn in the summer of 1776, which left New York City in the control of the British for the rest of the war, Willett was assigned to fight first in Westchester County and then in upstate New York’s Mohawk Valley. There he became second-in-command to Colonel Peter Gansevoort at Fort Stanwix.

In the summer of 1777 British and American Indian troops surrounded the fort, hoping to use it as a base for attacking the American army then massing under General Horatio Gates at Saratoga. Willett, as spokesman, defiantly refused to surrender. While the British ambushed a relief force of militia under General Nicholas Herkimer, mortally wounding him, Willett left the fort and led the troops in a daring raid, destroying the enemy’s vacant camp and supplies, and undermining the morale of the Redcoats’ American Indian allies, who soon withdrew from the action.

Willett then made another run through enemy lines to direct a second relief force, led by Benedict Arnold, to the fort. Willett’s forces prevented the British from attacking the Americans from the west, and thus played a significant role in Gates’ victory at the Battle of Saratoga, a turning point of the Revolution.

After fighting in the Battle of Monmouth in 1778, Willett was reassigned to the Mohawk Valley. He was in charge of efforts to retain the area for the Patriots, which put him in frequent contact with American Indians—some sympathetic to the Patriot cause, some hostile. His work on the northern frontier, though not always completely successful, was highly respected by Washington and his senior officers.
A New Diplomatic Role

At war’s end Willett returned home to New York City. During the Revolution and for a brief period afterward, New York state law required that the city’s many Loyalists forfeit their land to the state. Thus many prime properties, such as the Delancey estate previously owned by a powerful Tory family, became available for sale at bargain prices. Willett took advantage of this opportunity and purchased part of the estate, calling his new home Cedar Grove. In the next 40 years he would become one of New York’s wealthier landowners.

He also became a part of the new post-war ruling elite, helping to reshape the city’s government on more democratic principles. In 1784 Willett was appointed to the important and lucrative position of New York City sheriff, and in 1789 he was elected as an anti-Federalist delegate called to ratify New York’s new constitution.

Later in 1789 he helped found the Tammany Society. Unlike the Society of the Cincinnati (see story on page 28), this civic organization was open to both officers and enlisted men. Ultimately the Tammany Society took on a political role and, through its quasi-affiliate the New York City Democratic Party, held a tremendous influence on the city’s politics for about 160 years.

One year after the ratification of the New York Constitution, Willett and the Tammany Society played an important role in one of the new nation’s first diplomatic triumphs—the successful negotiation of a peace treaty with the Creek American Indians of north Georgia. The powerful Creeks posed a threat to the government’s control of a significant portion of the South. Even though Willett had been an anti-Federalist, Washington and his Secretary of Defense Henry Knox, who knew of Willett’s work with American Indians during the Revolution, asked him to undertake the delicate negotiation with the Creeks.

Willett traveled in secret through the wilds of north Georgia to the Creek villages to meet Alexander McGivillary, the half-Scottish Creek chief who was the Creeks’ key strategist. Willett invited McGivillary and 27 other Creek chiefs to meet with Washington and Knox in New York City, where they were entertained by members of the Tammany Society. The diplomacy led to the Treaty of New York, in which the Creeks retained their autonomy in exchange for ceding a significant portion of their hunting land to the government.

Washington and Knox were so impressed with Willett’s mediation that in 1792 they appointed him brigadier general to lead an expedition of federal troops against the American Indians in the Ohio Valley. To Washington’s surprise, however, Willett turned down the appointment, saying that he didn’t believe it was a wise policy to be making war against them.

An Influential Connection to Tammany

After the U.S. Constitution was ratified, there were efforts to undo the effects of the forfeiture laws and re-establish wealthy New Yorkers to their pre-war positions. The Tammany Society became the leading opponent of these efforts, and it formed a new political party—the Republican-Democratic Party (today’s Democratic Party)—to help retain control of city government.

Led by Aaron Burr, the Tammany Society ran a vigorous and well-organized campaign in which it appealed to veterans to uphold the democratic ideals of the Revolution. The campaign also recruited celebrity candidates to run for the state assembly, such as New York’s first governor, George Clinton, and Gates, the hero of the Battle of Saratoga. The Democratic candidates won a stunning upset victory. With the support of electors from New York state, Thomas Jefferson gained the presidency in 1800, and candidates affiliated with the Tammany Society won city government offices. In 1807 Willett was appointed mayor of New York City as the candidate of the Tammany faction, although he would hold that post for only one year.

James Madison’s declaration of war against England in June 1812 caused dissent in the Tammany Society ranks. DeWitt Clinton split with his former Tammany allies and supported the Federalists, largely centered in New England, in opposing
Who is eligible for membership?
Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. DAR volunteers are willing to provide guidance and assistance with your first step into the world of genealogy.

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

How many members does the National Society have?
DAR has 173,000 members in nearly 3,000 chapters worldwide, including chapters in 13 foreign countries and one territory. Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 900,000 members.

How can I find out more?
Go to www.dar.org and click on “Membership.” There you’ll find helpful instructions, advice on finding your lineage and a Prospective Member Information Request Form. Or call (202) 879–3224 for more information on joining this vital, service-minded organization.

Consider membership in the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), a volunteer women’s service organization that honors and preserves the legacy of our Patriot ancestors. More than 200 years ago, American Patriots fought and sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy today.

As a member of the DAR, you can continue this legacy by actively promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America’s future through better education for children.

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the war. He even ran as a Federalist against Madison in the 1812 presidential election. Madison was narrowly re-elected, but the razor-thin vote didn’t end the controversy over what was known in the Northeast as “Mr. Madison’s war.”

However, Willett and the Tammany Society continued to strongly advocate support for President Madison and the war effort. On August 10, 1814, war supporters rallied in front of New York’s recently completed City Hall. Asking for indulgence for an old man of 74, Willett spoke of how he and men of his generation had fought the British under much more difficult circumstances. He said he was living proof that American militiamen could defeat trained British soldiers.

To him it was inconceivable that after all that men of his generation had sacrificed, American citizens would not stand by their elected leaders in a time of war. According to William M. Willett, Marinus’ son, who used his father’s manuscripts to publish A Narrative of the Military Actions of Colonel Marinus Willett in 1831, the speech “was cheered with unbounded applause” and reportedly inspired an upsurge in support for the war and enlistments in the New York militias, which were critical to the defense of the city.

Willett remained a revered elder statesman whose advice was occasionally sought by younger leaders. On his visit to America in 1824, the Marquis de Lafayette made a special trip to meet with Willett at his home at Cedar Grove.

Willett lived to see the elimination of property qualifications for voting in New York; his former ally and adversary Governor DeWitt Clinton successfully open the Erie Canal in 1825; and the election of Andrew Jackson in 1828.

After his death at Cedar Grove in 1830, reportedly more than 10,000 people attended his funeral at New York City’s Trinity Church. He received encomiums from every major newspaper, many of which declared his service to the people of the New York would never be forgotten.

Rescuing His Memory From Obscurity

The Col. Marinus Willett-Mohawk Valley DAR Chapter, Frankfort, N.Y., founded in 1905, still commemorates the hero’s memory, but he is largely unknown, even to New Yorkers. In 1892, the Sons of the Revolution erected a plaque in Willett’s honor at the Morris Building on the northwest corner of Beaver and Broad streets, the site of his brave stand. The plaque remains on the side of the skyscraper at 60 Broad Street, but it’s so inconspicuous that most people—even most experienced tour guides—are unaware of it.

Nevertheless, people ignored in one generation may receive greater recognition in later generations, as the life of Thomas Paine illustrates. The grave of General Horatio Gates was lost in Trinity Church graveyard for more than 150 years, but last year the New York State DAR dedicated a marker recognizing its existence.

While Willett’s grave in Trinity Church graveyard has not been lost (in fact there is a marker placed by the Sons of the American Revolution in 1969 highlighting it), Willett himself is probably even more obscure than Gates. However, if Gates can be rescued from obscurity after so many years, there is hope that Marinus Willett will be too, as more and more people learn of his many accomplishments in the nation’s critical formative period from 1775 to 1830.

James S. Kaplan is a lawyer and walking tour historian who has written articles for American Spirit on General Horatio Gates (May/June 2010) and St. Paul’s Chapel (September/October 2011). He is head of the tax and estates department at Herzfeld & Rubin, P.C., with offices at 125 Broad Street, New York, three blocks south of the spot where Marinus Willett stopped the British convoy in 1775.
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