The Origins of the Purple Heart

Governors’ Mansions
Exploring America’s Culinary Beginnings With Chef Walter Staib

The Women of Wyoming Valley
Sarah Josepha Hale’s Campaign for Thanksgiving
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About the cover:
U.S. Army regulations for the Purple Heart medal specify a purple enamel heart with a left-facing relief profile of George Washington in Continental Army uniform within a quarter-inch bronze border. Washington’s family coat of arms is at the top between two sprays of leaves. On the reverse side, below the shield and leaves, is a raised bronze heart without enamel inscribed “For Military Merit.”

THINKSTOCK
From the President General

This issue’s cover story examines the history of America’s oldest military award—the Purple Heart—which has its roots in the Revolution. The first version of the honor was the Badge of Military Merit, which General George Washington created at Newburgh, N.Y., on August 7, 1782, during the waning days of the Revolutionary War. Only a few cloth badges were given before the award was suspended without explanation; the decoration was re-established 150 years later.

Chef Walter Staib is the exciting and creative host of the PBS television show “A Taste of History,” as well as the chef at City Tavern, a national landmark restaurant in Philadelphia where he cooks from historic recipes. Born in Germany, Staib is now a naturalized American citizen and—as our conversation with him shows—he is passionate about sharing his adopted country’s culinary history with audiences.

Like many families displaced by war, the women of Pennsylvania’s Wyoming Valley endured exceptional hardships in the wake of the Battle of Wyoming on July 3, 1778—also known by the grimmer name, the Wyoming Massacre. We tell a few stories of how these women bravely led their families to safety.

The tireless Isaac Shelby, a hero of the Battle of Kings Mountain, is the focus of this issue’s Our Patriots story. Not content to rest on his Revolutionary War record, Shelby was involved in the founding of Kentucky and served two terms as its governor. During his second term, he helped raise troops for and even served in the War of 1812.

The Whatnot department features a special Veterans Day salute to Zac Fike, a captain in the Vermont Army National Guard who helps return lost Purple Hearts to their recipients. We also introduce you to Virginia “Gene” Sawyer, a 104-year-old Hawaii Daughter who conducted radio broadcasts from the military base in the days and weeks following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Whatnot also celebrates this year as the 250th anniversary of the Fort Pitt Block House, one of the largest and most elaborate British forts in North America and a key defense during the French and Indian War in the Western Hemisphere. The Block House was saved from demolition more than a century ago by members of the Pittsburgh DAR Chapter, who still lovingly preserve the site.

For our Historic Homes department, we travel to Mobile, Ala., where five area DAR chapters are dedicated to maintaining the 1860 Richards DAR House Museum and sharing its story with visitors.

Thanksgiving is such an essential part of American culture that it’s hard to believe it wasn’t always recognized as a national holiday. We owe a debt of gratitude to Sarah Josepha Hale, a powerful editor in the mid-19th century, for her decades-long fight for the holiday’s recognition.

Speaking of that significant day, I wish a very happy Thanksgiving and holiday season to all our loyal readers.

Lynn Forney Young
“I was literally speechless that he would consider me,” says Mrs. Houlihan, who was in the United States Military Academy’s (USMA) third graduating class that included women and now serves as vice chair of the board of directors for the West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG).

That speechlessness turned to jumping up and down in an airport parking lot when she learned that she, along with nine other women from around the country, had won for their service as female veteran leaders. This past March, they were invited to the White House for a panel discussion and ceremony in front of senior White House and Veterans Affairs staff, as well as local male and female veterans. The day also included a luncheon, which gave the 10 honorees a chance to connect.

“We could have talked all afternoon,” says the member of Lexington Chapter, Lexington, Mass. “There was this great synergy among us because we were united as women veterans but were all doing such different things, from owning our own companies to running nonprofits that help put veterans to work.”

Mrs. Houlihan’s service to the WPAOG includes supervising the overhaul of the organization’s bylaws and governance model, which hadn’t changed since the Civil War. In 2006, she also helped organize a professional conference celebrating the 30th anniversary of the admission of women to the USMA.

In addition to being among the first female graduates of West Point, she also became the first woman to assume various positions within the WPAOG, including the first woman elected president of her class, first female president of a local alumni club, and as vice chair of the board of directors, the first woman elected to a senior leadership role within the 50,000-member alumni association.

Her path to West Point wasn’t typical. A high school basketball player, she was recruited as an athlete. After graduating, she was commissioned in the field artillery and served as a platoon leader, motor officer and executive officer during three years of active duty at Fort Carson, Colo. She served an additional two years in the inactive reserves before transitioning to a civilian career. Today, she lives near Dallas and works for Raytheon Company, selling and marketing the company’s long-range precision sensor technology to U.S. and international military customers.

Her service in the Army spanned only a few years, but Mrs. Houlihan says that time continues to inspire her. “I often think of the sacrifices these young men and women and their families make for our nation,” she says. “I’m proud to have had the chance to lead and learn from some of those soldiers who work toward a purpose bigger than themselves.”

That idea of a larger purpose led Mrs. Houlihan to the DAR after moving to Lexington with her husband, Glen. At a gift shop she happened to meet a former Lexington Chapter regent who encouraged her to research her ancestry and become a member. After joining, she encouraged her mother and grandmother to join, too.

“DAR has been a wonderful way to learn,” she says. “Not only does our chapter provide educational opportunities for the community, but as a member, you also learn so much about the Patriots who fought for our freedom.”

In her free time, Mrs. Houlihan also enjoys golf and cycling. This summer, she completed a “European” cycling tour—without leaving Texas. She explains, “I rode my bicycle to Paris, Texas, and Italy, Texas.”

Massachusetts Daughter Ellen Houlihan honored by President Obama for her service as a female veteran leader
Step inside the DAR Museum for a closer look at its fascinating collection.

A Divine Harp

BROWNE AND BUCKWELL of New York City made this gilt and fancy painted harp in the late 19th century. The founder of the firm, John F. Browne, was considered to be one of the best harp makers in New York City. After emigrating from London, Browne set up shop in the city in 1841 and won a gold medal for the best “double action harp” at the 1856 American Institute Fair, according to Musical Instrument Makers of New York: A Directory of Eighteenth-and Nineteenth-Century Craftsmen by Nancy Groce. Browne worked in New York until his death in 1871, and Edgar J. Browne (probably a son) and George Buckwell took over the firm.

The Texas State Society DAR donated the instrument.
A captain in the Vermont Army National Guard, Zac Fike founded Purple Hearts Reunited Inc. (PHRI) in 2012 to return lost, stolen or sold Purple Hearts to the families of the recipients. (Learn about the origins of the Purple Heart on page 36.)

To date, PHRI has returned more than 100 medals and has more than 200 lost medals awaiting return. For his efforts, the Vermont State Society DAR awarded Fike the DAR Medal of Honor in late September. Both the Vermont and New York state societies recommended him for the award. Fike is president of the Vermont S.A.R. and a frequent speaker to area chapters.

Fike has served in the military for 16 years, with combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, where he earned a Purple Heart in 2010. A life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, he was born into a military family. His father, a Vietnam War veteran, retired as a command sergeant major after 26 years in the U.S. Army. His mother was one of the Army’s first female drill sergeants. Two uncles served in Vietnam and two in World War II, his grandfather served in the Philippines, and six ancestors fought in the Revolution.

Fike became interested in returning lost medals when his mother gave him a posthumous Purple Heart she’d bought in an antique store.

“It really struck me that this was the last tangible item linked to a family’s loved one, and I felt called to find out about the veteran and his family. It took a year, but I found them, and they suggested having a return ceremony.

“They were a large Italian family, and their oldest son’s death had shattered them. The ceremony was the first family gathering they had had since he died—three generations coming together again,” Fike recalls.

PHRI focuses on posthumous Purple Hearts, because the recipient’s name is engraved on the back. Even with that lead, it’s not easy to find relatives, especially if the award was made many years ago.

When he can’t locate a family, Fike looks for a suitable institution, such as a library or museum in the area where the recipient lived.

When he does locate a family, Fike has the medal framed with a folded American flag. He also asks the Department of Defense to issue engraved replacements for any other medals the service member earned, and includes them with the Purple Heart. He asks if the family would like to have a ceremony, and if so, he travels to their location.

The ceremonies are always moving. Recently, Fike located the family of a soldier who died years ago. The medal was misplaced and found in an apartment building by a 7-year-old boy. Now a grown man, he had found the medal among his late mother’s effects and contacted Fike for help.

Though the trail was old, Fike found not only the soldier’s family, but also the soldier’s squad leader “who had held him as he died, and had been trying to find his family for many years,” Fike says.

When the recipient’s son and his children met the squad leader at the ceremony, “they adopted him as their grandfather, since they’d never had their real grandfather,” Fike says.

PHRI, a 501(c)(3) organization, locates and returns medals as time and available funds allow. It can cost $300 or more to purchase Purple Hearts online or in antique stores, and the organization incurs additional expenses for framing and travel.

“T do this all on my own time, not the Army’s time,” Fike says. “We have more ready to return, and we’ll do it as time and resources allow.”

For more information, visit www.purpleheartsreunited.org.
The Voice of Calm

Virginia “Gene” Sawyer, a 104-year-old Hawaii Daughter, conducted radio broadcasts in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor.

BORN IN 1910 in Danvers, Mass., Virginia “Gene” Sawyer moved to Hawaii in 1939, intent on using her education in communication and broadcasting to break into the radio business. She landed a job at Honolulu radio station KGMB-CBS writing and recording “Around Town With Gene,” a short, conversational program that celebrated the islands’ multiple cultures.

She was awakened the morning of December 7, 1941, by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Bombs fell a block away from her home on Waikiki Beach. She feared that the island would be attacked again, or even invaded. “Honolulu under Martial Law was a grim and angry city with a big job to do,” she wrote in an essay for the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. “Buildings were barricaded with sand bags, lawns broken for trenches, schools turned into first-aid stations, hotels and private homes opened to families evacuated from naval and military zones.”

About a week after Pearl Harbor, KGMB resumed some of its programs, requiring on-air talent to broadcast in a calm, cheerful and matter-of-fact way. The Army decided that Mrs. Sawyer’s well-known, friendly voice might ease tension. Still, censorship rules were strict: Sad or nostalgic music was banned, and she couldn’t refer to death or accidents in her broadcast. An Army officer stationed in the studio in case she made a mistake. “Once I was cut off the air for playing a recording of ‘Stormy Weather,’” she remembers. “The officer explained it could be taken by enemy monitors as a weather signal.”

In 1945 she traveled to Burma to aid in news broadcasts and serve as a Red Cross volunteer in the region. She participated in Japan’s surrender ceremony in Tsingtao, China, on October 25, 1945. After the war Mrs. Sawyer worked in Hawaii as a radio announcer, producer and writer, according to Olga Gruhzit-Hoyt in They Also Served: American Women in World War II (Birch Lane Press, 1995). She became a Foreign Service officer in 1951 and served for 15 years in Asia and Washington, D.C., as a writer and producer for the Voice of America, the U.S. government’s news service. Mrs. Sawyer continued to work for the Voice of America in Honolulu from 1966 until 1970. From 1970 until 1980 she was a student and volunteer at the University of Hawaii. She wrote about her experiences in Hawaii and Asia in her 1978 book Celebrations: Asia and the Pacific. A member of the Aloha DAR Chapter, she now lives in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

Arizona Museum Exhibit Nourished By Grant

The Arizona Historical Society (AHS) received a $7,500 NSDAR Special Projects Grant to fund the creation of a new exhibit, titled “A Bite to Eat—Feeding the Troops,” at Historic Fort Lowell. The fort, built in the 1870s, was a U.S. Army post from 1873–1891 during the Apache Wars. The 13 officers and 239 enlisted men stationed there served as scouts or patrols to provide protection for the Tucson area.

The AHS project’s goal was to design, develop, create and install a historical exhibit about food for the U.S. military during the period of the Indian Wars. It also encompassed the preservation and preparation of extant photographs from the Fort Lowell period, as well as the purchase of additional related artifacts.

The exhibit opening, held April 5, 2014, included a daylong outdoor festival in Fort Lowell Park, with numerous booths staffed by costumed interpreters from a variety of U.S., Spanish and Mexican military re-enactor groups, all focusing on foodways applicable to their time period and culture. Costumed interpreters spoke about military post traders and women on post, while others demonstrated uniforms and weapons. Children tried their hand at performing a soldier’s duties and had the opportunity to see and hold pottery shards left behind by American Indians. Three hundred seventy-five people visited the new exhibit during the event.

Educational components available for schoolchildren include both low-tech activities offered on-site, such as an exercise in building a healthy meal using a selection of faux foods, and downloadable curriculum materials that teachers can obtain through the AHS website (www.arizonahistoricalsociety.org).

Fort Lowell Museum is administered by the AHS, a nonprofit organization established to collect, preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of Arizona, the West and Northern Mexico as it pertains to Arizona.

Visit www.dar.org/grants to learn more about the NSDAR Special Projects Grants program, made possible by DAR member support of the President General’s Project.
The Bison’s Badlands Comeback

In 1942, the U.S. Army forced more than 800 members of the Oglala Sioux American Indian tribe to leave their homes in South Dakota’s Badlands to turn the area into a bombing range. While the tribe has since returned, the bison—as well as the various other grassland animals they provide shelter for by grazing intermittingly and leaving the grass at different heights—have yet to return naturally.

Since 2006 the Oglala Sioux tribe has been trying to regain control of the South Unit of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to create a Tribal National Park and bring back free-roaming bison. While documentation has been signed to return management of the land to the tribe, the difficulty of defining and creating a Tribal National Park has held back the plan.

Over the past two years, the National Park Service (NPS) has worked with members of the Oglala Sioux tribe at the local, regional and national levels to define what this Tribal National Park would actually be. Various NPS departments as well as Congress must review the application, so it will still be some time before the reintroduction of bison becomes a reality. Despite these roadblocks, the Oglala Sioux tribe is still working diligently to prepare the land for the bison’s return. They’ve not given up the dream of one day returning their land to its original state.

The commemoration of North Dakota’s 125th birthday on November 2, 1889. Both states are commemorating their 125th anniversaries with events this November.

North Dakota’s 125th anniversary celebration includes a November 1 concert by the South Dakota Symphony at the State Capitol in Pierre. The event will also feature the rededication ceremony for newly restored historic stained glass skylights in the Capitol. For more on the anniversary, go to www.125.sd.gov.

The Bison’s Badlands Comeback

Whatnot, Des Moines, Iowa, “has been so instrumental in helping other women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer,” says Chapter First Vice Regent Marqueta Bentley.

For example, Ms. Talbot spent much of September and October 2013 working on the Sassy Survivors Calendar. The result is the playful, energetic 2014 Sassy Survivors Calendar, filled with photos that incorporate the color pink to represent breast cancer awareness. Each month a different model stars in a themed photo shoot, playing roles ranging from a fairy princess to a boxer to a construction worker. The experiences of the models and survivors span decades: Cover girl and Ms. March Stephanie Wilson was in the midst of treatment last fall, and Ms. September Carrie Kirkes won her breast cancer fight 17 years ago.

The archer featured as Ms. October is Ami Talbot, a native of Moore, Okla., mother of two, former member of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Naval Reserve, and fourth-generation DAR member.

Ms. Talbot was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001, at age 24, after discovering a lump in her left breast. She underwent surgery and moved to McAlester with her husband and children, who were then 2 and 3 years old, to be closer to her family. Now cancer-free, the member of Chisholm Fork DAR Chapter, Blanchard, Okla., “has been so instrumental in helping other women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer,” says Chapter First Vice Regent Marqueta Bentley.

For example, Ms. Talbot spent much of September and October 2013 working on the Sassy Survivors Calendar. She helped coordinate photo shoots, took orders, collected money and delivered calendars. Like all of the models, she also took pre-orders, canvassing family members, friends and coworkers to tally as many sales as possible. Her efforts helped enable Belladonna to donate more than $10,000 to charities chosen by the models and survivors: Oklahoma Project Woman, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and the Wig Closet at McAlester Regional.

A North/South Anniversary

Named after the Dakota branch of the Sioux American Indian tribes living in the area, the Dakota Territory was originally part of the vast northernmost portion of the Louisiana Purchase. The land was organized as a territory in 1861, then a smaller portion was split into the states of North Dakota and South Dakota on November 2, 1889. Both states are commemorating their 125th anniversaries with events this November.

South Dakota’s 125th anniversary celebration includes a November 1 concert by the South Dakota Symphony at the State Capitol in Pierre. The event will also feature the rededication ceremony for newly restored historic stained glass skylights in the Capitol. For more on the anniversary, go to www.125.sd.gov.

The commemoration of North Dakota’s 125th birthday on November 2 will coincide with the grand opening of the new North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck. For more information on the day’s free activities, visit http://history.nd.gov/northdakota125.html.
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Today, as the site of Point State Park, the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers serves as a recreational hub for the city of Pittsburgh. But in the 18th century, the various groups vying for control of the Ohio River Valley coveted the location for its strategic, not scenic, appeal.

Having seized the area from the French, the British began building Fort Pitt in 1759, during the French and Indian War. Five years later the structure now known as the Fort Pitt Block House was added as a defensive redoubt for the state-of-the-art garrison, which was one of the largest British forts in North America. The British abandoned Fort Pitt in 1772, and by 1777 the Continental Army had set up its western headquarters there. While control of the Fort Pitt Block House changed hands several times in its early decades, for the past 120 years the site has had a single owner—Pittsburgh DAR Chapter.

Following the Revolution, Fort Pitt was decommissioned and dismantled. The Block House evaded destruction only because it had been converted into a single-family home. By the mid-19th century it was one of many multi-family tenements populating the Point District. In 1892, Pittsburgh DAR Chapter petitioned Block House owner Mary E. Croghan Schenley, who lived much of her adult life in England, for ownership of the site. Although she had denied a similar proposition from the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania several years earlier, Schenley granted the chapter’s request.

Daughters established the Fort Pitt Society to oversee the preservation of the Block House, and in 1894 the society formally assumed ownership of the oldest authenticated structure in western Pennsylvania. The Block House was restored to its original appearance and opened to visitors free of charge. Yet it remained in danger.

At the turn of the 20th century, the Pennsylvania Railroad bought much of the Point District with plans to construct warehouses, terminals and rail yards. Daughters refused lucrative offers to relocate the Block House. Led by Chapter Regent Edith Ammon, they petitioned the city to create a park at the Point, and when that failed, they turned to the state government.

Mrs. Ammon drafted a bill that would protect historic structures from eminent domain. “If these sites are destroyed, nothing but written pages will be left behind to tell their memory,” she said in a speech to the state senate. “Future generations will want to see them. We should not deny them the opportunity.” The bill passed in 1907, becoming one of Pennsylvania’s first historic preservation laws. Point State Park took shape around the Block House in the mid-20th century.

The Fort Pitt Society has spent 2014 commemorating the Block House’s 250th year in a variety of ways. A volume of existing but forgotten historical reference material fueled the publication of the first comprehensive history of the site, The Fort Pitt Block House (The History Press, 2013) by Emily Weaver, who served as Block House curator from 2011–2014. A Block House 250 Gala, community celebrations and other events honored the anniversary as well.

Having learned more about the women who came before them, today’s members felt compelled to honor their predecessors as part of the anniversary celebration. Whereas absentee owner Schenley was often heralded as the Block House savior, the work of these pioneering historic preservationists went largely overlooked, even by the society itself. That changed in April with the dedication of the new Edith Ammon Memorial Garden on the Block House grounds. Featuring a sandstone and bronze memorial to Mrs. Ammon, the garden serves as a tribute to the early members of Pittsburgh DAR Chapter and the Fort Pitt Society who made Block House 250 possible.

For more information on the Fort Pitt Block House, visit www.fortpittblockhouse.com.
In celebration of American Indian Heritage Month, each of this issue’s chapter names features a connection to the country’s earliest inhabitants.

The Annutteliga Hammock, for which Annuttaliga Chapter, Brooksville, Fla., is named, extends from modern-day Citrus County across Hernando County and into southeastern Pasco County. A fertile area that is usually higher than its surroundings, a hammock is characterized by hardwood vegetation and deep humus-rich soil. Today, the 2,200-acre Annutteliga Hammock protected by the Southwest Florida Water Management District is open to the public for hiking and equestrian use. Featuring longleaf pine sandhills, hardwood forests and 20 American Indian archaeological sites, the hammock also provides habitat for rare native plant and mammal species such as the Florida black bear. Signage in the hammock spells “Annutteliga” with an “a” instead, but the chapter name uses an “e” instead.

The namesake of Chief Solano Chapter, Vacaville, Calif., was born about 1800 as Sem-Yeto, which means “brave or fierce hand.” A Patwin chief from the Suisunes American Indian tribe of Suisun Bay, he acquired the name Solano when he was baptized at the San Francisco Solano Mission, both the last and the northernmost of the 21 California missions. Chief Solano became a friend and ally of General Mariano Vallejo, who was in charge of the Northern Frontier of Alta California when the region was under Mexican control. Together, the two helped maintain peace. A statue of Chief Solano, sculpted by Bill Huff in 1934, stands in front of the New Government Building in Fairfield, Calif.

The name of Tuscarora Chapter, Binghamton, N.Y., references the tribe also known as the Sixth Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy. The Tuscarora built their villages at the confluence of the Chenango and Susquehanna rivers and in the nearby valleys, an area that encompasses present-day Binghamton. Along with the Oneida, they were the only members of the confederacy to provide major support to the Patriot cause during the Revolutionary War.

If your chapter name has an interesting story behind it, send it to americanspirit@dar.org.
TO SOME EXTENT, the title of Edward J. Larson's new work—The Return of George Washington: 1783–1789 (William Morrow, 2014)—is misleading. As the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian amply demonstrates in this highly readable account, Washington never fully withdrew from the public realm after the end of the Revolutionary War. Though he did resign as commander in chief to retire to Mount Vernon, Washington remained very much in touch with the other Founding Fathers and watched anxiously as the 13 states drifted toward calamity.

Larson’s book focuses on Washington’s life during the period between the official end of the Revolutionary War in 1783 and the reorganization of the national government under the Constitution in 1789. He provides a fascinating overview of this chaotic period, which marked a low point in the fortunes of the United States. In fact, the states were united in very little once they had independence.

Under the Articles of Confederation, the states remained sovereign—in essence, 13 largely independent nation-states bound only by the loosest of ties. The Confederation Congress possessed almost no national powers as we would think of them today—it could only ask, wheedle, cajole and horse-trade its members into agreement.

Aside from imposing a small customs duty, the Confederation Congress lacked power to tax so it could pay off war debts or maintain security along the frontiers. The economy faltered amid a welter of confusing tariffs and restrictions imposed by each state. Foreign nations tried to lure disaffected states or regions into leaving the fragile union.

Having witnessed the Congress’ inability and unwillingness to properly support the army during the war or do right by veterans afterward, Washington and other leaders had long urged creation of a much stronger national union. Their chance came in 1786 with the call for a national convention in Philadelphia the next year to consider amending the Articles of the Confederation.

Larson devotes about two-thirds of the book to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and the subsequent battle to ratify the Constitution and inaugurate the new national government. Drawing from letters, diaries and other sources, Larson brings a welcome personal dimension to the story of the convention. He gives us a sense of what these men thought about themselves and each other, their role in history, and the future of the country.

Washington has famously been portrayed as aloof and often silent as he presided over the convention, but Larson shows other sides: Washington socializing with and cultivating other Framers at evening teas and private dinners; Washington and a few other delegates relaxing on fishing trips near Valley Forge and Trenton, N.J., during a recess; and Washington the planter visiting farms and nurseries on days when the group was adjourned.

We see other Founders behind-the-scenes, especially Benjamin Franklin who, along with Washington, was regarded as indispensable to the success of the convention. Though ill, Franklin attended as many of the sessions as possible and often hosted groups of delegates to try to work through the thorny issues confronting them.

And there were many thorns, starting with the fundamental question of how strong the central government should be. There were many who viewed a strong national government as a return to a virtual or actual monarchy. Some delegates left the convention over what they saw as a power grab by nationalists.

Larson argues that many of those worries were assuaged only by the presumption that Washington would lead the new government and set precedents that would bind his successors. Even that wasn’t enough to convince some, who believed Washington was being duped by less-scrupulous nationalists who sought a return to the rule of monarchy and aristocracy.

The book ends with Washington’s first inauguration in New York City on April 30, 1789. The day’s ceremonies are over, night is falling and the streets are packed with celebrating New Yorkers, so Washington decides to walk to the presidential residence. The image is fitting and poignant—alone with his plans, hopes and fears he covers the last mile of his return to prominence and the dawn of a new nation.

—Bill Hudgins
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<table>
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—we leave the world changed, for better or worse—
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Though its founders’ lust for gold didn’t pan out, Rapid City has long held the golden ticket for travelers hungry to witness southwest South Dakota’s rich American Indian and western pioneer history, as well as its magnificent and mysterious scenery.

The Dakota’s First People

Archaeological evidence points to the presence of prehistoric hunters called Paleo-Indians in the area that became South Dakota as early as 11,000 years ago. Although a Sioux creation story holds that the Lakota tribes have always lived there, entering the world through Wind Cave in the southern Black Hills, anthropologists believe the Sioux arrived in the Dakotas in the 18th century. Though their arrival date might be uncertain, the Sioux—primarily made up of the Dakota (Santee, or Eastern), Nakota (Yankton, or Middle) and Lakota (Teton, or Western) divisions—became dominant in the region by the early 19th century.

European American Settlement

The first white man in the area might have been Jedediah Smith, who traveled through the Black Hills in the late summer of 1823. However, it wasn’t until Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer’s expedition of 1874 that European American settlement started in earnest. Authorized by the War Department to survey the uncharted Black Hills, look for strategic fort locations and—the probable main goal—investigate the area’s mining potential, Custer’s expedition discovered gold and ushered in a flood of settlers.

Rapid City (originally known as “Hay Camp”) was founded in 1876 by a group of prospectors who decided to stay in the region after their hopes for gold were dashed. John Brennan, Samuel Scott and others laid out the site of present-day Rapid City in February 1876, naming it for the limestone spring-fed stream that flows through the city. The new city leaders convinced pioneering merchants to establish themselves in the new settlement, promoting their new city on the edge of the Great Plains as the “Gateway to the Black Hills.” It soon became an important supply center, and in the late 1880s the city became a hub for railroads arriving from the east.

Land Seizures and the American Indian Wars

The Treaty of Fort Laramie (or Sioux Treaty of 1868) guaranteed the Lakota Sioux ownership of their sacred Black Hills as well as land and hunting rights in the western Dakota Territory (today’s South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana). However, the 1870s gold rush sent a wave of prospectors across reservation borders, breaking the treaty. The American Indians retaliated against the settlers—most dramatically at the 1876 Battle of Little Bighorn, where Custer and most of his party were killed by the Sioux. Increasing tensions led the U.S. government to remove the Black Hills from Sioux control in 1877. Wars against the American Indians and
the government continued throughout the late 1870s and 1880s. One of the bloodiest conflicts was the Wounded Knee Massacre on December 29, 1890, on the Lakota Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in the southwest corner of South Dakota. More than 150 Lakota were killed by U.S. troops.

The Sioux filed suit in 1923, claiming the U.S. government had illegally stolen their Black Hills land. In 1980 in United States v. Sioux Nation of Indians, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed with the tribes, offering them more than $100 million. The Sioux declined the money and demanded the return of the land, which includes Rapid City. The dispute has not yet been settled.

Tourism and Military Hub

According to Insider’s Guide to South Dakota’s Black Hills and Badlands by T.D. Griffith and Nyla D. Griffith (Morris Book Publishing, 2011), President Calvin Coolidge deserves credit for bringing widespread tourism to Rapid City and the Black Hills region in the early 20th century. “He and his wife made Custer State Park their summer home in 1927, and while he was here he took time out ... to dedicate Mount Rushmore. Newsreels of the day gave untold numbers of Americans ... their first glimpse of the area’s pine-covered mountains and dramatic rock outcroppings.”

The completion of Mount Rushmore in 1941 brought even more tourists. Rapid City also profited from the 1942 opening of Ellsworth Air Force Base. During the 1950s and throughout the Cold War, missile installations proliferated in the area. The missile silos and launch command centers were deactivated in the early 1990s.

Attractions for Every Type of Traveler

With its strategic location in the center of the Black Hills, Rapid City has been the jumping-off point for travel throughout the region almost since the city’s founding. From iconic attractions like Mount Rushmore and four other national parks and monuments to lesser-known scenic byways and roadside attractions, nearly 3 million visitors are lured annually to southwestern South Dakota.

Before leaving Rapid City, visitors can snap a photo of themselves with their favorite commanders in chief throughout the City of Presidents. Downtown street corners feature life-sized bronze statues of all past U.S. presidents. Rapid City’s Journey Museum and Learning Center (www.journymuseum.org), which tells the history of the Black Hills, including American Indian creation stories and the story of the western pioneers, is also worth a visit.

The South Dakota Air and Space Museum (www.sdairandspacemuseum.com) at Ellsworth Air Force Base, about 12 miles east of Rapid City, displays more than 25 historic bombers, fighters, utility aircraft and missiles. The museum is free.

About an hour east of Rapid City, the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site (www.nps.org/mimi) provides a fascinating illustration of the U.S.-Soviet Union arms race and the Cold War era. The site preserves a launch control center and decommissioned nuclear missile silo, the only remaining intact components of a nuclear missile field once covering 13,500 miles of southwestern South Dakota and home to 150 Minuteman II missiles.

The 244,000-acre Badlands National Park (www.nps.gov/badl) was established as a national monument in 1939, and then as a national park in 1978. According to the National Park Service, the Lakota people first called this arid land of extreme temperatures and rugged terrain mako sica or “land bad.” French-Canadian fur trappers described them similarly as les mauvaises terres a traverser or “bad lands to travel across.” Today the term “badlands” describes a dry region where soft sedimentary rock and clay soils have been heavily eroded by wind and water. Despite its forbidding name, the park’s rugged landscape of spires, gullies, ravines and ridges interspersed with native grasslands is starkly beautiful.

On your way to or from the Badlands, you can’t miss Wall Drug (www.walldrug.com), a sprawling cowboy-themed shopping mall. The fun roadside attraction first became popular in the 1930s after its owners started offering free ice water to thirsty travelers. (The ice water is still free.)
First conceived to promote tourism to South Dakota, **Mount Rushmore National Memorial** (www.nps.gov/moru) now attracts 3 million visitors per year. The heads of four U.S. Presidents—George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt—were carved into the mountainside of the Black Hills by famous sculptor Gutzon Borglum to symbolize the first 150 years of American history. Borglum, who studied portraiture under Auguste Rodin in Paris, and his team of 400 workers began work on Mount Rushmore in 1927. Borglum died in 1941, and his son, Lincoln, announced the carving complete later that year.

Near Mount Rushmore is another large mountainside sculpture, this one honoring the Lakota Chief Crazy Horse. Working with Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear, Polish American sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski started carving the **Crazy Horse Memorial** (crazyhorsememorial.org) out of the Black Hills in 1948. Although Ziolkowski died in 1982, his family continues to manage the project, using funds donated by site visitors. Ziolkowski planned for the finished monument to stand 563 feet high and display the famous chief riding his horse and pointing to the Black Hills, but so far, only Crazy Horse’s 87-foot head is finished. The visitor complex includes Ziolkowski’s studio and an Indian Museum of North America with a collection of artifacts and costumes.

In the southern Black Hills, **Custer State Park** (www.custerstatepark.com) offers 71,000 acres for wildlife viewing, trout fishing, scenic drives along Needles Highway, hikes around the rock formations surrounding Sylvan Lake and other recreational activities. Many visitors come to see the huge herd of bison that roams freely throughout the park. The 18-mile Wildlife Loop Road offers plenty of chances to catch glimpses of the 2,000-pound creatures, and guided jeep tours are available for an even closer view. The bison-obsessed can attend the 50th Annual Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival set for September 25, 2015. Cowboys and cowgirls drive about 1,300 buffalo into corrals, where they’re branded and vaccinated. Park staff also assist the wranglers with the buffalo drive. About 900 are released back into the park and the rest are sold at auction.

Near Custer State Park is **Wind Cave National Park** (www.nps.gov/wica), established in 1903. The cave is a sacred place for many American Indian tribes. Notable for a whistling noise at the entrance caused by atmospheric differences between the interior of the cave and its surface, the extensive cave network also contains a rare honeycomb-like rock formation called boxwork.

West of Custer, S.D., is **Jewel Cave National Monument** (www.nps.gov/jeca), declared a national monument by Theodore Roosevelt in 1908. Local prospectors Frank and Albert Michaud discovered the cave in 1900 and named it Jewel after the calcite crystals lining the cavern. With more than 171 miles of passages, it’s the third-longest cave in the world, according to the National Park Service. Like Wind Cave, barometric pressures cause exceptionally strong and loud winds to blow throughout it.

The 22-mile **Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway** (www.spearfishcanyon.com/scenicbyway/index.html) winds through a canyon that’s several times older than the Grand Canyon. Starting at the city limits of Spearfish, S.D., the journey through the northern portion of the Black Hills National Forest ends at Cheyenne Crossing, S.D. An online self-guided tour describes important landmarks, can’t-miss vistas and waterfalls, and the wide variety of plant and animal life found along the spectacular drive.

For more information on the region, go to www.visitrapidcity.com.
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The holidays are the perfect time to make a gift to NSDAR. In addition to the immense personal satisfaction you gain by supporting our mission, you can also receive numerous tax benefits, such as eliminating capital gains tax, generating an income tax deduction and reducing your future estate taxes. Please fill out and return the enclosed postcard to learn how you can create your legacy this holiday season. Or visit us online at www.mypatriotandme.org for more information.

Your legacy can help the Daughters of the American Revolution focus on the future.
People often remember Sarah Josepha Hale as a quaint historical figure who wrote “Mary Had a Little Lamb” and helped make Thanksgiving a national holiday.

In reality, Hale’s legacy defies these simple definitions. She was a powerful figure in her own right, reigning over one of the most widely read publications of her time. And her decades-long campaign for Thanksgiving was about more than creating a new national holiday: It was about preserving the Union itself.
Hale was born Sarah Josepha Buell in New Hampshire in 1788. Schooled at home, she was an avid reader who educated herself using her brother’s Dartmouth College textbooks.

She started teaching at 18, and lived independently until 1813 when she married David Hale, a lawyer who encouraged his wife’s intellectual development.

**Leveraging Her Intelligence**

David Hale died nine years later, leaving his wife to support five young children. In 1828, after publishing a novel and two poetry books, including the poem “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” Hale accepted a position as editor of *Ladies’ Magazine*, which became *Godey’s Lady’s Book* in 1837.

“It was one of the most respected women’s magazines in the country,” says University of Missouri professor Patricia Okker, author of *Our Sister Editors: Sarah J. Hale and the Tradition of Nineteenth-Century American Women Editors* (University of Georgia Press, 2008).

As editor, Hale leveraged her authority to promote a variety of causes she was passionate about, campaigning for the preservation of George Washington’s Mount Vernon and drumming up support for the establishment of the Bunker Hill Monument in Boston. She also used the pages to advocate for property rights and increased wages for women, as well as expanded educational and career opportunities.

“She wanted women to be doctors and teachers. She wanted women to go to college,” Okker points out, noting that Hale understood firsthand what it was like to support a large family on her own.

And yet, Hale did not advocate for women’s right to vote.

“Many of us see her legacy in mixed ways,” Okker says. “She believed that women should influence politics, but that they should do so by raising funds and influencing their husbands.”

Conventional reasoning held that women were inherently more moral than men, so they needed to avoid the corrupting influence of politics. Louis Godey, Hale’s publisher, had strict rules against discussing politics in his publication. But that doesn’t mean the magazine wasn’t political, Okker says.

“Arguing for women to go to college; that’s a political issue. Arguing for changes in marriage laws; that’s a political issue,” she says. “There are countless examples of things that I would consider political in the editorial columns that Sarah wrote.”

**Wielding Influence**

In 1837, Hale penned the first of many editorials aimed at making Thanksgiving a national holiday. At the time, it was observed at the state level, usually on the last Thursday in November.

Hale emphasized that where the Fourth of July was a celebration of civil freedom, Thanksgiving was a celebration of our shared faith. She believed—somewhat naively, in Okker’s opinion—that a day of national unity could prevent the breakup of the Union.

In 1860, Hale wrote: “This year the last Thursday in November falls on the 29th. If all the States and Territories hold their Thanksgiving on that day, there will be a complete moral and social reunion of the people of America in 1860. Would this not be a good omen for the perpetual political union of the States? May God grant us not only the omen, but the fulfillment is our dearest wish!”

Hale wrote several more times on the subject that year, as the country continued its descent into war. On September 28, 1863, Hale wrote a letter to President Abraham Lincoln directly, asking him to put his authority behind the cause. On October 3, Lincoln issued a proclamation making the last Thursday in November a national day of Thanksgiving.

While it’s difficult to imagine Hale felt vindicated given that the nation was at war, she did modestly acknowledge her success: “In our endeavors, which have been continued for many years, to secure the recognition of one day throughout the land as the Day of public Thanksgiving, we are conscious of not having in any manner gone beyond the proper limits of the sphere which we have prescribed for the Lady’s Book.”

In 1871, Hale continued her efforts, this time pressing for Thanksgiving’s establishment by an act of Congress.

She retired in 1877 at the age of 89, and died at her Philadelphia home on April 30, 1879.

In terms of her larger impact, Okker notes Hale’s role as a literary pioneer. “During her 50-year career, we really saw the rise of women editors,” she says.

Cyndy Bittinger, a historian who teaches at the Community College of Vermont, sees Hale’s role even more expansively. In the transcript from her September 3, 2014, Vermont Public Radio commentary, she says, “With Hale as an advocate, women began to study at female seminaries and academies, and many contributed original material to her *Godey’s Lady’s Book*... [By publishing] the works of women [and] giving them a platform for their ideas and advocacy... Hale enabled female reformers of the 19th century to influence attitudes about abolition, temperance and suffrage—ultimately providing greater opportunity for everyone.”

American Spirit | November/December 2014 19
WHETHER THEIR ROLE AS THE HOME OF THE STATE’S CHIEF EXECUTIVE IS current, former or purely aspirational, these historic governors’ mansions each claims a permanent place in the history of their state. While some were constructed specifically to provide a home for the governor, others count the resident elected official as the latest in a line of illustrious occupants including a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a Cabinet member and even a queen.
The Blaine House | Augusta, Maine

Ninety-five years ago, Harriet Blaine Beale donated her family home to the state of Maine for use as a governor’s residence. Built by retired ship captain James Hall in 1833, the home was purchased by Beale’s father, James G. Blaine, in 1862, the same year he was elected to the U.S. Congress. During the course of his political career, Blaine also served as Speaker of the House and lost the 1884 presidential election to Grover Cleveland. Twice he was appointed Secretary of State, in which capacity he presided at the Pan American Congress. The conference led to the creation of the Pan American Union, now known as the Organization of American States and, coincidentally, the next-door neighbor of DAR Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

While the mansion was being remodeled in 1920, the renowned Olmstead Brothers landscape architecture firm was commissioned to design the grounds. Although their design was never fully realized, the property’s gardens remain a focal point. Historic treasures housed inside include silver used aboard the battleship U.S.S. Maine. The silver was retrieved from the bottom of Havana Harbor, where the Maine sank during the Spanish-American War.

Governor’s Mansion Museum | Marshall, Mich.

In the early to mid-19th century, residents of Marshall were confident that their town would be chosen as the state capital. While lawmakers haggled over the location of the capital city, state Senator James Wright Gordon built a Greek Revival-style home across the street from the proposed location of the capitol building in 1839. Gordon served as lieutenant governor in 1840 and became acting governor the next year. Although Marshall lost the capital sweepstakes, Gordon’s home is still known as the Governor’s Mansion. When his term ended, he returned to Marshall to resume his career as a defense attorney.

In 1967, the heirs of the last private owner donated the home to the Mary Marshall DAR Chapter, which is celebrating the house’s 175th anniversary this year. A local history museum and event space staffed entirely by chapter volunteers, the Governor’s Mansion Museum is open to visitors on summer Sundays. It’s also a stop on the Marshall Historical Society’s Historic Home Tour, an annual September tradition, and each December the chapter welcomes the public to a Christmas tea, free of charge. This year’s event is set for December 7, 2014, from 1–5 p.m. See the Marshall’s Governor’s Mansion Museum Facebook page for more information.

Woodburn | Dover, Del.

The governor of the First State lives at Woodburn, the Middle Georgian Period mansion Charles Hillyard III built in 1798. Constructed on land granted to Hillyard’s great-grandfather by William Penn, Woodburn was occupied by a string of owners that included U.S. Senator Daniel O. Hastings before the state acquired the property in 1965 for use as a governor’s residence.

A recent renovation called upon experts from across the state to help infuse the classically decorated interiors
Visions of America

with the sense of a welcoming family home while preserving their historic character.

The opulent yet uncluttered results are evident in the great hall, dining room and living room. These public spaces contain a collection of antiques ranging from 19th-century French and German chandeliers to a blue-and-white earthenware platter depicting the Great Seal of Delaware to paintings by John Trumbull, N.C. Wyeth and Howard Pyle.

**Morven | Princeton, N.J.**

Although Trenton has been the capital of New Jersey since 1790, for almost 70 years the official governor’s residence has been located approximately 15 miles away in Princeton. Until 1981, this role was fulfilled by Morven, which was built by Richard Stockton the 1750s. A member of the first graduating class of the College of New Jersey, now known as Princeton University, Stockton was a noted lawyer, a delegate to the Continental Congress and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Annis Boudinot Stockton, his wife, wrote and published patriotic poetry inspired by the Revolution. Their descendants lived at Morven until the late 1920s.

After the governor’s residence relocated to nearby Drumthwacket in 1981, Morven underwent an extensive restoration and archaeological investigation. The 5-acre site reopened in 2004 as Morven Museum and Gardens. Three samplers on loan from the DAR Museum are included in Morven’s current exhibition “Hail Specimen of Female Art! New Jersey Schoolgirl Needlework, 1726–1860,” on display through March 29, 2015.

**Mississippi Governor’s Mansion | Jackson, Miss.**

Black shutters and condensed scale notwithstanding, the façade of the Greek Revival-style Mississippi Governor’s Mansion evokes the southern face of the White House. Built expressly to provide a home for Mississippi’s governor, the mansion was completed in 1842 and has been continuously occupied ever since.

It was designed by architect William Nichols, who effectively toured the South while serving in the capacity of state architect for North Carolina, Alabama and Mississippi in turn. In 1840, Nichols explained to the state legislature that his design would “adhere to a plain simplicity, as best comporting with the dignity of the state.” Between 1835 and 1842, Nichols also designed the state’s Old Capitol and the University of Mississippi’s Lyceum Building.

In the 1970s, architecture and design experts guided a
Visions of America

Texas Governor’s Mansion | Austin, Texas

Six 29-foot Ionic columns span the double-decker front porches of the oldest governor’s mansion west of the Mississippi River. Home to heads of the Lone Star State since 1856, the Greek Revival-style Texas Governor’s Mansion sustained significant structural and architectural damage in a June 8, 2008, fire set by an arsonist.

In the aftermath of the blaze, individuals and groups throughout Texas contributed to the Texas Governor’s Mansion Restoration Fund, which raised more than $3.5 million. The Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution donated more than $60,000 to the cause, a portion of which was raised through sales of the custom-designed Texas Front Porch Mansion pin.

The mansion restoration progressed in stages between 2010 and 2012. By summer 2011, the soaring columns had been restored in place and master builder Abner Cook’s signature “X-and-stick” porch railings had been recreated. Texas Daughters were invited to tea at the mansion in fall 2012 for an opportunity to see the results of their fundraising efforts firsthand.

Washington Place | Honolulu

Before it became the residence of the 50th state’s governor, Washington Place was home to the last reigning monarch of the Hawaiian Kingdom. The Greek Revival-style home still counts Queen Liliuokalani—not Captain John Dominis, the New England trader who built the home in the 1840s, or one of the 12 territorial and state governors who lived there—as its most famous resident.

Liliuokalani moved into Washington Place in 1862 when she married John Owen Dominis, son of Capt. Dominis. In 1893, the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy ended Liliuokalani’s reign after just two years. Arrested and imprisoned as a result of the coup, she became an advocate for Hawaiian rights following her release.

Several years after Liliuokalani’s 1917 death, the territory of Hawaii acquired Washington Place. Its location across the street from the Hawaii State Capitol ensured a short commute for Hawaii’s governors, who resided there from 1922 to 2002, when a new personal governor’s residence was constructed on the property. Now a museum devoted to state history, Washington Place is currently undergoing renovations that will keep it closed through November 2014.
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In 1834, at the age of 17, Charles Greenleaf Richards left Hallowell, Maine, to seek his fortune down South. After starting out as a clerk on a riverboat, eventually he was able to purchase his own vessel and become a riverboat captain. He spent much of his time traveling along the Alabama River, taking supplies to towns and plantations and leaving with cotton to trade elsewhere. In Claiborne, Ala., about 90 miles northeast of Mobile, Richards met and fell in love with Caroline Steele, the daughter of a wealthy plantation owner. After they were married and started a family, they moved to Mobile in 1846 and purchased property to build their dream home.

The elegant home where the Richardses raised their children was completed in 1860. The family lived there until the late 1940s, when Ideal Cement Company bought it to use as company offices. In 1973, the house was donated to the city of Mobile with the understanding it was to be used as a period house museum. That same year area DAR chapters took over the home’s management, along with the responsibility of furnishing the Richards DAR House.
Museum with period antiques and providing guides, says Susan Tomlinson, president of the home’s Governing Board and a member of D’Iberville DAR Chapter, Mobile, Ala. For more than 40 years, the Daughters have cared for the house and worked to maintain its original vitality and share its story.

Grace and Luxury

As his wealth grew in the 1840s, Charles opened a general mercantile store in Mobile. After it became successful, he and Caroline left the expansive acreage of her father’s south Alabama plantation and moved to Mobile to take advantage of the social opportunities of a larger city. The Richardses joined other well-to-do families who were moving into the popular and exclusive residential area known as the De Tonti Square District.

“The Richardses didn’t spare any expense when they built their home,” Mrs. Tomlinson says. A unique iron lacework graces the façade of the house. The iron lace has been named “Four Seasons” because the four figures across the front gallery are carrying harvested plants that represent each of the four seasons of the year. The metalwork is a combination of cast iron and wrought iron that was forged specifically for the Richards family by a foundry in New Orleans.

In addition to the iron lacework, the house features beautifully etched red ruby Bohemian glass panels surrounding the front door. The large entryway contains a cantilevered staircase, a silvered chandelier and the family’s square grand piano made by the Weber Piano Company. The circa-1860 rosewood piano was a gift from one of the Richardses’ great-grandsons. All other antique pieces, while not original to the house, are typical of the mid-19th century.

The two parlors contain the original matching brass and metal gas-powered chandeliers made by Christian Cornelius of Philadelphia. Intricately carved Carrara marble mantels, silver bell pulls, a large French Baccarat crystal chandelier and period tea services are other noteworthy features. The home’s surrounding lawn includes a courtyard with a fountain, a carriage house, and majestic oaks, azaleas and magnolias.

Overcoming Adversity

With construction completed just before the Civil War began, the Richards DAR House—and the family who lived in it—witnessed its share of hardships. The city of Mobile lost access to its vital waterways after the Union Army’s victory at the Battle of Mobile Bay in August 1864. The following April, just after General Robert E. Lee’s surrender at Appomattox Court House, the city of Mobile surrendered to the Union Army to avoid destruction. Unfortunately, when a federal ammunition depot exploded a few weeks later, 300 people died, ships were sunk and much of the city was destroyed by fire. The Richards DAR House, a silent witness to the destruction, remained virtually unscathed.
Throughout their years in the home, the Richards family experienced great joy as well as great loss. Caroline Richards gave birth to a dozen children, but only eight survived to adulthood. Two children died before reaching their first birthdays, while another died at the age of 5 and another at age 10. Caroline Richards died in 1867, shortly after the birth of her 12th child.

Charles Richards, who never remarried, raised his children with the help of a nanny. Three generations of the Richards family lived in the home until it was purchased and modernized in the late 1940s.

**Welcoming Visitors**

The Richards family hosted many parties in their luxurious home, Mrs. Tomlinson says. Today, the authentic Italianate-style home continues to welcome visitors to tour its rooms and grounds. DAR members from the Mobile, Virginia Cavalier, Tristan DeLuna, Needham Bryan and D’Iberville chapters volunteer as guides, showing Southern hospitality by serving tea and cookies to guests at the end of each tour.

The house also may be rented for private events. It is a popular location for weddings, receptions and dinner parties. Each year, the DAR chapters welcome the public to the Richards DAR House Museum for a Christmas celebration and a spring garden party.

The home also doesn’t try to hide its reputation as a haunted house. It occasionally has hosted paranormal groups that research and catalog sights, sounds and experiences there.

“They always hear a woman’s voice and children’s voices,” says Sallie Grow, a member of D’Iberville DAR Chapter who volunteers as the webmaster for the home. “But they say the ghosts we have are friendly, so visitors keep coming.”

It is the city’s only historic townhouse that is open to the public, Mrs. Grow says. “It’s downtown, very close to the river, as many of the riverboat captains lived down near the water,” she says.

Some are surprised to learn that the townhouse style was typical during the period. “Most people think of 1860s houses in the South as being big Tara-like plantation houses, as in *Gone with the Wind*,” Mrs. Tomlinson says. “But in the downtown area of Mobile, townhouses were popular because property was at a premium. Further out from town was where you’d find the larger, country plantation-style homes surrounded by farmland.”

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**When You Visit**

Richards DAR House Museum
256 N. Joachim St., Mobile, AL 36603
(251) 208–7320
www.richardsdarhouse.com

The home is open Monday–Friday, 11 a.m.–3:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., and Sunday, 1–4 p.m.

Admission is $10 for adults and children 12 and older; $5 for children 5 to 11; and free for children 4 and younger.
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The passionate and effusive Chef Walter Staib is a powerhouse advocate for all things 18th-century, especially early American culinary history. A third-generation restaurateur born in Germany and educated in European hotels and restaurants, he fell in love with America and became a naturalized citizen. Staib is now proprietor and executive chef of Philadelphia’s City Tavern and the host of the Emmy-winning PBS series “A Taste of History.” In his multiple roles as culinary ambassador, Staib brings early American history to vivid life—not only over the open hearth, but also in the historic kitchens of our Founding Fathers and Mothers.
Enabling City Tavern’s Rebirth

At City Tavern, a faithful recreation of an 18th-century tavern, Staib helps preserve 18th-century recipes by using them to create delicious and authentic meals of the period. The critically acclaimed restaurant has been named one of the 15 most iconic restaurants in America by restaurant guidebook Zagat, and has been featured on “60 Minutes” and the “Today” show.

City Tavern was the social, political and economic center of late 18th-century Philadelphia. Built by subscription in 1773, it gained fame as a favorite gathering place for many of the Founding Fathers, including members of the Continental Congresses and the Constitutional Convention. John Adams visited it when he was a delegate to the First Continental Congress in 1774, and after a meal there, he described it as the “most genteel” tavern in America. It was partially destroyed by fire in 1834. The original structure was demolished in 1854, and the property went unused for more than 90 years.

After Congress named the tavern an official part of Independence National Historical Park in 1948, the property underwent decades of research and development before a replica of the building was completed in 1976, in time for the U.S. Bicentennial celebration.

Staib took over as City Tavern’s operator in July 1994 and completed an extensive renovation. The tavern’s fame as a probable location of the first Fourth of July celebration has been sustained under his leadership. “Because we’re such an important part of historic Philadelphia, every Fourth of July, we have an Independence Day party,” he says.

Bringing Culinary Heritage to the Masses

His experience working in such an iconic space sparked a desire to pass along the same kind of historic appreciation on a larger scale. Now in each episode of “A Taste of History,” viewers watch Staib—part showman, part master chef—recreate Colonial-era meals as he explores the origin and historic context of featured recipes and ingredients.

Unlike kitchen-bound celebrity chefs, however, he roams through the fields and gardens and hallowed halls of the Founders, inviting historians and specialists to expertly lead the way. In its six seasons, the show has visited George Washington’s Mount Vernon, James Madison’s Montpelier and James Monroe’s Ash-Lawn Highland, as well as Philadelphia’s Historic Rittenhousetown, Colonial Williamsburg and the banks of the Delaware River at Washington’s Crossing.

Hungry for knowledge and eager to share it, Staib helps viewers discover Martha Washington’s invaluable work at Valley Forge, understand Jefferson’s love of gardens at Monticello and even learn about the spicy contributions that Caribbean nations made to early American dishes. For its efforts in preserving the country’s culinary heritage, the show was nominated for a James Beard Award.

That’s just some of the acclaim Staib has received. He has been awarded the prestigious Chevalier de l’Ordre du Mérite Agricole de la République Française. In 1996, he was appointed the first Culinary Ambassador to the City of Philadelphia, and in 2006, he was named Culinary Ambassador to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He’s also won the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania 2011 Contemporary Pioneer Award, the title of Top Philadelphia Chef in the 2011 Condé Nast Cadillac Culinary Challenge and the 2010 Silver Medal Award from the American Culinary Federation.

In addition to his chef and hosting duties, Staib also has written six cookbooks packed with historic recipes, including City Tavern Baking & Dessert Cookbook (2003), Black Forest Cuisine (2006) and City Tavern: Recipes from the Birthplace of American Cuisine (2009).

In his latest cookbook, A Sweet Taste of History (2013), he and his team took favorite historical recipes and retested them for modern kitchens to make them easier for people to make at home. “We made sure that the recipes were approachable,” Staib says. “It’s my most direct book yet in terms of explanations and breaking down recipe directions into steps.”

In a conversation with American Spirit, Staib talked about how his interest in American history began and how much preparation is involved in his culinary lessons.

Q: How did you get this spark for American history?

I grew up in Germany, where we didn’t learn a lot of early American history. We knew about Marquis de Lafayette and George Washington, but not much else.

I started my career in the States working for Omni Hotels. On an excavation for a new hotel site in Richmond, Va., the construction crew ran into all these historic artifacts. Because of that, I met with archaeologists and food historians and got a slight glimpse of what I know today.

American Spirit | September/October 2014
In 1989, you started Concepts By Staib Ltd., a restaurant management and hospitality consulting firm, and began looking for space for a new restaurant in Philadelphia. What was the process like to obtain the historic City Tavern?

I was blown away when I read about some of the meals, beverages and desserts that were served here at City Tavern. I really wanted it, but because City Tavern is a historic, government-owned site, winning it involved a lot of headaches and was much more complicated than we thought. We made a proposal to the Department of the Interior and eventually were selected as the operators in 1994. [The city had completed the replica of the historic City Tavern in 1976, but] we spent a lot of money getting it ready to be a restaurant.

I read every book I could and did a lot of research. I spent a lot of time understanding how Colonial people were sourcing the ingredients and cooking the food. I was surprised to find that American cuisine in the early era of the country was quite sophisticated.

When my first cookbook [City Tavern Cookbook] came out in 1999, that really turned the tide, and people started talking about the restaurant. We lower the salt content and sugar a little bit and occasionally substitute an item, but for the most part, we stay right on course with the cuisine of the 18th century.

Have any recipes stumped you because of hard-to-find ingredients?

We have always had a farm-to-table philosophy, and the restaurant and show work seasonality into our choices. Sometimes odds and ends, such as tomatoes, are tough to come by in certain seasons. But I have enough sources if I need to find stuff like cardoon [an artichoke-like vegetable], or other vegetables that have gone out of vogue.

How do your modern guests at City Tavern respond to these historic dishes?

Most people love the food and are unbelievably surprised at how good these recipes are. We use no convenience foods, no microwaves. The only people who might have difficulty or might be confused by certain items are those who always eat in chain restaurants and never eat anywhere adventurous.

How did “A Taste of History” originate?

A show was always in the back of my mind. I was talking about it for at least 10 years prior to its happening. I thought, somehow the world has to know all this history and everything that happened in the 18th century, especially about the food.

One day I met a producer for PBS and told him what I wanted to do: Cook in historic locations and give people an interpretation of certain foods and beverages. The research we did validated the need and desire for a show.

That was five years ago, and 78 shows later, we’re getting ready to film season seven. We have four Emmys, and the response from viewers has been extraordinary, just fantastic. The restaurant is thriving because of the show. People travel from across the country to eat here and not just watch it being made on TV.

What have been your favorite historic homes in which to cook and explore?

Any of the presidents’ shows are wonderful and a tribute to the men who made the nation. I was privileged to be able to cook in the homes of four of the first five presidents. I wasn’t able to cook in Adams’ home because the chimney was filled in, but I did get to cook in the almost-identical kitchen at Harriton House [the restored 1704 home of Charles Thomson, the first and only secretary to both the Continental and Confederation Congresses, in Bryn Mawr, Pa.].

In season one, we spent four episodes cooking in the actual kitchen of Monticello, which was a thrill because Thomas Jefferson is my favorite personality in history! On the show, I make Jefferson’s stuffed cabbage recipe that he copied from Hannah Glasse’s Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy.

Jefferson was such a gourmet and loved his garden. No one knows why he fell in love with gardening, but he might have gotten his admiration when he spent time with John Bartram’s gardens, or visited the English countryside with John Adams as minister to Paris. Jefferson also spent a lot of time in Philadelphia visiting his friend Charles Thomson, whose estate had a lot of beautiful gardens.

At Mount Vernon, I learned what a busy person Martha Washington was! The home was like a resort. A huge number of guests came and stayed at their home the first year after General Washington came home to live. I made recipes for three different cakes of hers on the show.

Dolley Madison is another of my favorite 18th-century personalities. What a hostess! I really enjoyed cooking at Montpelier. Monroe’s estate was smaller, but it was also a fantastic experience. I served a meal on the first set of White House china, which had been made for Monroe.

My favorite show is in season four. It talks about three women—Hannah Glasse, Martha Washington and Mary
Who is eligible for membership?
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DAR has 177,000 members in nearly 3,000 chapters worldwide, including chapters in 14 foreign countries and one territory. Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 925,000 members.

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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.

Preserving the American Spirit
www.dar.org
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"Molly" Randolph, who wrote The Virginia House-Wife—who wrote the cookbooks that to this day contain the best and most wonderful recipes. Glasse’s cookbook was so great that a man claimed to have written it.

Can you describe your last three seasons, which have gone beyond our shores to locations that were influential to the American Colonies?

In season four, we visited Antigua, St. Lucia and Guyana and learned about the Caribbean-American connection. We even traveled to Malaysia and learned about the origin of ketchup. In season five, we traveled to South Africa to understand the Dutch influence on the American Colonies, and we cooked with calf brains, truffles and conch in Nassau and Turks and Caicos.

Last season [season six], we went back to my birthplace in the Black Forest of Germany. I cooked with my mom, who had recently turned 90. We saw some of the places I grew up and different restaurants that I studied in. That season we also went to China and talked about the connection of [Revolutionary financier] Robert Morris. His Empress of China was the first American ship to visit China after the Revolution. He even came back with a $30,000 profit!

How much research goes into each show?

It takes us about a month to do one show because of the amount of interaction, research and shooting time. I feel like I could get a Ph.D. in American history tomorrow because of what I’ve learned having all these experts on the show. Whenever we need to check facts, we have experts at the National Park Service, librarians and research people at my disposal. When we need information, our experts jump at the chance to help us out.

For a show where we cooked on a ship, I spent weeks understanding how you cooked on ships, how they entertained and how to stock the galley. I want to know so I can cook with full heart and gusto on the show.

For each show, you cook on an open hearth, with fire and the actual pots and pans and utensils of the period. What’s it like to cook without modern aids?

We don’t sugarcoat anything about 18th-century cooking. We don’t embellish or diminish the difficulty of cooking over open fire. The fire can go up to 800 degrees, so you end up cooking yourself front and back!

When recipes call for us to use blood or tongue, we do it on the show, even if it causes people to gross out. We don’t use bouillon cubes. It’s very labor-intensive, but we want to be historic. And there’s the beauty: I get to use recipes from 1740. Just plating it makes you feel good. And it’s not make-believe—everything gets eaten!

What have you learned from historic dish preparation that informs your modern ideas on cooking and dining? What are your thoughts on the communal aspect of dining?

In Colonial times, a meal would take a long time, with talking and entertaining going on for hours. There might be 30 different dishes on the table. We have lost that kind of interaction. To be fair, people back then had more time to cook and eat like this. Some had enslaved people helping prepare those meals.

I know our lives are so busy, and people have two or three jobs, so I understand there is a reason for fast food sometimes. Still, if I want audiences to learn anything, it’s that when your family comes together, shut the TV off, eat together, and take a little time and pride in what you serve. It doesn’t have to be the best meal. Even if you serve mac and cheese, put it on a nice platter and sit down together.

Do you ever feel like your Colonial subjects are watching you?

There are some things that are on the show that cannot be explained. The fire went out when I was cooking at Monticello, but came back on mysteriously with no explanation. It was as if Thomas Jefferson himself was there. Once I had Martha’s Washington’s real cookbook at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, I opened it to the very page of “How to Make an Excellent Cake,” and I knew I had to make it for my cookbook.

Martha Washington’s Great Cake

Makes 1 (10-inch) ring

Martha Washington wrote that she served this cake for her Twelfth Night party, a festive time in the Colonial era. In fact, she and George were wed on January 6, 1759—Twelfth Night. She was known to serve this cake on her anniversary for her Mount Vernon guests.

Ingredients:
1½ cups dried black currants
½ cup candied orange peel, chopped
½ cup candied lemon peel, chopped
½ cup candied citron, chopped
¾ cup Madeira, divided
½ cup French brandy
3 cups all-purpose flour, sifted, divided
¼ cup (1½ sticks) unsalted butter, softened
1½ cups granulated sugar
3 large eggs, separated
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
½ teaspoon ground mace
½ cup slivered almonds

1. Combine the dried and candied fruits in a medium-small bowl with ½ cup of the Madeira and ½ cup brandy. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 3 hours or overnight.
2. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Grease and flour a 10-inch tube pan.
3. Set a strainer over a small bowl and drain the fruits, reserving the liquid.
4. Toss ¼ cup flour with the fruits to coat.
5. In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, cream the butter with half of the sugar until it is light and fluffy. Scrape down the sides of the bowl, add the remaining sugar, and beat again.
6. In a small bowl, whisk the egg yolks until they are light and smooth, then add them to the butter and sugar. Beat for several minutes until light and fluffy, scraping down the sides of the bowl occasionally.
7. Sift together the remaining flour with the nutmeg and mace, then add it to the butter mixture, ½ cup at a time, alternatively with the remaining ¼ cup of Madeira and the Madeira and brandy that the fruit soaked in, beating until smooth.
8. In a clean, dry bowl, whip the egg whites until firm peaks form.
9. By hand, gently fold the whites into the butter mixture until combined. Fold in the fruits and almonds in the same fashion.
10. Pour the batter into the prepared pan, smoothing the top with a spoon or spatula.
11. Bake for approximately 1½ hours, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool the cake in the pan on a wire rack for 20 minutes before turning out onto a plate to cool completely.
12. Dust with confectioner’s sugar or ice with sugar icing.

Sugar Icing
• 3 large egg whites, at room temperature
• 1½ cups granulated sugar
• Rose water or orange blossom water, to taste
1. In the clean, dry bowl of an electric mixer, begin beating the egg whites on medium speed until foamy. Turn the mixer to medium-high and add the sugar, 2 tablespoons at a time.
2. After a few minutes, or when soft peaks just begin to form, turn to high speed, continuing to add 2 tablespoons of sugar at a time.
3. Whip until all the sugar is incorporated. When medium-soft peaks form, add the rose water and continue whipping until stiff peaks form. Use immediately.
The origins of the

Purple Heart

Descended from a military award created in 1782, today’s Purple Heart honors service members wounded or killed in combat.

By Bill Hudgins

With roots going back to the Revolution, the Purple Heart is regarded as our oldest military award, and it was considered revolutionary for that era because it was reserved for the common foot soldier.

“The Purple Heart is the only military decoration that is not given for meritorious service or heroism. It’s the only award that is an entitlement,” says John Bircher, national spokesman of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH). “If you are wounded or killed in combat, you are entitled to the Purple Heart.”

As of 2014, some 1.8 million people have received the Purple Heart, according to Bircher. The exact number is uncertain, since commanders sometimes awarded Purple Hearts on the spot, and a 1974 fire at a St. Louis records repository destroyed a number of military records archived there.

The direct ancestor of today’s Purple Heart was the Badge of Military Merit, which General George Washington created at Newburgh, N.Y., on August 7, 1782, during the waning days of the Revolutionary War. For unknown reasons, only a few of the simple cloth badges were awarded, and then the honor was shelved for almost 150 years.

According to Linda McMaken in “A Simple Heart: Symbol of Sacrifice” (The Elks Magazine, November 2009), Washington liked to reward a soldier’s exceptional bravery with “a commission or a promotion, either of which meant an increase in pay.”

The Continental Congress was infamous for lagging behind in paying soldiers and officers, so with the war entering its last months in 1782, Congress ordered Washington to stop promoting men. McMaken notes that the Badge of Military Merit would have been a less expensive way to honor them.

At this point, purists would note that the Continental Congress created the Fidelity Medallion, or “Andre Capture Medal,” in 1780, two years before the Badge of Military Merit was established. The medallion was presented to privates John Paulding, David Williams and Isaac Van Wart of the New York State Militia for capturing British Major John Andre, who collaborated with Benedict Arnold to surrender the fort at West Point, N.Y., to the British.

However, the Fidelity Medallion is regarded as a civilian, not military, honor since Congress awarded it, Bircher says. So the Badge of Military Merit legitimately claims to be America’s oldest military decoration.

‘Gallantry, Fidelity, Service’

While today’s Purple Heart recognizes service members wounded or killed in hostile action on or after April 5, 1917, Washington had different criteria for the Badge of Military Merit, which he detailed in his August 7, 1782, orders:
“The General, ever desirous to cherish virtuous ambition in his soldiers, as well as to foster and encourage every species of Military merit, directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over the left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth, or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. … Not only instances of unusual gallantry, but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with a due reward.”

Presenting decorations to “common soldiers” was a revolutionary idea—European armies typically decorated only their officers. Washington’s desire to honor the citizen-soldiers who had followed him through the hell of war to victory meshed perfectly with the democratic aims of the Revolutionary War.

Unlike today, a soldier did not have to sustain a combat wound to be eligible for the Badge of Military Merit. But to make sure the soldier deserved the honor, Washington required proof, as described in his address:

“Before this favour can be conferred on any man, the particular fact, or facts, on which it is to be grounded must be set forth to the Commander in chief accompanied with certificates from the Commanding officers of the regiment and brigade to which the Candidate for reward belonged, or other incontestable proofs …”

The name and regiment of each recipient was supposed to be listed in what Washington called “the book of merit” at his Newburgh, N.Y., headquarters. Unfortunately, the book of merit has vanished, which makes it very difficult to determine how many soldiers received the badge.

Why So Few?
The few documented awards occurred in May and June of 1783 as the Continental Army disbanded in the wake of a near-mutiny by unpaid officers over back pay. According to Bircher, Revolutionary War records in the National Archives disclosed the following awards:

• The first recipient was Sergeant Elijah Churchill of Connecticut’s 2nd Continental Dragoons, who received the award on May 3, 1783, in recognition of his role in two raids. One occurred on November 23, 1780, against Fort St. George on Long Island to destroy a large stockpile of British hay and supplies. The second successful raid took place in October 1781 against Fort Slongo on the north shore of Long Island, also to capture a stockpile of British supplies. Churchill’s badge is on display at Washington’s Headquarters in Newburgh.

• Sergeant Daniel Bissell, 2nd Connecticut Regiment of the Continental Line, also received the award on May 3, 1783. Bissell was a member of Washington’s spy network. He posed as a deserter in August 1781 and joined Benedict Arnold’s Loyalists in New York City, where he wangled an appointment as a quartermaster sergeant. This put Bissell in an excellent position to collect intelligence for Washington, who hoped to take New York City back from the British. After more than a year, the British began to suspect spies in their midst. Bissell

The Military Order of the Purple Heart

The organization now known as the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. Inc. (MOPH) was formed in 1932 “for the protection and mutual interest of all combat wounded veterans and active duty men and women who have received the decoration.” Chartered by Congress, the MOPH is unique among veterans service organizations in that all its members were wounded in combat. The MOPH and its Ladies Auxiliary promote patriotism, fraternalism and the preservation of America’s military history. Most important, they provide comfort and assistance to veterans and their families.

“If you’re homeless, we help you find a place to live. If you need a job, we help you find one. We help veterans apply for benefits and work to make sure they get all they are entitled to,” adds John Bircher, MOPH national spokesman.
memorized all the information he’d jotted down and destroyed his notes. He escaped undetected and brought priceless intelligence back to the Patriots.

• Sergeant William Brown of the 5th Connecticut Regiment of the Continental Line received his award on June 10, 1783, for extraordinary heroism at Yorktown. On the night of October 14, 1781, he led an advance party of troops against British Redoubt No. 10—one of two major strong points in the British defense—carrying unloaded bayonet-tipped muskets to avoid an accidental misfire. They fell on the British, who, despite a desperate fight, were overwhelmed in 10 minutes. Brown’s leadership and cool courage turned what could easily have been a disaster into a crucial victory.

While the awards of the above soldiers cited specific deeds, others recognized long service:

• John Sithins, a fifer in the 2nd New Jersey Regiment who was discharged June 5, 1783, received the Badge of Military Merit “for seven years faithful service.”

• According to the MOPH, “In a pension claim by his heirs following his death on June 7, 1832, the Honorable W.P. Waldo, Commissioner of Pensions, certified that Peter Shumway, a soldier in the 4th Massachusetts Regiment, was discharged with the Badge of [Military] Merit for six years faithful service on June 9, 1783.”

Strange as it may seem, there is only one monument in America dedicated to the peaceful conclusion of the Revolution—the Tower of Victory at Washington’s Headquarters State Historic Site, in Newburgh, N.Y., where the Badge of Military Merit was created.

Robert Todd Lincoln, the son of President Abraham Lincoln and then Secretary of War, commissioned the arched limestone structure in 1883 to mark the centennial of the Revolution. It was completed in 1887.

The Tower of Victory was designed by renowned architect John Hemingway Duncan, who also designed Grant’s Tomb in New York City. The tower’s location offers breathtaking views of the Hudson River, including the Hudson Highlands and the area near West Point. The Purple Heart Hall of Honor is in nearby New Windsor.

Bronze statues of Continental Army soldiers and officers are installed above the gates and arches and a life-size statue of Washington stands in the center. The bronzes were executed by William Rudolf O’Donovan, the era’s pre-eminent monumental sculptor.

Time has been unkind to the Tower of Victory. In the 1950s, a hurricane damaged the original tile roof, and it was subsequently removed. As a result, water and weather have damaged the stone and statuary.

The Palisades Parks Conservancy has launched a campaign to raise some $1.5 million to repair and preserve the structure for future generations. The project will include restoration of the original rooftop walking promenade.

Besides the Tower of Victory, Washington’s Headquarters State Historic Site includes the Hasbrouck House, from which General Washington commanded his troops for almost 17 months as the war wound down.

New York state acquired the site in 1850, “making it the first property in the United States to be publicly purchased and opened for the sole purpose of historic preservation,” according to the Palisades Parks Conservancy. For more information, visit palisadesparksconservancy.org.
• Sergeant William Dutton, 7th Massachusetts Regiment, who was discharged on June 10, 1783, after seven years and five months of service.
• John Pasko, 3rd Massachusetts Regiment, discharged June 8, 1783, after six years of service.

Long Hiatus
Washington had ordered that the Badge of Military Merit should be considered a permanent decoration. Yet, though it was not officially discontinued, it was never awarded again.

In 1918, General John J. Pershing suggested creating an award of merit to honor World War I doughboys and pilots, but nothing came of it, according to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor’s (NPHHH) history.

Then in October 1927, U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Charles P. Summerall sent a bill to Congress to revive the Badge of Military Merit. The proposal sputtered, however, and was withdrawn in January 1928, though it aroused interest in resurrecting the award.

General Douglas MacArthur succeeded Summerall in 1930, and in January 1931 he ordered work begun on a new design, which was created by Elizabeth Will, one of the Army’s most celebrated heraldic specialists.

Unlike Summerall, MacArthur did not ask Congress to authorize it. Instead, on February 22, 1932, the bicentennial of Washington’s birth, President Herbert Hoover issued an Executive Order reviving the honor and renaming it the Purple Heart.

The new medal would be awarded for meritorious service as well as war wounds. Soldiers who had a Meritorious Service Citation Certificate from World War I were eligible. This recognized and preserved Washington’s requirement that the award recognize military merit and loyal service.

Soldiers who had or were eligible for “wound chevrons” from World War I would receive a Purple Heart only for the first wound they sustained; subsequent wounds were recognized with oak leaf clusters to be worn on the medal or ribbon.

Changing Criteria
At first, the Purple Heart was regarded as strictly an Army and Army Air Corps decoration—the Navy declined to authorize a Purple Heart for sailors or marines—and it could not be awarded posthumously to a soldier’s next-of-kin, according to the NPHHH.

On December 3, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized all the services to present the award and created uniform standards, according to Army history. Posthumous awards were authorized later in 1942.

The criteria for the Purple Heart have undergone a number of changes since 1932. For example, when the Legion of Merit was created in 1942 to honor meritorious service, soldiers who had received the Purple Heart solely for meritorious service were asked to exchange it for the Legion of Merit or another appropriate award.

This happened to Lieutenant Annie G. Fox, chief nurse in the Army Nurse Corps at Pearl Harbor. She was not wounded in the Japanese attack, but received the medal for “outstanding performance of duty and meritorious acts of extraordinary fidelity” in tending to injured personnel during the bombardment at Hickam Field.

Fox received the Purple Heart on October 26, 1942. After the new criteria were issued, she was presented the Bronze Star in 1944 and relinquished the Purple Heart.

Another, later change excluded civilians from eligibility. Civilians who were wounded while working with the military were eligible from 1942 until 1998, when complaints from the MOPH and other veterans’ groups ended the practice. And various categories have been added to address cases involving prisoners of war and those wounded or killed by friendly fire.

The Department of Defense has a lengthy approval process that requires statements from at least two other individuals “who were personally present, observed the incident, and have direct knowledge of the event.” Casualty reports, medical records and sometimes discharge papers also can provide corroboration.

One of the MOPH’s major missions is helping veterans who believe they are eligible for a Purple Heart prove their case and navigate the bureaucracy, Bircher says.

“We have only about 45,000 members, and everything we do is oriented toward serving veterans and their families—any veteran, regardless of whether they have or are eligible for a Purple Heart,” Bircher says.

The order’s mission perpetuates Washington’s original vision for the Badge of Military Merit to recognize valor. As Washington put it in his order creating the badge: “The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all.”
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As the American Colonies fought for independence from Great Britain, Patriot women were forced to rely on their own ingenuity and abilities to hold families together and, often, to escape danger.

By Lucy Jane King | Photography by Vaibhav Bhosale
These circumstances saw women gaining “greater autonomy and some legal recognition of their rights to hold property separately, to divorce, and to make contracts and do business in the absence of their husbands,” writes historian Gordon Wood in *The Radicalism of the American Revolution* (Vintage Books, 1991).

Among the many women and families displaced by war, the women of Pennsylvania’s Wyoming Valley endured exceptional hardships in the aftermath of the Battle of Wyoming on July 3, 1778—also known by the much grimmer name, the Wyoming Massacre.

The Patriots knew the British were coming to attack the forts guarding the Wyoming Valley on the Susquehanna River in northeast Pennsylvania. As the men readied for battle, their families prepared to flee, though the nearest friendly settlements were at least 60 miles away through swamps, hills and wilderness, or downriver in small boats.

Families left home without extra clothing and few supplies. As they fled, they looked back on their deserted homes and fields and could see the glow of flames consuming all they owned. Worse, they feared they would lose husbands, fathers, brothers or cousins in the battle.

And the British were spoiling for revenge, after their defeat in the prolonged Saratoga, N.Y., campaign of late 1777 and, more recently, the June 1778 Battle of Monmouth in New Jersey, which was essentially a draw.

More than 300 Patriots died defending the attack on the Wyoming Valley forts and afterward, when settlers claim the British permitted their American Indian allies to torture and kill as many as 40 Patriot prisoners.

Estimates vary, but perhaps as many as 200 women, children and those too old to fight perished in swamps, hills and streams as they tried to escape the carnage.

**A Long-troubled Region**


More recently, the French and Indian War had pitted colonists and British troops against the French and their American Indian allies. In addition, Connecticut and Pennsylvania each claimed the area, and there were longstanding disagreements and skirmishes between settlers from Connecticut and Pennsylvanians, who were also known as Pennamites.

The British and the Iroquois had a long-standing relationship, and some of the Iroquois tribes joined with Loyalists. Iroquois from New York had traditionally claimed control of the valley and had sponsored settlements of other American Indians there. Meanwhile, the Iroquois and their British allies had tried to prevent the Susquehanna Company, a group of Connecticut settlers formed to expand the Colony’s borders westward, from settling in the valley. (According to ConnecticutHistory.org, the Susquehanna Company acquired land in northeast Pennsylvania in 1754 for 2,000 pounds from an Iroquois delegation at a conference in Albany, N.Y. This transaction would later prove contentious.)

**Avenging the Massacre**


In the summer of 1779, American Major General John Sullivan led an army of more than 4,000 men to secure the Wyoming Valley and enter Iroquois territory to the northwest. They destroyed numerous American Indian settlements and crops, drove out some of the Iroquois and ultimately secured the area for future Patriot settlement.

**Women’s Work**

During these and other battles of the Revolution, Patriot women filled many roles: keeping homes and families together; providing supplies for troops at the front; preparing gunpowder; secretly passing on overheard information to...
military officers; and, when necessary, employing weapons to defend themselves and their children.

In the Wyoming Valley, women struggled to shepherd their families to safety under dangerous circumstances. Civilians had little access to horses and wagons. Few trails led through the dense wilderness, and danger from animals and humans lurked in the woods. Small wooden boats or canoes provided the only readily available river transport. Despite these challenges, courageous women emerged. According to Women Patriots of the American Revolution by Charles E. Claghorn (Scarecrow Press, 1991) and The Women of the American Revolution. Vol. II. by Elizabeth F. Ellet (Baker and Scribner, 1849; American History Imprints, 2004), here are a few of their stories:

★ ALICE ABBOTT and her husband, John, had moved to Pennsylvania’s Wyoming Valley from Connecticut in 1772. They lived in one of the forts until they built a farmhouse in 1774. John was a private in the militia at the Battle of Wyoming. During the massacre, he took his family down the Susquehanna River to a safer location. Then he returned with the militia to Wilkes-Barre to find that his house and barn had been burned, his cattle taken, and his fields ravaged. Two weeks after his return John was killed in battle, leaving his wife and their nine children penniless. They walked 300 miles back to Connecticut to stay with relatives and friends. After the war, Alice returned to Wilkes-Barre and remarried. She died in 1816.

★ JOANNA HINMAN and her husband, Titus, were part of the Susquehanna Company that settled in the Wyoming Valley. Titus was killed during the massacre. Joanna and their four children escaped up the Susquehanna River and then walked back to Connecticut to seek refuge with relatives and friends. Joanna died in 1814.

★ ESTHER SKINNER was one of a group of women who fled by boat on the Susquehanna River. A widow, she had lost two of her sons in the battle, and her property was destroyed. She and her six remaining children journeyed down the Susquehanna River and finally escaped through Dutch settlements in New York where, despite the language barrier, they were received with kindness. The Skinners traveled some 100 miles by water and almost 300 miles over land to her former home in Connecticut. Skinner died in Connecticut in 1831 at the age of 100.

★ LUCY IVES was 10 at the time of the Wyoming Massacre. Two of her brothers were killed in battle, but she and her parents and siblings escaped through a swamp and ultimately reached their native town of Canterbury, Conn. Her father returned to the Wyoming Valley, where he died in another battle. Their property was destroyed, but after the war Lucy and her family returned to Pennsylvania.

★ POLLY GORDON WORTMAN was born in 1745 at Andover, Mass. Her father, Samuel Hugh Gordon, was descended from Scottish Highlanders who, in the 1600s, had moved to Northern Ireland, where he was born. Her mother’s grandparents came from England.

Polly’s mother soon died, possibly in childbirth. The rest of the family moved to New Jersey, where Polly later met William Wortman, who was of German descent. They were married in 1770 at Roxbury, N.J.

The Wortmans’ lives became entwined in the story of the Wyoming Massacre. Like many others, they moved to northeast Pennsylvania after battles devastated large swaths of New Jersey. As the battle began in the Wyoming Valley in early July 1778, the Wortmans and their children fled east through the wilderness toward their former home in New Jersey.

According to George B. Kulp in the second volume of Families of the Wyoming Valley: biographical, genealogical and historical sketches of the bench and bar of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania (1890): “Mrs. William Wortman [carried] the two youngest in her arms, till she could carry them no longer. She then put one down by a brush-pile and went on with the other till she found a place of safety, then put that one down and went back for the other. She traveled in this manner two days and nights before reaching a place of safety.”

During this journey, “Once she became somewhat bewildered and had to search quite a while before she found her little one,” Kulp wrote.

The Wortmans returned to New Jersey with their four children and eventually had eight more. William may have served as a private in the New Jersey militia, though the records are not clear. Their daughter Elizabeth, saved from massacre, was one of the girls later chosen to be part of a pageant that greeted Washington during his triumphant tour through New Jersey.

The Wortmans, including married daughters Anna and Margaret, moved to Tompkins County, N.Y., in 1801, where William died a few years later. Polly lived in the area until her death in 1838. }

Lucy Jane King is a member of the Cornelia Cole Fairbanks DAR Chapter, Indianapolis, Ind. One of the daughters that Polly Gordon Wortman saved was Mrs. King’s great-great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Wortman Reed.
Reference Quicksheets
Here are some helpful guides

Do you want to use DNA to further your genealogy research? This guide by Diahan Southard provides answers so you can test with confidence. Explains what DNA can and can’t do for your research. Identifies who in your family should be tested. Explains privacy measures. Provides a comprehensive flow chart that identifies the right test for your research. Helps you choose the right testing company for your test and genealogy research. How to take the test. A Quick Glossary Guide to help you navigate terminology easily.

Hundres of thousands of genealogists have turned to YDNA testing to aid in their genealogical efforts. This guide by Diahan Southard will walk you through each aspect of YDNA testing and help you identify your next steps to finding or extending paternal lines. You'll receive clear and concise explanations of: How to determine if the YDNA test is right for you and your research. What the YDNA test can tell you. How many markers you should have tested. How to get tested step-by-step. What the testing company can tell you. How to get the most out of the testing company website tools.

Evernote is the fastest-growing note-taking technology out there, so it is no wonder that it is incredibly popular with genealogists. Contents include: Quick Key Break Out Boxes - packed with keystrokes to speed up your use of Evernote. How to Get the Most Out of Clipping. Tips for Maneuvering the Desktop Client. Little Known Search Strategies. Specialized Genealogy Focused Techniques such as Source Citation Tips, Clipping recommendations, and Using Reminders. Evernote Premium vs. Free Comparison. Available for Windows or MAC. By Lisa Louise Cooke.

Masonry is one of the oldest, most popular and influential organizations in the U.S., Canada and Europe with just about every town having a Masonic Lodge. Pat Gordon's Masonic research guide explains how to find Masonic records, including a comprehensive listing of Grand Lodges and Prince Hall Grand Lodges by state. Content includes: Background; Lodges; Becoming a Mason; Degrees; Offices; Affiliated Organizations; Genealogical Information; Finding Records; Researching; Pitfalls; Terms; Grand Lodges by State.

Putting archival preservation methods into practice at your home will make all of the difference to the longevity of your family archives and history. This helpful resource by Kyla Ubbink provides information on how to house, store, handle, care for, digitize, and how to respond to disasters, pests and mold. Contents include: Agents of deterioration or what causes artifact damage and deterioration; combating and mitigating the agents of deterioration; proper handling techniques; copying and digitization; continual care; responding to pests and mold infestations and responding to disasters.

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Isaac Shelby served America in two wars and shepherded Kentucky through statehood and its early years.

— By Jeff Walter —
Early Life

Isaac Shelby was born December 11, 1750, to Evan and Letitia Cox Shelby near Hagerstown, Md. Evan had emigrated from his native Wales with his father's family around 1735, when he was about 15. The elder Shelby, a woodsman, hunter and trader, distinguished himself as a lieutenant and then a captain during the French and Indian War, and in later actions with the help of his son.

The younger Shelby received a basic education in rural schools. He spent part of 1771 feeding and herding cattle, and around that time his family moved to the Holston region on Virginia's western frontier.

In 1774, he was commissioned as a lieutenant in the militia, amid increasing American Indian unrest. On October 10, 1774, he served as a lieutenant in his father’s company during the Battle of Point Pleasant, the major conflict in Lord Dunmore’s War, which Virginia’s royal governor had waged against the Shawnee and Mingo tribes.

For nearly a year after this military action, Isaac Shelby worked as a surveyor, exploring the Kentucky wilderness for the Transylvania Company.

The Revolutionary War

In 1776, Shelby was commissioned a captain of a minuteman company, and in 1777 and 1778 he was a commissary of supplies for the Continental Army, overseeing deliveries to frontier posts.

When his father led troops against the Chickamauga American Indians in 1779, Shelby pledged his own credit to provide supplies. That year he became a member of the Virginia legislature. In 1780, while on a surveying trip to the Kentucky territory to finalize claims he had staked five years earlier, he received news of Charleston’s surrender to the British—the latest in a string of humiliating Colonial losses. Yet another British victory followed at Camden, S.C.

Shelby returned home, determined to join the Patriots’ fight for as long as it took to gain independence. There he found an urgent message from Colonel Charles McDowell calling on him to help halt the British advances in the war’s Southern campaign. Within days, Shelby joined McDowell with 200 mounted riflemen, who were called the Overmountain Men because their settlements lay west of the Appalachian Mountains in Virginia, North Carolina and today’s Tennessee.

On July 30, 1780, Shelby, with about 600 troops, captured Fort Thicketty (also known as Fort Anderson) in South Carolina, forcing the surrender of Loyalist Captain Patrick Moore without firing a shot. Just over a week later, on August 8, Shelby and his men fought in the Battle of Cedar Springs. And on August 18 at Musgrove Mill—despite being outnumbered 500 to 200—they forced the British to retreat from their encampment on the Enoree River. This was accomplished using breastworks hastily constructed of logs and brush by the Overmountain Men on Shelby’s orders.

But it was at Kings Mountain, near the North Carolina/South Carolina border, that Isaac Shelby had his greatest military triumph. Major Patrick Ferguson, a highly distinguished British army officer, had been aggressively recruiting Loyalists to protect the flank of Lord Charles Cornwallis’ main force. Shelby and Colonel John Sevier planned a raid on Ferguson and his men.

Joined by troops led by colonels William Campbell, Benjamin Cleveland and McDowell and Major Joseph Winston, they pursued Ferguson and his men to Kings Mountain, where the British troops dug in and fortified their position. The arrogant Ferguson didn’t see himself as cornered: He picked the hilltop spot because he believed it would be difficult to attack such high ground. According to Isaac Shelby: Kentucky’s First Governor and Hero of Three Wars by Sylvia Wrobel and George Grider (Cumberland Press, 1974), Ferguson declared that “God Almighty and all the rebels out of hell” would not move him.

On an autumn day in 1780, a group of buckskin-clad Patriots mustered near modern-day Elizabethton, Tenn., crossed the Appalachian Mountains and boldly attacked and defeated British forces led by the celebrated Major Patrick Ferguson at Kings Mountain.

This event was, in the words of Thomas Jefferson, “the turn of the tide of success” in the Revolution, and a key leader in the pivotal but often-overlooked battle was Colonel Isaac Shelby.

Had Shelby accomplished little else in his lifetime, his accomplishments in the Carolinas would have secured his place in American history. But the onetime surveyor also went on to help lay the foundation for the state of Kentucky and serve twice as its governor; fight in the War of 1812; and help Andrew Jackson negotiate treaties with American Indians.
Even though he knew he was being surrounded, Ferguson wasn’t expecting the ferocity of the Americans’ attack on October 7, 1780. Shelby instructed his men to use a tactic he had learned in his clashes against the American Indians: Move from tree to tree, firing from behind each. Despite repeated bayonet charges by Ferguson’s men, the Patriots eventually forced the British to retreat. As they fled, Ferguson was killed, and his men surrendered.

After this battle, Shelby’s men began calling him “Old Kings Mountain” for his role in a victory that paved the way for the Patriots’ defeat of the British troops under Cornwallis.

POLITICS AND THE WAR OF 1812

In 1782, while still serving in the Army, Shelby was elected to the North Carolina legislature, and that winter he was appointed to a commission to adjust land claims along the Cumberland River. On April 19, 1783, he married Susannah Hart at Boonesborough, Ky., and later that year they moved to land in Lincoln County, Ky., that had been awarded to him for his military service. Over the next several years, he was involved in various negotiations with American Indians, including a temporary peace agreement forged with the Chickamauga in the summer of 1791.

Shelby participated in several of the conventions leading to statehood for Kentucky, including those that secured its separation from Virginia and the one in April 1792 that formed Kentucky’s first constitution. On May 17 of that year, electors unanimously chose him as the first governor. He took office June 4, three days after Kentucky officially became the 15th state.

During his first term, his most notable accomplishments were supplying troops to curb the American Indian threat in the northwest; securing the use of the Mississippi River; and establishing a tax structure and basic laws.

After leaving office in June 1796, Shelby spent 16 years developing his land holdings and amassing a fortune. But when the War of 1812 began, he heeded the public’s call to run for governor again. Still wildly popular because of his military service, he defeated his opponent by a margin of nearly 3-to-1, and took office August 24, 1812.

The war dominated Shelby’s second administration. In 1813, he raised 3,500 troops, twice as many as requested, and personally led them to join General William Henry Harrison’s army. On October 5 of that year, at age 62, Governor Shelby actively participated in the Battle of the Thames in Ontario, Canada, a decisive American victory over the British and American Indians that solidified U.S. control over the northwest.

After his second gubernatorial term ended in September 1816, Shelby declined an offer from President James Monroe to become Secretary of War, citing his age. He performed one final act of public service when he and Andrew Jackson negotiated with the Chickasaw American Indians to purchase an area west of the Tennessee River that became known as the Jackson Purchase region of Kentucky.

Shelby died at his farm, Traveller’s Rest, south of Danville, Ky., on July 18, 1826.
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