Schoharie, New York’s Lasell Hall: An Anchor for Its Community

American Spirit
Daughters of the American Revolution
May/June 2016

Cycling Through History

SEEDS in Circulation
Seed Libraries Are Sprouting Up All Over the Country

Havens of Diplomacy
U.S. Department of State’s Diplomatic Reception Rooms

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The Thomas Jefferson State Reception Room features characteristics of Jefferson’s homes in Virginia.
DURSTON SAYLOR, COURTESY OF THE DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION ROOMS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
From the President General

A year and a half before the Boston Tea Party, in June 1772, Rhode Island colonists boarded, raided and torched the British ship HMS Gaspee, which was anchored off the coast of current-day Warwick, R.I. While it’s a little-known event outside of Rhode Island (and too early to be considered valid proof of DAR membership), it is considered a significant event in the lead-up to the Revolutionary War. The burning of the Gaspee is still celebrated today in a festival and parade in Warwick each June.

For those readers not satisfied merely to drive to historic sites, we offer a feature on cycling through history. Rex Hammock, CEO of our publishing partner, Hammock Inc., is passionate about cycling and gives advice on using that passion to tour some of America’s historic byways, such as Route 66 and the Natchez Trace, which runs through Tennessee and Mississippi.

Based on the model of a book library, seed libraries allow people to check out pouches of heirloom seeds to grow. We explore this topic from a preservation angle, exploring how users adapt cultivated seeds, some of which date back to at least the early 19th century, and ensure a supply of viable, fresh seeds for their communities.

In Visions of America, you’ll take a look inside some of the 42 formal meeting areas and reception rooms located at the U.S. Department of State. These symbolic and decorative Diplomatic Reception Rooms are filled with furniture, paintings and decor that tell the story of America’s past. In them, the United States signs treaties, conducts summit negotiations, hosts swearing-in ceremonies and facilitates trade agreements.

We feature a brief history of clocks, watches and timekeeping from ancient sun dials to today’s atomic clock. And in the National Treasures department, the DAR Museum spotlights a unique pocket watch dating to 1710.

Lasell Hall, owned by Schoharie DAR Chapter, Schoharie, N.Y., was severely damaged during the flooding from 2011’s Hurricane Irene. The building has become a signature restoration project for FEMA, but that agency wasn’t the only one to lend funds or a helping hand. Chapter members and the entire community came together to restore the circa-1795 home, including reinstating the original floor plan and many historic paint colors.

I have so enjoyed serving the NSDAR as President General for the past three years as we’ve worked to Honor our Heritage, Focus on the Future and Celebrate America! It has also been a pleasure to oversee the work of American Spirit magazine as it promotes and illuminates the National Society’s enduring tenets of historic preservation, education and patriotism.
Pocket watches have been around since the 1400s. The invention of the tempered coiled steel springs in place of a pendulum made possible handheld watches like the one above. This sterling silver example dates to around 1710 and is signed by P. Menetrier of Amsterdam (figure 1). Featuring its original hour and minute hands, the silver face is elaborately engraved with Roman and Arabic numerals. Birds, strap work scrolls, tendrils, a scallop shell and grotesque masque decorate the center of the face.

The outside decorations pale in comparison to the inside. Upon opening the watch, an elaborate engraved interior can be seen. The top is engraved with an Arabesque motif of intertwining leaves, flowers, birds, a cherub’s head and even a squirrel. These elements are made out of gilt brass.

The mechanical part encompassing the gears and spring is located below the embellished top (figure 2). Two important parts of the watch’s mechanism can be seen. The spring is visible on the left above the case hinge. Wrapped around the spring is a steel chain. To the right of the spring is a large gear with a grooved conical element. The chain connects both the spring and gear together. When wound, the chain pulls on the spring and regulates the uncoiling that in turn helps the watch maintain accurate time.

Both men and women wore pocket watches. These could be expensive when new. In probate inventories they range in value from 4 pounds for a plain silver model to 18 pounds for a gold-cased version. In today’s currency that would be approximately $300 to $4,400. 🕒
As an accomplished equestrian, Maryland Daughter Erika Gonzalez turned a pastime into a passion

Erika Gonzalez was just 4 years old when she first rode a horse. By the age of 12, she owned one. Today, she owns two. In the barn, these horses answer to George and Blake, but on competition days, they are known as Copper Dancer and Yes, This is It—names that pay respect to the horses’ thoroughbred racing pedigrees.

During equestrian competition season, which runs late March through the beginning of November in her home state of Maryland, Ms. Gonzalez rides at least five days a week, sometimes six, depending on which horse she’ll ride in any given event. George is her primary horse and generally enters intermediate-level competitions with her; Blake is younger and currently competing at a lower level (that means the fences he jumps are lower and wider). Some years, Ms. Gonzalez travels south for the winter, training in an equestrian community like Aiken, S.C., or Ocala, Fla.

“The horses love going south because it’s warmer for them,” said Ms. Gonzalez, a member of Goshen Mills DAR Chapter, Gaithersburg, Md. “It also gives me a head start on the season, which I sometimes need depending on what my goals are for that year.”

In 2014, Ms. Gonzalez (and George) won second place in the amateur division at an international equestrian event in Lexington, Va. She qualified for the event by placing in five previous ones and was there as a representative of the United States.

“Competing for the United States was an amazing and rewarding experience,” she said. “Not only to recognize all the hard work it took us to get there, but also to compete against amateur riders and professionals alike from several different countries. Qualifying was a win in itself, but coming in second place made it even sweeter.”

She’s in the amateur division because she’s not an equestrian by trade.

In March, she started a new job helping construction sites comply with state environmental regulations.

For the past 10 years, Ms. Gonzalez has served as a volunteer coach and mentor for young equestrians through the United States Pony Club. In addition, she rescues retired racehorses and retrains them for equestrian competition. Blake is her second rescue from the Charles Town Races in Charleston, W.Va.

“You basically have to start from scratch and teach them how to be a horse again,” she said. “There are many people in the equestrian world who think that they can’t place in an event unless they get a horse from Europe, but they lose sight of the natural talent we have here in this country. These former racehorses are extremely athletic and have great brains. All they need is a little time.”

Admiration of American racehorses comes naturally to Ms. Gonzalez, who has pride for both her Revolutionary War and Hispanic heritages. In high school, she was selected to participate in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute for young Hispanic leaders; today, she serves as Corresponding Secretary for her DAR chapter.

“It adds diversity to my experience as an American,” said Ms. Gonzalez, whose father permanently immigrated to the United States from Chile when he was 21.

“Having a Patriot in my family grounds me here and helps me see how important it is to support the work our Founding Fathers did in making this such a great country. At the same time, my Hispanic heritage helps me connect to more people and understand why so many people want to be a part of this American dream.”

Ms. Gonzalez balances her passion for riding with a full-time job as an environmental scientist. Previously, she worked in petroleum remediation, helping return contaminated sites back to or close to what they were before a spill occurred.

Ms. Gonzalez spends most of her free time in the barn with her horses. She does leave some of it for her fiancé, Adam, whom she’ll marry in September.
Although archaeological sites show that people have been in **YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK** more than 11,000 years, modern exploration didn’t occur until the early 1800s. Geologist Ferdinand V. Hayden convinced Congress to make Yellowstone America’s first national park in 1872. Primarily located in Wyoming, as well as Montana and Idaho, it’s known for Old Faithful Geyser, Yellowstone Caldera (an active supervolcano) and other geothermal features.

Linked to Yellowstone by the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway is **GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK**.

In the northwest region of Wyoming, it encompasses the Teton mountain range, the Grand Teton peak and the valley known as Jackson Hole. It’s a popular destination for hiking, backcountry camping and fishing. Established in 1929, Grand Teton National Park is also home to the Western Center for Historic Preservation, a joint project between the NPS and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The education and resource center dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of cultural resources in America’s western national parks is housed in the former White Grass Dude Ranch, which first opened in 1919.

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**, established in 1890, is located in California’s Sierra Nevada mountains. It’s

Continued on page 13
With the aid of a DAR Special Projects Grant, the Tesoro Cultural Center spearheaded a $30,000 educational initiative to teach young people about the Kiowa Tribe. Completed in 2015, the project, “The Kiowa People: In Their Own Words,” is a nine-minute video featuring 85-year-old John Emhoolah, a Kiowa tribal member and Colorado resident, and his family.

The Emhoolahs’ story illuminates the rich culture and traditions of Kiowa and Plains Indians’ ways of life. Personal interviews with tribe members cover such topics as the origin and migration of the tribe, their use of horses and hunting practices, the importance of trade, spiritual visions and warrior societies, and traditional music and dancing.

Emmy-nominated filmmaker Lynne Scholfield filmed the Emhoolahs and other Kiowa community members as they shared their oral histories. Scholars provided historical insights, including information on American Indian military service to the United States.

The video’s companion curriculum features activities, bibliography and web resources. The activity packet, created for grades K–12, includes topics such as “What Year Is It?” a guide to understanding the Kiowa picture calendar; “Do You Know the Way to Santa Fe?” an activity teaching students about the role of Bent’s Fort on the Santa Fe Trail; and “Plains Supermarket Match-Up,” a worksheet detailing the importance of the buffalo to the Kiowa life.

Teachers, schools, media centers and school districts are able to download the film and supplemental curriculum without cost at www.tesoroculturalcenter.org/tesoro-kiowa-curriculum-order-form.

Over the past 14 years, Tesoro Cultural Center has established a strong reputation for authentic, in-depth and diverse educational programming about American Western history. Its mission is to keep “the history and artistic treasures of our American past alive in our community.”

The NSDAR Special Projects Grants program invites nonprofit organizations to apply for matching-fund grants to support local projects related to historic preservation, education and patriotism. Visit www.dar.org/grants to learn more.
Martha Daniell Logan was an early American horticulturalist, famous for her gardening expertise. She was born in 1704 to a wealthy family in St. Thomas Parish, S.C.; her father was a merchant and governor of South Carolina. Though little is known of Martha’s upbringing and education, it is speculated that she attended school in England. She could read and write, and she was skilled in needlework.

At the age of 14, she married George Logan Jr., and moved with him to land she inherited from her father: Wando Plantation, about 10 miles outside of Charleston, S.C. There, she raised her family and cultivated her love of plants.

In 1742, her husband either died or became incapacitated, which may have caused the family a financial burden. In March 1742, Martha placed an advertisement in the South Carolina Gazette stating that she would board students at her home and teach them to read, write, and do embroidery and cutwork. Her husband’s ill health may have also propelled her to begin anonymously writing a column, “Gardener’s Kalendar,” for the Gazette in 1751. In 1752, it was published under the name “Lady of this Province” in John Tobler’s South Carolina Almanack—the first almanac printed in South Carolina.

In 1753, however, Martha sold Wando Plantation and moved to Charleston, where she began selling seeds and plants and studying more about botany. It was there that she met John Bartram, a botanist from Pennsylvania. They began a regular correspondence, often exchanging letters, plants and seeds.

In a letter to English plant collector Peter Collinson, Bartram wrote of Mrs. Logan, saying, “Her garden is her delight and she hath a fine [one].”

It wasn’t until 17 years after her death that the “Gardener’s Kalendar” was published under her own name, though by then her identity was probably common knowledge among Charleston residents.

— Sarah Forsyth Donnelly, Point of Fork DAR Chapter, Fork Union, Va.

‘Her Garden Is Her Delight’

Martha Daniell Logan’s “Kalendar” from Tobler’s South Carolina Almanack of 1756:

Directions for Managing a Kitchen Garden every month of the year Done by a Lady

— MAY —

This month is chiefly for weeding and watering: Nothing sown or planted does well.

— JUNE —

Clip Evergreens, and Herbs for drying, Thyme, Sage, Carduus, Rosemary, Lavender, etc. Sow Carrots, Parsnips and Cabbage. If the Weather is dry and hot the Ground must be well watered, after being dug deep and made mellow. Straw or Stable Litter well wetted and laid pretty thick upon the Beds where Seeds are sown, in the Heat of the Day, and taken off at Night is a good expedient to forward the Growth.

— JULY —

What was done last Month may also be done this. Continue to water, in the evening only. The latter end of this Month sow Pease for the Fall. Water such things as are going to seed, is being very needful to preserve good Seed. Turnips and Onions may be sown; Leeks, scallions and all of this Tribe planted.
Celebrate the treasured bond between a mother and her children

Sparking with all the color, joy and value of a beloved family, the "Forever in a Mother's Heart Personalized Birthstone Bracelet" lets a mother honor each one of her children with not only their individual birthstones, but their names as well.

Exquisitely designed and finely hand-crafted, our personalized birthstone bracelet features two charms for each child. The heart charm gleams with sterling silver plating and features the child’s name with a Swarovski crystal birthstone in a 24K gold-plated heart setting. Each personalized heart is paired with a roundel charm sparkling with additional crystal birthstones.

As many as six children can be represented. Two more charms—an open heart with clear Swarovski crystals and a “Love” charm plated in 24K gold with a clear Swarovski crystal—add more beauty and value. Together, the charms on the plated sterling silver 7¼” bracelet radiantly express the precious joys of a family.

Exquisite craftsmanship ... Exceptional Value

This gift of love for a mother is available at the remarkable price of just $129*, which you can pay for in 4 installments of $32.25. Your bracelet comes ready to wear, in a gift box with Certificate of Authenticity, backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee. To reserve, send no money now; just fill out and mail the Reservation Application today!

Print name in block letters (max. 10 characters) and corresponding birth month below.

Name_________________Month____
Name_________________Month____
Name_________________Month____
Name_________________Month____
Name_________________Month____
Name_________________Month____

*Plus $9.98 shipping and service. Please allow 4-6 weeks after initial payment for shipment of your jewelry. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

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The International Quilt Study Center & Museum (IQSCM) at Quilt House, located on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s campus, opened a 13,000-square-foot expansion in 2015 that doubled the museum’s gallery and storage space. IQSCM has the world’s largest publicly held quilt collection, dating from the early 1700s to present and representing more than 45 countries. IQSCM is an academic program of the university’s Department of Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design. It offers a master’s degree in textile history with a quilt studies emphasis, which is the only program of its kind in the world. For more information, visit www.quiltstudy.org. The following exhibits are now on display at IQSCM:

**Until May 25, 2016**
**African-American Quilts from the Cargo Collection**

For 20 years, Dr. Robert Cargo, owner of the well-known Folk Art Gallery in Tuscaloosa, Ala., championed self-taught artists, especially African-American quiltmakers from his home state. In 2000, the museum acquired a collection of 156 pieces, including the one below, from Dr. Cargo, which spans the 20th century and represents locales all over Alabama, including Birmingham and rural communities such as Gee’s Bend.

![African-American Quilts from the Cargo Collection](image)

**Until August 21, 2016**
** Favorites from the Byron and Sara Rhodes Dillow Collection**

The Dillow Collection of quilts and fabrics includes nearly 250 historically significant and dynamic American quilts and 175 printed cotton fragments, including the one above. Sara Dillow, both a collector and quilter, loved flowers and birds—particularly the ones printed on early 19th-century fabrics found in the quilts she and Byron collected.

![Favorites from the Byron and Sara Rhodes Dillow Collection](image)

**Until June 19, 2016**
**MAN-MADE: Contemporary Male Quilters**

The exhibit examines the unique aesthetics and techniques that male artists bring to a craft long-associated with feminine arts and labor. The eight exhibiting artists are part of a community of male quilters whose work utilizes striking contemporary imagery and compositions that navigate their personal interests often related to painting, film and popular culture. Addressing stereotypical qualities of “maleness,” Ben Venom makes quilts that revolve around heavy metal music, and Dan Olfe uses video game software to conceptualize his quilts.

![MAN-MADE: Contemporary Male Quilters](image)
HOLLY SWEET returned home from the 2015 Continental Congress inspired to launch her own service project. She heard about the relationship between DAR and the USO, and how DAR members would make sandwiches and coffee for service members. She contacted the USO of North Carolina near her home, asking if she could make cookies.

Mrs. Sweet, a member of the Mecklenburg DAR Chapter, Charlotte, N.C., discovered about 300 soldiers go through her local airport each day. Starting in July 2015, she decided to volunteer her cookie-baking skills to make 300 cookies weekly and deliver them every Friday to the USO of North Carolina, Charlotte Center.

In October Mrs. Sweet was told about “The Exodus,” a term for the two-week leave soldiers in basic training at Ft. Jackson, S.C., are given for the holidays. About 4,000 very hungry soldiers go through the USO’s Charlotte center on their way home during that time.

Mrs. Sweet formulated a new goal for service. She sent out a Cookie S.O.S. to her chapter, and the response was amazing: One member, Joanne Wheaton, baked 1,180 cookies. Another member, Diane Rich, who is unable to attend meetings regularly due to muscular dystrophy, baked 185 cookies. Debby Wade baked 235 cookies; Gwen Hoover baked 633 cookies. Suzanne Hart and her mother made 384 Rice Krispies Treats; Ann Allen baked 105 cookies using a recipe she received from a fellow military wife during the time their husbands served in Vietnam. Members with busy schedules provided premade cookies.

Boxes of cookies filled Mrs. Sweet’s house and three freezers. She ended up filling the freezer at her church as well as a friend’s freezer.

“The first two weeks of December I met Daughters in parking lots and visited them in their homes picking up boxes of cookies,” Mrs. Sweet said. “Everything in my freezer slowly made way for cookies.”

“A cookie is such a small thing,” Mrs. Sweet continued, “but it has remembering of home and family, and it hopefully sends a message to our soldiers who sacrifice for our freedom that they are appreciated, supported and loved.”
Painting Partnership

Museum of the American Revolution Receives DAR Gift to Install Iconic Painting

IN 2017, THE MUSEUM OF THE American Revolution will open its doors to the public. The museum—located in the heart of Philadelphia—will encompass 118,000 square feet and boast a collection of historical items and documents from the Revolution.

As a show of its support, the NSDAR is giving the museum a grant to help underwrite the framing and installation of a hand-painted copy of the “Siege of Yorktown,” which was originally painted by French artist Louis-Charles Auguste Couder. The original painting (shown below), which depicts the final battle of the American Revolution, hangs in France’s Palace of Versailles.

The framed painting will be located in the Museum of the American Revolution’s large interior court. At 13 feet tall and 17 feet wide, the painting will be visible from the first floor.

“Without question, the DAR’s missions of historic preservation, education and patriotism are keenly in line with the goals of the Museum of the American Revolution,” said DAR President General Lynn Forney Young in a March 3, 2016, press release. “We are proud to partner with [the Museum] in our shared educational goal to ensure future generations understand the importance and relevance of the inspiring ideals of the American Revolution and are grateful for the sacrifices of our founding generation.”

The DAR will continue to work closely with the museum to help provide educational programming and promotion.

For more information on the museum, visit www.amrevmuseum.org.

To learn more about the whole story of the American Revolution and the museum that will replace the Yorktown Victory Center, visit www.historyisfun.org.

The American Revolution: A Virtual Tour

In April, “Campaign 1776,” an initiative to foster the preservation of American battlefields, was set to release an animated map detailing America’s battle for independence. The multimedia experience allows viewers to follow along with the battles in sequential order, as well as watch reenactment footage. For more information, visit www.campaign1776.org.
famous for its giant sequoia groves, the granite cliffs of El Capitan and Half Dome, and towering waterfalls such as Bridalveil Fall and Yosemite Falls. Explorer Galen Clark and others lobbied to protect the valley from development, leading President Abraham Lincoln to sign the Yosemite Grant in 1864. Naturalist John Muir later helped establish an even larger park encompassing the nearby mountains and forests. Muir’s advocacy convinced President Teddy Roosevelt to set aside wilderness areas in the United States for federal protection. In the 20th century, photographer Ansel Adams became known for his black-and-white landscapes of the area.

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, which became the country’s 10th national park in 1910, runs through Montana’s Rocky Mountains, and its glacier-carved peaks and valleys cross over the Canadian border. The mountainous 50-mile Going-to-the-Sun Road is a favorite drive, and the park’s 700 miles of hiking trails lure adventurers to the crystal-clear waters of St. Mary’s Lake, Two Medicine Lake and Hidden Lake. It requires a moderately strenuous day hike to get near the three most accessible glaciers of the 25 that remain at the park.

Located in the north-central region of Colorado, ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK was established in 1915. It features mountain lakes and alpine meadows, wooded forests and backcountry trails. The park includes the Continental Divide and the headwaters of the Colorado River. In 1871 Addie Alexander was the first woman to climb the park’s highest mountain, Longs Peak.
Bursting with sumptuous photography, *The General in the Garden: George Washington’s Landscape at Mount Vernon* (University of Virginia Press, 2015) presents a highly detailed guide to the landscape so beloved by our first president. The book was produced by the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association (MVLA) under the direction of Senior Curator Susan P. Schoelwer and features essays by Adam T. Erby, J. Dean Norton and Esther C. White.

More than simply a coffee table book, the work describes in detail how Washington labored to achieve his vision for the land and, more than a century later, how archaeological techniques uncovered his original designs.

Washington apparently was something of a natural when it came to landscape design, Erby writes in one essay. Even while directing armies against the British, he sent home directions for managing his farms and fields. Erby quotes a Washington admirer as saying in 1798, “In a word the garden, the plantations, the house, the whole upkeep, proves that a man born with natural taste can divine the beautiful without having seen the model. [Washington] has never left America. After seeing his house and his gardens one would say that he had seen the most beautiful examples in England.”

Under the MVLA’s stewardship, the locations and outlines of Washington’s design have been unearthed and restored. Always a punctilious record-keeper, Washington left detailed descriptions of plantings and how they fared, which greatly aided the association’s efforts.

The book pays this favor forward: It contains plant lists as well as an index of plants referred to in the essays.

With spring in full bloom, *The General in the Garden* makes a perfect read at the end of a day spent in the flowerbed.

In *Under This Roof: The White House and the Presidency—21 Presidents, 21 Rooms, 21 Inside Stories* (Lyons Press, 2015), Paul Brandus, an award-winning journalist who was part of the White House Press Corps, coaxes the walls of the Executive Mansion to talk about their famous tenants. He pairs presidents with specific rooms that played a special role in some part of their presidency.

Brandus starts with John Adams, the first president to live in the new President’s House. Adams moved in on November 1, 1800, though construction was still underway. Damp plaster made with hog hair and horsehair was still drying, and the smell of beer used in wallpaper paste pervaded the house.

On his first day there, Adams wrote his wife, Abigail, and included these words: “I pray Heaven to bestow the best of Blessings on this House and on all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise Men ever rule under this roof.”

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had Adams’ blessing carved on the stone fireplace of the State Dining Room, enshrining it for the ages.

Invading British troops burned the President’s house in 1814, forcing first lady Dolley Madison to flee. It’s less well-known, Brandus writes, that some local residents looted the mansion after the first lady departed with government papers, some valuables and the famous portrait of George Washington. Though the fire destroyed the interior, the walls remained sound, and the mansion was rebuilt and occupied by Madison’s successor, James Monroe.

Brandus’ collection of historical tidbits about the White House and its occupants is irresistible. For instance, what is today called the Lincoln Bedroom was not actually where Honest Abe slept. Instead, it was his office, and he usually called it “The Shop.”

A few years later, the Red Room of the White House was the scene of the secret swearing-in of Rutherford B. Hayes as the successor of Ulysses S. Grant. Hayes’ victory came after one of the most controversial elections in U.S. history and there was talk of a coup or insurrection in Washington.

Grant threw a dinner party for his successor, during which he and Hayes sneaked into the Red Room where Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Morrison Waite administered the oath. This was the first time a president had been sworn in at the White House, says Brandus, who adds that Hayes “declined to use a Bible.”

*Under This Roof* will be a treat for the history buff. It’s a fresh way of looking at the panorama of events at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and a trove of unusual information.

An accomplished letter writer, Abigail Adams’ correspondence gives a unique viewpoint on historical events in which her family played so prominent a role, while bringing to life the everyday experience of American women in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Acclaimed Adams biographer Edith Gelles has selected and annotated 430 letters—more than 100 published for the first time—to John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Mercy Otis Warren, James and Dolley Madison, and Martha Washington, among many others. Her frank and keenly observant letters to her “Dearest Friend” John and others in the 1760s and 1770s, including her famous call for Adams and his fellow delegates to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia to “Remember the Ladies,” reveal her astute political sense and offer a portrait of the Revolutionary War on the home front.

Her husband, John Adams, has become the subject of renewed interest, after once being overshadowed by Washington and Jefferson. This final volume of Gordon S. Wood’s three-volume edition makes Adams’ important writings from the early national period broadly available to general readers. Letters, diary excerpts, political essays and presidential messages illuminate Adams’ service as a diplomat in the Netherlands and England, his eight years as vice president under Washington, and his tumultuous single term as president. Selections from A Defense of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America (1787–1788) and Discourses on Davila (1790–1791) demonstrate his insights into strengths and weaknesses of ancient and modern political systems, while letters to Jefferson, to Abigail, and to his children, including son John Quincy Adams, reveal the passionate and mercurial personality of one of our most fascinating Founders.
The unimaginative might look at the expansive prairies of south-central Kansas and see only nothingness. But to the opportunists and visionaries who built Wichita, now the state’s largest city, the landscape represented possibility. American Indians, cattlemen, mill operators and aviation pioneers have all left their mark on this blank canvas.

Continued on page 18
No Time Like the Present

★ THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME TO BE A DAUGHTER!

NSDAR is looking toward the future, and you have an important role to play. We are making progress on our $25 million goal in the Guardian Trust Campaign and growing our endowment. But we can’t continue to tell and preserve America’s stories without your support.

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Be part of our American legacy.
Continued from page 16

Now a modern Heartland city that both reveres its layered past and nurtures a thriving cultural community, present-day Wichita gives credence to the nickname that Wichita Eagle founder and editor Marshall Murdock coined more than a century ago. He called it “the Peerless Princess of the Plains.”

Agriculture and Aviation on the Prairie

Wichita lies at the junction of the Arkansas and Little Arkansas rivers. For thousands of years before the city’s namesake tribe settled the area, nomadic American Indians used the region as a trade center.

White settlers arrived in the mid-19th century. According to History of Wichita and Sedgwick County, Kansas: Volume I (C.F. Cooper & Co., 1910), the determining factor in the town’s success was not its location but its citizens. “An aggregation of men constituted its first inhabitants who were awake to every opportunity that offered, and embraced them with a full knowledge of their value and importance,” wrote O.H. Bentley, the book’s editor-in-chief.

The city incorporated in 1870, and soon developed into a rugged and raucous cowtown. Traveling via the Chisholm Trail, cowboys drove hundreds of thousands of cattle from Texas to the rail station in Wichita. But within a few short years Wichita lost its place in the cattle trade. The rail lines continued westward, and the town’s leading industry followed.

Fueled by the lumber, livestock processing, grain milling and oil industries, Wichita quickly rebounded. The boom carried through to the 1910s, when the town’s next wave of industrial pioneers first brought airplanes to the prairie.

In the decades that followed, aviators including Clyde Cessna, E.M. Laird, Lloyd Stearman, Walter Beech and, later, Bill Lear established operations in Wichita, which was dubbed the “Air Capital of the World.”

According to the Kansas Aviation Museum, there were 21 plane manufacturers in the state by 1921. Aircraft manufacturing surged during World War II, as Wichita plants produced B-29 bombers and other military planes. Today, the descendants of Wichita’s early aviation companies continue to operate in the area, and aircraft manufacturing remains one of the city’s principal industries.

Chapter 1 of History of Wichita and Sedgwick County concludes with an assessment that seems equally as promising today as it did in 1910. Bentley wrote, “The outlook for the future of Wichita as a large and commanding city in the interior West is superb.”

A Heartland Cultural Hub

Now home to about 385,000 residents, Wichita is easily navigable—the city’s free downtown trolley runs year-round—and packed with entertainment and recreation opportunities. Visitors’ options are limited only by their stamina.

Explore a vibrant neighborhood, such as Old Town’s red-brick warehouse district or the historic Delano area. Visit one of the city’s 33 museums, or take in a performance at the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, the Wichita Grand Opera, the historic Orpheum Theatre or Musical Theatre Wichita.

To see the 76-piece Martin H. Bush Outdoor Sculpture Collection and the original Pizza Hut restaurant, head to the Wichita State University campus. Watch a Wichita Wingnuts professional independent league baseball game while enjoying skyline views at historic Lawrence-Dumont Stadium.

Wichita’s dining scene can satisfy any craving, including an appetite for nostalgia. Snag a seat at Old Mill Tasty Adventures.
Shop’s marble counter soda fountain to savor a retro treat at the city’s oldest downtown restaurant. At Nifty Nut House, a third-generation family business dating to 1937, the candy selection is all but guaranteed to include your childhood favorites.

**WICHITA HIGHLIGHTS**

These signature attractions and events provide an introduction to this Great Plains city’s best offerings.

**Keeper of the Plains Plaza at the Mid-America All-Indian Center**
(316) 350–3340
[www.theindiancenter.org](http://www.theindiancenter.org)

Keeper of the Plains Plaza, featuring a 44-foot steel sculpture of an American Indian saluting the rising sun, is the jewel of the Mid-America All-Indian Center complex. The sculpture sits at the confluence of the Arkansas and Little Arkansas rivers, with informational displays and a museum located nearby. Don’t miss the daily ring of fire demonstration, held at sunset.

**Kansas Aviation Museum**
(316) 683–9242
[www.kansasaviationmuseum.org](http://www.kansasaviationmuseum.org)

Explore the history of the “Air Capital of the World” at the Kansas Aviation Museum, located in the Art Deco-style home of the old Wichita Municipal Airport. The collection includes significant historic aircraft—40 planes are on display—as well as an archive bursting with records, books and photos. The Kansas Aviation Hall of Fame also resides on-site.

**Botanica**
(316) 264–0448
[www.botanica.org](http://www.botanica.org)

The exuberant seasonal displays at this 18-acre horticultural wonderland provide an oasis from city life. Botanica’s 30 themed spaces include a butterfly garden, a Chinese garden, a woodland glade and a wildflower meadow. Flowers are summer’s showstoppers; in winter, it’s the holiday light display.

**Hatman Jack’s**
(316) 264–4881
[www.hatmanjacks.com](http://www.hatmanjacks.com)

Hatman Jack’s, one of the nation’s largest hat stores, turns 40 this year. This is the place to find the perfect topper, be it Western, Panama, fedora or porkpie. Ladies can shop the selection of fascinators, cloches and sunhats. The shop also resizes, repairs and restores hats in need of TLC.

**Sedgwick County Zoo**
(316) 660–WILD (9453)
[www.scz.org](http://www.scz.org)

With more than 3,000 animals and 250 acres of exhibits, Sedgwick County Zoo is Kansas’ most-visited outdoor family attraction. Exhibit areas include a penguin cove, an orangutan and chimpanzee habitat, and a North American prairie environment. A mammoth addition will join the lineup soon: The Elephants of the Zambezi River Valley exhibit opens on Memorial Day Weekend.

**Riverfest, June 3–11, 2016**
(316) 267–2817
[www.wichitariverfest.com](http://www.wichitariverfest.com)

Established to help build community pride as part of Wichita’s centennial celebration and now in its 45th year, Riverfest has become one of Kansas’ largest and longest-running community events. More than 400,000 attendees enjoyed the festival’s concerts, food, fireworks displays and family activities last year. 🎉
In the late 1930s, architects Gilbert Stanley Underwood and William Dewey Foster won the contract to design and construct a building for the War Department. However, by the time construction was completed in 1941, the War Department had expanded and outgrown the building. Instead, it became home to the State Department—another growing area, thanks to World War II. Congress allocated funds for a building expansion in 1955.

When the State Department acquired the building in 1961, 42 rooms on the seventh and eighth floors were set aside for the secretary of state and other national leaders to entertain, but they were very sparsely furnished. It was Clement Conger, then deputy chief of protocol for the State Department, who envisioned a series of architectural improvements to provide the nation with extraordinary rooms suitable for meetings and diplomatic matters, explained Marcee Craighill, the curator and director of the Diplomatic Reception Rooms.

“The rooms were designed to evoke hospitality and provide ceremonial spaces for welcoming foreign leaders and diplomats,” Craighill said. “What is remarkable is that they were created and sustained through generous gifts of the American people. No taxpayer money has gone into the creation or preservation of these rooms.”

Washington, D.C., is filled with formal meeting areas and reception rooms, but few rooms offer as much symbolic meaning and decorative panache as the Diplomatic Reception Rooms located at the U.S. Department of State.
By the mid-1960s, private citizens were donating historical objects to be featured in the rooms, and planning for the architectural transformation began in the late 1960s. The rooms, at the time, were very modern, and Conger and others envisioned Georgian and Federal architecture that was popular during the nation’s founding era.

“The hand-carved details, plastered ceilings, mahogany floors and antique Oriental rugs all come together to create an extraordinary background for the historic collection,” Craighill said.

Conger raised funds room by room, with the final set of rooms completed in 1986. Many objects were on loan, but Conger was persuasive and convinced many people to give items to the rooms. Today, the suite of rooms boasts a collection of more than 5,000 pieces of American fine and decorative art from 1750–1825. The State Department continues to raise funds for the preservation of the collection and for educational programs. They also continue, as appropriate, to do acquisitions to balance out the rooms. “Specifically, we’re seeking historic objects and views of the west,” Craighill noted.

Every room is in use, Craighill said, and several are used multiple times a day for various functions. Here are five of the State Department’s most popular and well-loved rooms.

**The Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room**

Completed in 1985, the Benjamin Franklin State Dining Room is the largest of the 42 rooms and the most used, Craighill said. Ideal for swearing-in ceremonies, state luncheons and international conferences, the room can hold approximately 370 people for standing receptions or 275 for seated luncheons. The room often hosts multiple events in one day.

Also in the room is a copy of a portrait of Benjamin Franklin, originally painted in 1767 by David Martin in London. Scagliola Corinthian columns line the long walls of the room, and gilded ceilings highlight the entablature.
The John Quincy Adams State Drawing Room

Named after former Secretary of State and President John Quincy Adams, the drawing room is used for state luncheons and dinners. The room features mahogany floors, and hand-carved architectural details grace the raised panel walls. Portraits of Adams and his wife, Louisa, hang on the walls, along with paintings of Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and Daniel Webster.

Also located in the room is the writing table on which the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783.

“Students come on tours and immediately stop texting when they see the desk,” Craighill said. “They’re suddenly very focused when they realize the historic moment that took place on that table. The independence of our nation was established on that desk.”

Another notable item is a print of “The Bloody Massacre of 1770.” Copied from an engraving by Henry Pelham, Paul Revere himself made this copperplate engraving of a scene from the Boston Massacre. This particular print is the only one to have descended in the family of one of the victims, James Caldwell. Caldwell’s name is underlined in pencil on the print.

The Thomas Jefferson State Reception Room

Named after Secretary of State and President Thomas Jefferson, the reception room features characteristics of Jefferson’s homes in Virginia—Palladian architecture, triple-sash windows (similar to those at Monticello), and a Doric entablature (like that of the central room at Poplar Forest).

The room, which is used primarily for small luncheons and dinners, is furnished with paintings of American landscapes and American Chippendale furniture from the 1700s.
**The Treaty Room Suite**

Located on the seventh floor, the Treaty Room Suite was completed in 1986 by architect Allan Greenberg. Though not open to the public, the seven rooms center around an elliptical-shaped open room. The suite is home to the signing of hundreds of international agreements, formal ceremonies and matters of diplomacy.

The Federal-style architecture is displayed prominently throughout the suite. The center room, the Treaty Room, boasts freestanding Corinthian columns. In his book *How Architecture Works* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013), architect Witold Rybczynski writes, “The Treaty Room is full of such iconographic imagery. A compass rose at the center of the inlaid wood floor represents the harmony of nations from all four corners of the globe. Carved into the base of the egg-and-dart moldings that form the door surrounds are whorls that depict white roses, traditional symbols of peace, as well as the leaves and flowers of the tobacco plant, a reference to the Native American peace-pipe ceremony.”

**The Entrance Hall**

In the center of the 13-foot ceiling hangs a glass-cut chandelier. Designed by architect Edward Vason Jones, the Entrance Hall mimics the interior of two Georgian plantation homes in Virginia: Carter’s Grove (home of Carter Burwell’s family, one of the wealthiest families of Colonial Virginia) and Westover (home of the William Byrd family of Virginia).

However, the most notable piece in the room may be the secretary desk from 1753, designed and built by cabinetmaker Benjamin Frothingham Jr. of Charlestown, Mass. During the Revolution, Frothingham served as a first lieutenant and eventually became major of artillery. After the war, he returned to Charlestown to continue work as a cabinetmaker until his death in 1809.

**Visit the Diplomatic Reception Rooms:**

Tours of the Diplomatic Reception Rooms are offered daily, Monday–Friday. To arrange a tour, contact the Tour Office at (202) 647–3241 or email TourOffice@state.gov. For more information, visit [https://diplomaticrooms.state.gov](https://diplomaticrooms.state.gov).
Cycling Through History
During the summer of 1976, more than 4,100 men and women from all 50 states and several countries set out for a 4,229-mile cross-country bicycle journey. The trek, which was called the “Bikecentennial,” in celebration of America’s Bicentennial, took 90 days to complete.

More than 2,000 of the cyclists reached the end of the route, in Yorktown, Va., but their journey didn’t stop there. That event helped spark an American history-focused bicycle touring movement that still lures tens of thousands of people each year to experience American history on bicycles. While some people continue the Bikecentennial tradition of a cross-country ride, the fastest-growing types of bike tourism are city tours, overnight getaways and multi-day regional treks. Designed for all levels of cycling aptitude, some tours even include on-call shuttle services and accommodations at upscale spas and inns.

The organizers of the 1976 ride were primarily passionate young cyclists, many of whom were students at the University of Montana. After the success of the event, which ultimately became an officially sanctioned activity of the American Revolution Bicentennial Board, the organization changed its name and evolved into the nonprofit that’s now known as the Adventure Cycling Association (adventurecycling.org). Celebrating its 40th anniversary this summer, the association’s advocacy efforts include the development of elaborate and detailed bicycle maps and guided tours that celebrate America’s rich history and diverse ecosystems.

One of the first routes created by the organization was the coast-to-coast TransAmerica Trail, which starts in Astoria, Ore. Recent routes, however, focus on specific periods in American history. The 3,000-mile Lewis and Clark Bicycle Trail was mapped in 2003 in anticipation of the bicentennial commemoration of the historic 1804–1806 expedition. From Hartford, Ill., to Seaside, Ore., modern-day enthusiasts can follow the path of the Corps of Discovery and learn about their westward voyage along the way at stops like the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Great Falls, Mont. It’s one of Adventure Cycling Association’s

By Rex Hammock

The DAR’s Role in History-Related Bicycle Travel

Cycling enthusiasts can thank the earliest members of the NSDAR for the many history-related bicycle tours offered today. The DAR was active in identifying, marking and preserving historical sites, including the routes and trails taken by early pioneers, settlers and military expeditions.

For example, in 1907, Mississippi Regent Elizabeth Jones proposed that chapters in Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee cooperate to mark the “great thoroughfare” known as the Natchez Trace. Her aim was to “trace with accuracy the very route” and “place monuments and markers” to inspire a sense of national pride and patriotism. In 1908, she urged each Mississippi chapter to purchase and erect a marker. The Corinth DAR Chapter, Corinth, Miss., responded first by erecting a monument in Tishomingo, Miss., and initiated a process that would gradually be completed by 1933.

It took another half century for that project to evolve into the treasure of history and nature that is today the 440-mile Natchez Trace National Parkway. Without the DAR, it is doubtful the route would exist as a commercial-vehicle-free, slow-speed-limit, paved road that attracts cyclists from around the world. In addition to dozens of American Indian mounds and markers, the parkway is home to one of the largest memorials related to the War of 1812 and another that honors Meriwether Lewis, who died along the Natchez Trace at the age of 35.

Other early DAR marking projects include the Santa Fe Trail, Oregon Trail and the Camino Real.
most challenging routes, due to patches of unpaved rail-trails, gravel and long distances between rest stops. The organization estimates that most cyclists will need about two-and-a-half months to complete the trail.

The 2,007-mile Underground Railroad Bicycle Route, which runs from Mobile, Ala., to Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada, memorializes the network of secret routes that led slaves to freedom before and during the Civil War. The route follows rivers through Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky. Once cyclists reach Ohio, they head northeast toward Lake Erie and Buffalo, N.Y., at which point they cross over into Canada. Educational opportunities and historic sites abound, including Alabama’s Historic Blakeley State Park, where the last major battle of the Civil War was fought; the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, Ohio; and the Michigan Avenue Baptist Church, which was a popular Underground Railroad safe house in Buffalo, N.Y.

The Adventure Cycling Association’s newest map project helps guide cyclists almost 2,500 miles from Chicago to the Santa Monica Pier in Los Angeles, along iconic Route 66.

The Business of Historic Bicycle Touring

In addition to advocacy organizations such as the Adventure Cycling Association, numerous commercial bicycle touring companies have grown over the past few decades by assisting those who would like to connect with history via cycling, but don’t have the time or resources to travel for weeks or months.

The overnight bike tourism industry, along with in-city tours lasting a few hours, is becoming the fastest-growing segment of bike touring. A popular example of such day-trip cycling is an 18-mile history trail from Old Town Alexandria, Va., to Mount Vernon, Va.

Fully paved, the Mount Vernon Trail follows the Potomac River’s Virginia shoreline. It begins at Theodore Roosevelt Island near Rosslyn, Va., and continues through Alexandria, ending at Mount Vernon. The Alexandria bike rental company Bike and Roll offers a one-way bike trip to Mount Vernon. After a tour of the estate, the group returns to Alexandria on the Potomac Riverboat Company’s Miss Christin. (Find more information at www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit.)

Vermont-based tour company VBT (www.vbt.com) offers a six-day Colonial Virginia: Riding the Road to Independence bike tour. With daily rides of two to four hours (with shuttle support for rest breaks), the tour includes overnight stays and tour stops at the Jamestown Settlement, Yorktown battlefields and Colonial Williamsburg, with dining and accommodations at some of the area’s best-known inns and restaurants. The tour makes use of quiet country roads, including the 23-mile scenic Colonial Parkway. The company also offers a six-day tour of the Mississippi portion of the historic Natchez Trace, a forest trail first traversed by American Indians and then later used by explorers and traders in the 18th and 19th centuries. (See sidebar on page 25 for more information.)

Wheeling Around New Cities

Following in the tradition of city bus tours, trolley tours and even Segway city excursions, nearly every major U.S. city now has a company that offers local bicycle tour packages.
An Interstate System for Bicycle Travel and Tourism

After nearly 40 years in the planning, a visionary goal for U.S. bicycle transportation and tourism is becoming a reality with the creation of the U.S. Bicycle Route System (USBRS), a national cycling route network that complements the numbered highway system for motorists. The USBRS was established in 1978 by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the same body that coordinates the numbering of interstate highway routes. Once fully connected, the system is projected to encompass more than 50,000 miles of bike routes throughout the country, many along the trails first identified and marked by DAR chapters a century ago. Today, more than 10,000 miles of the route have been designated and numbered.

For example, in New York City, Bike the Big Apple Tours covers different parts of the city and focuses on various historical topics. On Sunday evenings, the company offers a tour that starts in the West Village and circles the tip of Manhattan along the Hudson River Greenway. Along the way, there are stops at the 9/11 Memorial Park, Wall Street and Battery Park for an up-close view of the Statue of Liberty. Depending on the weather, the tour includes a ride over the Brooklyn Bridge with views of the sun setting behind the Empire State and Chrysler buildings. (For more information, visit www.bikethebigapple.com.)

Similar tours in Washington D.C., Chicago and Nashville, Tenn., are becoming popular ways to learn the history of a city while enjoying a fun bike ride led by a friendly local. Before visiting any city, check TripAdvisor.com to learn about local tour options and reviews.

History at a Slower Pace

Those who have experienced history-related travel by bicycle typically focus on the joy of “getting there” and not just being there. The pace of travel provides time for anticipation of what will be seen and reflection on what has been experienced. Experiencing the slow pace of cycling gives one the opportunity to imagine the slow pace that pioneers, settlers and America’s first military expeditions experienced.

In writing the official history of the Bikecentennial in 1996, author Dan D’Ambrosio interviewed many cyclists who took part in the 1976 event. According to D’Ambrosio, almost everyone interviewed said something similar about the experience: “I learned more about this country in 90 days than most people learn in a lifetime.” And, as it turned out, they also learned more about themselves.

Rex Hammock, CEO of Hammock Inc., spends spring weekends riding the Natchez Trace and routinely commutes 15 miles to work year-round on his bicycle. In 2013, he rode 415 miles from Florence, Ala., to Fairhope, Ala., on Mobile Bay.
Seeds in Circulation

Seed libraries are sprouting up all over the country

By Lena Anthony
In its most basic form, a seed library is a collection of seeds readily accessible to the public. Users take seeds, grow plants, harvest seeds and then replace them in the seed library at the end of the growing season. The types of seeds can vary—vegetables, ornamentals, herbs and heirlooms are all fair game, as long as they’re open-pollinated, relying only on wind or animals for pollination.

In 2009, there were only a handful of these seed depositories; today there are more than 300 seed libraries around the country. The seeds contained within may look tiny, even insignificant, but dig a little deeper, and you’ll find more than just a quaint pastime. Seed libraries serve a purpose that is equal parts ecological, cultural and historical. By providing access to seeds that have been passed down from generation to generation, seed libraries are promoting biodiversity, as well as preserving the history of our forefathers’ food.

There was a seed saver among the Founding Fathers. Thomas Jefferson saw the benefits of experimenting with new seeds in order to diversify the food supply in the young republic. Before he was president, he went to great lengths to introduce dry-soil rice to the Colonies in an effort to curb the malaria that was rampant near the marshy rice fields of South Carolina. After he left office, he received seeds from the Lewis and Clark expedition and planted them at his hillside garden at Monticello.

Seed libraries may be new, but the process of saving and sharing seeds isn’t. America’s earliest European settlers brought seeds with them to the New World. When their crops failed, they traded seeds with American Indians. As the Colonies flourished, agricultural societies abounded, and with them came the exchange of exotic seeds among America’s wealthy landowners.
Between 1819 and 1900, the U.S. government launched various programs that collected and distributed more than a billion packets of seeds to American farmers, according to a 2006 U.S. seed law history published by Delta Farm Press.

All of these events contributed to the emergence of a biodiverse landscape by the close of the 19th century. But since then, factors like the industrialization of agriculture, deforestation and urbanization have led to much less biodiversity. According to Seed Savers Exchange, a nonprofit founded in 1975 that boasts a catalog of more than 20,000 heirloom seeds, the world has lost 75 percent of its edible plant varieties in the last 100 years.

“Our ancestors spent lifetimes modifying wild plants into the abundant and diverse food system that we have now,” said Betsy Goodman, an organic farmer in Omaha, Neb., who started the city’s Common Soil Seed Library in 2012. “People need to honor their sacrifices. We take so much for granted. It’s a privilege to be able to walk into the grocery store and have food available. How can I ensure seven generations from now my future offspring will have access to food? The only way I know how to do that is to grow food and save seeds.”

continued on page 32
Discover Coveted NEW U.S. Currency

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Seed Stories

Besides promoting biodiversity, seeds also tell a story. “It’s so easy to get out of touch in today’s fast-paced world, and these seeds and their stories can serve as a reminder of where we came from and what we’re connected to,” Goodman said.

Her favorite seed story is that of the Nebraska Wedding Tomato, which, at 100 years old, just happens to be the oldest heirloom available in the Common Soil Seed Library. “It’s a juicy orange slicer with a really nice crack-resistant skin. It used to be handed out to Nebraskan brides on their wedding day to ensure a fruitful marriage with plenty of food on the table and many healthy mouths to feed,” she said.

Bill Best, director of the Sustainable Mountain Agriculture Center in Berea, Ky., has collected nearly 700 different varieties of bean seeds from the Southern Appalachian region. His organization is not a seed library, but rather a catalog that draws customers from all 50 states and abroad. For $6, you can buy the seeds of the Fox Family Greasy Bean, which has ties to the American Revolution. In his 2013 book, Saving Seeds, Preserving Taste: Heirloom Seed Savers in Appalachia (Ohio University Press), he tells the story of it and others in his collection.

“Food and culture are inseparable,” Best said. “As we record the seeds, we record the stories because it’s all a part of the culture.”

One of the oldest varieties available through the Seed Savers Exchange is the LeMay bean, which can be traced back to Nashville, Tenn., in the early 18th century.

“According to [the donor], the variety has been in his family for 12 generations and can be traced back to Peter LeMay, a French Huguenot, who arrived with two brothers from France in the early 1700s,” said Beth Ryan, communications coordinator for Seed Savers Exchange. “The family tradition is that Peter brought the bean seeds with him from France.”

Ryan said her organization has documentation for approximately 20 percent of the 20,000 seed varieties in its collection, but is actively trying to fill in the blanks.

“Each story tells a different chapter in the history of American gardening and our complex cultural and agricultural heritage,” said Ryan, whose organization uses the free StoryCorps app to collect seed stories. “Seed stories are also a wonderful way to inspire a new generation of gardeners who we hope will ultimately become seed savers themselves.”

Checking Out Seed Libraries

As Goodman and other seed-saving activists work to clear new hurdles for seed sharing, the interest in seed libraries continues to grow. For those interested in starting a seed library or learning more about seed saving, there’s a bounty of available resources. Founded in 2009, the Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library in Richmond, Calif., was one of the earliest of its kind. Rebecca Newburn, its cofounder and coordinator, has grown her site, www.richmondgrows.org, into a one-stop resource for budding seed savers and seed librarians. A Seed Libraries community can be found on Facebook, and a social network for seed libraries can be found at www.SeedLibraries.org with a fitting tagline: “Sowing a Culture of Independence.”

No matter where you start and whom you choose to contact, Goodman is certain you’ll find a tight-knit community that spans state lines ready to help. “A seed librarian is motivated by love of life, appreciation for life and honor for those who came before them,” she said. “All of us are passionate about making it happen, despite the extra hours of dedication. This is true volunteer work for the greater good.”
The Air in America: Is it Good for Those with COPD?

By David Ebner | Staff Writer

The American Lung Association produces an annual State of the Air Report for the air quality in the United States. For the 6.3 million citizens with COPD, this report could cause concern or elation. People with COPD experience flare-ups caused by anxiety, allergens, warm or cold air, smoke and airborne pollution. Flare-ups include coughing, sputum and shortness of breath. This poses the question; could air quality be causing flare-ups for over 6 million Americans?

Stem cells act as the body’s healing system, but are very slow to react. In the body of someone with a chronic illness, they’re even slower. Realizing this, physicians at the Lung Institute wondered if they could help the cells do their job faster.

Stem cells, if healthy, can differentiate into dozens of cell types, including neurons, muscle cells, skin cells and blood cells. Some people with COPD have a shortage of stem cells in the lung, which can lead to irreversible damage. Stem cells are usually found in bone marrow, the muscles and the digestive tract. They are very fragile and must be handled very carefully. However, there is another location where stem cells can be found: the lungs.

Of the 220 metropolitan areas reporting air quality data, the areas expected to have elevated pollution like Los Angeles ranked highest. However, the Dallas and Houston areas scored poorly in ozone pollution. Also, Pittsburgh and Scottsdale-Phoenix reported poor airborne particle pollution results.

Addressing this need, a specialty clinic called the Lung Institute (lunginstitute.com) treats patients with various lung diseases like COPD, emphysema and pulmonary fibrosis. Instead of prescribing supplemental oxygen or medications, they treat people using stem cells from the patient’s own body.

A study by the Lung Institute indicated that 82 percent of patients report an increase in quality of life, and 60 percent of those who took a pulmonary function test saw improved lung function after receiving treatment. Over the past three years, the Lung Institute has treated 2000 patients. Nationwide, the company operates 5 clinics in Tampa, FL; Nashville, TN; Pittsburgh, PA; Scottsdale, AZ and Dallas, TX. Most of these cities made the list of the 25 worst cities for U.S. air quality in the latest State of the Air report.

Cleaning the air in the U.S. will likely entail looking for alternative solutions. What we’re doing now isn’t working, which is how those with COPD have felt for years. Little has been done to improve their care until now. Maybe we should take a page from Lung Institute’s book and look at air quality in the same way.

Stem Cells: The Next Big Thing

Lung disease accounts for the loss of 150,000 lives every year and is the third leading cause of death in the United States.

Specialists using stem cells from the patient’s own body can offer treatment for people suffering from lung diseases like:

- COPD
- Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Emphysema
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- Chronic Bronchitis

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How we tell time has changed dramatically through history. Whereas today’s most accurate timepieces measure the light emitted by atoms, timekeeping wasn’t always such a precise science. In 3500 B.C., Greeks and Egyptians employed shadow clocks that depended on the rotation and movement of the sun. The time of day was determined by the length of the shadow cast by the column as the sun traveled from east to west.

Shadow clocks divided daylight hours into 10 sections plus four twilight hours—two in early morning, two at dusk. The shadow cast on the markers around an obelisk calculated time and indicated morning or afternoon as well as summer and winter solstices. Though precise, they needed light emitted by the sun and were useless at night and on days when clouds cloaked the land.

The First Timekeepers

Around 325 B.C., Greeks gauged time by the flow of water through a container with a spout. As water dripped out of the container, the water level against markings revealed the time. Greek philosopher Plato employed a water clock to wake his students. A basin with lead balls drifted in a cylindrical container holding water fed by a cistern that gradually rose to a higher level. By daylight, the vessel had been raised high enough to tip over. Lead balls plummeted onto a copper platter and roused Plato’s pupils.

Another method of telling time was the hourglass, believed to be invented by the Egyptians. Two vertically aligned chambers are connected by a small opening—grains of sand fall at a steady rate from one chamber to the other when the hourglass is turned over. Ancient custom placed an hourglass in a coffin to show the sands of life had run out; today they are used as timers for games.

By the end of the ninth century, people used graduated candles to determine the time at night. King Alfred the Great’s candle clocks were 12 inches high, of uniform thickness and made from 72 pennyweights of wax. A mark illustrated every inch, each one denoting...
20 minutes. They burned for four hours inside glass boxes framed by wood to keep the flames alive.

**Creating the Watch**

Clock originally meant “bell.” In the Middle Ages, religious institutions used bells to schedule daily prayers and work hours. A mechanical device, such as a falling weight or rotating beater, would ring the bells, or strong monks would perform the task. Christian monks became technically proficient and were the first European clockmakers.

Locksmiths and jewelers’ guilds gave birth to the first professional clockmakers—the specialized craft slowly developed into a major industry in Europe and England. The heart of Germany’s clock-making centers was Nuremberg and Augsburg, while the Black Forest focused on wooden cuckoo clocks—carved wooden birds emerged and sang the time.

Peter Henlein, a locksmith from Nuremberg, is often regarded as the inventor of the pocket watch. In 1504, he was involved in a brawl in which a fellow locksmith, George Glazer, was killed, and afterward, he sought asylum with a local Franciscan monastery. Henlein stayed until 1508 and, in 1509, became a master in the city’s locksmith guild. The following year, he invented the spring-powered clock, which slowed (and stopped keeping time) when the spring unwound. That was a problem with all mechanical clocks until the invention of the spiral pulley, courtesy of Jacob Zech in 1525.

Henlein also made miniature decorative, spring-powered brass clocks—known as Nuremberg eggs—fashioned to attire and worn as an ornament. Fashionable with nobility, they are thought of as the first watches, but at more than three inches in length did not fit in pockets. Men began to place a round-shaped watch in their pockets when Charles II of England introduced waistcoats in 1675. The first person to actually wear a watch on his wrist was a French mathematician and philosopher, Blaise Pascal, who lived from 1623 to 1662. Pascal attached his pocket watch to his wrist with a piece of string.

In 1583, Galileo proved that uninterrupted sequential beats of a pendulum always take place in the same length of time. This led Christian Huygens, a Dutch mathematician and scientist, to design the first weight-driven clock with a pendulum instead of a balance wheel. The clocks were off by less than a minute a day instead of the previous 15. Improvements lowered the discrepancy to 10 seconds—precise for the 17th century.

In 1714, a cash reward was offered by the British Parliament to anyone who could invent an accurate clock for use at sea. Forty-seven years later, John Harrison, a working class joiner and self-educated clockmaker, built a marine chronometer with a spring and balance wheel escapement and won the British government’s prize—more than $2 million in today’s currency. The chronometer kept time on board a ship to approximately one-fifth of a second a day. Captain James Cook, who navigated three acclaimed expeditions to the Pacific Ocean, referred to the chronometer as “… our faithful guide through all the vicissitudes of climates.”

**Telling Time in America**

The English became renowned watchmakers and passed an act in 1698 that required watchmakers to place their names upon those they crafted. When immigrants landed on our shores, they brought their skills with them, but it was unusual for Colonial clockmakers to sign their names, and little is known of their history. Most of the watches sold in Colonial America were imported from England and have the name and serial number of watchmakers working in London so that discreditable watches would not be accepted.

**Left:** The Egyptians are believed to have been the inventors of the hourglass. **Below:** A single winding kept this “Nuremberg Egg” running for 12 to 16 hours, and it told time to within the nearest half hour.
At first most clocks were created for churches, steeplehouses and meetinghouses. A meetinghouse built in New Haven, Conn., in 1727, was already in need of a new bell and clock by 1740. The clock had brass works constructed by Ebenezer Parmelee. New Haven sought good value for its legal tender and checked out the clock for two years. Its performance passed the town’s judgment, and Parmelee finally received payment for his work.

The majority of early American homes used noon mark dials and sand glasses. In 1762, The Boston Gazette and Country Journal ran an advertisement for “one fourth, one half minute, one half hour and two glasses.” But the affluent could purchase watches and clocks. Eight-day clocks sold in hardwood cases. A long-case clock resides in the Old State House in Boston—made by Gawen Brown in 1750 for his father-in-law, the Rev. Mather Byles, first pastor of the Hollis Street Church in Boston. It has a square top, brass works and remains in running order.

By 1750, newspaper advertisements promoted locally made watches. The craftsmen were able to sell their timepieces for less money and guarantee them for longer periods than the imported, signed English watches. The Mercury, dated May 2, 1774, ran an ad for both clocks and “watches neat and plain, gold, silver, shagreen, and metal. Some engraved and enamelled with devices new and elegant; also the first in this country of the small new fashioned watches the circumference of a British shilling. John Sinnet removed to the Main St. called the Fly, next house to the corner of Beekman’s slip, the sign of the dial against the wall.” Most clockmakers, during this time, used the designation “Sign of the Dial,” as the name of their shops. They identified their street and often the name of the owner of the home or place where they conducted their business.

Incentives were presented for the return of pilfered watches. In 1754, Basil Francis offered, “1 pound reward for any information of a man who did in a fraudulent manner obtain one pinchbeck watch with a single case, winds up in the face, the hole where the key goes a little flowered.”

The first mechanical alarm clock invented by Levi Hutchins of Concord, N.H., in 1787, could only ring at 4 a.m. Eighty-nine years later, Seth E. Thomas patented a wind-up alarm clock—able to be set for a wake-up time chosen by the owner.

Eli Terry of Windsor, Conn., made expensive wooden works for his clocks. One of our nation’s earliest clockmakers, Terry’s higher-priced clocks featured a brass dial, a dial for seconds, the moon’s phases and a superior case. Peddlers hawked the excellent timekeepers throughout New England. Terry, in 1814, invented the “short-shelf” clock, a pendulum clock in a more compact form—the clock and base were less expensive.

Around 1850, with the advent of the American system of manufacturing, Americans utilized automated machines to mass-produce watches with precise and attractive interchangeable parts. The watches offered were uncomplicated, reasonably priced and of a better quality.

During the late 1800s, Richard Sears worked as a station agent for the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway in North Redwood, Minn. To make extra cash, he sold lumber and coal to local citizens. When a delivery of gold-filled pocket watches was refused by a neighboring jeweler, Sears bought the watches and sold them to other agents along the line, made an excellent return, then ordered more for resale. Sears made a profit of $5,000, moved to Minneapolis and began the R.W. Sears Watch Company in 1886. Six months later, his salesmen were traveling across the United States to sell the inexpensive timepieces. The first Sears catalogue, published in 1894, offered watches; the 1897 catalogue, sent to about 300,000 homes, added men’s and ladies’ clothing, plows, silverware and bicycles.

Women wore wristwatches at the dawn of the 20th century. Men didn’t wear them until World War I, when soldiers found pulling a watch from a pocket risky in battle. By war’s end, wristwatches had become fashionable. Half a century later, digital watches—using electrical currents running through quartz crystals to cause vibration—appeared on wrists. The quartz clock came into being at the Bell Telephone Laboratories in 1927 when a telecommunications engineer, Wayne Morrison, searching for consistent frequency values, devised an exceptionally precise clock. Quartz clocks still rule the markets—they can be mass-produced and offer an exact performance.

The U.S. National Bureau of Standards and Technology presented the atomic clock in 1999. The most accurate timekeeping device recognized today, the NIST F-1 measures light emitted by super-cooled cesium atoms as they fall through a microwave cavity. Able to run for almost 20 million years without gaining or losing a second, it is used to define official world time. Transportation, communication, industrialization, power and many other technologies depend on atomic-frequency clocks. Modern life runs on the precise measurements of time.
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How many members does the National Society have? DAR has more than 180,000 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 945,000 members.

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

The 1772 Sinking of HMS Gaspee Helped Inspire a Revolution  By Bill Hudgins

On June 11, 2016, the seaside town of Warwick, R.I., will hold its annual Gaspee Days Parade, this year celebrating the 234th anniversary of the burning of the British ship HMS Gaspee in one of the earliest acts of violent Patriot defiance. The attack created such outrage in Great Britain that some claim it—not Lexington and Concord—was the first “shot heard ’round the world.” Indeed, the Gaspee Days Committee’s trademarked slogan proclaims it as “America’s First Blow for Freedom.”

Igniting the Fire

The Gaspee was a schooner dispatched to Rhode Island in February 1772 to stop rampant smuggling in the Colony. Captained by Lieutenant William Dudingston, Gaspee quickly earned a reputation for harrying local vessels, while its captain came to be loathed for his arrogance and high-handed style.

Early on, Dudingston made a powerful enemy when he seized a cargo of molasses and rum from the Fortune, a ship owned by the wealthy and politically connected Greene family, whose members included future Revolutionary War general Nathanael Greene.

According to a July 28, 2015, essay in the online Journal of the American Revolution by history professor Steven Park, Ph.D., Dudingston found himself in a precarious position when the Admiralty Court in Rhode Island declined to condemn the cargo. Under local law, that meant the lieutenant had illegally seized the cargo. So the rum remained on board, as did Dudingston to avoid arrest on shore.

Tensions escalated rapidly after the Fortune seizure. Feelings grew so heated
that in March 1772 the Greenes and other influential merchants petitioned Rhode Island Governor Joseph Wanton to intervene. One of the major complaints against the lieutenant was that he had not formally presented his orders and commission to the governor when the ship arrived.

The complaint was bolstered on a legal opinion provided to the merchants by Rhode Island’s chief justice, Stephen Hopkins. One of the most powerful men in the Colony and resentful of British rule, Hopkins had publicly declared as early as 1757 that “The King & Parliament had no more Right to make Laws for us than the Mohawks,” according to An Empire on the Edge: How Britain Came to Fight America (Random House, 2014) by Nick Bunker.

Hopkins interpreted Rhode Island’s 17th-century charter as giving Rhode Islanders wide latitude in creating their own laws. He believed that the lack of representation in Parliament gave the colonists the right to ignore any British laws that did not suit them.

Hopkins’ increasingly radical political beliefs carried considerable influence, especially with his fellow merchants and political figures, including merchant and slave trader John Brown. Before Brown and the other merchants complained to Governor Wanton, they asked Hopkins to review their complaint and render an opinion. Wanton accordingly wrote Dudingston, asking him to present the papers. The lieutenant refused, and an angry exchange of notes followed between the governor, Dudingston and his superior in America, Admiral John Montagu.

By June, merchants were refusing to do business with British sailors. Gaspee, joined by HMS Beaver, continued to stop and search vessels.

There are a number of questions about what happened next. No one has found any contemporary documents detailing the plan to attack Gaspee, and Rhode Islanders maintained a tight-lipped silence during the ensuing investigation. The traditional narrative is largely based on three accounts written in the mid-1800s. Historians still debate whether the attack was part of a carefully crafted plan based on a fortunate match-up of tides, phases of the moon and deft seamanship, or if it was opportunistic, quickly planned and executed, and heavily dependent on luck.

According to this latter narrative, Gaspee ran aground on Namquid Point (now known as Gaspee Point) on June 9, 1772, while pursuing a suspected smuggler, the Hannah, across Narragansett Bay. With Gaspee stuck fast, Hannah breezed safely into Providence and her captain immediately reported the grounding to merchant Brown, who was a member of the Sons of Liberty.

Knowing Gaspee would remain aground until the tide rose well after midnight, Brown decided to rid Rhode Island of this pest. He sent word of the grounding around town and invited anyone who wanted to raid the ship to meet at Fenner’s Wharf.

As many as 100 men showed up and piled into longboats. They rowed quietly through the moonless night to where Gaspee lay, but a sailor on watch heard them, called out a challenge, which was ignored, and had the captain awakened.

Dudingston came on deck and called out, “Who goes there?” One of the rowers was Abraham Whipple, the sheriff of Kent County, who cursed the officer and said he had a warrant for his arrest.

Though the night was dark, the boatmen plainly saw Dudingston’s white shirt. Though this does not seem to have been part of the plan, one of the raiders, Joseph Bucklin, decided to shoot the lieutenant, hitting him in the arm and lower abdomen. Dudingston fell back, bleeding heavily from what he feared was a mortal wound.

The Sons of Liberty swarmed aboard and quickly subdued the crew. Dudingston surrendered the ship and was taken below deck where a doctor was able to stop the bleeding. The wounds were serious, and he likely would have died without medical attention.

The Sons of Liberty allowed the sailors to gather their belongings and then took them ashore to be held as prisoners. Dudingston also was taken ashore and put under a doctor’s care.

Brown and the other leaders of the raid stayed behind to search through the captain’s papers and seize any valuables. They then torched the ship—some historians think the fire might have started accidentally—and departed. The Gaspee burned to the waterline while munitions in its hold exploded.

Great Britain’s Response

The consequences of the Gaspee raid far exceeded the actual loss of a single ship. From the British point of view, Bunker writes, the affair “was an act of blackest treason, committed by men whose wealth and status should by rights have made them pillars of society.”

After the raid, Admiral Montagu sent a dispatch to London reporting the incident. Montagu declared that “on the coast of North America, the rule of law seemed to be breaking down entirely.” The report arrived on July 28, 1772, and Parliament had already adjourned until the fall.

Those who remained in charge of the government included Prime Minister Lord North and the Treasury Board. They reviewed the dispatch as well as other newly arrived complaints of Colonial defiance. For instance, the
Colonies had paid virtually no taxes since November 1771—thwarting the Crown’s determination that the Colonies should pay at least a portion of the cost of protecting them, Bunker writes.

The bad news from New England should have forced the British government to act “firmly and decisively,” according to Bunker. Ideally, the government should have re-examined its policies and ditched unenforceable customs duties, taxes and trade laws. Or, the government should have revoked the rebellious Colonies’ archaic charters that allowed them considerable autonomy, rechartered them as crown Colonies, and deployed an army to force them into submission.

After some dithering, they decided to appoint a royal commission of inquiry to investigate the raid, identify and arrest the guilty, and send them to England for trial before the King’s Bench, the traditional venue for treason cases. Trying them in London would help guarantee guilty verdicts they were unlikely to get in Rhode Island and also signaled the government determination to forcefully assert its sovereignty.

If North and his colleagues had understood the Colonial temperament better, they would have kept looking for a solution. The cherished right of Englishmen to trial by a jury of their peers was understood in America to mean a jury of their peers would have kept looking for a solution. The government should have re-examined its policies and ditched unenforceable customs duties, taxes and trade laws. Or, the government should have revoked the rebellious Colonies’ archaic charters that allowed them considerable autonomy, rechartered them as crown Colonies, and deployed an army to force them into submission.

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The British government appeared to be stripping the Colonies of the right to trial by jury, Bunker writes. The threat struck so deeply into Colonial minds that in the Declaration of Independence Thomas Jefferson condemned George III, “For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences.”

The commission of inquiry was headed by Governor Wanton and made up of senior judges of Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York. They began their work in Newport in January 1773, but soon foundered as citizens refused to cooperate or claimed ignorance of any details about the raid.

The commission did hear from one of the raiders—an indentured servant named Aaron Briggs who said he was forced to accompany the others. Briggs ran away from his master soon after the raid and made his way to the HMS Beaver. Under threat of punishment, Brown gave details and names of the raiders. But Deputy Governor Darius Sessions quickly “found” witnesses who disputed and discredited Briggs, according to the Gaspee Days Committee’s official account of the raid.

After months of fruitless work, the commission sent an apologetic report to London saying it was unable to identify the leaders and participants. And the code of silence held for years after the raid, just as it would after the Boston Tea Party in December 1773.

In his essay, Park takes a different view of the commission’s failure. While the 19th-century accounts of the raid praised the governor’s efforts, Park says Wanton showed little zeal for diligently pursuing suspects.

“Although named as possible ring-leaders, John Brown, Joseph Brown, Simeon Potter and Rufus Greene Jr. were never summoned to appear before the commissioners,” Park points out. The governor also largely ignored testimony from Briggs and British sailors. And he juggled the witness schedule to keep the sailors and potential suspects from being in court at the same time, thus preventing possible identification, Park writes.

The traditional story also largely ignores Dudingston’s testimony at his court martial in England to determine fault for losing the ship, Park writes. For instance, the officer testified that, rather than grounding accidentally while pursuing the Hannah, he was actually on a routine trip to Providence to pick up some sailors. He said he had anchored near Namquid Point, and the retreating tide left him resting on the bottom.

**Revolutionary Spark?**

Though many colonists were unhappy with the mother country’s policies, patriotic fervor had died down since the repeal of the Stamp Act in 1765. The Gaspee’s actions rekindled it in Rhode Island, and the British government’s reaction caused anger to flare all along the Atlantic seaboard.

Aware that the Colonies needed to stay better informed, Samuel Adams in Boston and Richard Henry Lee urged the creation of committees of correspondence to pass along news. Though important in transmitting information and creating a nascent sense of unity, these early committees were not as radical as those that came just a couple of years later, according to Park. Still, Founders such as Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin said the Gaspee incident was an important early step toward independence.

The “matrix of ideas” formulated by Hopkins and others would inform future disobedience and rebellion. Those ideas—uniquely American interpretations of traditional English rights such as trial by jury and representative government—gave the movement direction and staying power that would eventually lead to revolution and independence.

For Great Britain, the treasonous attack proved that Americans were in open rebellion, and strengthened the will to bring them to heel. This would contribute to the fateful decision in 1773 to ship huge amounts of cheap tea to the Colonies and the subsequent escalation of tensions to the breaking point.

**Please note:** With few exceptions, DAR does not recognize military service or activities prior to April 19, 1775. In these cases, the participants usually served in some capacity after the Battle of Lexington.
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JOHN JAY’S QUEST FOR PEACE AND UNITY

By Courtney Peter
Twenty-seven years of nearly uninterrupted public service transformed John Jay from a proud British subject hoping for a peaceful resolution with Britain to an ardent advocate of a strong national government for the precarious United States. During that time Jay performed an array of critical roles, including co-drafter of the New York Constitution, president of the Continental Congress, co-negotiator of the Treaty of Paris, first chief justice of the United States and governor of New York. Drawing on his abundant experience and range of abilities, Jay helped to secure peace and unity in the new nation’s first decades.

A Son of New York

John Jay was born in 1745 in New York City and baptized at Trinity Church. His father, Peter Jay, a Huguenot, fled religious persecution in France to settle in New York, where he became a prosperous merchant. Mary Van Cortlandt Jay, his mother, was a member of one of Colonial New York’s most prominent families. After graduating from Kings College (present-day Columbia University) in 1764, he spent four years as a law clerk, then entered private practice.

The year 1774 brought big changes for Jay personally and professionally. On April 28, he married Sarah Livingston, a daughter of New Jersey Governor William Livingston. Together they had six children. In late summer of 1774, he traveled to Philadelphia as a delegate to the First Continental Congress.

Resister Turned Revolutionary

Jay became a valuable member of the convention. In November 1774, he authored The Address to the People of Great Britain, an appeal for recognition of the colonists’ demands. “To enforce this unconstitutional and unjust scheme of taxation, every fence that the wisdom of our British ancestors had carefully erected against arbitrary power has been violently thrown down in America,” Jay wrote.

Still, the address vowed that reconciliation remained possible: “Permit us to be as free as yourselves, and we shall ever esteem a union with you to be our greatest glory and greatest happiness.” Thomas Jefferson said of the work, “I think it the first composition in the English language.”

Having seen protests of the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act lead to the repeal of those measures, Jay “was so certain that properly expressed resistance would change British policy that he would … become one of the last American leaders to be converted from resistance to revolution,” Walter Stahr writes in John Jay: Founding Father (Bloomsbury Academics, 2006).

Once converted, Jay committed fully to independence. In The Address of the Convention of the Representatives of the State of New York to Their Constituents, published December 23, 1776, Jay wrote, “When your country is invaded and cries aloud for your aid, fly not to some secure corner of a neighboring State and remain idle spectators of her distress, but share in her fate and manfully support her cause …”

Jay continued serving in the Continental Congress between breaks to help establish New York’s state government. In December 1778, Congress elected him as its president. Despite its prestige, the position held little power. The demanding job involved a deluge of correspondence, refereeing political and personal disputes, and entertaining foreign ministers and fellow members of Congress. Jay served for 10 months, until he received his next assignment.

A Negotiator Abroad

In September 1779, Congress appointed Jay as a diplomatic envoy to Spain, from which the United States hoped to secure money, arms and recognition as an independent nation.

The situation in Madrid was bleak. Spain declined to recognize the United States’ independence and had meager funds to spare due to its own war with Britain. Jay spent his time trying to arrange meetings and scrambling to pay the bills that Congress drew against the expected Spanish loans.

As Spain continued to stall, Jay was summoned to France as part of a commission to negotiate peace with Britain. In June 1782 Jay arrived in Paris, joining Benjamin Franklin, who had been serving as minister to France since 1776. (John Adams, the third member of the commission, arrived in late October 1782.)

Britain and the United States were not the only parties to consider. The United States had promised France that they would not make peace with Britain until France did, too. The French, in turn, had made the same promise to their Spanish allies. With each nation focused on different, often competing concerns, the negotiations required delicacy and compromise.

The Americans’ chief concerns were recognition of independence, national boundaries, free trade, use of the Mississippi River and access to North Atlantic fisheries. Britain wanted amnesty and restoration of property for Loyalists, and for Americans to repay their debts to British creditors.

In September 1782 Jay drafted a peace treaty. “Although there were many later changes, much of Jay’s first draft survived into the final document,” Stahr writes. It took nearly two years for both sides to ratify and sign the Treaty of Paris, which Americans considered a success. “The peace which exceeds in the goodness of its terms, the expectations of the most sanguine does the highest honor to those who made it,” Alexander Hamilton wrote to Jay on July 25, 1783.

Building a National Government

The peace treaty played a major role in Jay’s post-Revolutionary War work. As the Continental Congress’ secretary of foreign affairs from December 1784 to March 1790, Jay dealt with the fallout from both parties’ failure to meet the treaty terms. British troops remained at forts around Detroit, and the
Americans had not rendered aid to the Loyalists or repaid British creditors.

Other matters requiring attention included talks with Spain regarding navigation of the Mississippi River and the seizure of American ships by the Barbary powers. By the end of Jay’s tenure none of these issues were resolved, but neither had they escalated to the point of war. Achieving this degree of equilibrium took a great deal of work.

At the same time, Jay actively campaigned on behalf of the Constitution, both privately and publicly. With Hamilton and James Madison, he co-authored the Federalist Papers. Most of Jay’s essays concerned foreign affairs, arguing that a united country would command respect whereas divided states would invite exploitation.

“He helped form the consensus that strong national government was necessary; provided several key concepts such as the supremacy of national laws; he wrote powerful essays in support of the new Constitution; and above all, through quiet compromise, he persuaded the Anti-Federalists at Poughkeepsie to accept and ratify the Constitution,” Stahr writes.

In 1789, President George Washington appointed Jay as the first chief justice of the United States. Early on, the Supreme Court had few cases to try—the appeals process needed time to work. Justices also presided over regional circuit courts, which kept them away from home for long periods of time.

While riding the circuit, Jay began court sessions with a charge to the grand jury, both to help frame the jurors’ role and to explain the new judiciary system itself. On May 4, 1790, he advised, “When offenders are prosecuted with temper and decency, when they are convicted after impartial trials, and punished in a manner becoming the dignity of public justice to prescribe, the feelings and sentiments of men will be on the side of government.”

A Career’s Final Acts

War with Britain was a serious threat by 1794, due to maritime hostilities by the British. The United States, with an infant government and virtually no military, was ill-prepared for war.

Washington sent Jay to England as a special envoy to broker peace via a commercial agreement with Britain. The evacuation of British troops from the northwest forts, national boundaries, British creditors and United States exports also factored in the discussions.

Jay’s Treaty, signed November 19, 1794, favored the United States with respect to boundaries and England in terms of commerce. The terms sparked public outcry and debate. Still, the Senate ratified Jay’s Treaty, and Washington signed it. Whatever else was conceded, the main goal—to secure peace—had been attained.

While Jay sailed home from England, he was elected governor of New York. He resigned from the Supreme Court and returned to his home state. As governor, Jay enacted criminal reform, set in motion the gradual abolition of slavery in New York and navigated partisan politics. By 1800, as his second gubernatorial term neared its end, Jay was resolved to retire. The next year he left public life for his farm in Bedford, N.Y., where he died on May 17, 1829.

His son, Peter Augustus Jay, selected these words for his tombstone: “In memory of John Jay, eminent among those who asserted the liberty and established the independence of his country, which he long served in the most important offices, legislative, executive, judicial and diplomatic ...”
On August 28, 2011, Hurricane Irene roared up the Hudson River, ultimately reaching all the way north and east to wreak havoc in upstate New York and Massachusetts. Record flooding along New York’s 93-mile Schoharie Creek caused the Old Blenheim Bridge, a National Historic Landmark, to wash away. Local officials estimated that approximately one-third of all the houses and businesses in the village of Schoharie, N.Y., had been damaged or destroyed due to flooding. The 1795 Lasell Hall was one of those casualties.

The flooding was a blow to the Schoharie DAR Chapter, caretakers of the house since 1913. However, with support from FEMA, the state of New York, NSDAR, charitable organizations, private donors and volunteers, the chapter was able to turn the tragedy into an opportunity, restoring the old tavern to much of its 1795 appearance.

THE JOURNEY FROM TAVERN TO DAR CHAPTER HOUSE

Lasell Hall has long been a community anchor, starting with its first incarnation as a tavern and inn. Tavern owner John J. Lawyer was born in 1751. His grandfather, a Palatine
German, immigrated to New York City in 1710 and eventually made his way to the area that became Schoharie, where he worked as a surveyor and served as justice of the peace.

Lawyer’s father was born in Schoharie in 1725. He served as a lieutenant colonel in Colonel Jacob Sternberg’s regiment during the Revolution, then also became a surveyor. In 1768 he was given a land grant of 36,000 acres in what are now the towns of Schoharie and Middleburgh. He donated 200 acres in Schoharie to the Lutheran Church and its cemetery, where he is buried.

Lawyer followed his father’s lead and became a lieutenant and captain in the 15th Albany Militia during the Revolution. During the 1780 Burning of the Valleys, most of the village of Schoharie was set ablaze. John Lawyer was one of the first to help the village rebound by building a tavern and residence. It was a sturdy structure made of native pine, reinforced and insulated with homemade bricks.

In 1795, Lawyer announced that Fountain Town Tavern was open for business. A local carpenter made a sign to swing above the tavern door—one side read “Entertainment” with a picture of the host welcoming his customers, and the other side featured a painting of Lawyer’s slave, Fiddler Tom, who played music for tavern dances. For many years the tavern flourished as Schoharie grew into a township and then the county seat.

Several proprietors owned it before the Lasell family took over the property. Though the exact date of ownership isn’t known, Chester Lasell came to Schoharie in 1806 from Windham, Conn. He built a house on Main Street and established a hat business adjoining the tavern property. Chester and his wife had 14 children; the youngest, Clarence, served as organist in the Schoharie Reformed Church for 40 years. Until the flood, his piano stood in the south parlor of Lasell Hall.

Another son, Edward Lasell, founded the Lasell Female Seminary, today known as Lasell College. Edward’s brother, Josiah, married a former seminary student, Jeannie Whitin, daughter of the owner of the Whitin Machine Works, manufacturers of cotton-making machinery. Josiah joined his father-in-law’s firm and prospered.

In 1896, Josiah Lasell gave to Schoharie the 8-acre Lasell Park property on a limestone cliff overlooking the village. In 1913, the heirs of Josiah Lasell deeded the old tavern property, then vacant, to the Schoharie DAR Chapter. After necessary repairs and renovations, the chapter held its first meeting in its new home on October 18, 1914.

In 1916, DAR members organized the Schoharie Free Library, which was housed on the second floor in Lasell Hall until it moved to its new location in the village.

In the century since, Lasell Hall has been the site of many local celebrations. Village-wide garage sales, car shows, concerts and the annual pumpkin festival regularly happen on the property’s large front lawn, and Lasell Hall opens to all for “Christmas in Schoharie,” a festive event featuring a visit from Santa, caroling and refreshments.

A 500-YEAR FLOOD

The Schoharie Creek winds down one end of the Schoharie Valley and retreats at the other end. The summer of 2011 had already been a rainy one for the area, so when Irene unleashed 42 inches of rain on the already-saturated clay soil, the valley functioned like an overfilled bathtub. Unless a home was on a hill, it was affected—300 homes in the village of Schoharie were flooded with 3 to 6 feet of water. Many DAR members suffered lasting damage to their historic homes, losing collections of books, antiques and mementos.

Although it remained structurally sound, Lasell Hall was filled with up to five feet of water—and that was only one of its problems. All of the outer walls up to the second floor had “brick-nogging,” a construction technique in which handmade bricks were used to fill the vacancies in a wooden frame. The flooding caused the bricks to disintegrate and the mud continued to ooze out under the plaster and woodwork.

In addition, the flood caused two large fuel storage tanks in the Schoharie area to spill, lacing much of the water with fuel.
Historic Homes

“We weren’t allowed to go back and see the home for five days,” said Carolyn Richter, Regent. “Officials made us evacuate because they were concerned about it being a biohazard.”

Chapter members initially worried about the home’s antiques, particularly the original tavern sign from 1795. They decided to take charge. “Another member and I put on hazmat suits to retrieve the sign and get other antiques out of the house,” Mrs. Richter said.

When members finally were allowed in the house, many precious items on the first floor were destroyed. Horsehair furniture, a mirror and many antiques, including a hand organ and the piano played by Clarence Lasell, were lost. Other furniture was caked with mud, and paper files had disintegrated.

FEMA reviewed the chapter’s claims for damages, but it initially denied any federal funds for its restoration. Even though the structure was on the historic register, it didn’t provide, in FEMA’s words, “any vital services.”

“We were in a quandary about what to do—and how quickly we needed to do it—because we were worried about mold and further damage,” Mrs. Richter said. “So many people had their own homes impacted that there were only a few of us who were able to dedicate ourselves to the effort. Plus, winter was coming.”

THE RESTORATION

Since Schoharie’s restaurants were shut down and most people’s kitchens were inoperable due to the flood, the chapter’s initial goal was to make the house safe and functional enough so that a local volunteer group could use Lasell Hall’s kitchen. With the help of skilled volunteers, heat and electricity were restored so that the building could function as the Fishes and Loaves soup kitchen serving hot meals to village residents and volunteers aiding in the recovery.

Although limited funds meant the chapter couldn’t do a systematic, historic restoration right at first, there were many items on the to-do list that the chapter could begin, particularly with the help of hundreds of volunteers traveling to the area.

“When we needed help, we were able to contact an organization called SALT [the Schoharie Area Long-term Recovery] and request a volunteer crew,” Mrs. Richter said. “Crews helped us muck out the house, for instance. We also had to cut away a lot of plaster to get rid of the mud behind the walls and combat the mold problem.

“Anything that could be saved was taken to DAR members’ homes, washed with hoses and put in storage,” she said.

After five months of clean-up work by volunteers, in January 2012, FEMA declared that the historic house qualified for federal funds since it was used as a museum. “Those funds opened a lot of opportunities,” Mrs. Richter said. “We were especially excited about bringing the house back closer to its 1795 design.”

One important benefit of the funds resulted in the hiring of Mesick Cohen Wilson Baker Architects, a historic architectural firm from Albany, N.Y. The firm hired Dimensions North, a construction company that specializes in historical work.

Muscles Required: The flood left behind a foot of mud in some parts of the house. Volunteers cut away plaster and 1960s-era flooring to remove mud behind walls and in between new and original flooring.
“They worked with us to understand the limitations of our FEMA money and helped us find ways for us to do things ourselves,” Mrs. Richter said. For instance, the chapter recruited SALT volunteers to help demolish the ceilings, filling two pickup trucks with debris.

“We were going to have to replace the original walls with drywall, but FEMA funds allowed us to plaster the walls,” she said. “We were also able to replicate missing woodwork.”

The house had been remodeled many times, including in the late 1960s, when a remodeling changed the room configuration. The architects were able to renovate the outside entrance and the first floor to reflect the house’s original 1795 Federalist design. A central hallway that had been closed off now opens to the two parlors and tavern room. Original floors were uncovered and patched.

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The chapter has also benefited from community donations of china, furniture and other goods. “Not all of the donations are from the right era, but the donors have given these items freely, telling us to use it or sell it and use the funds for the house,” Mrs. Richter said.

Historic window sashes on both floors were also restored, partially with funds from a NSDAR Special Projects Grant. Also as part of the restoration project, the original floors were uncovered and patched. Where the boards are original, it can be seen that they were probably once painted red.

“We haven’t made a decision on whether to sand and paint them red again, or cover them,” Mrs. Richter said. “Our team finished working with FEMA in August 2015, but with an old house like this, there’s always something more to be done.”

LASELL HALL TODAY

Although federal and state funds and charitable grants were essential to the restoration of 1795 Lasell Hall, Mrs. Richter is quick to point out another key ingredient: volunteer support.

“We could not have done it without all the volunteers who have helped with the restoration effort,” she said. “Much remains to be done at Lasell Hall, but much has been accomplished. Our chapter will continue in its efforts to bring Lasell Hall back to its grandeur so that it can continue to be a vital part of the Schoharie community.”

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The house has reemerged as a vital site for important local events. For National DAR Day of Service in October 2015, the chapter invited veterans and Revolutionary War reenactors to a flag-raising ceremony at which its brand-new flag pole was installed. It was the first time since the flood that a flag waved over Lasell Hall.

And this past March 2016, it hosted a Winter Feast, with proceeds flagged for ongoing restoration efforts. More than 50 people, many of them dressed in 18th-century garb and some of them Revolutionary War-era reenactors, enjoyed live music, parlor games and a silent auction as well as a sit-down dinner.

“The flood was difficult, but the aftermath made our chapter stronger,” Mrs. Richter said. “We pulled together and worked hard as a unit to raise funds and organize the restoration. It also helped us realize what an important asset this house was for the Schoharie community.

“In the future, we want to be even more a part of these local traditions.”asurer
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