The Patriot

The Ozark Mountain Chapter Newsletter

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The Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR Challenge Coins are for sale. These coins are $5.00 each from Compatriot J. Howard Fisk.

On the Cover
Compatriot's Ken Lawrence and J. Howard Fisk present Dee Dosch with a certificate for her late husband Compatriot John Hume.

Photographs provided by: Margaret Swales, Jeff Settle, Dan Piedlow Jr.
Editor: Daniel Piedlow

The President's Message

By President Charles McMillan

"Preserve History, Provide Youth Education and awareness of our patriot ancestors and founding fathers and inspire patriotism in our community."

I can't believe how time flies. It's the end of February. Time for Spring Leadership Training at NSSAR in Louisville, KY. There are several going from OMC, maybe you could be one of them sometime. The Fall Leadership will be held at the new hotel, to us, the Galt. Check the NSSAR website for more details.

The OMC Chapter meeting went well considering it was jam packed with activities. We had a new member induction, welcome Don King, we had two officers that missed being sworn in at the last meeting and Howard Fisk did the honors this time for Chancellor Gary Bishop and Sgt at Arms Daniel Piedlow.

In addition to that we presented some medals and life certificates and even presented a Budget for 2024-2025 and it passed with some discussion. Thanks to Derrol Hutton, Ben Edmonson, John Angst and Jim Clemmons.

Past President Crismon Brayman did an excellent presentation on George Washington. It was presented so well everyone I'm sure wanted more, alas time was restrictive.

After the meeting, several met at the Washington Park to celebrate Washington's birthday. Several cadets from Branson High School JROTC marched with us. They wore their continental uniforms and carried flags etc. I played the drum and Commander Perkins led us to the gate for the service. Past SCD PG Dan McMurray spoke on Washington as General Washington. He told us of the many battles he was in … some won some lost… but York Town was the deciding battle that caused the King to capitulate.

We still have need of a Historian and Secretary. If you feel the call to do one of these jobs, please let me know. 417 343 5255.

My committees as of now are Education/Youth Committee (Keith Jones Chair, members Dan Piedlow and Ben Edmunson.)

Service Committee: Jeffery Settle and Norm Knowlton.

Budget Committee: Derrol Hutton, Chair, members Ben Edmundson, Jim Clemmons.

If you want some adventure and have about 14 days to spare. National is sponsoring a trip to Honor France. It starts in Paris on the 06th of April. Go to the National Website for details.

I am having my 2nd Chapter Executive Committee meeting on the 05th of March at Steve Perkins home. Check the website "What we do" section to see the calendar of events. This meeting is open to all SAR members.

My wife and I had the opportunity to visit Disney World in February and one of the attractions was The Hall of Presidents located in Liberty Square at the Magic Kingdom. It is awe inspiring to see full "Audio-Animatronic" figures of all 45 Presidents. Each one moved… spoke… looked real.

If you feel the urge to purchase or make a uniform as worn in the militia, or Continental Army.. do so and join the Cologuard. There are medals to be won for your activities as a member. See Commander Perkins if you want more information.

I would like to get some personal stories about your Patriot. Contact me if you want to present him at one of our meetings or present your writing to Dan Piedlow for inclusion in the News Letter.

And as always… Believe.!

Black Soldiers of Liberty

by Robert Scott Davis
https://allthingsliberty.com/2023/08/black-soldiers-of-liberty/

"The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker's Hill," by John Trumbull, 1786. Two Black men appear in the upper left and lower right. The one at left is often identified as Peter Salem. (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)

Estimates have appeared in print for generations that 3,000 to 5,000 Black soldiers served in the American military in the Revolution. These claims seldom offer documentation, being instead what historian Michael Lanning defined as only a "general consensus" of the number of African American patriots. Lack of records, reliance on anecdotal evidence, and other factors make any estimate of the number of these soldiers only an educated guess, but modern scholars make arguments for 10,000 or more Black Patriots.[1]

African Americans participated in the patriot cause from the beginning of the conflict, and that had international consequences.[2] George Washington and the Continental Congress originally opposed accepting Black soldiers. As the war progressed and enthusiasm for the Revolution waned, however, men previously marginalized, such as immigrants, filled the ranks. "It serves as no coincidence," historian Patrick F. Moriarty wrote, "that as the reverence toward the American soldier diminished, the tendency to accept Blacks into the armed service increased."[3]

African Americans served in the most racially integrated American army until the twentieth century. All of the rebelling colonies except Georgia and South Carolina allowed enslaved people to enlist. In most states, enslaved men could serve in place of White masters to gain emancipation. Virginia law protected 500 of these veterans from former owners trying to reenslave them after the war.[4]

The King's army did offer emancipation to obtain African Americans as laborers and even soldiers, hoping to deny Black labor and service to the American cause. That did not mean that every Black man who fell into British hands was emancipated – British officer Nesbit Balfour wrote to General Charles, Lord Cornwallis on September 22, 1780, of twelve African Americans captured during the battle of Camden, South Carolina. He urged their sale "to convince blackthat he must not fight against us"; in other words, he hoped that returning these American soldiers to slavery would discourage other Blacks from joining the American army.[5]

Even when the enslaved had the opportunity to escape to emancipation by joining the British, they sometimes declined. The Georgia Act that emancipated mixed-race Austin Dabney, for example, noted that, unlike other enslaved people, he chose not to escape to freedom in British East Florida.[6]

Some African Americans sought to return to their White families after being separated from them. British soldiers seized Moses Irvin of South Carolina, for example, and took him to the frontier. Irvin escaped to his owner and received emancipation out of gratitude. Similarly, a man named Jack went with his owner, captured soldier Francis Edwards of Georgia, to imprisonment on the British prison hulks in Charleston. After his master's death, Jack left Wilmington, North Carolina to try to find his way home to his master's widow Anne.[7]

African American enlistments in the patriot military increased after the first two years of the war. These men served partly to prove themselves and their descendants as worthy of the full rights of citizens. Unfortunately, by the 1830s, African Americans saw whatever advantages they had gained in the war reduced by increasingly restrictive race laws, especially in Georgia and the Carolinas.[8]

Black service in a war for liberty to create a nation that retained slavery always proved controversial. An anonymous commentator on Gabriel Prosser's enslaved uprising in 1800 wrote, "during the Revolutionary War, the Negroes did not flock to the standard of Liberty and Equality; but deserted to the very people who curtailed slavery upon them, and perplexity upon us."[9] Virginia state auditor James E. Heath, however, wrote in 1846, "it is proper to remark that there were many Indians, free negroes, and descendants of Indians in the Army of the Revolution, who not only served faithfully but have rec'd land

Bounty."[10]

Pension records tell of the service of some soldiers. Crippled in battle in Augusta in 1781 or 1782, Austin Dabney received the first pension of someone of his race and the first government purchased emancipation for his service (by the state of Georgia) in 1786. He was, however, the only pensioner of his race for almost the first fifty years of the United States and received notoriety only in 1849 when his life story appeared as a parable on honor and respect over race almost twenty years after his death.[11]

Other Black veterans have only recently received notice. Agrippa Hull, for example, served for six years in the Revolution but he was forgotten despite his living until 1848 as a prosperous Massachusetts landowner. He proved his service for a pension with his discharge signed by George Washington![12] Spy James Lafayette Armistead's story went unknown for almost a century when scholars began looking for Black patriots.[13] James Roberts even published a memoir of his military career during and after the American Revolution that went ignored.[14]

Only 500 African American soldiers and widows applied for pensions, such as Jim Capers, a drummer who served with famed White partisan Francis Marion and took four wounds at the battle of Eutaw Springs on September 8, 1781. He received emancipation but when he applied for a pension in 1832, the federal government denied his claim for want of evidence, a situation common among African Americans who had managed to survive lives of poverty and exceptionally hard labor to live long enough to apply for pensions.[15]

More than 50 percent of the Black veterans moved to other states after the war, far from records of and witnesses to their service. Ishmael Titus, for example, served in many battles in North and South Carolina but, when he applied for a pension in 1832, he lived in Williamstown, Massachusetts, far from anyone who might have testified on his behalf. Many Black veterans and widows surely did not even try to apply for pensions.[16]

Recognizing and later counting the Black patriots began with the Revolution but greatly expanded with the movement for emancipation. Some African American veterans, such as Rev. Lemuel Haynes and Primus Hall actively participated in the struggle for general emancipation.Black veteran Dr. James Harris publicly spoke out for ending slavery in his last years. In 1852, however, Rev. William Howard Day told a group of African American veterans of the War of 1812 that to his knowledge no effort had been made to preserve a record of the African American soldiers of the Revolution.[17]

Day did not know of the work that African American William Cooper Nell, a printer and writer employed by prominent Abolitionist publisher William Lloyd Garrison, had begun in 1850. Nell first issued, in Boston, Services of Colored Americans in the Wars of 1776 and 1812 (1851), only months before Frederick Douglass's famous speech asking what the Fourth of July meant to African Americans. He followed with The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution (1855). His work is considered the first attempt to write African American History.[18]

These publications, argues historian Gary B. Nash, were "countering the white Negrophobia that had spread throughout the North in the early nineteenth century."[19] Author of Uncle Tom's Cabin Harriet Beecher Stowe and Abolitionist orator Wendell Phillips hoped that Nell's research would challenge all popular prejudices against African Americans.[20] Garrison published pages from Nell's work in his attack on the Dred Scott Decision that threatened to protect and even restore enslavement everywhere in the United States. He went on to write The Loyalty and Devotion of Colored Americans in the Revolution and War of 1812 (Boston, 1861). Historian George Henry Moore followed with Historical Notes on the Employment of Negroes in the American Revolution (New York, 1862).[21]

Interest in African American history waned after the Civil War, but found revival in the Black Renaissance of the late 1800s. By 1885, Elon Alonzo Woodward, the white Chief of the Colored Troops Division of the Office of Adjutant General, United States Army, began a history of African Americans in the nation's military, from colonial times through the Civil War. The Woodward manuscript omitted service in such conflicts as the War with Mexico and, despite the equivalent of seven and one-half years of work hours, its 4,730 pages deal almost exclusively with the Civil War.[22]

Two similar works of the time that included the Revolution and the War of 1812 were Joseph T. Wilson, The Black Phalanx: A History of the Negro Soldier of the United States in the Wars of 1775-1812, 1861-'65 (New York, 1887) and George W. Williams, A History of the Negro Troops in the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865 (New York, 1888). Wilson

and Williams missed much, however, due to a lack of accessible sources.[23]
Williams made the first and most often quoted estimate of the number of Black patriots in the military during the Revolution. Over two winters in the 1880s, he examined muster rolls for sixty-seven Continental regiments in the northern states and, based on the names on the rolls, estimated that they carried the names of 2,345 African American soldiers.[24] Williams' method of arriving at his estimate has limitations, however. Guessing ethnicity only by name omits Black soldiers with names also frequently found among their White comrades.[25]
Applying Williams' average to other units in the North for which rosters had not survived and estimating the numbers for regiments in Virginia and other states in the South, he added 655 men for a total of above 3,000 soldiers. Joseph T. Wilson grew that number in print, likely because of a typographical error, to 5,000 men, at least in New England, from a population of some 50,000 African Americans in the North.[26] That estimate would fluctuate in print over the years from 3,000 to 5,000 soldiers and an estimated 1,500 African Americans in the Navy.[27]
Historian Albert Gilbert and others argue that the real "number was probably substantially higher." Observers seeing so many Black soldiers among the American forces and individual records for the New England soldiers implies that far more African Americans were present.[28]
North Carolina had at least 468 Black soldiers altogether in the war as a whole and Georgia and South Carolina refused to enlist enslaved persons. Yet even in those states African Americans of all statuses played active roles.[29]
Historian Gary B. Nash wrote that Black Americans male and female acted to serve the Revolution faster than Whites and served longer.[30] There are some estimates that as many as 300,000 individuals served in the American Revolution, but that number comes from counting two or more tours of service by individual White soldiers. Many African Americans served only one long tour of duty to the end of the war in order to earn emancipation.[31] If a realistic overall number of total patriot soldiers comes to 150,000, the number of African Americans, estimated at 10 percent, likely comes to 15,000 men, a number consistent with accounts by foreign observers. The percentage of African Americans might, at times, also have reached as high as 25 percent, meaning a correspondingly higher overall number of soldiers.[32]
Black service on both sides of the Revolution contributed to the growing international Enlightenment call for civil, human, and legal rights. Historian Alan Gilbert wrote, "on both sides of the conflict, however, visions of victory motivated African American fighters."[33] White Americans, and some Europeans such as philosopher John Locke, believed in the liberty of White citizens but not of the enslaved. That idea took a serious blow with the American Revolution. African Americans served in significant numbers during a brief period in a greater international struggle for liberty that began long before 1775 and continues to this day.[34]

[1]Michael Lee Lanning, Defenders of Liberty: African Americans in the Revolutionary War (Secaucus, NJ: Citidel, 1999), 177. See List of Black Servicemen Compiled From the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records (National Archives Special List no. 36, Washington: National Archives and Records Administration, 1976).
[2]Manisha Sinha, The Slave's Cause: A History of Abolition (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016), 47-53. Also see Sidney and Emm Nogrady Kaplan, The Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution Revised Edition (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1989).
[3]Alan Gilbert, Black Patriots and Loyalists: Fighting for Emancipation in the War for Independence (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012), 95-96. Also see John U. Rees, "They Were Good Soldiers": African American Service in the Continental Army, 1775-1783 (Warwick, UK: Helion and Company, 2019).
[4]North Carolina, for example, did not have such a formal arrangement, but freedom for military service in Revolutionary War Virginia can be seen as a basis of Abraham Lincoln's 1862 Emancipation Proclamation as it allowed enlistment of African Americans in the federal military in states that refused to return to the Union. W. Trevor Freeman, "North Carolina's Black Patriots of the American Revolution," (Master' Thesis, East North Carolina Univerity, 2020), 80, 127; A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., In the Matter of Color: Race and the American Legal Process (New York: Oxford University Press, 1978), 371-375; Rees, "They Were Good Soldiers", 144-145.

Continued on Page 10, Soldiers

Compatriot Donald King's Patriot Ancestor

James Ireland was one of thirty Baptist preachers imprisoned in Virginia during the three years 1768–1770. In 1769 or 1770, at a meeting in Pittsylvania County, Mr. Ireland was baptized by the Revd. Samuel Harris immediately returned to his home with credentials signed by eleven ministers, "and in the spirit and power of his Master devoted himself to the great work of preaching the gospel." But his growing popularity and success excited the indignation of those who were in authority and brought down upon his head fierce persecution. Warned that he would be arrested if he attempted to preach, he counted the cost and preached anyhow. He was standing on a table speaking in the open air when two men seized him by order of magistrates, he was thrust into the Culpeper jail because he had dared to preach without the authority or sanction of the bishop The laws under which he was imprisoned had been repealed seventy years earlier, but that mattered little to the authorities. At that time, the Church of England was the established church of Virginia, and some bigoted and ungodly churchmen were completely opposed to the work of any other denomination and cared not how they thwarted it.
Housed with roughs and drunks in a cell infested with mice and spiders, Ireland did not have an easy time of it. The jailer, who also owned a local tavern, encouraged the drunks to beat him up. The authorities believed Ireland's arrest would silence his voice. But to their dismay, great crowds gathered around the jail to listen to his sermons Ireland persisted in preaching through his window bars. Local authorities sought to break up the crowd by sending horsemen to ride among them, trampling and beating them. Unable to disperse the crowds by violence or to silence Ireland, the authorities determined to dispose of their prisoner permanently. Their first attempt on Ireland's life occurred when they placed gunpowder under the jail. For¬tunately, the only damage was to the jail. Disappointed but not deterred, his enemies attempted to suffocate him by burning brimstone and Indian pepper at the jail door. Ireland survived by breath¬ing through the cracks in the walls. Enraged by their failure, Ireland's adver¬saries bribed the doctor who was treating him for a fever to place poison in his medicine. This diabolical plot almost cost James Ireland his life. Although he survived his ordeal, there was rarely a day that he was free from the consequences of his ill-treatment. Perhaps the most disgraceful action taken against the godly convict was when two of his opponents pulled up a bench and urinated in his face as he tried to preach. Following William and Mary's Toleration Act of 1770, Ireland obtained his release, having been incarcerated for five months. He went on to become a mighty planter of Baptist churches.
The following excerpt is from a compendium by Raleigh Travers Green and Philip Slaughter.
As we have observed, Ireland's imprisonment was intended to silence his voice and to curtail his influence. However, his imprisonment had the opposite effect. To his enemies' dismay, many of the leading citizens of Culpepper County were converted by his sermons. Ireland addressed letters of encouragement to his friends "From My Palace in Culpepper." Which had a profound effect upon both Baptists and non-Baptists and resulted in several conversions. Eventually, he was released from prison, but it was not the end of his persecution or the physical attacks upon his person. However, he persevered and eventually built a Baptist meetinghouse in Culpepper County, on the very site of the jail in which he was housed, a place previously known as the devil's stronghold. James Ireland, a sufferer for Christ, entered into his rest on May 5, 1808).

Birthday's

Robert Hammerschmidt	2-2
Keith Moore	2-3
William Craft	2-4
Michael Williamson	2-5
Johnathan Saunders	2-15
Gary Bishop	2-20
Charles Craft	2-21
Paul Wilkerson	2-22
Jeffery Settle	2-26
Joseph H. Fisk	2-27
Leonard Slovensky	2-27
Dana Fredrick	3-7
Nicholas Inman	3-11
Daniel Cowin	3-12
Patrick Morrow	3-15
Chase Boggs	3-17
Daniel J. Piedlow	3-27
Matthew Lyons	3-29

Below - Article from the Lawrence County Historical Society.

Phariss descendants L to R – James 'Bud' Allhands, Larry Allhands, Noralee (Phariss) Faulkner (Elk Horn Prairie DAR), and Dennis Murphy at Marionville IOOF Cemetery placing medallion on the gravestone of Real Grandson of Revolutionary Patriot Samuel Phariss (1740-1836). Barbara (Allhands) Brauch (Elk Horn Prairie Chapter DAR) was also instrumental in organizing the medallions but was unable to attend.

Noralee (Phariss) Faulkner (Elk Horn Prairie DAR) and Steven Perkins (Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR) at Phariss Memorial Cemetery placing medallion on the gravestone of Real Son of Revolutionary Patriot Samuel Phariss (1740-1836). Photo credits: Daniel Piedlow, Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR

Ceremonies held for son, grandson of Revolutionary War Patriots

SAMUEL PHARISS — The Ozark Mountain Chapter Sons of the American Revolution visited two cemeteries in Lawrence County Oct. 18 for the purpose of honoring a son and a grandson of one of their Patriots who provided service in the Revolutionary War.

The first visit was to the Samuel and Catherine Phariss Memorial Cemetery, just north of Aurora. Steven Perkins, SAR Genealogist and State Color Guard Commander, affixed the bronze "First Sons and First Daughters" Medallion to the gravestone of Samuel Phariss, a Real Son of an SAR and DAR Patriot who was also named Samuel Phariss.

The second visit was to the Marionville IOOF Cemetery, where Perkins placed the Medallion on the grave of Samuel M. Phariss, a grandson of the same SAR and DAR Patriot.

Both SAR and DAR have members who trace their lineage through this son and grandson to their Patriot. Present for the ceremonies were descendants, DAR members and cemetery volunteers.

JOSEPH RINKER — The Ozark Chapter SAR held a similar ceremony Aug. 19 at Spring River Cemetery, Verona. At that event, the organization marked the grave of American Patriot Son Joseph Rinker, son of Revolutionary War Captain George Rinker. Joseph Rinker (1800-1855) and his wife, Hannah, emigrated to Barry County (later Lawrence County) in 1840. He was appointed to the first county court of Lawrence County when it was organized in 1845.

POST OFFICES 1857 — *(Weekly Missouri Statesman, Oct. 15, 1857)* - List of Post Offices in Missouri ... From the Records of the Post Office Department, to July 1857, by Thomas B. Gentry, Columbia - LAWRENCE COUNTY - Bower's Mill, Centre Creek, Chesapeake, Dunkle's Store, Hall, Mount Pleasant, Mount Vernon, Phelp's, Spring River, Verona.

Below - From the Lawrence County Record Newspaper November 15, 2023

Ozark Mountain Chapter places marker on grave

Medallion placed on Phariss headstone near Aurora

OMC/SAR Meeting Minutes
17 February 2024

1. Regular Business Meeting.
2. Ozark Mountain Chapter
3. 17 February 2024, Ozark Technical College Commons
4. President Charles McMillan was present. The position of secretary is still vacant.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
6. The meeting started at 09:30 and ended at 11:15
7. There were 32 members present and 13 guests.
8. The Chapter Budget was presented by Chairman Derrol Hutton. A good discussion was had, and all concerns met. The vote on accepting the Budget was unanimously approved.

Genealogist/Registrar Steven Perkins presented two motions and they were voted on separately.

1. OMC remit 2024-chapter dues paid to OMC, to the treasurer of Sgt. Ariel Nims (SAN), for those members transferred from OMC to SAN. (6 x $20 = $120)
2. OMC remit 2024-chapter dues paid to OMC, to the new treasurer of Josiah Howell Chapter (JHC), West Plains, once same is chartered in April 2024. This affects 18 members. I propose 75% of their 2024 dues for those members (18 x $20 x .75 = $270)
3. Members transferred to SAN will retain gratuitous dual member status through 2024 with OMC.
4. Members transferred to JHC will retain gratuitous dual member status through 2025 with OMC.

After some discussion as to whether the money would be transferred after they were members of the respective chapters, and it was decided that the monies would not be transferred until their membership became effective. both proposals were voted approved without dissent.

SAR
SONS of AMERICAN REVOLUTION
Ozark Mountain Chapter
Springfield, MO

Remember, you can order your Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR shirts from Missouri Embroidery. Their phone number is: (417) 889-2221 and their address is: 1307 S. Glenstone Ave.

The Missouri 200th Anniversary SAR Medals are for sale. They are $30.00 if you get them from Compatriot J. Howard Fisk and $35.00 if he has to mail it to you.

Battle of Moores Creek Bridge

Feb 27, 1776

by Daniel W. Barefoot

Moores Creek National Battlefield. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.

Fought in present southwestern Pender County on 27 Feb. 1776, the engagement at Moores Creek Bridge was the first battle of the American Revolution to take place in North Carolina. In early January 1776 exiled Governor Josiah Martin received notification from London that his plan to restore royal authority in North Carolina had been approved. Two commands of British regulars, one composed of seven regiments under Lord Charles Cornwallis and the other made up of 2,000 troops led by Sir Henry Clinton, would sail from Ireland and New England, respectively, and converge on the Lower Cape Fear River near Brunswick Town. There they would be joined by an army of Loyalists who would assist in putting down the rebellion.

On 10 Jan. 1776, Martin issued a call for loyal subjects to serve as troops and a proclamation ordering the Royal Standard to be raised in North Carolina. By mid-February, approximately 1,600 Highland Scots and other Loyalists had assembled at Cross Creek (now Fayetteville). Commanding the troops was Brig. Gen. Donald MacDonald, a veteran of the Battle of Bunker Hill.

As the Loyalist forces finalized preparations for their march toward Wilmington, Col. James Moore, commander of the Patriot army in southeastern North Carolina, masterminded a strategy to foil MacDonald's rendezvous with the British regulars. When MacDonald began his advance on 21 February, Moore was able to block the initial route taken by the Highlanders. MacDonald altered his movement by crossing the Cape Fear River en route to Corbett's Ferry on the Black River. There he anticipated slipping past the militiamen of Col. Richard Caswell; his army would then proceed over the bridge at Moore's Creek and hasten on to Wilmington.

When Moore learned that MacDonald had won the race to Corbett's Ferry, he ordered Caswell's force to Moore's Creek, where they were joined by additional Patriot troops under Col. Alexander Lillington.

Caswell and Lillington found that the narrow bridge, located on a sand bar, offered an excellent defensive position. Situated at the highest elevation in the area, the bridge crossed the dark, swampy creek at a place where the waterway was 50 feet wide and 3 feet deep. Also known at the time as Widow Moore's Creek because it flowed past land owned by widow Elizabeth Moore, the creek flowed into the Black River about ten miles above the river's confluence with the Cape Fear.

On the night of 26 February, Caswell manned the west bank of the creek with 800 soldiers while Lillington stationed 150 men near a slightly elevated knoll on the east bank. Moore positioned his 1,000 troops between Moore's Creek and Wilmington. While the Patriot forces assumed their defensive positions, MacDonald convened a council of war with his officers at his camp about six miles from Caswell on the same side of the creek. The decision was made to attack, but MacDonald fell ill, and command of the Highlanders devolved to Lt. Col. Donald McLeod.

At 1:00 a.m. on 27 February McLeod put his 1,500-man army on the march through the swamps in bone-chilling temperatures. After struggling through the wilderness for hours, the Highlanders caught sight of Caswell's camp, which had been abandoned during the night. To deceive the enemy, Caswell had left his campfires burning while he moved his force to the east bank. Following the night crossing, the Patriots had removed the planks from the bridge, greased the girders, and positioned artillery to cover the road and bridge.

At Caswell's abandoned camp, McLeod's troops regrouped and waited for daybreak to pursue the rebel army, which they thought was in retreat. But to the contrary, nearly 1,000 Whig soldiers were waiting across the bridge. The stillness of the swamp was broken at sunrise when 500 Highlanders, broadswords in hand, stormed toward the bridge. Bagpipes played in the background as the attackers shouted, "King George and broadswords!" Only a few Highlanders managed to make their way over the slippery remnants of the bridge, and they fell rapidly from the heavy fire coming from the Patriot breastworks. Within three minutes, the battle was over. About 70 Highlanders were killed or wounded. Among the dead was McLeod, a bridegroom of only a few weeks. The officer's body was riddled with 9 bullets and 24 swan shot. About 850 soldiers were taken prisoner, including General MacDonald, who was captured in his tent. The booty claimed by the victorious Patriots was substantial: 150 swords, 1,500 rifles, and £15,000. In the battle, the Whigs lost only one man, John Grady, who died four days later.

Called the "Lexington and Concord of the South," the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge was significant for several reasons: it marked the permanent end of royal authority in North Carolina, it prompted the Provincial Congress meeting at Halifax on 12 Apr. 1776 to instruct North Carolina's delegation to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia to vote for independence, and it prevented the British from seizing control of the South at the onset of the war. The site of the battle, including the reconstructed bridge, has been preserved within Moore's Creek National Military Park. The 86-acre complex, operated by the federal government since 1926, is located one-mile southwest of Currie.

References:

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Dan L. Morrill, Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution (1992).

Hugh F. Rankin, "The Moore's Creek Bridge Campaign, 1776," NCHR 30 (January 1953).

Phillips Russell, North Carolina in the Revolutionary War (1965).

Image Credit:

Moores Creek National Battlefield. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service. Available from https://www.nps.gov/mocr/index.htm (accessed May 11, 2012).

Subjects: American Revolution (1763-1789)War

Authors:

Barefoot, Daniel W.

From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. www.ncpedia.org/moores-creek-bridge-battle

First printed February 20, 1977

A challenge coin is available for the Boston Tea Party. They are $15.00 each from Compatriot J. Howard Fisk.

From Page 4, Soldiers

[5]Nesbit Balfour to Lord Charles Cornwallis, September 22, 1780, Cornwallis Papers, 30/11/64, p. 107, National Archives of the United Kingdom, Kew. For the racial experience in the Revolutionary War South see Jim Piecuch, Three Peoples One King: Loyalists, Indians, and Slaves in the Revolutionary South 1775-1782 (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2008).

[6]Freeman, "North Carolina's Black Patriots of the American Revolution,"36; "An act to emancipate and set free Austin, a mulatto; also Harry, a negro fellow" in Horatio Marbury and William H. Crawford, compilers, Digest of the Laws of the State of Georgia (Savannah: Seymour, Woolhopter & Stebbins, 1802), 203-204.

[7]David W. Dangerfield, "Testing the Limits: Free Persons of Color and Antebellum South Carolina Law," The Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association(2021): 17; Bobby Gilmer Moss and Michael C. Scoggins, African-American Patriots in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution (Blacksburg, SC: Scotia Hibernia Press, 2004), 128.

[8]Patrick F. Moriarty, "The Myth of the Citizen-Soldier: Black Patriots and the American Revolution" (Master's Thesis, Wesleyan University, 2014), 18; Sinha, The Slave's Cause, 93-96, 229-239; Freeman, "North Carolina's Black Patriots of the American Revolution," 49-53, 100, 102-103, 111.

[9]Quoted in Philip J. Schwarz, ed., Gabriel's Conspiracy: A Documentary History (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2012), 101.

[10]Petition of James E. Heath, March 25, 1846, bounty land application of Stephen Freeman BLWt2393-100, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900 (National Archives microfilm M804, roll 1024), National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

[11]The story of Dabmey, however, received little notice until its rediscovery during the Black Renaissance of the 1890s. Robert S. Davis, "Tribute for a Black Patriot: A Pension for Austin Dabney." Prologue Magazine 46 (Fall 2014): 22-29.

[12]Gary B. Nash and Graham Russell Hodges, Friends of Liberty: A Tale of Three Patriots, Two Revolutions, and the Betrayal that Divided a Nation: Thomas Jefferson, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, and Agrippa Hull (New York: Basic Books, 2008), 52-70, 79-94, 260-266.

[13]See Anne Rockwell, A Spy Called James: The True Story of James Lafayette, Revolutionary War Double Agent (Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda, 2016).

[14]James Roberts, The Narrative of James Roberts: A Soldier Under General Washington in the Revolutionary War, and under Gen. Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812 (Chicago: The author, 1858).

[15]John Oller, The Swamp Fox: How Francis Marion Saved the American Revolution (New York: De Capo Press, 2016), 148, 176, 197. For African American veterans and widows pension claims see Judith L. Van Buskirk, Standing in Their Own Light: African American Patriots in the American Revolution (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2017); and Ashley K. Schmidt, "Black Revolutionaries: African-American Revolutionary War Pensioners in the Early Republic, 1780-1850," (Ph. D. diss, Tulane University, 2018).

[16]Freeman, "North Carolina's Black Patriots of the American Revolution," 91-92; Moss and Scroggins, African American Patriots in the Southern Campaign, 233-234; Rees, "They Were Good Soldiers," 155-162.

[17]Simon Schama, Rough Crossings: Britain, the Slaves and the American Revolution (New York: BBC, 2005), 96-97; Hugh Bicheno, Rebels & Redcoats: The American Revolutionary War (New York: William Collins, 2004), 159-160.

[18]Peter Ripley, ed., The Black Abolitionist Papers, 5 vols. (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1985), 4: 292, 391; Bob Drury and Tom Clavin, Valley Forge(New York: Simon & Schuster, 2018), 337.

[19]Gary B. Nash, The Unknown American Revolution: The Unruly Birth of Democracy and the Struggle to Create America (New York: Viking, 2005), 225.

[20]William C. Nell, The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution, with Sketches of Several Distinguished Colored Persons: To Which is Added a Brief Survey of the Condition and Prospects of Colored Americans (Boston: Robert F. Wallcott, 1855), 5-8.

[21]William C. Nell to Wendell Phillips, July 8, 1855, in Ripley, ed., The Black Abolitionist Papers, 4: 298-301; Henry Mayer, All on Fire: William Lloyd Garrison and the Abolition of Slavery (New York: St. Martin Press, 2012), 472, 550.

[22]Colored Troops from and during the Revolutionary War. Letter from the Secretary of War transmitting an exhibit of documents in the office of the Adjutant General touching the introduction of the negro into the American colonies and his military service (Washington, DC: Governmrnt Printing Office, 1888), 50th Congress, 1st Session. House document 294.

[23]Robert B. Eleazer, America's Tenth Man: A Brief Survey of the Negro's part in the American History(Atlanta, GA: Southern Regional Council, 1940), 7; Benjamin Quarles, The Negro in the American Revolution(Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1961), ix; Lanning, Defenders of Liberty, 177.

[24]George Washington Williams, A History of the Negro Troops in the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865 (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1887), 35n.

[25]Gilbert, Black Patriots and Loyalists, 98, 284 n. 12; Van Buskirk, Standing in Their Own Light, 7, 11, 13.

[26]John Hope Franklin, George Washington Williams: A Biography (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1998), 106-107, 110.

[27]George W. Reid, "Four in Black: North Carolina's Black Congressmen, 1874-1901," Journal of Negro History 64 (3) (Summer 1979): 240n5.

[28]Gilbert, Black Patriots and Loyalists, 98, 104, 174-175, 284n12, 311n35; Gary B. Nash, "The African American Revolution" in Jane Kamensky and Edward G. Gray, The Oxford Handbook of the American Revolution (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012): 250-272.

[29]Freeman, "North Carolina's Black Patriots of the American Revolution," 3.

[30]Nash, The Unknown American Revolution, 223. Also see Van Buskirk, Standing in Their Own Light and Douglas R. Edgerton, Death or Liberty: African Americans and Revolutionary America (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009).

[31]Schmidt, "Black Revolutionaries," 117; Douglas R. Dorney, Jr., "A Demographic View of the Georgia Continental Line and Militia: 1775–1783," Journal of the American Revolution, February 22, 2022, allthingsliberty.com/2022/02/a-demographic-view-of-the-georgia-continental-line-and-militia-1775-1783/.

[32]Gilbert, Black Patriots and Loyalists, 98, 104, 174-75, 294 n. 12; Damani Davis, "The Rejection of Elizabeth Mason: The Case of a 'Free Colored' Revolutionary Widow,'" Prologue Magazine43 (Summer 2011): 51-61.

[33]Gilbert, Black Patriots and Loyalists, 152.

[34]For the American Revolution as part of a greater struggle for emancipation see Christina Proenza-Coles, American Founders: How People of African Descent Established Freedom in the New World (Montgomery, AL: NewSouth Books, 2019); David Hackett Fischer, American Founders: How Enslaved People Expanded American Ideals (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2022); and Gerald Horne, The Counter-Revolution of 1776: Slave Resistance and the Origins of the United States (New York: New York University Press, 2014).

Important Dates in History

Feb 1: The Battle of Cowan's Ford, Huntersville, NC 1781
Feb 2: Stamp Act 1765
Feb 3: Major General Moultrie defeats British detachment at Port Royal Island, SC 1779
Feb 6: Aaron Burr's Birthday 1756
Feb 6: The United States and France become allies 1778
Feb 9: Thomas Paine's Birthday 1737
Feb 14: Patriots Andrew Pickens and Elijah Clarke beat Loyalists at Kettle Creek, GA 1779
Feb 14: Crossing of the Dan 1781
Feb 22: George Washington's Birthday 1732
Feb 23–24: American George Rogers Clark captures Vincennes (in what is now Indiana) on the Wabash in the Western campaign 1779
Feb 27: Revolutionaries drive the loyalists from Moore's Creek Bridge, North Carolina 1776

New Medal now available! A medal for the Battle of Fort San Carlos is now available from Compatriot J Howard Fisk. They cost $35.00 and you must participate in the events in Ste. Genevieve.

Color Guard Grave Marking Event, St. Genevieve, Mo.
Sunday May 26th, 2024
12:30 PM

To: All Color Guard Compatriots attending the St Genevieve Grave Marking Ceremony.

To qualify for the National Grave Marking Medal you must participate by laying a wreath or by purchasing a flower to be laid at the memorial. Registration starts at 11:30 AM at the Guibord-Valle House.

Flowers will be available at the cemetery for $10.00 which qualifies credit for all five patriots.

Those Missouri members who plan on attending and wishing to receive credit for the Grave Marking Medal please fill out the enclosed registration form and return a check for the ceremony ($10.00 so that we might have some idea who will be participating ahead of the event.)

Please review the attached flyer for additional information and fill out the registration form below. Please return the form along with your check lo later than May 20th to:

Sends checks to: MOSSAR
c/o Vicki Biggs 17432 Hilltop Ridge Dr. Eureka, MO 63025

Color Guard Members, Thanks for all you do!

Steve Biggs, event chairman

Registration Form

Please detach form and return to the above PO Box
(Please Print)

Name _____ **Email** _____ **National Number** _____

State Society _____ **Chapter** _____ **Total Flower Participation donation** $_____

Battle of Fort San Carlos Festival and Grave Marking

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024
STE. GENEVIEVE, MISSOURI

11:30 a.m.
Registration at Guibord-Valle House
Flowers, commemorative challenge coins and medals available for purchase

1 p.m.
Memorial Cemetery Ceremony with Wayside Marker Unveiling
Militia and Color Guard muster at 12:30 p.m. at Guibord-Valle House

2 p.m.
Battle of Fort San Carlos Memorial Celebration at Ste. Genevieve Catholic Church

3 p.m.
Ste. Genevieve and Ste. Genevieve Milice History at The Orris

Awards and Events

The Ozark Mountain Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution attended the annual awards banquet for Civil Air Patrol's Springfield Regional Composite Squadron on 9 February 2024 at the Plaster Student Union on the Missouri State University campus. 2024 OMCSAR President Charles McMillan and 2023 President Crismon Brayman were invited to celebrate 2023 cadet and senior CAP member accomplishments with the squadron. Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a U.S. Air Force Auxiliary Component, performing search-and-rescue as well as a wide variety of Air Force, FEMA, SEMA, and other medical and natural disaster-related support missions. Over 130 guests were in attendance as Compatriots McMillan and Brayman presented the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship Medal to Cadet Samuel Jenkins. Interestingly there is a professional connection between the OMCSAR and the Missouri CAP Wing -- Compatriot Brayman is the CAP-USAF Regional Operations Director for Missouri and Kansas CAP Wings. According to President McMillan, "OMCSAR is excited to create a partnership with the Missouri CAP Wing in supporting and awarding outstanding cadets in the future, similar to the support and awards currently provided to JROTC units."

Branson High School JROTC Honor Guard present colors at the beginning of the monthly meeting on February 17.

Dee Dosch handing Compatriot's Ken Lawrence and J. Howard Fisk a picture her late husband, Compatriot John Hume had in his office.

Compatriot's Daniel Piedlow (L), and Gary Bishop, being swarn into office by Compatriot J. Howard Fisk.

(L) President Charles McMillan inducting new member Donald King into our society. (R) Donald King with his sponsor, Compatriot Steve Perkins.

(L) Compatriot Gary Bishop persenting Eagle Scout Lilly Stevens with the Certificate for winning the OMC SAR Eagle Scout Contest. (R) Compatriot Gary Bishop and the Stevens family.

(L) Compatriot John Hathcock receiving the Bronze Roger Sherman Medal and Life Membership Certificate (R).

Awards and Events

Compatriot Ben Edmondson receiving the Bronze Missouri Medal.

Compatriot Daniel Piedlow receiving the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal.

Compatriot Norm Knowlton receiving the Bronze Henry Knox Medal.

Compatriot Gary Bishop receiving the Bronze Henry Knox Medal.

(L) Compatriot J. Howard Fisk reading the meaning of the fourteen bells. (R) Compatriot Steve Perkins ringing the bell.

OMC Color Guard with the Branson High School Color Guard at Washington Park celebrating President Washington's Birthday.

Awards and Events

I Swear!
Sometimes you just must adjust to the situation. I had the privilege of swearing in two new members. Jeremy Shaun Burks over the phone and Jimmie Ed Burks in my car at the Troop D Headquarters parking lot.
These new Compatriots are part of the new Chapter in Howell County. The Josiah Howell Chapter. They both work on Saturday and so OMC made it happen.
Welcome Compatriots to the SAR.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 29 to Saturday March 2, Spring Leadership Training at the National Society headquarters located at 809 W. Main St., Louisville, KY 40202.

Tuesday March 5, at 6:30 P.M., the OMC's monthly Chapter Executive Committee meeting will be at Steve Perkins home located at 3831 S. Virginia Pl., Springfield.

Saturday, March 23, at 9:30 A.M., the OMC meeting will be held at the Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Library located at 2214 S. Brentwood Blvd., Springfield. **PLEASE NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGE DUE TO OTC BEING CLOSED FOR SPRING BREAK.**

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 25, at 1:00 P.M. there is a Medal of Honor Event at the Harrry S. Truman Presidental Library and Museum located at 500 W. US Hwy 24, Independence, MO.

Tuesday April 9, at 6:30 P.M., the OMC's monthly Chapter Executive Committee meeting will be at Steve Perkins home located at 3831 S. Virginia Pl., Springfield.

Saturday, April 20, at 9:30 A.M., the OMC meeting will be held at the Phelps Grove Parki, located at 950 E. Bennett St., Springfield. **PLEASE NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGE DUE TO PATRIOT DAY CEREMONY.**

"The Nation Makers" oil on canvas painting by Howard Pyle, 1902.