



# **PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF SONS OF THE REVOLUTION**

[www.amrev.org](http://www.amrev.org)

**VOLUME 25 NUMBER 1**

**WINTER 2015**



*Captain Robert Van Gulick and Eagle Bearers  
Ben Wolf and Eric Guenther present the Colors*

## ***Musket Ball***


This year's Musket Ball was held on Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. This event is the annual commemoration of the Revolutionary War victories at the Battles of Saratoga in 1777 and Yorktown in 1781. PSSR and Merion Golf Club member, Howard Morgan, acted as our Merion member host.

Merion Golf proved to be a wonderful venue as we had 167 guests in attendance, which by far surpassed last year's attendance, despite this year's unfortunate scheduling conflict with the General Society Annual Meeting that took place in Virginia. The Ball was held in the newly constructed pavilion at the club, and all those in attendance had a festive and fun time. Following cocktails and passed hors d'oeuvres, the presentation program and dinner began at 7:30pm.

Towards the end of dinner, our Society secretary Schuyler C. Wickes gave a thoughtful and informative presentation on the enduring relationship between the victories at Yorktown and Saratoga, and the role that Valley Forge and Fort Mifflin played within this dynamic. Members and their guests then laced up their dancing shoes for an evening of musical entertainment by The Jason Kendall Band.

—Andrew McReynolds  
Committee Chairman





**Washington's  
Birthday Ball**

**Saturday, 21st February**

**The Union League  
of Philadelphia**

6:30 Receiving Line & Cocktails  
7:30 Parade of Colors  
8:00 Dinner is Served

Tickets Still Available  
Reply to the Secretary

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## *Letter from the President*

Dear Fellow PSSR Members,

As the new year begins, the George Washington Birthday Ball Committee, chaired by Win Dougherty, is finalizing plans for our annual event on Saturday, February 21, 2015. This year the Ball will return to the venerable Union League of Philadelphia, and it promises to be a memorable evening.

Also on the horizon is our Society's Annual Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2015 at the Racquet Club of Philadelphia. Rich Walkup and his committee have added some new elements to the event this year. Cocktails and hors d' oeuvres will be served after the meeting and there is no charge to members. I hope that you will plan to attend.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to all those members who have made a tax-deductible gift to our Society this year, recognized below. While the current finances of our Society are very strong, providing a permanent financial platform that will enable the Society

to achieve its mission in perpetuity is our goal. My thanks to all those who have helped this year.

As this is my last newsletter correspondence as your President, I want to express my appreciation to all the individuals who have helped make the past three years so enjoyable for me. The team of officers with whom I work are truly talented, and the level of commitment and involvement from the Board of Managers and our committee members is extraordinary. I also wish to recognize the Captain, Officers and members of the Color Guard for their strong support, loyal participation, and steadfast dedication to our Society. Last but certainly not least, I want to acknowledge the hard work and loyal service of our office support team, who tirelessly keep the wheels of our organization churning forward.

I am honored to have served as the Society's President, and I look forward to seeing the Society progress into the future.

—James B. Burke  
President



## 2014 Contributions

Lewis S. Allen	Joseph H. Frantz, Jr.	Francis H. Loughran	Blaine W. Scott, III
John A. Baird, Jr.	Benjamin C. Frick, Esq.	Kenneth W. MacNeal	Nicholas Sellers
Matthew J. Barlow, M.D.	John W. Gareis, M.D.	Albert H. Manwaring, IV	Jeffrey S. Shaver
Ervin F. Bickley, Jr.	Richard Griffith	W. Steven Mark, M.D.	Julia Shaver
John M. Blickensderfer	Edgar L. Grove	John B. McGowan, Jr.	George M. Sonneborn, M.D.
David E. Boenning	Budd J. Hallberg	George W. Meschter	Wayne R. Strasbaugh, Esq.
Robert T. Boyd, III, M.D.	Robert M. Hand	G. Andrew Meschter	Andrew R. Sullivan
James B. Burke	Philip A. Heaver, Jr.	Craig D. Mills	Henderson Supplee, III
William A. Carr	William R. Hearter, Jr., M.D.	Jefferson M. Moak, II	Erik R. Swanson
Charles F. Clement, 3rd	Joseph C. Henderson	Theodore G. Mogavero	John F. Tomkins, II
Joseph T. Coleman, Ed.D.	Stephen W. Holt	Howard R. Morgan, Sr.	Jeffrey G. Trauger, Esq.
C. Perry Colwell	Lewis K. Hosfeld	Robert F. Morris, Jr.	Carl N. Wallnau, Jr., Esq.
Edwin N. Conroy	Robert T. Hoyt, Jr.	Daniel I. Murphy, Esq.	C. Michael Whelan
G. Jeremy Cummin	David M. Humphrey, M.D.	Francis A. O'Donnell, Jr.	Robert D. Wiener, Jr.
Richard N. Cutshall, Jr.	Francis B. Jacobs, II	Arthur D. Old	Theodore E. Wiederseim, 3rd
William H. Dutcher, III	John E. James	Robert L. Paserba	Edward J. Wilbraham, Esq.
S. Kendrick Eshleman, III	George F. Johnston	Gardiner P. Pearson	A. Harry Williams
Robert M. Flood, III	Peter B. Kane	John H. Peterson	Rushton M. Williamson, Jr.
Charles B. W. Forbes	David H. Keller, Jr.	R. Scott Quillman	Ben R. Wolf, Sr.
James Fooskas, Jr.	James Keller	J. Permar Richards, III	William S. Wood, II
Walley G. Francis	Richard J. Knepley	George M. Riter	Leif A. Zetterburg

## Reflection on Special Projects

—Schuyler C. Wickes

When we think of the word *reflection*, we may think of our literal reflection when we look into a mirror each morning. We may think of it as a state of careful consideration as we reflect on a topic. Or it may represent a more figurative interpretation, as in one's behavior being a reflection of one's frame-of-mind, for example. That all being said, the start of a new year is always a time of reflection and projection, reflecting on the year gone past, and a projection into the future, fit and full of grand intentions and even a few resolutions! The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution is a society proud of the reflection we see in our accomplishments, and the commitment to our Society Objectives as defined over 125 years ago. In short, reflection is who we are as a society (a reflection of our ancestry), and what we've done as a society (perpetuating the memory of the men...who achieved the independence of our country), and most importantly, what we must continue to do.

Each year since our inception, The PSSR undertakes a variety of *Special Projects*, all of which continue to support the legacy of the Society, the pillars upon which our cause is built. The commitment to these *Special Projects* has been paramount to our duty as a society since our founding back in 1888. Some of these efforts and initiatives have been showcased at Annual Meetings or Society events, and in more recent times, this newsletter and our website have served as a mechanism to illustrate the depth and breadth of our involvement with projects that continue to perpetuate the memory of our collective ancestors. But most of these initiatives go unseen by many of our membership, but given that this is a time for reflection, let me take a brief moment to showcase just a few of the many projects:

The PSSR was the first voice to bring to public notice the importance of preserving Valley Forge as a National Historic Landmark. From 1890, through the present day, we continue to champion all that is Valley Forge. In addition, we have been involved with the restoration of numerous revolutionary war buildings and houses, including the Bake House in Valley Forge, the Parry House in New Hope, the Harriton House in Bryn Mawr, General Varnum's Quarters at Valley Forge, the Library at Waynesborough, the home of General Wayne, and even the Jefferson House in Philadelphia and Ben Franklin's home in London. We are actively involved with the new Museum of the American Revolution, the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, the Independence Seaport Museum, and Fort Mifflin. The PSSR has and continues to award scholarships to high schools and universities for

student essays, research, and the study of government service. The PSSR undertook and fulfilled an ambitious initiative to present US flags and materials - to all public and private schools - about the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and Bill of Rights. This has also branched out into what is now our 68<sup>th</sup> year of sponsoring the New Citizens Commencement and Reception at the Federal Courthouse in Philadelphia, where our Society president and numerous society members welcome new citizens at their "swearing in" ceremony twice a year.

The PSSR has been responsible for, or contributed to the publication of numerous books, journals and catalogues, independently and in collaboration with several universities and museums. The PSSR is actively involved with the purchase, restoration and display of numerous Revolutionary War and period artifacts, and we will be presenting a series of articles about those items in future newsletters. The list goes on and on.

So, reflection...as a Society we reflect on our ancestors, and we do whatever we can to present to our greater community their actions, ideals, and accomplishments. But another part of reflection for us as a Society is reflecting on those that have come before us in our Society, paving the way for our efforts. Needless to say, the efforts of many members of our Society over the years have resulted in the programs and initiatives mentioned above. And those programs reflect on our Society, and us. Officers of the Society, members of the Board of Managers, members of the Color Guard, and many society members at large have been critical to the implementation and completion of these programs. The hours committed and effort spent is immeasurable, and for that we are all indebted, and we are eternally grateful to all of those that have come before us.

In addition, many of our members understand that all of these initiatives far surpass in cost that which we collect as a society from our membership dues. And as a result, our annual contributions (listed previously) play a vital role in us being able to continue to support these Special Projects. In addition, we are blessed to have been named many years ago as a beneficiary of a trust, established in 1962 by the Will of the late-President of our Society, Herbert C. Rorer. That has also been a significant asset of ours in being able to support many of the initiatives mentioned above. The Rorer Trust will be coming to an end in a few short years, but the Society, with the help of our membership, will take the necessary steps to ensure our ability to continue to operate and support the causes that we do, the causes that define us within our community, and the causes that are a reflection of our ancestors' sacrifice to the cause of the American Revolution.

## 2014 MUSKET BALL GALLERY



## New Citizen's Ceremony

On December 15, 2014, Bill of Rights Day, the New Citizens Committee of the Pennsylvania Society participated in the naturalization ceremony for newly granted American citizens at the Federal Courthouse at Sixth and Market Streets in Philadelphia. Eighty-eight new citizens from 42 countries took the oath of allegiance to the United States and became citizens at the ceremony. Participating in the ceremony from the Society were (pictured from left) Robert Flood III, Robert Flood, Jr, President James B. Burke, John Strawbridge, James Kip Gearhart III, New Citizens Committee Chair John Blickensderfer, and (not pictured) Matthew D. Dupee, Esq., and Society Secretary Barbara Dickenson.



family's immigration history and stated that the new citizens present today would become the one their families would remember as its first U.S. citizen. Daniel Suarez, formerly of Colombia delivered the response to the court on behalf of the new citizens. Mr. Suarez stated that family and his new country make him happy.

The closing remarks were made by James B. Burke, President of the PSSR. After reviewing the purpose for which the Society was founded in 1888 and its tradition of reaching out to new citizens, Mr. Burke stated that our organization is directly tied to the new citizens, who swear to

uphold the laws established so long ago when all participants in this new nation first became citizens of the United States of America. Following the ceremony, the Society sponsored a reception for the new citizens at the Courthouse that included cake, iced tea, and traditional American music provided by Banjo Joe.

—John Blickensderfer  
Committee Chairman

Following the administration of the Citizenship Oath, a series of speakers addressed the court and the new citizens. Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, recounted the importance of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in enumerating the rights reserved for the people of the United States. Chancellor William P. Fedullo, Esq., of the Philadelphia Bar Association recounted his

## Younger Members Committee

The Younger Members Committee continues to boost our visibility and awareness with potential new members in the Philadelphia area, by holding two great functions in the last few months. In September, James Price and I hosted a fantastic Roof Deck & Parlor Party at a private townhouse at 18<sup>th</sup> and Pine Street, replete with a terrific spread of food and cocktails and music for almost 70 guests and friends. It was, without doubt, the place to be that Friday evening, assisted by a doorman to "welcome" guests upon arrival at the front door. And in fact, the festivities continued far beyond the scheduled end of the party, with a large group of Younger Members and potential members heading out on the town.

Also, in early December the Younger Members hosted the Annual Holiday Soiree at 1 Tippling Place, a renowned speakeasy, again in Center City. An encouraging turnout of

younger members and guests was well received, amidst the busy holiday season of events. These events, on top of a full calendar throughout the year, has been a great boost for our membership development within the younger community in Philadelphia and the suburbs.

The Younger Members have a full calendar of events planned in 2015, starting with a group of about fifteen Young Sons members and prospective members attending the Temple vs. Tulane college basketball game at the Liacouras Center. For any and all questions about organizing or attending events, or participating on the Younger Members Committee, please contact me through our office.

—Kipp Gearhart  
Committee Chairman

## Annual Church Service

On Sunday April 26th, the PSSR will be holding our annual church service once again at St. David's Episcopal Church in Wayne, Pennsylvania. We look forward to this day for our families to join with us and embrace and enjoy the history and ideals that we hold so dear. The Annual Church Service is one of three family-friendly events sponsored each year by the Society. This particular event is an excellent opportunity for families to share in remembrance and thanksgiving, and to celebrate friendships, old and new.

As mentioned above, the church service will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 26th, in the New Chapel at historic St. David's Episcopal Church, located at 763 South Valley Forge Road in Wayne, PA. In it's early days, St. David's played an important role in Revolutionary and Colonial times. The cornerstone was laid on May 9, 1715, and with the coming of the Revolution in the Colonies, a rapidly swelling wave of resentment against the Church of England arose among

the patriots of the congregation. A leader of this opposition was Anthony Wayne, later appointed major general of the American forces, who is buried in St. David's historic churchyard.

So please join us, as amidst the pomp and ceremony of our uniformed Color Guard, and the regalia of our standards and flags, we will also be commemorating the encampment of the Continental Army at Valley Forge over the winter of 1777-1778. In addition to this being a day of joining together with our fellow Society members and their families, it is also our salute to the memory of members of the Society who have died during the past year.

After the church service, members and guests are encouraged to join us at a reception with hors d'oeuvres and refreshments, and appropriate "finger-food" and beverages for the youngsters, to follow at Aronimink Golf Club, 3600 St. Davids Road, Newtown Square, PA.

—Andrew R. Sullivan  
Committee Chairman

<b>IN MEMORIAM</b>			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Elected</u>
Ernest C. Hutchinson	3/14/27	8/22/14	2/10/59
David L. Painter	12/12/21	1/1/15	2/8/51

### New Members Elected

Dennis Charles Buckwalter  
Kevin Edward Gelzheizer  
William Hope Handy  
John Bill Hoy, Esq.  
Scott Robert Kerns  
Eric Richard Miller, Sr.  
Eric Richard Miller, Jr.  
McBee Butcher, Jr.  
Timothy Brian Hennessey  
Thomas Michael O'Beirne  
Frederick William Schaft

### From Junior to Younger Member:

Ian Ross Kegler  
William Mason Tasman

*This Newsletter is published by the*  
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James S. Hayes III, Esq.  
Dr. David M. Humphrey  
Daniel I. Murphy, Esq.  
Coleman Sellers VI

# Calendar of Events

*\* denotes a Family Event*

## 2015

<b>21 February</b>	Washington's Birthday Ball The Union League of Philadelphia Philadelphia, PA	<b>4 July</b>	*Let Freedom Ring Celebration Society Hill Sheraton (luncheon) & Independence Hall Philadelphia, PA
<b>16 April</b>	PSSR Annual Meeting The Racquet Club of Philadelphia Philadelphia, PA	<b>1-4 October</b>	42nd Triennial of the General Society of Sons of the Revolution Williamsburg, VA
<b>26 April</b>	*Valley Forge Church Service St. David's Episcopal Church Wayne, PA	<b>17 October</b>	Musket Ball Merion Golf Club Ardmore, PA
<b>16 May</b>	*Radnor Hunt Races Radnor Hunt Club Malvern, PA		
<b>11 June</b>	New Citizens Ceremony Ceremonial Court Room Philadelphia, PA		

## Monthly Events

Second Thursday of Each Month

Board of Managers Meeting  
The Union League of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, PA

***Please consult the PSSR new website [www.amrev.org](http://www.amrev.org) for current details***

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