

# The Encampment



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Fall 2017



# The Cover

Ms. Linda Carr (second from left), a new DVF member, celebrated the Constitution Week program at Oak Hill School in Jonesborough, Tennessee. The event originated in 1955 by the Daughters of the American Revolution. As reported in the local publication, *The Herald & Tribune*, "This year, the 230th Anniversary of the Constitution, the celebration in Jonesborough specially remembered the soldiers who served in the Battle of Wabash, a little known but important conflict in American history." Our own Commander-in-Chief, Joyce Cole, attended. Pictured from left to right are: Charlotte Dade, Linda Carr, Mary Addington, and Kay Millsaps.



Commander in Chief

*Joyce Cole*

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## *The Encampment Newsletter*

The Official Publication of the Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge  
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Descendants of Valley Forge



Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge

# Editorial

Last fall, I began to tell my husband's story, a story that began with Aaron Burr Cooper. "Remember that bible record we found?" For months, my mother and I were on the hunt for Mary Ball Washington, determined to connect him to the elusive mother of democracy, the holy grail. Overturning every rock in my husband's male line, the Ball's, we uncovered an 1812 ancestor, but nothing more. The men were not going to reveal their secrets and the quest was tabled...for now.

Beckoning to not give up the chase, the middle name of my husband's father, Cooper, called out. Cooper, threaded throughout my husband's female ancestral line, popped up like a mean game of whack-a-mole, and demanded determined attention.

As part of the quest for the holy grail, one discovery surfaced—a mysterious bible archived *in Texas of all places*. Unearthed earlier this year, my mother handed me the record. My eyes nearly jumped out of their sockets. My late mother-in-law's handwriting squeezed into the footer margin of the bible's records of births. I stared at the page, stammering, "That's Ellen's handwriting!" Ellen wrote in perfect cursive recording my husband's and my sister's-in-law birth, a sister-in-law I never met, having died in an accident at the age of six. "What? How?," I stuttered. "A bible archived in Texas?" What was my Alabaman husband's mother doing in a bible in Texas? I haven't answered my own question, overwhelmed with so much genealogical data. What I did know was that this bible provided the first clue to a phenomenal period of discovery, for it was the Cooper-Sampson Bible. It was a treasure map to everything we needed.

As it turned out, my husband's *female* line revealed their secrets. Once AB Cooper, a notation in the bible record, was discovered and linked to my husband as his third-great grandfather, the floodgates opened. No less than seven revolutionary war ancestors popped their heads out of their hidey-holes, proud to reveal themselves once and for all. Two of the seven served at Valley Forge, and with haste, we were honored to have Sue Ann Damron process my husband's application just months before she passed.

We were content to let the journey stop there, but one more mole demanded to be whacked.

This year, on the day before my husband's birthday, he received a call from North Carolina's Mayflower Society's genealogist. Possessing super-sensitive hearing, I easily overheard "Congratulations!" from the other room. I pumped my fist in joy, dancing a jig, and grinning from ear to ear. My husband hung up the phone, stepping into the room where I shimmied. He smiled from ear to ear as well. With a choked voice, he said, "I'm a descendant of Myles Standish."

My husband's journey to Valley Forge unleashed the greatest discovery of all—genealogical gold—his thirteenth great grandfather, Myles Standish.

When we began this journey over a year ago, my husband professed himself to be one generation removed from humble origins. Now, he struts like a proud rooster, a gentleman more blue-blooded than I.

May you never, ever give up the quest; and, may your New Year be a delightful journey of laughter, incredulity, and discovery.



—Jean Marie Dillon

*From the desk of the* **Commander in Chief**

*Joyce Cole*

Dear DVF Members and Friends,

I thought of Valley Forge as the rains of Hurricane Harvey kept coming; I was miserable and afraid. It made me think of those men in poorly constructed, crowded, windowless huts, cold, with the rain or snow, away from their homes, worried about their families and at times doubting this “Glorious Cause.” They were poorly clothed, unpaid, and hungry, surrounded by many who were ill or dying, all the things I didn’t face. The enemy was near, the food scarce, and then there was the tedium, along with fear of the unknown always lurking. Defeated in battles, fearful of what the spring would bring, there were talks of desertion, mutiny, and hating a Congress who refused to act. But, like those men, I was also helpless, miserable and afraid. Thus Harvey brought to me a modern day Valley Forge as I watched with idle misery and a fear of the unknown.

I gathered clothes from abundant closets for those losing everything and thought of those at Valley Forge, who if they lost this war, this revolution, lost everything. A volunteer army came, joined and served at Valley Forge; we had those in Houston too.

When Texas Brigade Commander John Knox told me he was going to “March-in” in December, I was surprised. He then continued saying he hoped it was cold and snowing. “Why?” I queried. Because he wanted to have that experience his ancestors had at Valley Forge. I thought about this. Do we all have a bit of latent desire to vicariously experience what our ancestors endured that we might honor them more completely? I don’t know. I read a lot about Valley Forge and about General George Washington and the mercies and blessings of the Lord who was always there. Valley Forge, the crucible of the Revolution, where endurance forged true soldiers. Some died, all suffered, but they stayed and gave us ultimate victory.

“From those we have inherited the luxury of safety and freedom while having done nothing to earn it.” I once read and find it so true. But, we will honor our ancestors and never forget their sacrifices.

Kudos to Honorary C-n-C Dr. Rynell Novak for her patient, thorough, and excellent work on our by-laws. None could have done this task so well, working her word skills and accuracy on them. You can read the proposed changes to be voted on at Encampment in June. I am grateful for your diligence, Rynell.

Tennessee. I knew my visit was going to be a fine one when the first person I met (J.D. Norris of South Carolina) told me he was a DVF member and planned to come to Encampment. That was a fine start to a grand weekend. It was replete with informative speakers, wreath layings, American Revolutionary ancestors’ grave markings, hearing their stories of service and Constitution Day bell ringings. From Geoff Baggett’s books and other readings, I thought I was prepared for Sycamore Shoals and the “Gathering” of the Over Mountain men. The event was overwhelming. A fife and drum corps, color guard, gun salute, wreaths to color the event, while sitting in replicated Fort Watauga, was absolutely stirring. This honored those men who marched over the mountains for days to meet Commander Ferguson’s challenge to pledge loyalty to the king or die. They





met him at King's Mountain and won a pivotal victory that was to the southern campaign what Saratoga was years before. Dr. Joe and Darlene Chambers, Ronnie and Linda Lail, Linda and David Carr, Jean Marie Dillon, Mike Mankin, Ileana, and Bella, Geoff Baggett, Steve Mallory, Tim Massey, Caroline and Dorothy Blanks, and others, made me feel so welcome in beautiful (yes, all roads were beautiful) eastern Tennessee. I even got to go to President Johnson's library and visit DVF member Andy Daniels' 1820 living museum home in Greeneville along with Tim Massey's home filled with books, papers, and various collections. This weekend was a blast. Put it on your bucket list.

Some of you are unaware of the loss of our Commissary of Musters General, Sue Ann Damron, in August. Her death left a large empty space to fill and she will be missed. Our Society made a donation to the scholarship fund in her memory. For those awaiting application and supplemental approvals, Dr. Rebekah Ray, a professional genealogist, now graciously holds this position. Please give her a little time to sort materials out and rejoice with me that God opened this window when He gently closed the door on Sue Ann's life. Rebekah's information for contacting is elsewhere in this newsletter. Thank you so much Rebekah!

Honorary C-n-C Dr. Marion Lane is recovering from her accident, out of her cast and diligent and vigorous about her therapy. So many have asked about and prayed for her and I'm sure she appreciates your concern. We'll hope to see her in June for a small visit.

Please visit our new website. There are just so many good, new things going on now. Susan Meer along with Rick Abbott and others on the technology committee have revamped this site with new photos and easier to use application forms.

There are several efforts being made for new brigades to form, which is thrilling. I'll hope Inspector General Rick Abbott has several certificates to present in June. Start planning to be there for the events being planned. I am hoping for a scavenger hunt over the VF park for children and youth. I am also hoping for a visit from our 2017 scholarship winner, Mary Beth Reno.

What's next? Well, there is a TEXAS brigade meeting in Dallas in October with a Friday night reception in a private home and our meeting on Saturday, luncheon with speaker, etc.

In Patriotism,  
Joyce

# The Young Patriot's Page features

## Jackson Hunter Baggett



Jackson Hunter Baggett is one of the newest members of our society ... literally! He is the grandson of DVF members Geoff and Kim Baggett of Cadiz, Kentucky. At the ripe old age of eighteen months, he may be the youngest-ever member of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge!

When it comes to living history, reenactments, and the Revolutionary War, poor Jackson does not stand a chance. His "Pop Pop," Geoff, is an unabashed historical nerd. Jackson was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution at age four months, and took part in his first SAR event at the age of five months.

"I want him to be connected to his past," Geoff explains. "He needs to understand the diversity of his ancestors and the parts that they played in the founding of this nation. I believe that taking part in living history and being a part of lineage societies helps bring fun to the learning process. I, personally, believe that our members should sign up all of their children and grandchildren in DVF. But not just to give them a certificate to hang on a wall and then forgotten. Dress them up in Colonial clothing! Take them to historical events! Bring history to life for them! Help them understand that they are not just part of a 'special society.' Instead, help them see that they are connected to and a real part of our history."

Jackson is the beneficiary of his grandparents' genealogical research. He has four Valley Forge ancestors, two from Geoff and two from Kim. He descends from: Quartermaster Sergeant Richard Priddy - First Virginia Regiment, Private Richard Beasley - Second Virginia State Regiment, Private Michael Yeisley - German Battalion, and Dr. Nicholas Schell - Surgeon, Hartley's Additional Regiment.



# In Memoriam

In August of this year, we lost Sue Ann Damron, our Commissary of Musters General and genealogist. Having only just met Sue Ann in June, it was a bit of a shock to lose her so suddenly. I reached out to her daughter, Anne Witherspoon, who is a DVF member. Anne sent us her tribute.

—The Editor



Anne Witherspoon with her mother, Sue Ann Damron

**B**renda Sue Ann Johnson Damron, 70, of Big Spring, Texas died August 30, 2017. Sue Ann was born to Chester Allen and Freda Mae Pearl Johnson on December 7, 1946 in Frederick, Maryland.

She enjoyed her childhood in Lander, Maryland, and had many fond memories of spending time on her beloved grandfather's farm. It was from him she learned to love history and family stories from the past.

She graduated from Frederick High School in 1964. She attending the University of Maryland for a short while and then moved to Big Spring, Texas in 1966.

She worked at Cosden Refinery for several years and that is where she met the "cowboy of her dreams," John Roy "Tom" Damron. John and Sue Ann were married on June 30, 1967, and just recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

She graduated from University of Texas Permian Basin in 1975 and began her teaching career. She taught at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School until it closed; and then was an 8th grade math teacher at Runnels Junior High School for 14 years.

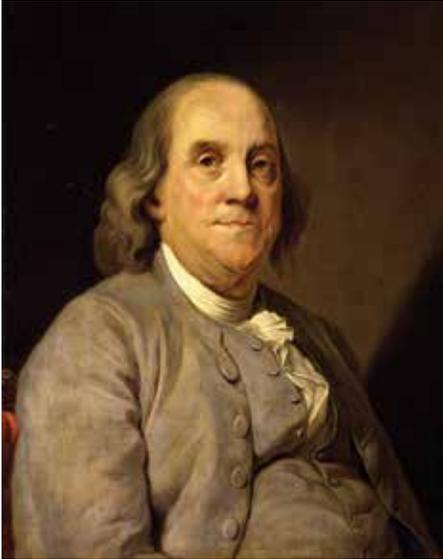
She loved her country, her cats, the Dallas Cowboys, and anything to do with history and genealogy. She had many great adventures with her family and friends over the years. She enjoyed visiting her home state of Maryland every summer and had many memorable vacations with her sister Lorraine Johnson Davis and her family. She also enjoyed going to Salt Lake City to do genealogical research at the Mormon Library. She loved spending time with her only daughter, Anne Damron Witherspoon; and her adorable grandchildren, John Aaron and Ellen Witherspoon.

She was a charter member, former Regent and current Registrar of the Daughters of the American Revolution Captain Elisha Mack Chapter. She documented 29 Revolutionary War patriot ancestors for herself and her daughter. Sue Ann was a long time executive committee member of the Permian Historical Society, serving as Secretary for the past 14 years. She also served as Secretary for the Howard County Historical Commission. She was a national officer of the Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge. She was a long time volunteer at the VA Hospital and was recognized with the West Texas VA-Legion of Honor Award and the Outstanding Woman Volunteer of the Year; and she was named the Texas Society DAR Service for Veterans Outstanding DAR Member Volunteer. She had recently been named to The Heritage Museum's Board of Trustees.

She had a brilliant mind, a great sense of humor and was tough as nails. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

# Compliments to Friends.....

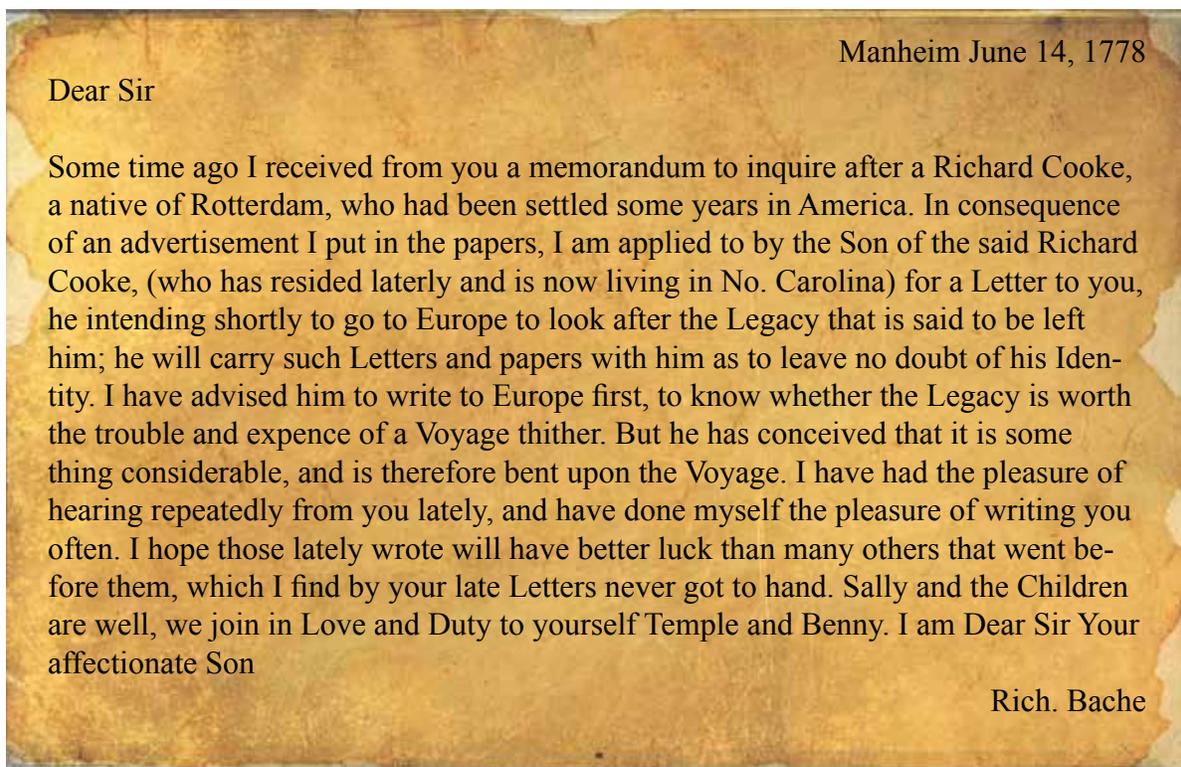
## An Ancestor's Story



The enclosed letters to the Hon. Benjamin Franklin from Richard Bache Dated June 1778, and the letter from my ancestor, Richard Donaldson Cooke, dated February 1780 explain the circumstances. Richard Cooke had been a captain in the 9th North Carolina regiment, and later embarked on this trip to Europe. It is unknown if he was successful in getting the legacy left by his aunt. In his letter, he mentioned he would be returning to America via St. Eustatius, a leeward island of the Virgin Islands. This port was the scene of "The First Salute." An American ship entered the port and the captain fired a 13-gun salute which was answered by the governor of the island with an 11 gun salute...protocol for recognizing a sovereign country. There is a plaque in St. Eustatius commemorating the Event. The plaque was delivered by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

England declared war on the Dutch not long after St. Eustatius changed hands, once again.

—Wm. W. Adams #2646, Tennessee



Rotterdam Feby. 24th. 1780

Sir/

The inclos'd is a letter I recd. from Mr. Bache of Philadelphia in June 1778, and have never had it in my Power to convey it to you sooner— I have come over to Europe in order to receive a Legacy left my father by his sister Anna Cooke of this Place, which I'm apprehensive will cause me trouble before I gett it, as it lies in the Bank of England— Mr Bache inform'd me it was thro Yourself and Mr. Williams of Natz, that the News first came to America for Which I return you Gentlemen My Sincere thanks— At the time of my first hearing the Above News I had the Honour to command a Compy. in the Continental Service of America, then at the Valley Forge and Contd: in the military way till a few months before I left the Continent, which was the 22 Novr. last, I make no doubt but you were well acquainted at that time with the Situation of our Army who are in High spirits and think of nothing less than Independency with a Peace— I intend to sail for America in April, if you have any commands there that I can serve you in shall think myself greatly honour'd— I go by the way of St Eustatius—as I came— I am with Respect Your Mst. Obdt. Servt.

Richd: Donaldson Cooke

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*You are Cordially Invited  
Encampment  
June 14-17, 2018*

# Missives and Operations.....

## A New Website for our Society – ValleyForgeSociety.com

The Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge has a new website! Check it out at <http://www.valleyforgesociety.com/>

Pages on the site include Home, Encampment, Links, Membership, and Contact Us. Since the site has been up and running, we have had many inquiries about membership with the Questions or Suggestions form we have created.

If you have any photos of previous Encampments and are willing to allow us to use your photos on the site, please consider sending them to me at [DVPABrigade@gmail.com](mailto:DVPABrigade@gmail.com) so that I may use them on the Encampment page.

It is easy to spread the word about our fabulous organization with this new tool. Do you use Facebook or other social media platforms? Consider posting a link to our site, encouraging your friends to learn more about our society and investigate membership. The updated membership application is found on the site in a user-friendly PDF format. ...See you on the web!

—Susan Gillette Meer, National IT Chair



Bob Sholly, a new DVF member and newly-forming Kentucky Brigade member, lives in Trigg County, Kentucky. He and his wife, Kat, recently returned from a pilgrimage to the land of Bob's Colonial ancestors, the Wyoming Valley of northeastern Pennsylvania. They traveled to honor Bob's Valley Forge ancestor, Lt. James Wells of the First Westmoreland Independent Company of the Continental Line, also known as the Wyoming Independent Company. The First and Second Westmoreland Companies, though located in modern-day Pennsylvania, were considered part of the Connecticut Line.

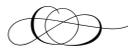
Lt. James Wells and the Wyoming Independents wintered with the Connecticut troops at Valley Forge. Shortly after departing Valley Forge in late spring, the companies learned that the Wyoming Valley was under threat of attack by the British and their Seneca allies. Lt. Wells and some of the other officers departed immediately with approximately twenty-five other soldiers to return and protect their homes. On July 3, 1778, these men joined in with hundreds of local militiamen in an effort to defend their homes and families from attack. The ensuing battle, known officially as the Battle of Wyoming, was a slaughter. A large force totaling over 550 combatants, comprised of Butler's Rangers and Seneca Warriors, killed over 300 Patriots. Many of those killed were scalped and mutilated.



Lt. James Wells was one of those men who perished in the battle. That evening, under cover of darkness, his widow, Hannah Loomis Wells, escaped into the woods with her twelve children. The youngest of those children was only two years old. Fleeing from the roaming bands of still-bloodthirsty natives, they made their way cross-country to Hannah's native home in Connecticut.

Each year, on July 4, descendants of the men who fought at the Battle of Wyoming gather at a monument in Wyoming, Pennsylvania, that marks the site of the battle and contains the names of the men who died there. Lt. James Wells is named prominently on that monument.

This year, Bob, dressed in an exact replica of his ancestor's brown and red Continental Army uniform, presented a wreath at the commemoration in honor of his 4th great-grandfather. During his presentation he rendered a Colonial Soldier's salute. Interestingly, participants had never seen such a salute, and rewarded Bob's presentation with a rousing ovation.



I went down to The First Presbyterian Church in Woodbridge, New Jersey, to see the completed gravestones for William Jones and his wife Abigail Moores Jones. My son Stephen Steinberg #2538L, the fifth great grandson of William and Abigail Jones, started this gravestone replacement project. Unfortunately Stephen died rather suddenly of lung cancer and pneumonia on November 13, 2016. So I, his father, completed the project. The gravestone to the right of Abigail (not pictured) is their son, Phineas Jones, who is a Civil War veteran.

—Ulrich Steinberg



# Missives and Opinions.....

## Happy Alliance – the Descendants and the Friends

1976 was a year for celebrating beginnings! It was the 200th birthday of the United States, and it was the beginning of the Society of the Descendants of Washington’s Army at Valley Forge. It was also the year the Friends of Valley Forge Park was organized. However, it would be thirty years before these two organizations would be introduced to one another in a most unusual way.

Joe and Laura Majer moved to an historic house just a stone’s throw from Valley Forge NHP in 2001. After settling in, they began the journey of restoring and decorating their lovely home in the colonial style.



From left to right: Baron Von Steuben (William Ochester) | Chairman, Bruce Baký | board member Nancy Loane | Rynell Novak, 2006 Commander in Chief | Tim Massey.

Joe began bidding on E-bay for various historic pieces, but it seemed someone else was also interested, someone who was too often running up the price on him. So, with the thought of helping each of them get at least half of what they wanted without the price going sky high, Joe set out to discover the identity of his nemesis. It was the Descendants own Tim Massey!

The two became friends, and the Majers learned about the Society of the Descendants. Though the Majers had begun attending the Washington Memorial Chapel after moving to Valley Forge, they did not know about the Descendants or their connection to the Chapel.

In 2006 Tim Massey, being the Inspector General, was planning the Encampment and wanted to reach out to the Friends. Tim said he had joined the Friends about this time and believed they were doing a lot of great work. He said, “I knew they didn’t realize we existed, and most of our membership didn’t know about the Friends. I felt that we should support those there working with the park and the Valley Forge story year round. We were just in and out, three days a year.”

Rynell Novak, Commander-in-Chief at the time, agreed with Tim to invite the Friends and to make a financial contribution.

Tim asked Joe Majer if the Descendants could have a social evening at his home, instead of at the hotel where they were staying, and invited folks from the Chapel and the Friends. Bruce Baký, Chairman, Nancy Loane, a board member, and Baron Von Steuben were in attendance!

That evening the Descendants presented their first contribution to the Friends, a check for \$2,500. Tim Massey, also editor of the Encampment Newsletter at the time, started promoting the Friends “as something our members should belong to,” and offered the Friends a page in the newsletter which soon expanded to two pages. “It allowed our members to keep up with the work of the Friends, what we were supporting with our annual contribution,” Tim said, “and kept us current with what was happening in the park.”



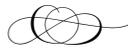
Don Naimoli, chairman of the Friends/Alliance, presenting Tim Massey with a lifetime honorary member certificate

And so the happy partnership was forged. A couple of years later, the Friends invited the Descendants to a reception at the Park with the board members. That event then grew to include not just board members, but all members of the Friends were invited to the annual reception and the opportunity to meet the Descendants and hear their individual stories.

Along the way, Tim Massey was made a lifetime honorary member of the Friends in 2010 and Nancy Loane was made an honorary member of the Descendants.

The Friends, now the Valley Forge Park Alliance, has grown much since that first meeting, both in members and in partnerships, but we are still grateful for the forging of that first partnership with the Descendants and their continued support.

—Carris Kocher, Valley Forge Park Alliance



## Good Things Ahead!

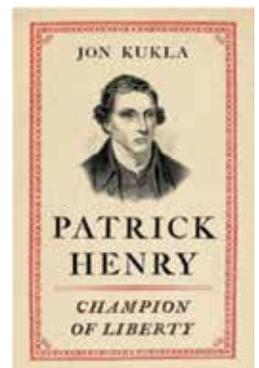
The remaining presentations in the 2017-2018 Speaker Series are listed below, and we hope some of the Descendants can join us along the way. Those who enjoyed Gale Fuller’s excellent review of *Lion of Liberty* in the last issue of *The Encampment* will want to take particular note of the March event.

December 5, 2017 – Lawrence Babits, *Battlefield Tactics in the Revolutionary War*. The how-to manual of warfare used during America’s War for Independence.

January 2, 2018 – Gale Rawson, *Art and the American Revolution*. A look at how art reflected and shaped the story of the birth of our nation.

February 6, 2018 – John McGaha, *The Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War*. The often overlooked story of the brutal Southern Campaign, the final act of the long Revolutionary War.

March 6, 2018 – SPECIAL DINNER EVENT, Jon Kukla, *Patrick Henry: Champion of Liberty*. Dine with Jon Kukla, historian and popular author of several Book-of-the-Month Club selections. His new book, *Patrick Henry: Champion of Liberty*, is described as a “lively biography,” and this promises to be a lively night. While Patrick Henry is best known today as an impassioned orator, he was also an attorney, statesman, society man – and more. The evening includes a buffet dinner, enlightening lecture, and stimulating conversation. Don’t miss this! Advanced Registration Required.



April 3, 2018 – Edward Lengel, *How George Washington Built His – and the Nation’s – Prosperity*. How George Washington’s abilities as a businessman informed his leadership as a general and president and set the foundation for the nation’s future prosperity

May 1, 2018 – Bill Toppman, *An Evening with Baron Steuben*. Meet Baron Steuben, the brash, brilliant, determined foreigner who transformed the Continental Army.

—Carris Kocher, Valley Forge Park Alliance

# Missives and Operations.....

## A North Carolina Brigade is forming!

Sometimes one can have a treasure and be completely unaware of it! Many DAR, SAR, and SR members have ancestors whose lives are far more interesting than they ever imagined! Take a minute and read “The Encampment” at <http://valleyformusterroll.org/encampment.asp>. Do you have an ancestor who was at Valley Forge? A soldier, an officer, a new immigrant? Peter Boyer came from Germany as a teenager and settled in Pennsylvania where so many Germans moved. He signed up to be a soldier. He was part of the “German Regiment” at Valley Forge. Eventually, although young, he became Captain Peter Boyer. This German speaking unit was most attentive to Baron Von Steuben who is credited with helping the army become more disciplined with a new sense of purpose.

Search the muster roll for your patriot ancestors (<http://valleyformusterroll.org/muster.asp>) to see if you have an ancestor who served at Valley Forge in support of the American Revolution. You might have a surprise waiting for you! If you are eligible, you may join our forming North Carolina Brigade and become a charter member! And, according to our Commander-in-Chief, “...we accept DAR, SAR, and SR memberships so that applicants only need to then prove their ancestor’s service through muster rolls, etc. Our new and improved website is user friendly.”

Interested? Contact me, Vivia Tatum, at [vivia@charter.net](mailto:vivia@charter.net).



## Remembering...

We arrived in West Virginia and to my utter surprise, we beheld the family log cabin nestled in its spot not far from the dirt road. Behind it stood areas of fields and forests as far as the eye could see. A huge circus like tent stood waiting in welcome for the 150 family members arriving in cars and trucks to remember and celebrate. Trucks arrived filled with huge blocks of ice which would soon surround the heaped watermelons covered with hay keeping them chilled throughout the sweltering, summer reunion. A row of commercial-sized charcoal grills were covered with pork and chicken smoking and sizzling their way to perfection!

I walked through the many tents dotted about in the field, then heard my name called. It was Ruth, my first cousin once removed! She guided me to a long table filled with piles of family trees and found my grandmother’s name, Rachel Vivia Cochel Walker Day. She was my connecting relative in one way or another to all who were there! Her sister and husband were the original inhabitants of the wonderful log cabin! Somehow all those people were either related to me or related to my cousins! The whole experience was breathtaking!

Cousin Ruth became my lifelong friend who guided or pushed me into membership in the DAR and several other heritage organizations. After she passed away, her son loaned me her boxes of genealogy papers. What a treasure trove she had! As I carefully explored the folders, I saw some for Peter Boyer, a supplemental

I had recently proven for DAR. One packet of papers caught my eye. It was a “Muster Roll” which I had never seen before! Along with places like “Fish Kill” and “White Plains,” there was the name “Valley Forge.” This coveted reference to the famous encampment lead by George Washington and honored by history was in my hands! This became my passport into DVF!

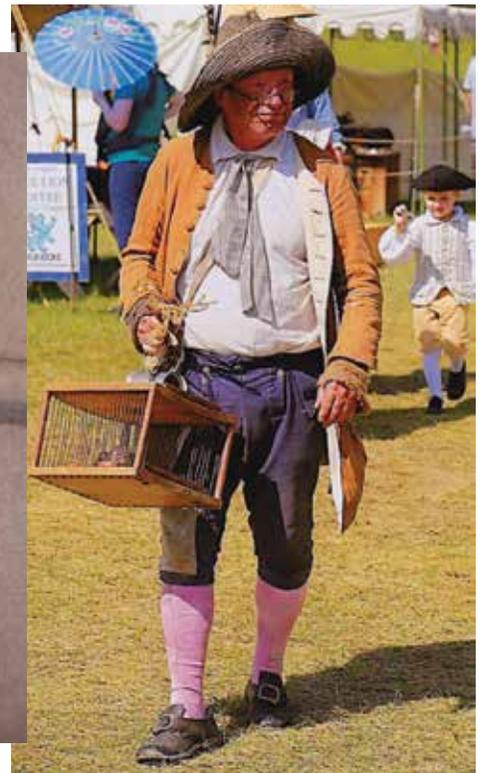
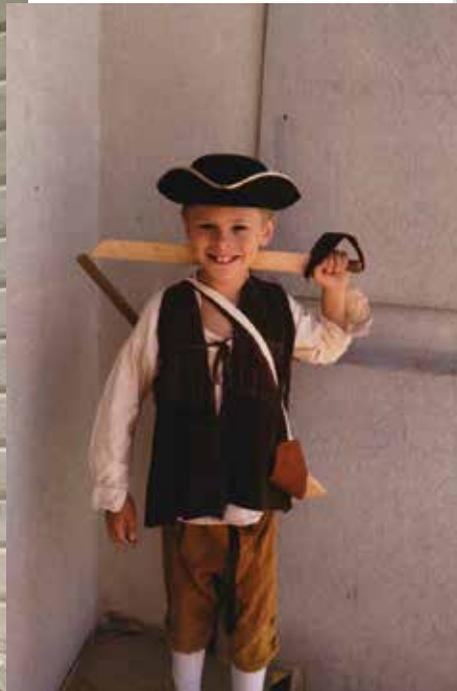
Peter Boyer, born in Germany in 1760, had immigrated to Pennsylvania. When war began, he and his German friends joined the “German Battalion” of soldiers who were from Germany, spoke German, and fought for the patriot cause. He was promoted several times, eventually becoming a captain. When the war ended he met a lovely German, Mary Mussetter. They married and had 5 children. He died in 1805 mere weeks after his last child, Margaret, was born. Margaret is my ancestor. In his 45 years of life, Peter accomplished a lot through hard work. He became a prosperous land owner and a keen business man. We, his descendants, are proud of his accomplishments, ideals, and his love for his new country.

—Vivia Tatum



## The Ratcatcher Roams

*R*emember, Bill Smith, our infamous Ratcatcher, depicted on the cover of the Spring edition of *The Encampment*? The Ratcatcher roams again, this time with his assistant, Roscoe Schumann, Bill’s grandson.



# DVF Quastmaster Exchange Quastmaster General



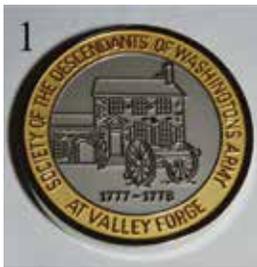
John R. Taylor, Jr.

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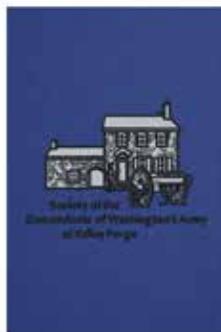
Taylorj1947@yahoo.com



## Order Form

Quantity	Item Description	Price
	(1) Desk Ornament/Grave Marker	\$40
	(2) Car window decals \$3 each or 3 for \$7	
	(3) Key Chain	\$15
	(4) Miniature Flag	\$3
	(5) Small Insignia	\$18
	(6) Large Insignia	\$30
	(7) Lapel Rosette	\$15
	(8) Lapel Pin	\$15
	(9) Charm	\$15
	(10) Officer Neck Ribbon \$15 (For Brigade and Staff Officers Only)	
	(11) Tote Bag	\$25
	(Not Shown) Society Flag 3' x 5' with Fringe - \$135 Without Fringe - \$80 (special order)	
	(Not Shown) Officer Star [Brigade - 1 star   National - 2 stars] \$9 each (For Brigade and National Officers Only)	
	(\$10 minimum order)	Total

Wear your patriotism!



DVF has partnered with Lands End to offer logo wear on almost everything from simple to stylish. Visit <https://business.landsend.com/store/descendantsvalleyforge> to order just about anything from crisp shirts to cozy blankets.

# The Last Roll

"When we assumed the soldier, we did not set aside the Citizen." - A. W.

Elizabeth Spencer Herr #1436	Long Beach, CA	April 29, 2016
Ralph Franks #2037	Sparta, TN	October 11, 2016
Rheda Davis #2423	Greenville, TX	November 13, 2016
Dr. Albert C. Walling II #1881	Round Rock, TX	January 5, 2017
Rodney H. Brady #840L	Salt Lake City, UT	January 9, 2017
Stevan E. Gressitt, MD #0439L	Unity, ME	March 13, 2017
Sue Ann Damron #2446	Big Spring, TX	August 30, 2017

## New Members

We welcome the following new members into the Society. We take great pride in honoring their ancestors who served under the command of General George Washington at Valley Forge during the winter encampment of 1777-78.

L=Life Membership J=Junior Membership S=Supplemental Line

2653J	Jackson Hunter Baggett	Cadiz, KY	Pvt. Richard Priddy	5th Virginia Regt.
2654	Carolyn Ann Taylor Miller	Sherrills Ford, NC	Capt. Peter Boyer	German Regt.
2655	Michael David Miller	Sherrills Ford, NC	Capt. Peter Boyer	German Regt.
2656	Kevin Paul Thompson	Chelsea, AL	Sgt. Robert Rankins	7th Virginia Regt.
	1270L	Ronald Jacobs	Marietta, OK	
	1385L	Anna Lynn Crass Bailey	Palestine, TX	
	1731L	Betty Babitzke	Punta Gorda, FL	
	2212L	Denise Akers	New Castle, IN	
	2353L	William Dean Willey	Milford, IN	
	2354L	Benjamin David Willey	New Washington, IN	
	2456L	John Patrick Moore	Burke, VT	
	2549L	Tracy Moore	Upperville, VA	
	2557L	Renee Willingham Hamilton	Farragut, TN	
	2580L	Glenn Reasoner	Burbank, CA	
	2622L	Jack Alden Zornes, Jr.	Daleville, AL	

## Of note....

During our summer tour, DVF members witnessed an error in the historical record. On page 6 of the last edition of *The Encampment*, we posted the grave marker of William Hurry, reported to have rung the Liberty Bell on July 4, 1776. As our docent explained, this was an error in the historical record. The Liberty Bell rang on July 8, 1776 at the public announcement of the Declaration of Independence. It is believed that Hurry rang the bell on the first anniversary of Independence, July 4, 1777.

Does your ancestor have a story to tell? Submissions and cover photos are always welcome!



The Encampment Newsletter  
c/o The Editor  
26 Snow Shoe Drive  
Asheville, NC 28803-8554

Change of Address or Records  
Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Change of Address \_\_\_\_\_ Death \_\_\_\_\_ Marriage or Name Change \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Next of Kin \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Former Name \_\_\_\_\_ New Name \_\_\_\_\_

Send changes to: [jeanmdillon26@gmail.com](mailto:jeanmdillon26@gmail.com)

