



Gen. George Rogers Clark
Founder of Louisville

The Long Rifleman

Louisville-Thruston Chapter



Kentucky Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

2012 - 2013 Officers

President:
John H. Huffman, Sr.

President Elect:
Douglas T. Collins

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Rev. Paul W. Smith

2nd Vice-President:
Drake W. Rinesmith

3rd Vice-President:
(vacant)

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Jon E. Huffman

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Joseph L. Shields

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Jon E. Huffman

Chaplain:
Rev. Paul W. Smith

Past President:
George E. Meyers

Color Guard Cmdr.:
Daniel N. Klinck

Proposed Changes to Chapter's Constitution and By-Laws

Compatriots,

The Louisville-Thruston Chapter Board of Governors has recommended that the term of office for chapter officers be extended from 1 year to 2 years beginning with the next slate of officers to be installed at the Annual Meeting on April 20, 2013. The new Board would then serve from 2013 to 2015.

This proposed change from 1 year to 2 years will require amendments to both the Constitution and By-Laws. Amendments require that we notify all members at least 10 days prior to a general meeting and require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Following are the recommended changes to the Constitution and By-Laws to be voted on by members at the upcoming luncheon meeting on April 20, 2013. Recommended changes are shown in red.

The Louisville-Thruston Chapter *Kentucky Society of the Sons of the American Revolution* **CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS** *Proposed Amendments*

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE V - Officers

*Section 2. The term of office for the officers of this Chapter shall be **two years, effective with those officers elected in February 2013.***

*Section 3. In the event the office of President becomes vacant, the President-Elect will assume the duties of the President. All other vacancies will be filled by the President with approval of the Board of Governors until the next **scheduled biennial February meeting of the Chapter in which a slate of officers is presented for election**, at which time they will be elected in the usual manner.*

Proposed Changes (cont.)

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE IV - Election of Officers

*Section 1. A Nominating Committee for new officers shall be appointed by the President soon after he takes office. The committee shall be composed of the President-Elect and four other members including one Past President. The President-Elect shall serve as Chairman of the Committee. He can only vote in case of a tie. The committee shall select a slate of officers and report the names of proposed officers to the Board of Governors thirty days prior to the **biennial** February meeting. It is the duty of the Committee to get approval from the proposed nominees before they are nominated. After the slate of Officers has been presented at the **biennial** February meeting, the President shall call for nominations from the floor. If none, a voice vote shall be taken for the entire slate. If there are nominations from the floor, a vote shall be taken on each office.*

*Section 4. New Officers shall be installed at the April (Annual) Chapter meeting and their **two year** terms shall date from that meeting.*

ARTICLE V - Duties of Officers

*Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter and of the Board of Governors and shall exercise the usual functions and duties of the presiding officer. He shall be responsible for the enforcement of the Chapter Constitution & By-Laws. The President shall appoint two or more members to the Standing Committees. He shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees. He shall serve as Chairman of the Program Committee. **The President will assume or assign the responsibility to ensure the proper tax –exemption documentation is filed annually with the United States Internal Revenue Service so the Chapter can remain a tax-exempt organization.***

Please contact the newsletter editor or members of the Board of Governors with any questions, concerns or comments. Voting on this proposal is planned for the Annual Meeting Luncheon on April 20, 2013 at the Louisville Country Club.

Dr. Tom Owen to Speak at the Annual Meeting, April 20, 2013



Dr. Tom Owen

Compatriots, make plans now to hear **Dr. Thomas L. Owen**, the featured speaker at our chapter's Annual Meeting to be held Saturday, April 20, 2013 at Louisville Country Club. His topic will be **"Planting a Settlement: Louisville in its Earliest Decades."** Registration will begin at 11:00 a.m., meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Members will receive a formal announcement shortly including luncheon details and reservation form.

Dr. Owen is a Professor of Libraries and Community Engagement Associate at the University of Louisville. As the Archivist for Local History at the University Archives and Record Center, he works to preserve and make available the history of the Louisville area. Tom has written numerous articles on history topics for area newspapers and magazines. He produced a series of television

sketches on local historical sites for public television and for many years produced "Sidewalks," a weekly radio feature for WFPK-FM. He teaches state and local history in the classroom, in talks and workshops, and on walking, bus and boat tours. He served as a consulting editor for the publication, *Encyclopedia of Louisville*.

Tom is a graduate of Kentucky Wesleyan College, the Methodist Theological School of Ohio, and holds an M.A. degree in history from U. of L. He was awarded a Ph.D. in American History in 1982 by the U. of KY.

U.S. Senator “Mitch” McConnell - Newest Member of Louisville-Thruston



U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell is pictured accepting his SAR Member Certificate from NSSAR President General Steven Leishman. Watching the presentation were Janet Leishman, and Sen. McConnell's wife, Elaine Chao.

On Friday evening, March 1, 2013 at the NSSAR Spring Leadership Conference in Louisville, U.S. **Senator Addison Mitchell McConnell, Jr.** was inducted as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Louisville Thruston-Chapter. His Patriot Ancestor, James McConnell served in North Carolina during the Revolutionary War.

Senator McConnell and his wife, the former **U.S. Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao** were led through an honor guard of SAR Color Guardsmen to the podium by **NSSAR President General Steven Leishman** and his wife, **Janet**. Compatriot McConnell received his Member Certificate and Rosette pin from President General Leishman, and Secretary Chao was presented a WOSAR pin (Wife of SAR).

Upon completion of the ceremony, Compatriot McConnell spoke briefly to the crowd of approximately 400 SAR Compatriots and their guests who were present to witness the induction ceremony.

Washington's Birthday Luncheon Well Attended

Forty-four members and guests attended the February 23rd luncheon meeting at Owl Creek Country Club.

Part of the program included the Youth Awards presided over by **President Elect Doug Collins**. The winner of the Knight Essay contest was **William Strench**, a junior at North Oldham High School. His essay, entitled **"Independent but not Alone"** also won the KYSSAR State Competition and will be entered in the NSSAR National Competition. The Eagle Scout Award winner was **Tyler Paulley**, from Nelson Co. High School, Troop #136, Bloomfield Christian Church. Tyler's entry placed 3rd in the State Competition. Both young men received a certificate, medal and a cash prize.

The featured speaker was Compatriot **Will Schrader** whose talk was entitled **"Germans in the American Revolution"** and is presented in its entirety beginning on page five of this issue.



Drummer Hayden Fuller leads color guardsmen from the chapter's Dr. V. Edward Masters Memorial Color Guard after posting Colors at the Washington's Birthday Luncheon Meeting.

Washington's Birthday (cont.)



Treasurer Joe Shields shown here at the registration table.



President Elect Doug Collins, Chairman of the 2013 Youth Awards program, introduced the contest winners. Seated at the head table (L to R) are Chapter President John H. Huffman, Sr., speaker Will Schrader, 2nd Vice President Drake Rinesmith and his wife, Rebecca.



Knight Essay winner, William Strench with Doug Collins. Mr. Strench's essay also won 1st Prize at the State level and will be entered in the National Competition.



Eagle Scout Tyler Paulley receives a medal, patch and certificate from Doug Collins.



Drake Rinesmith (L) introduced Will Schrader as speaker, presenting him with a limited edition collectable coin.



(Left) President John H. Huffman, Sr. welcomes new member, Compatriot Allen W. Davis.

(Right) The buffet served at Owl Creek C.C. is always excellent!



Washington's Birthday (cont.)



The Colors are posted and retired at every meeting by members of the chapter's color guard organization. Pictured (L to R) are guardsmen Dan Klinck (Cmdr.), J. B. Hitt, David Head, Henry Head, Hayden Fuller and Les Black.

"Germans in the American Revolution" by Will Schrader



Will Schrader

Compatriot William C. Schrader III is a Louisville native where he graduated from Flaget High School and Bellarmine College. He earned a Ph.D. in European History in 1972 from the Catholic University of America located in Washington, D.C., after which he joined the faculty of Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tennessee. He taught at T.T.U. until he retired in 2002 as Professor Emeritus of History. Will has been an active member of SAR for sixteen years and a member of Louisville Thruston Chapter for the last eleven years. He has served as Chapter President and also as State President KYSSAR.

When I mentioned the title of my presentation to several people, the response was, "Were there Germans in the American Revolution?" The answer is definitely, "Yes." The most common response was, "Oh, you mean the Hessians." Well, yes, I will discuss the Hessians, but they were not the only Germans involved, and some people did not even know that the Hessians were Germans. But I must make a clear distinction between Germans and Germany. In the later Eighteenth century, for all practical purposes, there was no political entity called Germany. There was the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, but it was on its last legs, and commanded almost no allegiance from the many peoples, Germans and others, within its frontiers. What, then, did exist? The answer is about 360 individual political entities, some no larger than a decent sized estate, and about two dozen of a size to command some attention from neighbors and chanceries of Europe.

But let's begin with the most well known, the Hessians. The land of Hattia, or Hessen, lies in the west central part of the German speaking region and was governed by a prince called Landgraf. But there were several branches of the ruling family, and thus several Hessen's, in the later Eighteenth century. The ones we are concerned with were Hessen-Kassel and Hessen-Hanau. The Landgraf of Hessen-Kassel was Friedrich II, who was married to a daughter of George II of Great Britain. He ruled the land from 1760 to 1785 and was considered rather arbitrary and tyrannical. He recruited an army from the peasants of his land and rented them out to other countries, pocketing most of the income for himself. As the land was not the best for agricultural purposes, and as the population was increasing, there were always extra peasants willing to take a chance on getting a better future by signing up.

“Germans in the American Revolution” (cont.)

The other Hessian land concerned in the American Revolution was Hessen-Hanau. This land was actually governed by a son of Friedrich of Hessen-Kassel. It seems that Friedrich did not get along with his wife, and insulted her publically by recognizing a mistress, so his powerful in-laws, the British royal family, forced him to make arrangements, according to which the wife and her eldest son, Wilhelm, got their own territory during Friedrich's lifetime. That was Hessen-Hanau, but the arrangements for hiring troops were more or less the same.

Hessen-Kassel sent 19 regiments of troops to the American War, more than any other German principality. A regiment consisted of 21 officers under arms plus five non-combatant officers (chaplains, surgeons, etc.) 60 sergeants and corporals, 22 drummers, and 525 privates, or 633 individuals per regiment for a total on paper of 12, 027 individuals in 19 regiments. I say on paper, because the regiments were almost always undermanned, even though the Landgraf got his full stipend. The much smaller Hessen-Hanau sent 2,422 troops, of whom 981 did not return home. This figure may be misleading, as it included not only the dead, but also deserters to the Americans and those who stayed in Canada, where the regiments retreated before being shipped back to Europe.



The Battle of Trenton - The Hessians by Don Troiani



Hessian Soldiers

Undoubtedly, the most well known engagement between the Americans under Washington and the Hessians came at Christmas in 1776 at Trenton, New Jersey, a time when things looked bad for the American cause. Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison, in his magisterial *Oxford History of the American People*, describes the battle this way: Washington “had to do something, and soon, because the enlistment of half his troops would expire with the year 1776, and few replacements were coming....A Hessian brigade was at Trenton; if it were allowed to take the offensive it might crash through and march into Philadelphia. So Washington took the offensive, with 2,400 men ... The crossing started at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Day. By 3:00 a.m. all the men and 18 field pieces were across [the Delaware River]. It took an hour to form the regiments on the east bank. At 4:00 o'clock December 26, the advance began in two columns through snow and in biting wind. Sunrise found the columns a mile from Trenton, where Colonel Rall's Hessians were sleeping off Christmas. They were completely surprised, their retreat cut off, and when General Knox's artillery fired briskly down the two main streets of the village, the German officers decided to surrender. At a cost of none killed, four wounded, but two frozen to death, Washington captured over 900 prisoners, 1200 small arms, 6 brass cannon, and the Colors of the Hessian brigade.” Colonel Johann Gottlieb von Rall died in the battle.

“Germans in the American Revolution” (cont.)

So much for the Hessians' moment in history. But they were not the only German troops hired by the British government for service in North America. In addition to the Hessians, the British hired five regiments of Brunswickers, two regiments of Ansbachers, and one each from Waldeck and Anhalt-Zerbst. Their statistics were not much better than that of the Hessians. Of the 2,464 men from Waldeck, only 1,384 returned home. Of the more than a thousand missing, only 401 are known to have died in battle, so nearly six hundred decided to remain in the United States or Canada. Of the 5,723 troops sent from the Duchy of Brunswick, only 2,708 returned home. About 1,100 are known to have died, so again a significant number, about 1,600, decided to remain in North America.

These troops are called mercenaries. It would be more accurate to call their princes mercenaries, as the troops had little choice about where they went or for whom they fought, and the large numbers of desertions indicate that they were not all that happy about their lot.

But, the German troops fighting for Great Britain do not make up the whole story. On 6 February 1778, the United States signed a treaty of alliance with France, as a result of which General Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau (1725-1807), an experienced French commander, was appointed to lead the French Expeditionary Force of about 7,000 troops, which landed at Newport, Rhode Island, on 10 July 1780. A year later, they joined with Washington on the celebrated march south to join Lafayette and besiege General Cornwallis at Yorktown. The siege lasted from 22 September to 19 October. Rochambeau's army consisted of four regiments, of which one was called the Royal German Regiment Deux-Ponts. Deux-Ponts is French for Zweibrücken, a principality in western Germany on the French frontier. The troops serving in this regiment were from all over southern Germany and Switzerland. For example, there was a company of grenadiers from Trier and a company of jagers (scouts) from Alsace. This regiment was commanded by Christian and Wilhelm von Forbach, who were the morganatic sons of Count Palatine Christian IV of Pfalz-Zweibrücken, an uncle of the later King Maximilian I of Bavaria. Count Christian was the Colonel, his brother the Lieutenant Colonel. Although it does not exist in the Anglo-American legal system, most



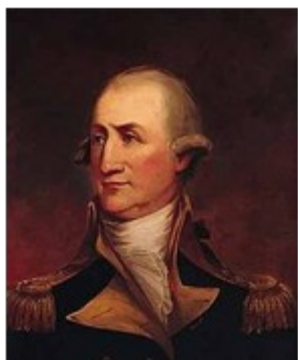
**Comte de Rochambeau
(1725-1807)**

Continental systems provided for morganatic marriages when one partner was of a greatly different social class than the other. What this means is that the children are legitimate, but have no right to inherit the principality. The SAR dedicated a memorial plaque at the grave of Count Christian in Munich a few years ago.

At Yorktown, it was the Deux-Ponts Regiment which captured the crucial redoubt # 9 during the night of October 14-15 which was the turning point of the siege. This cost the regiment 87 men and five officers killed, including Wilhelm von Forbach, the Colonel's brother. The defenders were 100 Hessians, who surrendered, and 30 English, who fled. A glance at the officers of the Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment shows the following names in the rank of captain: Furstenwarter, Wisch, Klock, Flood, Thuilleres, Sumahl, Stock, Ruhle, and Cabonnes. I count six German names, two French, and one English, or, more likely, Irish. The Deux-Ponts Regiment was not the only source of Germans in the French force, as there is evidence of smaller bodies of Germans in some of the other units as well.

But there is still a third group to be accounted for if we are considering the role of ethnic Germans in the American Revolution. There were three regiments of Americans where the language of command was German. These were the regiments commanded by Colonel Wayne from Pennsylvania, Colonel Muhlenberg from Virginia, and Colonel Gist from Maryland. It has been estimated that in 1776 there were about 130,000 ethnic Germans in these three states. The German Regiment of Pennsylvania, consisting of four companies, took part in the Trenton campaign against the Hessians, for example. A truly extraordinary individual was Colonel Peter Muhlenberg of Virginia. In January of 1776, the Virginia legislature authorized the 8th Virginia Regiment as a German speaking unit. John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg (1746-1807) was born in Pennsylvania and educated at Halle in the Kingdom of Prussia and the Academy of Pennsylvania, now the University of Pennsylvania. In 1768, he was ordained as a Lutheran minister, serving briefly in New Jersey before relocating to Virginia. Then, in 1772, he visited England and was also ordained in the Church of England, so in Virginia he functioned as both a Lutheran pastor and an Anglican priest. In Virginia, he was a member of the

“Germans in the American Revolution” (cont.)



**Colonel Peter Muhlenberg
(1746-1807)**

Committee of Safety, and of the House of Burgesses. On 21 January 1776 Muhlenberg began the Sunday service, but as his sermon he preached on the text from Ecclesiastes beginning “to every thing there is a season ...” When he got to the part about “a time of war and a time of peace,” he declared, “now is a time of war.” He removed his clerical vestments, revealing his colonel’s uniform underneath, and outside the drums began to call the men to arms. Over a hundred men enlisted from his congregation. He was eventually promoted to brigadier general and participated in many battles, including Yorktown. After the war, he settled in Pennsylvania, where he joined the Society of the Cincinnati, and where he was politically active, serving in the first, third, and fifth U.S. Congresses. Muhlenberg was indeed an unusual and an outstanding individual.

And so, although there was no Germany in 1776, there were Germans everywhere one looks during the Revolutionary War. Anyone interested can gather much more information than I’ve covered here by making use of the SAR library, where I got almost all my data, and where Librarian Michael Christian, of Swiss German ancestry, is always helpful.

Additional Chapter News



Louisville Thruston’s Dr. V. Edward Masters Memorial Color Guard held their annual meeting at the home of David and Evelyn Sympton on February 10, 2013. Standing (L to R) are Jon E. Huffman, David Sympton, Dan Klinck, Henry Head, Cooper Lilly (guest), and Bill Carrell. Seated are Will Schrader, Norb Rawert, Les Black and Dick Bierman.

Louisville Thruston President John H. Huffman, Sr. presented the “Stars and Stripes” to Regent Janice Upton of the Corn Island Chapter, DAR at their monthly meeting on February 7, 2013.



Exploring the Chapter's Website: www.louthrustersar.org



**President Elect
Doug Collins**

Have you ever surfed the internet and looked at a website and wondered, "How is this thing updated?" "Who put that there?" "How can I change something that's incorrect?"

One day last April, I did just that. I went to our chapter's website to check on the date of an upcoming event and discovered the information was not there. In fact, some things were months out of date. As it turned out, there was no one within the chapter maintaining the site, and we were relying instead on outside help to act as webmaster. I decided at that moment I would try and make a difference. I had no idea what I was getting into or how to go about it, but I was going to get involved!

After a few inquiries, I was able to obtain electronic access to the files and background information that makes a website tick. Mind you, I could barely spell "HTML," let alone know what it meant. I learned that you need a File Transfer Program in order to communicate with the website server. Our host server is godaddy.com. We lease space on their servers; they in turn provide us with a registered and unique web address (www.louthrustersar.org) which enables visitors to access the information previously uploaded to the server. The transfer program is really just a conduit that enables the webmaster to access specific files stored on servers at godaddy.com. These files that make up our website.

Next, a web authoring program is required in order to edit the information (text and photos) into Hyper Text Markup Language format, or "HTML," so visitors can see the series of documents which collectively make up our website. While it sounds complicated, I finally began to get the hang of things after a little trial, and a lot of error. I was able to update our "Events" page, so anyone visiting the website could get current information on meeting and events. I then updated the "Chapter Officers" page and learned how to load a photo of each officer beside his name and email address.

Once I became comfortable with the mechanics involved in making changes to the website, I began to think about what a website should be like. The NSSAR website at www.sar.org has noted on its main page the following:

The Sons of the American Revolution is the leading male lineage society that perpetuates the ideals of the war of independence. As a historical, educational, and patriotic, non-profit corporation organized under section 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, we seek to maintain and expand the meaning of patriotism, respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship, and the unifying force of "e pluribus unum" that was created from the people of many nations - one nation and one people

What better way to utilize a website than to continue the charge of the SAR 24 hours a day - 7 days a week. We could make this an educational as well as an information portal, and not only for the chapter membership, but also for the general public as well. In addition to the standard sections such as "Chapter History," "Newsletter," "Color Guard," "Photo Gallery," "Meetings and Events," etc. why not expand our website into the educational arena? At this point sections were added entitled "This Month in History," the "U.S. Flag," "Historic Documents," and "Patriot Ancestors."

This Month in History: Every month this page is updated with historical events that occurred during that calendar month, focusing on the period leading up to the Revolutionary War to just after Washington's Presidency (1760-1800). Entries are listed in chronological order, by year. So if two events occurred on the same day of the month, the earlier event would be first. Events that could not be identified with a specific date are presented at the beginning of the list.

U.S. Flag: This is essentially a history of the U.S. Flag and the various flags that have represented our great nation. Much of the information here was the basis for an article published in the October 2012 issue of *The Long Rifleman*.

U.S. Historic Documents: Includes much more than just the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution! This section looks at the precursors to the most significant writing mankind has seen since the Magna Carta - The Continental

Louisville Thruston Website (cont.)

National Society Sons of the American Revolution

<http://www.sar.org>

Association of 1774, The Halifax Resolves of 1776, The Articles of Confederation ratified in 1781, and the Paris Peace Treaty signed in 1783.

A brief history of each document is presented, and each is translated in its entirety so it can be read and studied. In addition, actual images of the original document are presented, and several views are in high resolution enabling you to see them like never before. A zoom feature lets you see close-up details as if viewing the document under a magnifying glass.

“The Long Riflemen” Is Published Five Times Annually

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Patriot Ancestors: Listed here are all patriot ancestors associated with current Louisville Thruston members. Each patriot is identified with their respective state during the Revolutionary War, and that state is even identified with the its state flag. An index at the top of the page facilitates quick access to a given state and the list of associated patriots.

Future plans include creating a link so that a short biography of each patriot ancestor can be accessed from the website. There are currently more that 600 patriots ancestors listed for our chapter with more being added each day, so this will be a long-term on-going project, and I will be asking for your help.

Among other sections of the Louisville Thruston website, don't forget our **Newsletter** section where you can access archived issues of *The Long Rifleman* dating back to 2010. There is the **Color Guard** section containing information about to the Dr. V. Edward Masters Memorial Color Guard. The **Photo Gallery** contains an extensive collection of photos from current events, which are updated regularly. For reference, the chapter's **Constitution** and **By-Laws** are posted for everyone to see and review. In the **Links of Interest** section are listed numerous websites pertaining to genealogy and American history. Please feel free to suggest additional links that you think should be included. **How to Join** provides tips and suggestions on how to begin the process of joining the Sons of the American Revolution. Finally, the **Contact Us** section provides our mailing address along with links to items such as Membership Inquiries, Chapter Events, links to the State and National Society websites, links to contact the Webmaster, etc.

Visit Our Web Site at:
<http://louthrustonsar.org>



Join our Color Guard!
We need new members.
Contact Dan Klinck
at 429-0382

Lastly, the specific artwork or imagery posted on the **Home** page is intentionally displayed to represent an event that happened during that calendar month, much like the “This Month in History” section discussed earlier. These historic scenes are identified and attributed to the artist when possible to do so.

Over the last ten months, we have seen over 775 users access our website. While we cannot identify these visitors individually, we do know that the majority of visitors are from the local area. A smaller group of visitors is noted from across the state of Kentucky, and we have seen visitors from New England, Florida and across the Mid-West all the way to California and Washington state. What has been surprising is to find that our site has also been seen by visitors from Canada, Brazil, Australia, Germany, Great Britain, and even the Russian Federation

Please take a few minutes and explore your website - www.louthrustonsar.org You might just learn something. I sure did.

Doug Collins, President Elect
Webmaster