



CINCINNATI **PATRIOT**

Newsletter of the Cincinnati Chapter of the
Ohio Society, Sons of the American Revolution

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MESSAGE FROM THE CINCINNATI CHAPTER PRESIDENT

I wish to thank the membership of the Cincinnati Chapter for the opportunity to serve as chapter President for 2009. In reviewing the list of Past Presidents dating back to 1896, it humbles me that I have been selected to serve in the shadow of such notable men. I intend to assume the responsibilities of this position vigorously, enthusiastically, and with the spirit of patriotism.

Being an amateur genealogist, finding the link to my compatriot ancestor that allowed me to become a member of the Sons of the American Revolution was monumental. It provided me with a sense of belonging to this great Nation of ours, and ignited a patriotic spirit within me that is rooted in my great (4)-grandfather's service during the Revolutionary War.

During my tenure as President, I view my first and primary responsibility as to set the direction for the Chapter for the upcoming year. I intend to do this through a collaborative effort involving an Executive Committee in liaison with other Committee chairs and the Board of Management.

Some topics that I would like to address in the upcoming year are:

- To build upon the great accomplishments of the Cincinnati Chapter.
- To further the chapter's patriotic involvement with the community.
- To foster our relationships with our kindred societies, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Children of the American Revolution.
- To increase involvement of the chapter's members in the furtherance of the SAR mission.

Again, I thank you and hope that my service will be to the chapter's satisfaction. If you haven't yet attended a meeting, please do so soon and become involved! Become a part of the great things we hope to accomplish in 2009. Sincerely,

James D. Schaffer

Washington Crossing the Delaware Preparation

Washington stayed at Trenton Falls (Morrisville) until [December 15, 1776](#), when he moved into the Keith House. It was here and at meetings in the other officers' quarters that the daring plan to cross the river was created and the logistical details worked out.

Washington's final plan was for a three pronged attack on Trenton with his troops at the center. A second column under Lieutenant Colonel [John Cadwalader](#) was to cross at Dunk's Ferry, near [Bristol, Pennsylvania](#) and engage the Hessian outpost at [Mount Holly, New Jersey](#). A third column under Brigadier General James Ewing was to cross at Trenton Ferry and hold a position just south of Trenton in order to prevent the escape of the Hessian force in Trenton. Once Trenton was secure, the combined army would move against the British posts in Princeton and New Brunswick.

When Washington's army first arrived at McKonkey's Ferry he had about 5,000 - 6,000 men, although 1,700 soldiers were unfit for duty and needed hospital care. In the retreat across New Jersey Washington had lost precious supplies as well as losing contact with two important divisions of his army. General [Horatio Gates](#) was in the [Hudson River Valley](#) and General [Charles Lee](#) was in western New Jersey with 2,000 men. Both Generals were ordered to join Washington in Pennsylvania, but both ignored their instructions in order to carry out campaigns that they believed benefited their own goals. Both were former [British Army](#) officers who felt that they would have been a better choice for [Commander-in-Chief](#) than Washington.

Washington had additional problems, including the fact that the enlistments of his men would expire on [December 31, 1776](#). A series of lost battles and retreats had left morale dangerously low among the soldiers. Many of them were inclined to leave the army once their commission was finished and several had taken the opportunity to desert the army before their enlistments were up. Orders were issued to bring supplies to the camp and men were dispatched to recruit new soldiers, who did slowly begin to arrive at the camp.

Morale was given a boost on December 19 by the publication of a new pamphlet by [Thomas Paine](#). [Common Sense](#) had served to increase support for the Revolution in its early days, and Paine's new pamphlet, titled [The American Crisis](#), began with these well known words:

“ These are times that try men's souls; the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. ”

While Paine's writing could not feed or shelter the troops it did serve to increase morale and help them feel a little more tolerant of their current conditions. Morale was also improved by the fact that most soldiers knew they could leave the army within the next few weeks, with their time of duty legally fulfilled and with the knowledge that they had stayed throughout the "dark days of war".

Final preparation for the attack was begun on [December 23](#). Washington ordered that each man be provided with three days rations and that they keep their blankets handy. He also ordered that security be tightened at each river crossing. The [Durham boats](#) used to bring the army across the Delaware from New Jersey were brought down from Malta Island near New Hope and hidden behind Taylor Island at McKonkey's Ferry. A final planning meeting took place on December 24, with all of the General Officers present.

Operation

On [Christmas](#) Day 1776 the troops assembled at the ferry landing and were given the password for the day, "[Victory or Death](#)". All of the men were gathered at the point of embarkment by 3:00 p.m. and the loading of the boats began at nightfall. Washington and a party of [Virginia](#) troops crossed over first to secure a landing site. The original plan called for the entire army to be disembarked on the New Jersey side of the Delaware by midnight, but it was not until 3:00 a.m. on [December 26](#) that the army completed the crossing and it took another hour to get the troops organized for an attack. A hail and sleet storm had broken out early in the crossing, winds were strong and the river was full of ice floes. The treacherous weather conditions stopped General Ewing from even attempting his crossing. Colonel Cadwalader crossed a significant portion of his men to New Jersey, but when he found that he could not get his [artillery](#) across the river he recalled his men from New Jersey. When he received word about Washington's victory, he crossed his men over again but retreated when he found out that Washington had not stayed in New Jersey.

Attack

As soon as the army was ready, Washington ordered it split into two columns, one under the command of himself and General Greene, the second under General Sullivan. The Sullivan column would take [River Road](#) from Bear Tavern to Trenton while Washington's column would follow [Pennington Road](#), a parallel route that lay a few miles inland from the river. Only three Americans were killed and six wounded, while 22 Hessians were killed with 98 wounded. The Americans were able to capture 1,000 prisoners and seize muskets, powder, and artillery.

2009 Chapter Officers



James D. Schaffer, [President](#)
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George W. McCain, [2nd Vice President](#)
Randall J. Krueger, [Secretary](#)
Jesse G. Moore, [Treasurer](#)
Raymond Hughes, [Registrar](#)
Larry J. Denny, [Historian](#)
James E. Hough, [Chaplain](#)

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John C. Kirts
Jeffrey Krueger
James R. Pevny
Charles Reeves
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Archives:	Larry J. Denny	Audit:	Randall J. Krueger
Awards:	Paul M. Wilke	Calling:	Randall J. Krueger
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Eagle Scouts:	Harry A. Sjolín	Ertel Fund:	Jesse W. Andrews
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Naturalization:	Brian G. Schilling	Patriots Day:	Gerald Houchell
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R. O. T. C.:	Harry A. Sjolín	Revolutionary War Graves/Sites:	Charles G. Edwards
Veterans:	Charles S. Reeves	Webmaster:	Martin L. Greene
	Yearbook:	Charles G. Edwards	

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- February 4, 2009: Chapter Meeting - Golden Corral, Ridge and Highland Ave.**
February 6-7, 2009: OHSSAR Winter Meeting - Columbus, Ohio
February 7, 2009: Pres. William H. Harrison's Birthday Tribute - North Bend, OH
February 28, 2009: Presidents Day Luncheon - Receptions Banquet Ctr., Erlanger, KY
March 6-7, 2009: Spring Leadership Meeting - Louisville, KY
May 1-2, 2009: OHSSAR Annual Conference - Warren, OH
June 13, 2009: Flag Day Luncheon - Golden Lamb, Lebanon, OH
July 4-8, 2009: National Congress - Atlanta, GA
September 12, 2009: Constitution Day Luncheon - Cincinnati Art Museum
November 14, 2009: Thanksgiving Day Luncheon - a Receptions location

The Cincinnati Chapter
Ohio Society
Sons of the American Revolution



Presidents' Day Luncheon

February 28, 2009

12:00 Noon

Receptions Banquet Center - Erlanger, Kentucky

(I-75 to Exit 184 west ...con't approx. 1.3 mi west... turn left into 1379 Donaldson Road)

Program

**Guest speaker – Major Thomas C. Griffin, age 92, a member of Doolittle's Raiders will discuss his mission to Tokyo; escape in China; subsequent action in N. Africa, & Sicily; capture & two year confinement in Stalagluft 3 (basis of the Great Escape movie)*

** Tribute to the American Presidents*

Menu

Hearty Luncheon Buffet

Spring Greens Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing

Steamed Vegetable Bouquet

Fresh Baked Rolls & Butter

Choice of Two Entrees:

Grilled Chicken with Tomato Basil Salsa & Pasta of the Day

Sliced Roast Beef Au Jus with Buttered Parsley Potatoes

Coffee, Hot & Cold Tea

Assorted Dessert Carrousel

*** Make checks payable to the Cincinnati Chapter (SAR) Sons of the American Revolution.
Please make reservations by Friday, February 20 at \$22.00 per person.**

**Mail to: Compatriot Tom E. Geimeier
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Burlington, Kentucky 41005
tgeimeier@insightbb.com**

Name _____ Spouse / Guest _____