

The Patriot



Latest News from the [Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York](#)

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Left: "Washington's Farewell" by Hy. Hintermeister, Gift of Bobbey Timberlake Barclay, 1961, Collection of Fraunces Tavern Museum; Right: Photo of "Memoirs of Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge", Collection of Fraunces Tavern Museum, Photo Courtesy of George Washington's Mt. Vernon Estate and Gardens.

Washington's Farewell, December 4, 1783 at Fraunces Tavern

December 4 will mark the 226th Anniversary of Washington's farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern. Nine days after the Revolutionary War officially ended (after the British Army evacuated New York City on November 25), Washington tearfully said goodbye to his officers of the Continental Army in the tavern's Long Room before traveling to Annapolis, Maryland to resign his commission as Commander-In-Chief. He then arrived home at his Mt. Vernon estate on Christmas Eve, 1783.

Benjamin Tallmadge, Washington's chief spymaster, wrote the only known account of the famous farewell in his memoirs (pictured above), which are in Fraunces Tavern Museum's collection:

We had assembled but a few moments when his Excellency entered the room. His emotion, too strong to be concealed, seemed to be reciprocated by every officer present...turning to the officers, he said: "With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable."

SRNY Commemorates Evacuation Day with Dinner, Guest Speaker



Left: Special guest speaker William Sanders from the *Portraits of Patriots* organization speaks as SRNY President Dr. Charles C. Lucas, Jr. looks on. Right: Past SRNY President, John Mauk Hilliard speaks about Evacuation Day's significance. Photos courtesy of Dr. Charles C. Lucas, Jr.

On Monday, November 23, Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York commemorated the 226th Anniversary of Evacuation Day with a dinner at Fraunces Tavern. On November 25, 1783, the American Revolution came to its official close as the British Army evacuated New York City, the last city still occupied by the British at the end of the war. That night, New York State Governor George Clinton held a dinner at Fraunces Tavern which was attended by George Washington. Historically, the event was celebrated with a parade in New York City every year until 1916 when the United States formally allied with Great Britain during WWI. The Sons of the Revolution through the 20th Century continued to celebrate the event with an annual banquet, and in 1983, a Bi-Centennial Parade. Last year, SRNY held another parade to mark the 225th anniversary.

This year, after an elegant meal, past SRNY President John Mauk Hilliard gave remarks on the significance of the day. Afterward, guests assembled to drink the thirteen traditional toasts which General Washington and Governor Clinton and their officers are known to have offered at the first evacuation day dinner held at Fraunces Tavern on the night of November 25, 1783. Two of the most remarkable toasts given were, "May justice support what courage has gained," and "May America be an asylum to the persecuted on Earth."

At this year's banquet, SRNY was honored to host guest speaker William Sanders, President of *Portraits of Patriots*. Mr. Sanders founded this organization to work to bring the portrait of George Washington back into American classrooms after noticing its absence in his own daughter's classroom. You can learn more about Portraits of Patriots by visiting its [official website](#).

Only Two Weeks Left to See the 1215 Magna Carta!!!!

Historic document will travel home to England this month

We've been honored for the past 2 and a half months to host the Magna Carta, known as the "birth certificate of human rights," at Fraunces Tavern Museum. After December 15, the historic document will travel back to its home at Lincoln Cathedral in England. If you have not come to view Magna Carta and its accompanying exhibition "The Foundations of Freedom," we urge you to experience what may be a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Tickets are \$10 for Adults, and \$5 for children 6-18, students with valid ID and senior citizens. Children 5 and under are free. Admission grants you access to all galleries at Fraunces Tavern Museum. You can purchase tickets at the door or buy them ahead of time at www.TicketWeb.com. Just type *Fraunces Tavern Museum* or *Magna Carta* into the Search box and available dates and times will appear.

We're also happy to announce that the "Foundations of Freedom" exhibition, which explores the development of individual freedoms and rights in the United States, will remain up until April 1, 2010 for all to see. A reproduction of the Magna Carta document will take the place of the 1215 original during that time. On exhibition will be the notebook of Emma Lazarus, poet of "The New Colossus," a diary from a Battle of Bunker Hill soldier and an original British tax stamp, "the stamp that started the Revolution."

Video From Magna Carta's Opening Night

We're happy to share video taken at the opening reception of the Magna Carta exhibit. Many thanks to Charles Gabeler of *Gabeler Design* for his camera work. You can view the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rq8hMJIVW-4> .

December Lecture: Mr. Jefferson and the Giant Moose

NOTE: The December lecture will take place in the Nichols Dining Room located on the 2nd floor via the elevator in Fraunces Tavern Restaurant. Because of security regulations after 6pm, admission to the lecture does not include admission to the Museum or Magna Carta exhibit.

Mr. Jefferson & The Giant Moose

When History & Natural History Collide, Presented by Lee A Dugatkin †

Thursday, December 3rd, 6:30pm

During the Revolutionary War era, what started out as an international dispute over natural history quickly took on important political overtones and revolved around three fascinating individuals. One was the very well known Thomas Jefferson while the other two were peculiar characters indeed. The first was the French Count and world-renowned naturalist, George-Louis Leclerc Buffon, who claimed that all life in America was weak, feeble, and "degenerate." The second was a very large, dead moose. Jefferson had become obsessed over this moose which he believed could help quash the French arrogance towards a fledgling republic in America, proving that this young country was every bit the equal of a well-established Europe. Despite his passionate refutation, the theory of degeneracy far outlived Buffon and Jefferson and seemingly took on a life of its own. Continuing on for 100 years, it had scientific, economic and political implications while also working its way into notable writings such as those of Franklin, Thoreau, and Keats. Eventually the degeneracy argument died; but it certainly did not die an easy death.

† *Books will be available for purchase -discounts apply for Museum members*

George Washington Birthday Ball: Reservations and Ad Space Still Available

The 133rd Annual George Washington Birthday Ball will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at The Metropolitan Club in NYC. The Knickerbocker Chapter, NSDAR will again join the Sons of the Revolution in sponsoring this event which will benefit Fraunces Tavern® Museum. The evening will feature the music of the Paul Errico Orchestra. This year's Patriot of the Year Award will be presented to Dr. John Templeton, Jr. of the John Templeton Foundation. Stanley Deforest Scott and Amb. John Loeb, Jr. will be honored with Honorary Presidency of SRNY.

Patron tickets at \$500 and Benefit tickets at \$375 are available and **must be subscribed to by December 15, 2009 in order to be listed in the program.** Regular tickets will be available at \$300. We will be publishing a journal program again. Ad space is available:

- Inside glossy cover \$1000, • Full Page \$500, • Half Page: \$250, • Quarter Page \$150
- An ancestor page will be included at a cost of \$25/line. (Example: John Smith honors his Revolutionary War ancestor, John Jones of MD)

For further information, please email 2administrator@sonsoftherevolution.org or telephone 212/425-1776, ext. 10.

Happy Holidays!



The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York as well as the staff of Fraunces Tavern® Museum would like to wish you and yours a very happy, healthy and safe Holiday Season. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

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