

# The Patriot



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

Vol. 3, No. 2 (February 2009)



George Washington, shown here, celebrates his last birthday at Mt. Vernon with the wedding of his step-granddaughter, Nellie Custis. Washington's birthday will be honored at the Metropolitan Club on February 19. *The Marriage of Nellie Custis/Washington's Last Birthday* by John Ward Dunsmore. Gift of George A. Zabriskie Memorial, 1936. Collection of Fraunces Tavern Museum, New York City.

## Metropolitan Club to Host Annual George Washington Ball

The 132nd Annual George Washington Ball will be held Thursday the 19th of February at the Metropolitan Club in New York City at 7:00pm. The Ball is in honor of the birthday of George Washington and is being sponsored by the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York and the Knickerbocker Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution.

This elegant white tie/black tie with decorations event promises to be the most outstanding George Washington ball ever held. The evening will feature very few comments and lots of dancing to the music of the Paul Errico Orchestra.

Seating will be limited so please make reservations early.

Patron tickets are \$500 and Benefit tickets are \$375. Regular tickets are available at \$300.

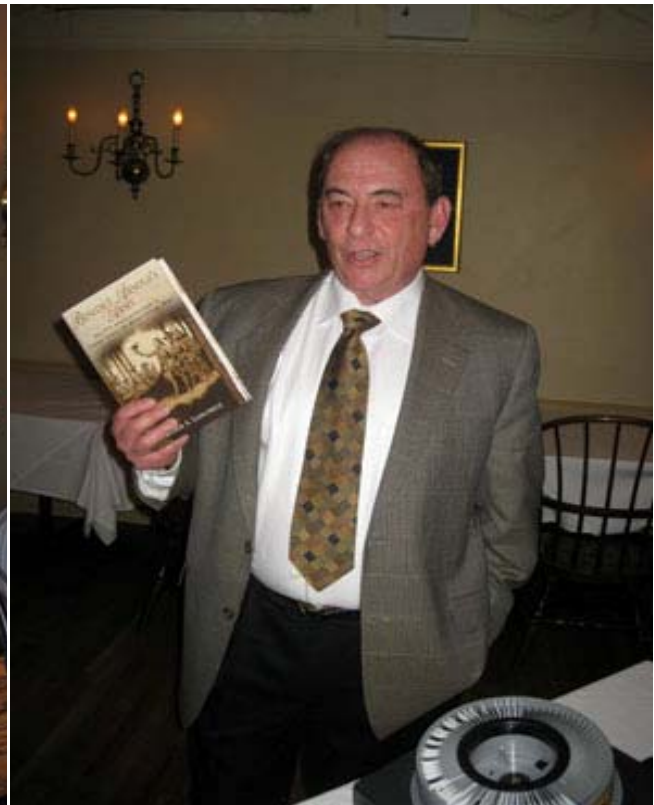
For more information, please contact:  
Administrator, Sons of the Revolution  
Ball Committee  
54 Pearl St.  
New York, NY 10004  
212-425-1776  
[2administrator@SonsoftheRevolution.org](mailto:2administrator@SonsoftheRevolution.org)

We hope to see you for what will be a very special evening!

## **SRNY Honors Life of Frederick S. Tallmadge**



Past SRNY President Laurence Simpson pays tribute to Frederick S. Tallmadge at the annual Tallmadge Day Stated Dinner at Fraunces Tavern Museum.  
Photo by Charles C. Lucas, Jr.



Noted author and 2009 Tallmadge Day speaker Arthur Lefkowitz discusses Revolutionary War art.  
Photo by Charles C. Lucas, Jr.

The annual Tallmadge Dinner in memory of the principal founder of the Sons of the Revolution in New York was held on Monday evening, January 26th. This annual observance is the salute to Frederick Tallmadge which the Society very carefully observes every year. It was through the benefaction of Frederick Tallmadge that the Society was enabled to secure and preserve the historic premises of Fraunces Tavern and the surrounding buildings. The Past President Dr. Laurence Simpson paid a moving tribute to Frederick Tallmadge, detailing Tallmadge's

extraordinary benefaction to the Society which enabled it to purchase the Fraunces Tavern site. The City of New York had condemned the site and it was to be torn down. A number of Societies, including the DAR and the CDA had attempted to buy it but it was Tallmadge's bequest of his Gramercy Park townhouse which enabled the Sons of the Revolution to secure the site in the late 1890's. The Sons embarked on a massive renovation of the site which concluded in 1907. It was through the benefaction of Frederick Tallmadge that this extraordinary site was preserved. It is the oldest public site in Manhattan. Frederick Tallmadge was the grandson of Col. Benjamin Talmadge who was General Washington's chief spymaster. Col. Talmadge's first person account of General Washington's farewell to his officers is one of the most precious documents in the keeping of the Sons of the Revolution of the State of New York.

Our Tallmadge Day speaker was a most distinguished historian of the Revolution. Arthur S. Lefkowitz is a New Jersey businessman and researcher whose books on the revolution are a standard text of revolutionary history. Mr. Lefkowitz has lectured at the Tavern on a number of occasions, most recently his book *Bushnell's Submarine: The Best Kept Secret of the Revolution*. Mr. Lefkowitz received the 2007 Book Award from the Sons of the Revolution in New York for his great work. He is also the author of *George Washington's Indispensable Men* which is the first-ever history of the 32 men who served as the aides-de-camp to General Washington during the revolution. Mr. Lefkowitz currently serves on the Board of Governors of the American Revolution Roundtable. We were honored to have had him as the Tallmadge lecturer for 2009.

## **John Ward Dunsmore Conservation Continues**

### ***Washington and Members of Congress Leaving Christ Church, Philadelphia***

We are pleased to announce that John Ward Dunsmore's *Washington and Members of Congress Leaving Christ Church, Philadelphia* has returned to its home at Fraunces Tavern Museum after undergoing conservation. Work by art conservator Alexander Katlan was generously funded by the Pennsylvania SR Color Guard.

### ***Washington Inspecting the First Silver Coins, 1792***

Dunsmore's *Washington Inspecting the First Silver Coins, 1792* is now in the process of being conserved by Mr. Katlan. We are so grateful to authors Leonard Augburger and Joel Orosz for their generous funding for conservation. We were pleased to find out from Mr. Augburger the interesting story behind this piece of art.

Mssrs. Augburger and Orosz are currently working on their book *Pictures of the First United States Mint* due to be published in 2010. "We are preparing a biography of John Ward Dunsmore based on archival research at the New-York Historical Society, Wagnalls Memorial Library in Lithopolis, OH and other institutions," Mr. Augburger told FTM Curator Suzanne Prabucki via email. "Specific focus is on Dunsmore's painting *Washington Inspecting the First Money Coined by the United States*." Through the authors' research, they have found that seven different studies for that work, which is housed in the United States Mint in Philadelphia (on loan from Independence Hall National Park), have been located. This includes the *Silver Coins* painting at

Fraunces Tavern Museum. Through these studies, says Mr. Augsburger, he and co-author Joel Orosz will be able "to trace the evolution of the final composition."

### *New Dunsmore Gallery Vital to School Program*



Volunteer docents Bob Santariello (left) and Alice to students from PS 130 in the Bronx by using John now on display in the new Dunsmore Gallery at



Soderberg (right) interperet Revolutionary War History Ward Dunsmore paintings. Dunsmore's works are Fraunces Tavern Museum.

Photos by Jennifer Patton.

Dunsmore's paintings are utilized by the museum's education department to teach the many school groups who visit every year about this important chapter in American history. FTM's Director of Education Jennifer Patton adds, "The Dunsmore Gallery has been a great addition to our school program. Both teachers and students alike have found the collection to be vivid and full of wonder to enhance their visit to the Museum. Many teachers have said in their evaluations that Dunsmore's paintings were the best part of the program to keep their students engaged and wanting to know more about our American Revolutionary War heroes."

Since the commencement of the Dunsmore Conservation Project, we have successfully conserved 23 of his paintings with 12 remaining. We are so grateful to all who have generously donated over the years. The mission of Fraunces Tavern Museum, where the collection resides and is displayed, is to preserve, interpret and educate on colonial, revolutionary and early American history. Dunsmore's accurate depictions of these events are an important asset to the museum's mission.

We would not be able to do this without help and we look forward to the completion of this important project. To learn more about how you can contribute to this very special project, please visit our website at <http://www.frauncestavernmuseum.org/dunsmore.html> or email [Curator@frauncestavernmuseum.org](mailto:Curator@frauncestavernmuseum.org).



Dunsmore's works include depictions New York's role in Revolutionary War history. His work showing the Battle of Long Island is in need of cleaning and conservation.

*Washington and Staff Watching the Battle of Long Island*  
by John Ward Dunsmore. Gift of George A. Zabriskie Memorial, 1936. Collection of Fraunces Tavern Museum, New York City.

Paintings still awaiting conservation are:

- The Battle of Long Island (left)
- John Adams Proposing Washington For Commander-In-Chief
- General Henry Knox
- General George Washington (no hat)
- General George Washington (with hat)
- Lafayette at the Dinner of General Gates
- Conference to Arrange for the Evacuation of New York City
- Washington Leaving Mt. Vernon for his Inauguration
- Washington and Staff Watching the Battle of Long Island
- Spirit of '76
- Washington and Rochambeau at Mt. Vernon
- Colonel Knox Bringing the Cannons from Fort Ticonderoga
- Fox Hunt at Mt. Vernon: The Start

## February Book Talk!

### The King's Men: The American Loyalist Corps

After a very well received January lecture on Washington Irving's *A History of New York* presented by author Elizabeth Bradley, we are excited to announce our next book talk.

As many as 50,000 American colonists were raised by the British for service against their fellow countrymen. Please join us at Fraunces Tavern Museum as we welcome co-creator of the On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies, Todd Braisted. Mr. Braisted will discuss the raising and campaigns of those American corps in the service of Great Britain.

The event will be held **Thursday, February 26th, 2009 at 6:30pm** in the Flag Gallery. Tickets are \$6 (members are free) and there will be a wine and cheese reception to follow.

**For a list of all of our Spring 2009 events, please visit:**

[http://www.frauncestavernmuseum.org/mus\\_cal.html](http://www.frauncestavernmuseum.org/mus_cal.html)

## Special Reminder: Salmangundi Exhibition to Open This Month

SRNY and Fraunces Tavern Museum are proud to be hosting *Contemporary Harbor of Manhattan: Salmangundians Celebrate Manhattan's Historic and Bustling Waterways*. The Salmangundi Club has chosen Fraunces Tavern Museum as a final stop before the exhibition travels to the Netherlands for display. This special exhibit celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Dutch foundation of Manhattan will open to the public in mid-February.

For more information, please contact [ExecutiveDirector@SonsoftheRevolution.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@SonsoftheRevolution.org).

## Fraunces Tavern Restaurant

Fraunces Tavern is one of the oldest bars and restaurants in New York City. The building holds a very important spot in both New York City and American history, as well as the history of SRNY. Come and experience a delightful dining experience at Fraunces Tavern Restaurant, open Monday-Friday 11:00am to 9:30pm and Saturday, 11:30am to 9:30pm. For reservations or more information, please call 212.968.1776 or visit <http://www.frauncestavern.com>.

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