



The Patriot

Latest News from Fraunces Tavern® Museum & Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York

Vol. 5 No. 10 (October 2011)

Message from the President

By: Don Westervelt

As one fiscal year ends and a new one begins, I find myself looking back to see what went right and what went wrong, in order to better plan for the future.

It should come as no surprise that the cost of maintaining our five buildings complex becomes more costly as the buildings and systems age. Grants are becoming harder to obtain. On the up side, we have managed to cut many of our other costs without cutting our programs. Over the last ten months Museum attendance has increased dramatically.

Mr. Fang A. Wong, National Commander of the American Legion has accepted our invitation to be honored as our Distinguished Patriot of the Year. Mr. Wong will be recognized during the annual George Washington Ball on Thursday, February 16th at The Metropolitan Club in Manhattan, New York. Reserve the date.

I look forward to the next couple of months and hope that you will be able to attend our Evacuation Day Dinner on November 21, 2011. Please keep the date open (formal invitation to follow).

Sons + Polo + Fashion = Fun

By: Fred Baker



Goeffrey Bloch, Susan Grayshaw, Margarita (Marge) Bloch, Fred Baker

Recently a group of Sons, their guests and friend Margarita (Marge) Bloch, Regent of the Mary Washington Colonial Chapter DAR enjoyed a high-scoring match including two polo stars, Peter Brant and Peter Orthwein and fashionistos Valentino and Jason Wu. There was light-hearted polo talk " how many innings are played?" (6 and they are called chukkers) and why are people wandering out onto the field? (at half-time fans try their best to replace divots dug up as the ponies make quick stops and/or turns) to more serious talk about Fraunces Tavern Museum.

Three dogs also attended; the Bakers brought Maggie, a husky mix and David Sanchez and Gary Tisdale brought their Malteses Narcissus and Selene.

The weather was cool and so was the SR entourage.

Nathan Hale Day - 2011

By: Michael Coneys



LEFT IMAGE: (left to right) Charles Lercara, VCA Chief Warrent Officer, J. Scott Glascock, Director, Yale Club of NYC and Jonathan Ridgeway, Chairman, SRNY Color Guard. RIGHT IMAGE: (left to right) Rev. Chris Cullen, Chaplain SRNY, Michael Coney, Chairman, Nathan Hale Committee, (seated) Deborah Thomas Shull, Emily Westervelt - FTM Docent, Susan Grayshaw, three parents of school children sitting on the ground from PS 124 of Class 5-328/The Yung Wing School of Lower Manhattan.

Pursuant to the official Proclamation of Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York, Thursday, September 22, 2011 was Nathan Hale Day throughout New York City. As we do every year, the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York ("SRNY"), together with the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, commemorated the exemplary life and ultimate sacrifice of Captain Nathan Hale. This was the 235th anniversary of his summary execution by the British forces that occupied New York City early in the course of the American Revolution. The SRNY Color Guard, the Veteran Corps of Artillery and the Yale Club of New York City each laid wreaths at the SRNY's statue of Nathan Hale in City Hall Park. SRNY Chaplain Rev. Christopher M. Cullen inspired the participants with soulful prayers of both Invocation and Benediction. After SRNY Color Guard Jonathan Ridgeway led the participants in the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Deborah Thomas Shull performed a lovely and inspirational rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.

The fifth grade class of P.S. 124-M, the Yung Wing Elementary School, thrilled all of the participants with a recitation of original poetry, the singing of a song with original lyrics, and the performance of an original dramatic sketch all about the life, death and heroic attributes of Nathan Hale. The SRNY provided lunch for all of the students and their teachers and chaperones at a local McDonald's Restaurant on Fulton Street. The SRNY is most grateful to McDonald's for being an excellent mission partner for Nathan Hale Day through the extension of a generous discount.

Following the annual commemoration, the SRNY provided a small luncheon for the participants at the Flag Gallery of Fraunces Tavern Museum. Because September 22, 2012 falls upon a Saturday, the 2012 Nathan Hale Day Commemoration is scheduled to occur on September 20, 2012.



Museum News

Two Exciting October Events Are Coming Up - Mark Your Calendars!

Evening Lecture Series:

John Barry
An American Hero in the Age of Sail
Presented by Tim McGrath†

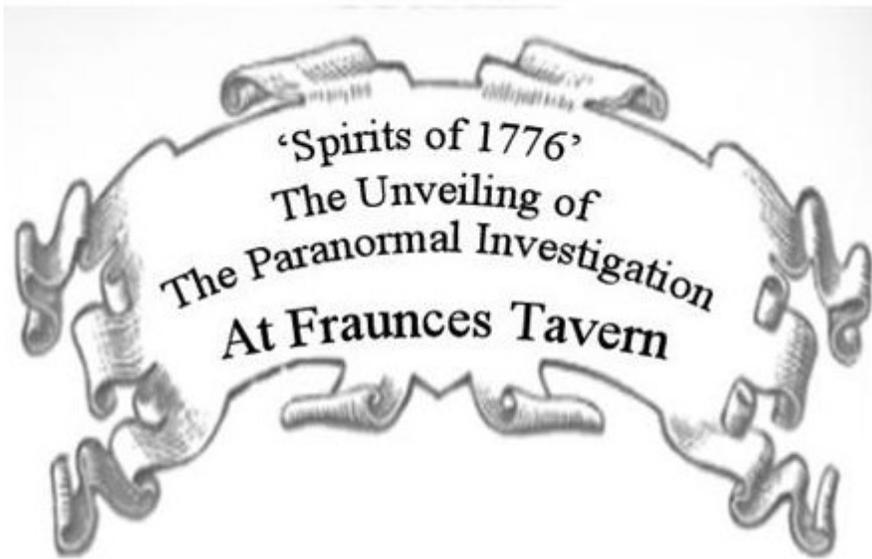
Thursday, October 20th at 6:30pm*

(Doors open at 6:00)

Son of a hardscrabble Irish farmer from County Wexford, John Barry was sent to sea as a child & arrived in Philadelphia during the restless decade before the American Revolution. Brave & ambitious, he ascended the ratlines to become a young successful merchant captain. When Barry volunteered to fight for the Continental cause, he saw his star rise to new heights during his capturing of the first enemy warship taken by a Continental vessel & fighting in the last battle in the War for Independence. In 1794, he was named the first commissioned officer in the United States Navy. Drawn from primary source documents from around the world, the story of this self-made American is brought back to life after a long absence in historical biographies.

Cost: \$10/Free for Members – includes admission to all galleries and light refreshments

Special Halloween Event:



'Spirits' of 1776
Paranormal Investigations At Fraunces Tavern® Museum
Presented by Sleepy Hollow Paranormal
Saturday, October 29th at 5:30pm*

(Doors open at 5:15)

In September of 2010, a pair of researchers spent an entire night in our historic buildings investigating a very curious subject: the supernatural. Now, over a year later, the investigators of Sleepy Hollow Paranormal along with Fraunces Tavern Museum are ready to reveal the results. Join us as we discover this 'haunting' layer of history!

Cost: \$10/\$5 for Members – **seasonal refreshments will be served**

* Reserved seating for Museum members only.

To reserve a seat please send your request to: curator@frauncestavernmuseum.org or 212-425-1778 x3

Comment Book Quotes of the Month



Over 90 comments were written in the month of September. Here are two you might enjoy:

9/9/2011 "Mary Lindley Murray's Great Great Great Grandson was Here - Mary Lindley Murray warned the American Troops and delayed British with her Madera and allowed American troops to escape via Harlem Heights."

9/15/2011 "Thank you Sons of the Revolution for preserving such an important part of American History." - Joe Fig

Dunsmore Conservation Project

By Jessica Baldwin, Museum Director

John Ward Dunsmore (1856-1945) was a late 19th/early 20th century American painter best known for his realistic and historically accurate paintings of the events surrounding the American Revolution and Early

Republic. He placed tremendous importance on realism – he wanted his paintings to be as realistic as a photo. His Revolutionary War images are iconic and widely sought for reproduction in items ranging from school children’s textbooks to the Library of Congress’s website, to a special coin produced by the US Mint.

Since 1936, Fraunces Tavern Museum has owned the world's largest collection of Dunsmore paintings. Over the past seventy five years, all forty five pieces in the Museum’s Collection have been exhibited at 54 Pearl Street and other locations, such as the Museum of the City of New York. Some have aged more gracefully than others. In the early 2000s it was noticed that these paintings were in need of conservation, so as to prevent their irreversible deterioration from time and allow them to continue to educate the public as narratives of our nation’s history.

Over the past eight years **all but seven** paintings have been fully sponsored, conserved and put on exhibit in the John Ward Dunsmore Gallery, featuring the conserved paintings in a permanent, rotating exhibit entitled, “Keeping the Revolution Alive.” Since the start of 2011 three of those seven paintings have been fully sponsored!

On behalf of the Museum staff and the Board I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Lawrence K. Casey, Jr., S.R. Texas, for his most recently full support for the conservation of the *Portrait of Colonel Henry Knox*. Throughout the Dunsmore Conservation Project, Mr. Casey has generously provided full funding for the follow works, *Colonel Knox Bringing the Cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to the Siege of Boston*, *Spirit of '76*, *Bunker Hill: Fight at the Rail Fence*, *Arousing the Minutemen*, and *Paul Revere, 1775*.

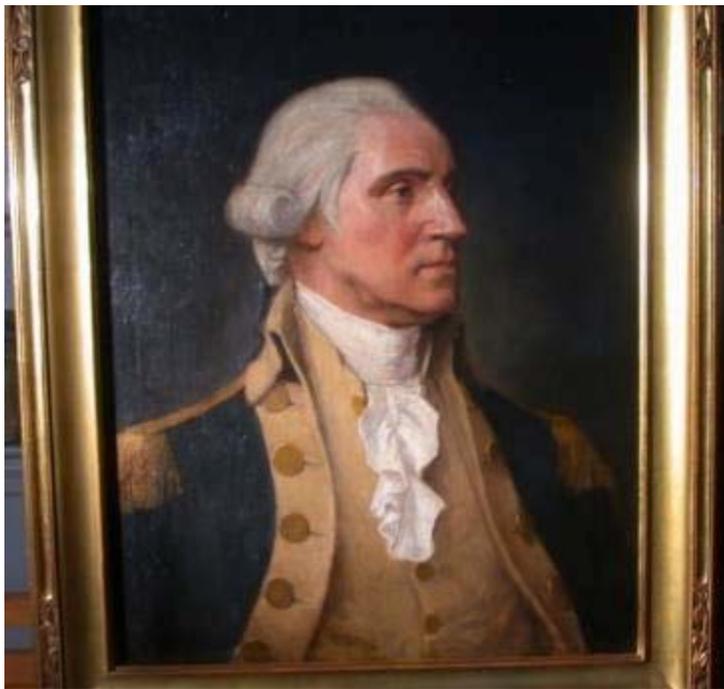
I would also like to recognize and thank the Friends of the [Jacobus Vanderveer House](#) in Bedminster, New Jersey for their efforts with Chubb Group and The Hurley Insurance Agency in their triumphant effort in raising full support for the conservation of *Portrait of General George Washington without a Hat*. The images below show the amazing results of the conservation on this piece.





BEFORE Conservation

DURING Conservation



AFTER Conservation

On Thursday September 29th, at the evening lecture, "The Dubious Achievements of the 1st and 2nd Continental Congress" presented by James Thompson the Museum exhibited one of Dunsmore's finest pieces, *John Adams Proposing Washington for Commander-in-Chief*, Oil on Canvas, 1913, Gift of George A. Zabriskie Memorial (see image below of black and white version).



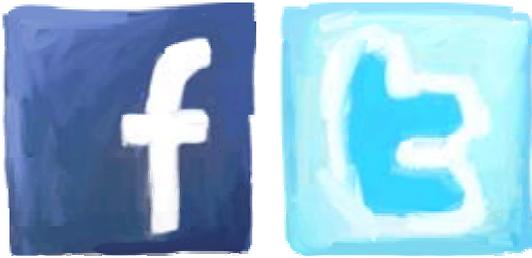
The scene depicted in this painting takes place at the sessions of the Continental Congress in Independence Hall, Philadelphia Pennsylvania, on June 15th, 1775, soon after the battles of Lexington and Concord. John Adams (standing in the middle) formally rises in his place and proposes Colonel Washington of Virginia for Commander in Chief of the armies, which are being raised for the defense of the liberties of the colonies. John Hancock is President of the Congress. He sits leaning over the desk in a chair to the far left. Colonel Washington, who is present as a delegate (in uniform on the far right), as soon as he hears the reference to himself, slips from the room.

Around 1919 Henry Ford wanted to own *John Adams Proposing Washington for Commander-in-Chief*, but the owner and future donor, George Zabriskie would not agree to this \$30,000 proposal because he did not want to separate the collection. This collection is now all housed at Fraunces Tavern Museum.

After the lecture, Museum docent and supporter, Michael Wolf pledged to fund the entire conservation, which includes the frame conservation! This painting will be sent out in the early spring for conservation and will be exhibited upon return.

The forty five works of John Ward Dunsmore in our collection are not only valuable for their artistic and historic merit, but are invaluable teaching tools that help the Museum fulfill the mission to educate school children and adults alike. If you are interested in learning more about the Dunsmore Conservation Project click [HERE!](#)

To Become a Museum Member visit the [Fraunces Tavern® Museum Website.](#)



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54 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10004

t. 212-425-1776
email. 2administrator@sonsoftherevolution.org

Editor/Contributor/Distributor/Layout & HTML: Jessica Baldwin, Museum Director

Contributors:

Donald Westervelt, President of the SRNY
Fred Baker, SRNY Member
Michael Coneys, SRNY Member
Jennifer Patton, Education Director at Fraunces Tavern Museum