



The Patriot

The Ozark Mountain Chapter Newsletter



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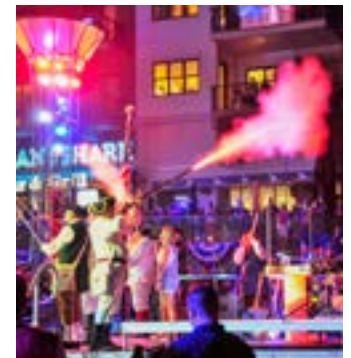
MEMBERS

Please notify chapter registrar Steve Perkins Patriotmarcher @ fastmail .com of any recent or anticipated change to contact information: address, phone, e-mail



The Ozark Mountain Chapter Challenge Coin is available for purchase from Ben Edmondson for \$10.00

On the Cover
Compatriot's
at the Branson
Landing Liberty
Celebration on
July 3rd.



Photographs provided by: Daniel Piedlow,
Margaret Swales,
Editor: Daniel Piedlow



The President's Message

By President Steven Perkins

President's message for Aug 2026 newsletter

Greetings chapter members. Please notify chapter registrar Steve Perkins Patriotmarcher @ fastmail .com of any recent or anticipated change to contact information: address, phone, e-mail.

I reflect on membership of OMC and our state society. Over recent months of serving as President of OMC, I've learned of increasing numbers of our membership who are battling serious challenges, some known and public, others kept close to the member. I just ask that members keep others in prayer for physical and emotional health. Some of these members are full of passion for the SAR and our mission.

Our founders and the framers, though not all passionate in their religion, fully understood the Judeo-Christian principles of the framing of our great nation. Quotes by great men of the time point to that. I rely on our members to carry forward those precepts & principles, pray and support one another, and hold dear our founders.

The SAR is a non-profit. We can't sell stuff to generate revenue. The dues paid by members barely gets the basics. Fiscal responsibility has returned to and restored the national SAR to a debt-free day-to-day operations status. Opportunities are available for additional donations, all of which help achieve the mission. Additional donations are a gift and tax deductible. They may also be worth considering for tax shelters.

A new opportunity of great importance exists to support the Information Technology side of operations. Costs are great, and the need to enhance and improve capabilities exist now, and will continue into the future. I advocate that members find \$20 or \$30 to donate to the IT Special Purpose fund. It is now in the drop-down list at the national web site. When you log in and the home screen appears, a button in the upper right labeled "DONATE" is hard to miss.

I will highlight the need to digitize historical records with one illustration.

New members provide documentation to prove lineage. For years there has been discussion about eliminating mailing paper copies of such records. The technology exists but are costly to establish a process suited for NSSAR. The scan work is largely done at the chapter level. Protocols for identifying a distinct record set, digitally attaching to a specific application, and securing that information behind a firewall requires a high level of knowledge, planning, programming, record storage and retrieval, etc. Eventually these records age out where they are available to future applicants and society genealogists.

That is just one example of a much wider need for digitizing new records, recent past records, and much older records.

Visit SAR.org and in the "Donate" page, you will find many areas. Let your pride in your ancestors show through with a donation. Small amounts by many help a lot!

We are in our summer lull. We'll get busy again in September starting with the CDC meeting Tuesday on the 8th.

I hope to see you soon!

Thank you!

Minutes of the Ozark Mountain Chapter Sons of the American Revolution July 18 Revolution, 2026 9:32 A.M. to 10:48 A.M.

Concourse Information Commons West Ozarks
Technical Community College

Minutes Recorded by Don King, Secretary

Meeting Chair Steve Perkins, President

There were 23 members and 16 Visitors Present

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by President Perkins

Chaplain Philbrick gave the Invocation

Color Guard Advanced and Posted the Colors

Compatriot King led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Compatriot Clemens led the Pledge to the SAR

The following Guests were introduced

Dave McMillian, dual member of Ozark Mountain and Alexander Majors Chapters

Bob Hedrick – Application at National

Carol Gerhart

Byron Mills

Holly Mills

Ed Hodo

Jen Hodo

Jim Dice

Kathy Dice

Alex Scranton – Application in Process

Missy Scranton

Jim Watson – Application in Progress

A Memorial Service was held for three members who have passed in 2026

Chaplain Philbrick officiated the service

In Memoriam

Peter Henry Rae Approved 10/15/2021

01/28/1936-06/13/2026

Remembered for his legal work, including his judiciary practices. Notably, he always sought to improve to ensure that all people had access to the legal resources that they needed. Whether that was accepting unconventional payments for his legal work, maybe a donkey, or chickens, or the institution of things like night courts so that people did not have to miss the work that they needed to attend court.

Samuel Flavius Freeman II Approved 10/27/2023

09/19/1946-04/17/2026

Did a tremendous amount of work for downtown Springfield, MO, and notably he did much of it in reclamation and renewal and rebuilding while never losing sight of the human element in the process. He seemed to have always looked out for the people who would be the most affected by these activities and to care for and take care of them. He was always careful to consider the needs of the little guy and what needed to be done for all the people who were affected.

Gerard “Gerry” Gerhart Approved 6/25/2025

12/20/1924-05/04/2026

Spent a career working in military and service organizations. He did engineering and mechanical jobs all over the world. He loved to sail and do precision woodworking. Everything he did seemed to be at full

throttle, and that included the Sons of the American Revolution. He was so proud to be a member of our chapter and was a joy to be around at our meetings. He was very interested in genealogy and, in addition to the Sons of the American Revolution, he also belonged to the Order of the First Families and Founders of the city of St. Louis.

We note how proud each of them was to be a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and to be descended from patriots who secured the freedoms we still have and treasure today.

Something else I have thought about is the theological concept of the communion of Saints, what Hebrews 12:1 refers to as the great cloud of witnesses.

We believe that they now have the privilege of meeting those patriots from whom they descended.

The Sons of the American Revolution has been built over the years through the enduring service of its members. These compatriots were part of that tradition of service. Part of that tradition of service is the realization that we did not have more time. Time to get to know them better, to work with them in achieving SAR's

Goals for honoring our ancestors and serving our country and our fellow humans.

Proverbs 10:7 reminds us: “The memory of the righteous is a blessing. We will miss them, but we are blessed and better for having known them, and we will remember them.”

I would close this part with these words from the third chapter of the Wisdom of Solomon: The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish, they seem to have died, and their departure was thought to be an affliction and their going from us to be their destruction. But they are at peace, for though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope was full of immortality. God tested them and found them worthy of himself. Like gold in the furnace, he tried. And like a sacrificial burnt offering, he accepted them. Those who trust in God will understand the truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love. Because grace and mercy are upon his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

The Color Guard honored the dead, and the bell was rung in honor.

A moment in History was presented: The Committee

of Five

President Perkins gave a brief talk on what it was really like to get consensus on the contents of the Declaration of Independence

President Perkins presented Darlene Rae and Carol Gerhart with Memorial Certificates on behalf of the Chapter.

Gerard William Gerhart: Descended from Gabriel Constant, who was a constable in Cahokia, Ill. At the time, part of the Virginia colony which extended all the way to the Mississippi River.

Peter Henry Rae: Descended from Daniel Minor, who aided and established his independence as a private in Connecticut under Colonel Hooker's regiment, Captain Bray's company.

President Perkins recognized David Appleby to officiate a Special Recognition of a True Rarity.

Honoring the SAR Minutemen of the Ozark Mountain Chapter Missouri Society:

David Appleby, Gerald McCoy, J. Howard Fisk, Daniel McMurray

Four living members of the Minutemen Society. No other chapter in the SAR organization in the United States can lay claim to such an honor.

Past President General David Appleby gave an Overview and History of the Minuteman Society:

The SAR is comprised of 40,000 men who have one thing in common, and that's the promotion of the ideals that were founded by our Founders and Patriots.

These men can overcome their differences and come together and promote American Independence and our need to maintain that.

The real work, however, is done at the chapter level, as that is where the programs are carried out. Where the rubber meets the road. So whatever activities you perform in the community, you are advancing the cause and bringing recognition to the organization, and then people ask questions, and wearing your rosette also brings questions and allows you to talk to people about that. There has always been a culture in this chapter that is unique compared to most other chapters; there are over 500 chapters in the United States. Having visited many of them, I find there is a difference here. The culture has always been different. Our Chapter has always had people who are

willing to step up and do what needed to be done. In that process, we have always had people from our chapter who have been willing to step up to the next level and to work at the state level. 6 out of the last 25 years, we have had 6 members of our chapter who have been State President General. Meaning approximately 1 out of every 4 Presidents over the last 25 years came from this chapter. We have had a significant impact on leadership. In the Missouri State Society. We have had 2 Vice-President Generals at the District level in the last 25 years. The Missouri Society has always punched above its weight at the National Society. At the National level of the 40,000 men each year, no more than 6 get selected to be a minuteman. Which, if you do the percentages, is a very small percentage, and it takes years of service at the national level because service at the chapter level is not counted for consideration. Therefore, it requires years of serving on committees; you must also serve as a committee chair or vice chair at the national level. Points are awarded for attending National Meetings, for being a general officer, including but not limited to Vice-President General and President General. The program was started in 1952. In the very first year, a Missourian, former President General Oliver, was selected. Into the 60s, Dr. M. Graham Clark was selected as a Minuteman. We have had from Missouri since 1952 up to this last week 11 Minutemen; of all the people selected to become a Minuteman, there are only 79 living Minutemen. There is a consensus at the National Society that the Ozark Mountain Chapter has more Minutemen than any other chapter. As a point of fact, we have more members than some States and have 40% of all Minutemen living in Missouri. We have 7 living Minutemen in Missouri out of 79 nationwide, so 1 out of every 10 Minutemen all across the country are from Missouri. This comes from a culture of the Ozark Mountain Chapter of understanding of the SAR, the leadership at the local level that we have had for so many years here. And for those of you that are just joining, or those of you that have just joined, it is a special group within the SAR. And to quote President Perkins. "The Ozark Mountain Chapter has more activities in a given year than most State Societies." And that is true. The number of activities is phenomenal.

Dan McMurray and Gerald McCoy were recognized as

- Continued on Page 17, Minutes -

Declarations Before THE Declaration of Independence

by Ray Raphael

When the Continental Congress approved its Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, at least ninety public bodies had already declared in favor of independence. In those times, local jurisdictions often gave specific instructions to their representatives in higher bodies. (In Britain, by contrast, lower bodies “delegated” authority to elected officials, who could then act as they thought best.) Following the custom, many local bodies addressed the monumental topic of the moment. Pauline Maier cites and discusses these in her masterful book *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997). Below are a few examples from the original texts.

On May 10, 1776, the Massachusetts House of Representatives asked town meetings “to express their minds with respect to American independence of the Kingdom of Great Britain.” At least fifty-eight townships weighed in, all favoring a total break.

From Topsfield, proximate to the provincial seat of government in Salem:

A few years ago, sir, such a question would have put us into a surprise, and, we apprehend, would have been treated with the utmost contempt. We then looked on ourselves happy in being subjects of the King of Great Britain. It being our forefathers’ native country, we looked up unto them as our parent State; and we have always looked upon it as our duty, as well as our interest, to defend and support the honor of the Crown of Great Britain . . . both with our lives and fortunes. . . . But the scene is now changed; our sentiments are now altered. She who was called our mother country and parent State, has now, without any just cause, or injury done by these Colonies, become their greatest enemy. The unprovoked injuries these Colonies have received; the unjustifiable and unconstitutional claims that have been made on the Colonies by the Court of Great Britain, to force us, and take away our substance from us, and that at any time, or for any use, that they please, without our consent, and the prosecuting these their claims, have been cruel and unjust to the highest degree. The whole conduct of the Court of Great Britain, and the fallacious conduct of their Governors appointed and sent into these Colonies, are so well known . . . we think it needless to

enumerate any further particulars. For these reasons, sir, as well as many others that may be mentioned, we are confirmed in the opinion that the United Colonies will be greatly wanting in their duty, both to the great Governor of the Universe, to themselves, and posterity, if independence of the Kingdom of Great Britain is not declared, as soon as may be. . . . Having thus freely spoken our sentiments in respect to independence, &c., we now instruct you, sir, to give the honorable the Continental Congress the strongest assurance that if, for the safety of the United Colonies, they shall declare America to be independent of the Kingdom of Great Britain, your constituents will support and defend the measure with their lives and fortunes, to the utmost of their power.”[1]

From Palmer, in the hinterlands of Massachusetts:

At a very full meeting of the inhabitants of Palmer, legally met at the public Meeting-House on Monday, the 17th day of June, 1776, at one o’clock in the afternoon. The meeting being opened, Mr. Robert Farrell was chosen Moderator, and then proceeded and voted the following Instructions to the Representative of this Town now at the General Assembly of this Colony, as the sentiments of this town:

Whereas the Court of Great Britain hath, by sundry Acts of Parliament, assumed the power of legislation for the Colonies in all cases whatsoever, without the consent of the inhabitants; have likewise exercised the assumed power for raising a revenue in the Colonies without their consent; . . . have altered the Charter of this Colony, and thereby overthrown the Constitution; together with many other grievous acts of parliament, too grievous to be borne.

The peaceable inhabitants being alarmed at such repeated inroads on the Constitution, and gigantic strides of despotick power over the Colonies, the Colonies petitioned the King for redress of grievances; . . . begging as children to a father to be heard and relieved; but all to no purpose, the petitions being treated with almost contempt. The United Colonies, . . . being driven to a state of despair of the least relief from them, were obliged, by the law of self-preservation, to take up arms in their own defence, meaning to use them only as such; but the dispute has arisen to so great a height that it is impossible for the Colonies ever to be joined with Great Britain again with the least security and safety to themselves or posterity.

We, the inhabitants of this town, do believe it

absolutely necessary for the safety of the United Colonies to be independent from Great Britain, and declare themselves entirely a separate State, as we can see no alternative but inevitable ruin or independence. As there is a General Congress of wise and good men, who sit at the helm of affairs, . . . if they shall unite in a separation from Great Britain, we do unanimously determine and declare we will support them with our lives and fortunes.[2]

Outside of Massachusetts, other public bodies issued declarations favoring independence. On May 29, 1776, the "New York Mechanics in Union" instructed their representatives at the New York Provincial Congress, the de facto government of the colony since May of 1775:

When we cast a glance upon our beloved continent, where fair freedom, civil and religious, we have long enjoyed, whose fruitful fields have made the world glad, and whose trade has filled with plenty of all things, sorrow fills our hearts to behold her now struggling under the heavy load of oppression, tyranny, and death. But when we extend our sight a little farther, and view the iron hand that is lifted up against us, behold it is our King; he who, by his oath and station, is bound to support and defend us in the quiet enjoyment of all our glorious rights as freemen, and whose dominions have been supported and made rich by our commerce. Shall we any longer sit silent, and contentedly continue the subjects of such a Prince, who is deaf to our petitions for interposing his Royal authority in our behalf, and for redressing our grievances, but, on the contrary, seems to take pleasure in our destruction? When we see that one whole year is not enough to satisfy the rage of a cruel Ministry, in burning our towns, seizing our vessels, and murdering our precious sons of liberty; making weeping widows for the loss of those who were dearer to them than life, and helpless orphans to bemoan the death of an affectionate father; but who are still carrying on the same bloody pursuit; and for no other reason than this, that we will not become their slaves, and be taxed by them without our consent.

Therefore, as we would rather choose to separate from, than to continue any longer in connection with such oppressors, we, the Committee of Mechanics in union, do, for ourselves and our constituents, hereby publicly declare that, should you, gentlemen of our honorable Provincial Congress, think proper to instruct our most honorable Delegates in Continental Congress to use their utmost endeavours in that august

assembly to cause these United Colonies to become independent of Great Britain, it would give us the highest satisfaction; and we hereby sincerely promise to endeavour to support the same with our lives and fortunes.[3]

When Frederick County, Maryland, declared in favor of independence, it bound its representative to do its will. It also projected forward to what form of government might follow:

Resolved, unanimously. That as a knowledge of the conduct of the Representative is the constituent's only principle and permanent security, we claim the right of being fully informed therein, unless in the secret operations of war; and that we shall ever hold the Representative amenable to that body from whom he derives his authority.

Resolved, unanimously. That the Legislative, Judicative, Executive, and Military powers, ought to be separate, and that in all countries where the power to make laws and the power to enforce such laws is vested in one man, or in one body of men, a tyranny is established. [4]

A grand jury in the Cheraws District of South Carolina passionately weighed in:

We now feel every joyful and comfortable hope that a people could desire in the present Constitution and form of Government established in this Colony; a Constitution founded on the strictest principles of justice and humanity, where the rights and happiness

of the whole, the poor and the rich, are equally secured . . .

When a people, born and bred in a land of freedom and virtue, uncorrupted by those refinements which effeminate and debase the mind, manly and generous in their sentiments, bold and hardy in their



"The Manner in which the American Colonies Declared themselves Independent of the King of England." (Library of Congress)

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The Guns of the American Revolution

Contrary to popular perception, the American Revolution wasn't all muskets, bayonets and Mel Gibson running around with a tomahawk.

by Evan Brune



Illustration by Don Troiani

I have a love-hate relationship with Mel Gibson's film, "The Patriot." On the one hand, it's a highly entertaining movie about a topic virtually untouched by Hollywood. On the other, the movie is so replete with historical inaccuracies that one viewing is enough to send even the moderately educated history enthusiast into violent, mouth-frothing convulsions.

But, the simple fact is that "The Patriot" is likely representative of the general view of the American Revolution. Though Americans live, work and play in a nation that directly resulted from the events of 1776 and beyond, 250 years removed, the actual details of who fought, how they fought and the guns with which they armed themselves are generally lost to all but a

few die-hard historians. For most Americans, their view of the fighting in North America is largely an abstraction, even a caricature of real events.

Like the ideals that underpinned the revolution, the fighting between the British army and the nascent American military was the result of an ongoing evolution. But beyond



American militiamen, from the beginning of the Revolution, were armed with a hodge-podge of firearms. Illustrations courtesy Don Troiani

the ideas about liberty and self-determination, this was an evolution in the kinds of arms being employed on the battlefield, as well as the tactics that governed their use. As we recognize and celebrate the men who fought and died to build this country, it's important to understand exactly how they fought and the arms they used as they forged a new nation.

The Old World: By Musket and Push of Bayonet

One of the most memorable scenes in "The Patriot" shows Benjamin Martin, the lead character played by Mel Gibson, staring out the window of a plantation house and observing a set-piece battle between the British and Continental armies in an adjoining field. Predictably, the automaton-like mass of British infantry marches in perfect lockstep toward the poor bastards in blue. Finally, they halt at a suicidally close distance and, after absorbing hilariously ineffective scattered fire from the amateurish Americans, proceed to unleash volleys and clumsy bayonet charges to sweep away the upstart colonials. Martin states the obvious: "Going muzzle-to-muzzle with Redcoats in an open field. It's madness."

Yeah, it didn't really happen like that, and if it did, it would be madness. While it is true that linear tactics generally governed 18th-century warfare, the reality of what many engagements looked like is a lot different than you might imagine, and it certainly didn't look like the scene in "The Patriot." Recent research indicates that combat in the 18th century occurred at much longer ranges than "muzzle-to-muzzle." During the Seven Years War, combat usually occurred between 100 to 200 yards, with many firefights breaking out at longer distances, particularly when inexperienced troops were involved. Historian Alex Burns notes that,



During the Battle of Long Island in 1776, Capt. Samuel Smith led his Maryland riflemen away from disaster as the British overwhelmed American troops.

to military men of the age, the phrase “within musket shot” was generally understood to be a distance of about 300 yards.

The typical military firearm used in these conflicts was a smoothbore, flintlock musket with a barrel length roughly 3.5 feet long and a bore size ranging from .69 to .80 caliber. Muzzles were exposed and outfitted with a lug to mount a long, tapered, triangular bayonet that remained a singularly important tool on the 18th-century battlefield, particularly for the British army. Paper-wrapped cartridges containing powder and ball were issued to soldiers, usually with a single round ball of significantly smaller diameter than the bore to accommodate for the variance in bore sizes, as well as the buildup of black-powder fouling that would inevitably arise from repeated firing. This is a phenomenon known to black-powder shooters as “windage,” defined as the space between the outside of the musket ball and the interior of a musket bore. The greater the windage, the more inaccurate the musket shot.

In terms of the practical accuracy of such arms, one could not reasonably expect to hit a man-sized target at distances of more than 80 to 100 yards with any certainty. Given this, you might wonder how 18th-century armies expected their soldiers to hit anyone if they ordered their troops to open fire at distances far greater than the practical accuracy of their military longarms. The answer is that, until the mid-18th century, individual marksmanship in a military context was generally considered superfluous. In a modern analogy, the infantry regiment of the 18th century functioned, essentially, as a large, single-shot shotgun. A musket ball fired by one soldier toward a host of other troops was likely to find its mark somewhere, even if that mark wasn't the aim of the soldier who fired the ball.

For these sorts of tactics, a certain style of military longarm began to emerge, first standardized in the 1720s. For the British army, this was the King's Land Pattern musket, more commonly known as the Brown Bess. The earliest of these guns were behemoths, with bore sizes approaching .80 caliber, 46-inch barrels and thick stocks that made them the Mack trucks of 18th-century muskets. But, by the time of the revolution, a new pattern of British military longarm emerged to serve a new kind of infantryman. The Short Land Pattern musket, sometimes referred to as the Pattern 1769, was equipped with a shortened 42-inch,

.75-caliber barrel compared with the longer, heavier service muskets that had existed for decades, known henceforth as the Long Land Pattern. These guns were handier while still having enough length to fire in ranks.

The shortened length made them useful for a new class of light infantry, a development of British military doctrine directly influenced by its experience in North American warfare. Instead of fighting and firing in rigid ranks, light infantrymen were more mobile, flexible and expected to operate on their own initiative. Men in light infantry units were chosen specifically for their intelligence and their resourcefulness, and they would fight singly, using cover and concealment while taking carefully aimed shots and maximizing the limited capabilities of their smoothbore infantry muskets. It is these men that American militiamen would encounter on the fields outside Boston as the cold war between Britain and her colonies turned hot in April of 1775, and they would continue to encounter flexible, enterprising infantrymen as the conflict in North America churned into full-scale war.

Arming for the American Cause

While Great Britain standardized its arms in the 1720s, across the English Channel, the French army was similarly situated in the early part of the 18th century and embarked on a similar movement of standardization designed to improve its military readiness. Early patterns of muskets emerged in 1717 and 1728, but, by the end of the Seven Years War, a new design materialized that would become a de facto standard not just for the French military, but also for the nascent American nation.

For the French, it was the fusil d'infanterie modele 1763, later updated in 1766 and now known to collectors as the Model 1763/66. But for American troops who would later be equipped with thousands of such arms, it became simply the “Charleville” musket, so named for the Charleville-Mézières armory in the Ardennes, where many were produced. By 1777, France would begin sending tens of thousands of older-pattern Charleville muskets from its stores to equip the fledgling Continental Army, and by war's end, the Charleville musket would become the standard longarm for the American military.

But, at the beginning of the conflict, American armament was far from standard. Much of what equipped the militia and the first Continental troops

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The American Revolution saw the use of a number of unique firearms, ranging from smoothbore flintlock fowlers (1) to the quintessential American longrifle (2). Continental troops would eventually be equipped with Charleville muskets (3), while select British and Hessian troops experimented with designs like the Ferguson breechloader (4), the Pattern 1776 (5) and the German Jäger (6).

were the disparate civilian smoothbores of the day. One such arm commonly found in New England and the coastal mid-Atlantic colonies was the fowler, a smoothbore, flintlock longarm typified by what was often an extraordinarily long barrel, in some cases exceeding 50 inches, with a bore size ranging from .62 to .80 caliber, or in shotgunning parlance, from about 20 gauge to 10 gauge.

Named for its primary application as a hunting arm, the larger bore size accommodated birdshot, as well as larger buckshot, buck-and-ball and solitary musket ball loads. Its larger bore size and smoothbore construction also meant these guns were capable of accepting the paper cartridges often employed with infantry muskets. A lack of rifling meant fowlers could be loaded with the same rapidity as a military musket, making them suitable for militia use.

However, as versatile as the American fowler was, it wasn't without drawbacks. Logistically, the need to keep thousands of men supplied with ammunition was greatly complicated by the fact that these guns often had differently sized bores and locks, requiring different sized musket balls, paper cartridges and flints. The need for a somewhat standardized longarm for a prolonged conflict gave rise to a new class of arm that we still struggle to understand: the



This private of the 5th Foot illustrates the movement and initiative expected of the British light infantry, who fought individually.

"Committee of Safety" musket.

In the run-up to the American Revolution, Committees of Safety directed the stockpiling of arms, ammunition and accessories that would become necessary in the event of a shooting war. These groups often directed local gunsmiths to produce military-style longarms, patterned after then-issued British military muskets, that could be used to equip militia units. This was easier said than done.

Many civilian leaders in the American colonies still earnestly hoped that a peaceful resolution could be reached with Great Britain. In this tenuous period, those who produced masses of arms for the ultimate purpose of equipping rebels in a future conflict were, in effect, committing active treason. Given that fact, such activities were so clandestine that little evidence survives detailing who produced such guns and in what quantities.

Today, few verifiable Committee of Safety muskets survive with any sort of rock-solid provenance. However, many longarms exist with the kinds of features that suggest they could have been produced in such circumstances and remain a testament not only to the resolve of American colonists determined to forge their own destinies, but also to the capabilities of domestic gunsmiths across the colonies, thousands of whom would play a role in building and servicing small arms throughout the course of the American Revolution.

Rifles of the Revolution

Often imbued with downright mythological capabilities, the vaunted American longrifle had several notable



features born of the needs of settlers and frontiersmen who lived and worked for long periods away from any supply source. Its distinctive long barrel served two purposes: It provided enough room to maximize the slow burn of black powder, allowing riflemen to make the most of a

At the outset of the American Revolution, King George III called for 30,000 Hessian troops, and several thousand were equipped with accurate, handy Jäger carbines. Illustrations courtesy Don Troiani

meager charge of what was likely lower-quality powder, and it offered a lengthened sight radius for longer, more precise shots. Instead of the .60- to .70-caliber bore sizes often seen on the German Jägers that inspired their creation, American rifles generally had bores of .50 caliber or smaller. This allowed riflemen to carry more ammunition for the same given weight. A smaller projectile also required less powder, further maximizing their powder supply.

Despite these advantages, longrifles had one significant drawback compared to smoothbore guns of the era: reloading time. To ensure an accurate, precise shot, longrifles had to be slowly and methodically loaded with a tightly patched ball that would be pressed into the rifling as it traveled down the bore. Consequently, rates of fire for longrifles averaged about one shot per minute, compared with the three shots a minute for a contemporary military musket loaded with paper cartridges. For a frontiersman taking a solitary



Gen. Israel Putnam led a company of Maryland riflemen into battle at Harlem Heights in 1776, including the famous "Maryland 400" clad in purple hunting shirts.

shot on game, reloading time was not a significant consideration. On the 18th-century battlefield, this drawback would have serious ramifications.

The American longrifle design was largely derived from the German Jäger rifle, which also appeared in the American Revolution. Barrel rifling as a practice likely emerged in what is now modern Germany in the early 16th century, and by the mid-to-late 17th century, a style of short hunting rifle had materialized that was closely associated with those who employed them, so much so that the German word for "hunter" has been inextricably linked with this particular pattern of longarm.

King George III called for 30,000 Hessian mercenaries to

quell the American rebellion, and several thousand of those troops were elite marksmen who employed the Jägerbüchse to great effect. In the disastrous August 1776 battles fought on Long Island, rifle-equipped Hessians swept away American troops from several positions, illustrating the impact that well-aimed fire could have on the battlefield.

In the same year that German Jäger units illustrated



Patrick Ferguson's company of riflemen employed their novel breechloaders for only a short time.

their prowess outside New York City, the British military, fearful that longrifle-wielding Americans might have an outsized impact on the course of the conflict, began issuing its first-ever military rifle: the Pattern 1776.

Ultimately, 1,000 Pattern 1776 rifles, 200 of which were Hanoverian designs produced in Germany, were taken into British service during the American Revolution. Of .62 caliber and having a 28-inch swamped barrel, the Pattern 1776 was an incredibly handy firearm for the era, weighing a relatively svelte 8.5 pounds compared with the 10-pound infantry musket employed by most troops. One of only two rifles in British military history designed for simultaneous use by both infantry and mounted units, the rifle employed a captured ramrod that was affixed to the gun by two opposing swivels, ensuring that cavalymen couldn't lose their ramrod when reloading on horseback.

Concurrently, British Army Maj. Patrick Ferguson successfully lobbied for the British military to employ his novel rifle design on a trial basis, following a successful demonstration for senior officers on April 27, 1776, during which he fired "five good shots into a target in the space of a minute." His rapid, accurate fire was aided by the fact that Ferguson's rifle did not require muzzleloading.

Instead, the trigger guard formed a handle for a large, vertically oriented screw that served as the

- Continued on Page 11, Guns -



Profiles of Valor:

PO1 Marcus Luttrell (USN)

"In the middle of everything evil, in an evil place, you can find goodness."

Mark Alexander

Marcus Luttrell is a fifth-generation Texan. He and his twin brother Morgan were born in 1975 and raised on a horse ranch. Like all Texas boys, they liked to hunt and fish and, you know, wrestle alligators!

The boys were destined to become warriors, influenced by a long line of family Veterans who have served in every 20th-century conflict. Marcus and Morgan set their sights on becoming Navy SEALs when they were teenagers. At age 14, with the help of Billy Shelton, a former Green Beret who lived nearby, they started training early to ensure that they would make it.

After graduating high school and a few years at Sam Houston State University, Marcus enlisted in the Navy in 1999. After boot camp and Hospital Corpsman A-school, he entered Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S), Class 226, the Naval Special Warfare Command's 26-week SEAL training course. He suffered a fractured femur but would recover sufficiently to graduate a year later with Class 228. He followed BUD/S with the Special Operations Combat Medic (SOCM) course and graduated 18 Delta in 2001, becoming a Team Medic.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Luttrell describes himself as a God-fearing Christian and East Texas redneck, and despite his friendly demeanor, his 6'5" 240 lb. frame made him an imposing adversary.

Marcus first deployed to Iraq with SEAL Team 5 in April 2003, part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, assigned to destroy the remaining Iraqi resistance.

In 2005, he was deployed to Afghanistan, and that is where we pick up his story from a previous profile of

Medal of Honor recipient LT Michael Murphy.

On June 28, 2005, then-30-year-old Hospital Corpsman PO1 Marcus Luttrell was part of a four-man SEAL recon and surveillance team led by 29-year-old LT Murphy. The team also included 25-year-old Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Danny Dietz and 29-year-old Sonar Technician 2nd Class Matt Axelson.

Their counterinsurgent mission was code-named Operation Red Wings in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The tragic result of that mission was a story of Valor against overwhelming odds.

The SEALs were dropped by helicopter at 10,000 feet in the Hindu Kush mountains, deep into enemy territory near the Pakistan border. Their mission was to track down a brutal Taliban terrorist, Ahmad Sha, leader of a guerrilla cadre known as the "Mountain Tigers."

Soon after the drop, their team was discovered by local goat herders, whom they decided to release.

The consequence of releasing them on the outside chance they would not expose the SEAL team position was a deadly miscalculation. The herders turned out to be Taliban sympathizers who alerted the local militia, and in the firefight that followed soon thereafter against more than 50 Taliban Islamists, each of the SEALs was wounded.

LT Murphy deliberately exposed himself to intense enemy fire in order to reach an open position where he could call for the extraction of his team. Shot a second time in the back, Murph was able to successfully contact the SOF Quick Reaction Force (QRF) at Bagram Air Base. The QRF responded to the call on two MH-47 Chinook helicopters, one flown by eight Army Night Stalkers from the 160th SOAR with eight additional SEALs on board. The Chinooks were escorted in by heavily armored Army attack helicopters.

Once over the surrounded SEAL team on the ground, Red Wings 11, the Chinook with the SEALs and Night Stalkers, was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade, causing catastrophic airframe failure and a crash into the mountainside, killing all 16 warriors on board. On that fateful day, three of the four SEALs on the ground were also killed, bringing the total of special operations forces who perished to 19.

It was the largest single-day loss of life in Operation

- Continued on Page 12, Valor -

- From Page 9, Guns -

breech of the gun, and it could be opened and closed with a single revolution of the trigger guard. When



The 4th division of Ferguson's American Volunteers operated in pairs, one firing a Pattern 1776 rifle and the other using a Brown Bess musket.

opened, a rifleman simply inserted a projectile and the requisite amount of powder, then turned the breech closed, primed and fired. It offered the rapid fire of a musket with the accuracy of a rifle and was a truly revolutionary design for the British military, albeit inspired by advancements from earlier gunmakers.

Ferguson was given command of a company of riflemen, each equipped with his breechloading rifle, and they set sail for America in March 1777. By June, they were engaged in battle, acting as scouts and skirmishers for Gen. Wilhelm von Knyphausen during the fight for Philadelphia. At the Battle of Brandywine in September 1777, Ferguson was badly wounded in the arm and required a year to recover. During this time, his experimental company was disbanded, with the men returning to their original units.

Ferguson himself returned to combat in 1778, but was soon killed in South Carolina at the Battle of King's Mountain, ironically by longrifle-wielding Americans. Any hopes of resurrecting a British rifle corps during the American Revolution expired with him. Of the 100 Ferguson rifles that came to North America, only two survive today. But Ferguson's rifle, along with the Pattern 1776 and the employment of German Jägers, provided a proof of concept that would inspire a new generation of riflemen and military leaders.

While the outcome of the American Revolution was governed more by politics than it was by American feats of arms, the battlefields of North America from 1775 to 1783 nonetheless served as a proving ground for several new styles of military longarms. Over the coming decades, these lessons would coalesce into greater concepts, resulting in the development and

employment of rifles on a wider basis. For the field of military small arms, as well as the future of human liberty, the rebellion in the New World was a revolution in more ways than one.

https://www.americanrifleman.org/content/the-guns-of-the-american-revolution/?utm_source=newsletter

People Who Made America Great



John Paul Jones

John Paul Jones (July 6, 1747 – July 18, 1792) was a naval commander in the American Revolution and is often considered the "Father of the American Navy." A bold and aggressive seafarer, he achieved legendary status for his victory over the British warship HMS Serapis during a dramatic battle off the English coast. When asked to surrender, he famously replied, "I have not yet begun to fight!" His daring exploits boosted American morale and earned him respect in Europe and America alike. After the war, he briefly served in the Russian navy before dying in Paris.

The epic Bonhomme Richard vs. Serapis battle in 1779 is still taught in naval academies. Jones' defiant spirit turned the tide of the engagement even as his ship was burning and sinking. His remains were lost for over a century until being discovered in 1905 and reinterred with honor at the U.S. Naval Academy. John Paul Jones remains a symbol of naval tenacity and American resolve. His legacy lives on in ships bearing his name and in naval tradition.

- From Page 10, Valor -

Enduring Freedom and the worst loss for Naval Special Warfare operators since World War II.

Marcus, who was blown over a ridge side by an RPG and rendered unconscious, was the Lone Survivor that day, as outlined in his outstanding book by that title.

He says in retrospect: "If this came to a vote, as it might, Axe was going to recommend the execution of the three Afghans. And in my soul, I knew he was right. We could not possibly turn them loose. But my trouble is, I have another soul. My Christian soul. And it was crowding in on me. Something kept whispering in the back of my mind, it would be wrong to execute these unarmed men in cold blood."

With a bullet wound to one leg, shrapnel embedded in both legs, and three vertebrae cracked, he managed to evade enemy combatants over the next four days, the last three of which he survived with the aid of sympathetic Afghan villagers. The Taliban confronted those villagers several times, but they refused to give up Luttrell. One villager took a note from Marcus to a Marine outpost, and a massive operation was launched to successfully rescue him.

Of the help he received from those villagers, Marcus says: "In the middle of everything evil, in an evil place, you can find goodness. ... I'd even call it godliness."

For his extraordinary heroism that day, LT Michael Murphy was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Luttrell was awarded the Navy Cross, the USN's second-highest decoration under the Medal of Honor, and his teammates Danny Dietz and Matt Axelson were posthumously awarded the Navy Cross.

Marcus wears his Navy Cross on behalf of all his fellow special operators who perished in Operation Red Wings. He still lives by the SEAL Creed: "I will never quit. My nation expects me to be physically harder and mentally stronger than my enemies. If knocked down I will get back up, every time. I will draw on every remaining ounce of strength to protect my teammates and to accomplish our mission. I am never out of the fight."

I have had the privilege of spending time with Marcus and his wife Melanie, and they are both humble Patriots. They still live in Texas with their kids.

- Continued on Page 19, Valor -



Sons of Liberty

Sons of Liberty was an organization formed in the American colonies in the summer of 1765 to oppose the Stamp Act.

The Sons of Liberty took their name from this speech given in the British Parliament by Isaac Barré (February 1765), in which he referred to the colonials who had opposed unjust British measures as the "Sons of Liberty."

The origins of the Sons of Liberty are unclear, but some of the organization's roots can be traced to the Loyal Nine, a secretive Boston political organization.

The Boston chapter of the Sons of Liberty often met under cover of darkness beneath the "Liberty Tree," a stately elm tree in Hanover Square.

On August 14, 1765, violence broke out in colonial Boston. Over the course of that day and several ensuing days, rioters attacked several buildings in the city, including the homes of colonial officials.

The Sons of Liberty later rallied support for colonial resistance through the use of petitions, assemblies and propaganda, and they sometimes resorted to violence against British officials.

Instrumental in preventing the enforcement of the Stamp Act, they remained an active pre-Revolutionary force against the crown. (Britannica)

Due to the increasing success of the Sons of Liberty, the British Parliament eased many of the duties in the colonies.

However, the Parliament continued the high tax on tea, as the British Crown desperately needed money.

In 1773, the refusal to pay for British tea on behalf of the colonists fell upon deaf ears; on the night of December 16, 1773, the Sons of Liberty boarded the trade ships docked in Griffin's Wharf and threw the shipments of tea overboard in an event known as the

- Continued on Page 14, Liberty -

- From Page 5, Declaration -

nature, and actuated by every principle of liberality, from too sad experience are convinced of the wicked schemes of their treacherous rulers to fetter them with the chains of servitude, and rob them of every noble and desirable privilege which distinguishes them as freemen, — justice, humanity, and the immutable laws of God, justify and support them in revoking those sacred trusts which are so impiously violated, and placing them in such hands as are most likely to execute them in the manner and for the important ends for which they were first given.[5]

From New York “mechanics” to Massachusetts farmers to southern gentry, a wide swath of the colonials declared in favor of independence. Reflecting the will of their constituents, assemblies or conventions for each colony, de facto ruling bodies since the outbreak of armed rebellion, then instructed their delegates at the Continental Congress to finalize a break from British rule.

New Hampshire House of Representatives, on June 15, 1776:

Our delegates at the Continental Congress . . . are hereby instructed to join with the other colonies in declaring the 13 United Colonies, a free and independent state, solemnly pledging our faith and honor that we will, on our parts, support the measure with our lives and fortunes; and that in consequence thereof, they, the Continental Congress, on whose wisdom, fidelity, and integrity, we firmly rely, may enter into and form such alliances with foreign states for aid and assistance as they may judge most conducive to the present safety and future advantage of these American Colonies: Provided the regulation of our internal police be under the direction of our own Assembly.[6]

On June 12, 1776, the Virginia Convention, in its “Declaration of Rights,” made a forceful case for independence, initially drafted by George Mason:

I. That all men are by nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.

II. That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people; that magistrates are their trustees

and servants, and at all times amenable to them.

III. That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation or community; of all the various modes and forms of government that is best, which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness and safety and is most effectually secured against the danger of maladministration; and that, whenever any government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, a majority of the community hath an indubitable, unalienable, and indefeasible right to reform, alter or abolish it, in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public weal.

Virginia’s Declaration of Rights appeared in the Pennsylvania Gazette the day after Thomas Jefferson and four others were appointed to a committee charged with composing a national declaration. Committee members no doubt examined Mason’s wording. Two weeks later, they presented a refinement, the finalized Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with inherent and inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

The committee’s prose, primarily the work of Jefferson, flows more smoothly than Mason’s, but other than its implicit tribute to a “Creator,” it introduces no new concepts. This was a time of frenzied but collective agitation, and the Revolution’s participants often used each other’s words and propositions. Mason was certainly familiar with Jefferson’s own Summary View of the Rights of British America, written two years earlier. Undoubtedly, both men had read classic English and Scottish works that espoused revolutionary principles, and both used parlance common among their peers. Mason and Jefferson were tapping into the same rich sources.

- Continued on Page 14, Declaration -

- From Page 13, Declaration -

Pauline Maier's extensive research certainly broadens the story, but the push for true independence dates back to the early fall of 1774, when communities throughout the hinterlands of Massachusetts overthrew British rule.[7] On October 4, 1774, exactly 21 months before the Continental Congress published a national declaration of independence, the town meeting of Worcester, Massachusetts, instructed blacksmith Timothy Bigelow, its representative at the forthcoming Provincial Congress, to initiate a final and complete break from British rule:

You are to consider the people of this province absolved, on their part, from the obligation therein contained [the 1691 Massachusetts Charter], and to all intents and purposes reduced to a state of nature; and you are to exert yourself in devising ways and means to raise from the dissolution of the old constitution, as from the ashes of the Phenix, a new form, wherein all officers shall be dependent on the suffrages of the people, whatever unfavorable constructions our enemies may put upon such procedure.[8]

When members of the Continental Congress voted for independence on July 2, 1774, and two days later explained to the world this momentous move, they did so with support from a broad swath of their constituents.

[1] Peter Force, ed., American Archives, Fourth Series (Washington, DC 1833-46), 6:704.

[2] Force, ed., American Archives, Fourth Series, 6:701-2.

[3] Force, ed., American Archives, Fourth Series, 6:614-5.

[4] Force, ed., American Archives, Fourth Series, 6:933.

[5] Force, ed., American Archives, Fourth Series, 6:515-516.

[6] Force, ed., American Archives, Fourth Series, 6:1030.

[7] Ray Raphael, The First American Revolution: Before Lexington and Concord (New York: The New Press), 2002; Ray Raphael and Marie Raphael, The Spirit of '74: How the American Revolution Began (New York: The New Press, 2016).

[8] Worcester Town Records, Worcester City Hall, reprinted in Franklin P. Rice, ed., Worcester Town

Records from 1753 to 1783 (Worcester: Worcester Society of Antiquity, 1882), 244. These instructions can be viewed on the documents page of rayraphael.com, <http://www.rayraphael.com/documents.htm>, or in Ray Raphael, "Instructions: The People's Voice in Revolutionary America," Common-Place 9:1 (October 2008), commonplace.online/article/instructions-the-peoples-voice-in-revolutionary-america/. For context, see Ray Raphael, "When Some Americans First Lost Their Constitution," Journal of the American Revolution, March 3, 2026, allthingsliberty.com/2026/03/when-some-americans-first-lost-their-constitution/; Ray Raphael The First American Revolution: Before Lexington and Concord (New York: The New Press, 2004); and Ray Raphael and Marie Raphael, The Spirit of '74: How the American Revolution Began (New York: The New Press, 2015).

<https://allthingsliberty.com/2026/06/declarations-before-the-declaration-of-independence/>

- From Page 12, Liberty -

Boston Tea Party.

Eventually, the patriotic resistance to British rule became too much to handle, and revolution and war was inevitable.

When lawmakers of Virginia gathered in 1775 to discuss negotiations with the British King, Sons of Liberty member, Patrick Henry exclaimed to the Second Virginia Convention "Give me liberty or give me death!"

Thus, cementing the American stance for independence and starting the American commitment to the Revolutionary War.

Presented by: The Hawaii Society Sons of the American Revolution <https://hawaiisar.org/>

For more: <https://tinyurl.com/bddxu3nt>



1765 Sons of Liberty Flag

This Day in History

July 1, 1863

The Battle of Gettysburg begins during the American Civil War. Lasting three days, it becomes one of the bloodiest battles in the conflict and a turning point in favor of the Union.

July 2, 1776

The Continental Congress officially votes for independence from Britain. Two days later, the Declaration of Independence is formally adopted, celebrated as Independence Day.

July 3, 1863

The Battle of Gettysburg concludes with a decisive Union victory. Confederate forces, led by General Robert E. Lee, are forced to retreat, marking a pivotal moment in the Civil War.

July 4, 1776

The Declaration of Independence is adopted, marking the United States' official break from British rule. Independence Day is celebrated annually on this date across the nation.

July 6, 1885

Louis Pasteur successfully tests his rabies vaccine on a human patient, a major medical milestone. This leads to life-saving vaccines and influences vaccine development worldwide, including in the U.S.

July 7, 1898

President William McKinley signs a resolution to annex Hawaii, marking it as a U.S. territory. This strategic acquisition later supports U.S. military presence in the Pacific.

July 8, 1777

Vermont abolishes slavery, becoming the first U.S. territory to do so. This action sets a precedent for abolitionist movements in the northern states.

July 9, 1868

The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, granting citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, including formerly enslaved people. It ensures equal protection under the law, a significant step in civil rights history.

July 11, 1804

Vice President Aaron Burr fatally wounds Alexander Hamilton in a duel. Hamilton, one of the Founding

Fathers, succumbs to his injuries the following day, significantly impacting U.S. politics.

July 12, 1862

President Abraham Lincoln signs a law authorizing the Medal of Honor, the United States' highest military decoration. This award is intended to recognize exceptional acts of bravery during wartime.

July 13, 1863

The New York City Draft Riots erupt in response to conscription laws for the Civil War. The riots become one of the largest civil disturbances in U.S. history, with significant racial violence.

July 14, 1798

President John Adams signs the Sedition Act, which restricts free speech against the government. This controversial law sparks debates on freedom of expression in America.

July 16, 1969

Apollo 11 launches from Kennedy Space Center, carrying astronauts to the first moon landing. This mission culminates with Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin setting foot on the lunar surface on July 20.

July 18, 1947

President Harry Truman signs the Presidential Succession Act, establishing the line of succession beyond the Vice President. This act ensures continuity of leadership in times of crisis.

July 19, 1848

The Seneca Falls Convention, the first women's rights convention in the U.S., begins in Seneca Falls, New York. Attendees advocate for women's suffrage, launching a significant social movement.

July 20, 1969

Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin become the first humans to walk on the moon. Armstrong's famous words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," are broadcast worldwide.

July 21, 1861

The First Battle of Bull Run takes place in Virginia, marking the first major battle of the Civil War. Confederate forces claim victory, highlighting the conflict's potential duration and brutality.

- Continued on Page 16, This Day -

- From Page 15, This Day -

July 22, 1934

Notorious bank robber John Dillinger is killed by federal agents outside the Biograph Theater in Chicago. His death marks the beginning of the FBI's public campaigns against crime.

July 23, 1903

The Ford Motor Company sells its first car, marking a milestone in American industry. Henry Ford's innovations in automobile manufacturing will soon transform transportation.

July 25, 1898

U.S. forces invade Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War. Puerto Rico soon becomes a U.S. territory, a status that continues to evolve in American politics.

July 26, 1948

President Harry Truman issues Executive Order 9981, ending racial segregation in the U.S. military. This landmark decision paves the way for civil rights advancements across the nation.

July 27, 1953

The Korean War armistice is signed, effectively ending active fighting between North and South Korea. U.S. forces had played a significant role in defending South Korea during the three-year conflict.

July 28, 1868

The 14th Amendment is certified as part of the U.S. Constitution, securing citizenship rights and equal protection. This amendment becomes a foundational element of American civil rights.

July 29, 1958

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs the National Aeronautics and Space Act, establishing NASA. This move positions the United States as a leader in space exploration during the Cold War space race.

July 31, 1790

The first U.S. patent is issued to Samuel Hopkins for a method of producing potash, a key ingredient in fertilizer. This patent system fosters American innovation and economic growth.

- From Page 3, Minutes -

2 of the 6 minutemen inducted Monday last.

Compatriot King presented the Secretary's Report:

The minutes were submitted and posted in the newsletter.

No comments or corrections were made.

Motion to approve carried

Compatriot Edmonson gave the Treasurer's Report:

MOSSAR OMCSAR

Beginning Balance: \$14,648.25 \$4,358.66
\$10,289.59

Disbursements to Chapter after Conference expenses
\$2,179.33

Additional Revenue \$390.00

Total Income \$2,569.33

Expenses for Color Guard and medals and awards
\$513.55

Net Income \$2,055.78

Ending Balance Checking Acc. \$12,345.37

2nd Quarter Statement CFO Funds \$10,826.35

CFO Income \$110.43

CFO Expenses (\$27.14)

CFO Balance \$10,909.64

Total Funds \$23,255.01

President Perkins beseeched the membership to snip the little strings on their coin purse and let some fall out if you can, as the Chapter can always use additional donations as we come up with additional projects that take a little extra money.

The Vice-President had nothing to report.

President Perkins gave the Color Guard Report.

We have a bunch of points going toward the Stark Reports so far this year. The Color Guard has just come off a whirlwind of activity, and we are in a lull until the end of August, at which time we will be participating in other events across the State.

President Perkins gave the Genealogist/Registrar Report.

The report shows six applications at State; two are supplements. One is pended due to lack of an official

Birth Certificate, which the prospective member will be providing. The person was born abroad and will need to provide a document that is more officially recognized.

Six prospects: Mr. Taylor, Forester, Clement, Clement, Grant, Stever, and Lawrence. All came in since July 7

Becky Forrester is in the DAR and is helping her husband. Mr. Watson is nearly completed; Alex Scranton's documentation is done and is awaiting signatures and dues. We are working on His father, Jeff's, application. Matt Peterson was ready to go in June but wanted to wait until the special pricing in July.

Current Membership is 129, which includes Dual and Junior members. We are the largest Chapter in the State.

Old Business

State President Ken Lawrence gave a summary of events at the National Conference:

Initiative to change the configurations of all of the National Districts. Missouri is currently in the South-Central District along with Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Under the Proposal, the South-Central District would lose Texas and Oklahoma. They would enter the South District with Louisiana and New Mexico. So that would comprise four States. The South-Central District would pick up Iowa. Which would leave us with a district of four States. The Motion was withdrawn by the Texas society that originally made the motion that we embark on this realignment. Their reason for withdrawing the proposal was to refer it to committee, and it is currently being reviewed and will be reintroduced at a later date.

Another major change was to the leadership; a motion was made to change the chain of command. An Executive Vice-President would be in line directly beneath the General President and would assume all clerical duties of the President General. This Vice-President would remain close to Louisville and assume those duties at Headquarters. This will free up the President General to spread his face, if you will, across the Nation. Attending more events to hopefully drive membership and to increase his and the National Society's exposure. The motion passed; however, it was not by a 2/3rd vote. Therefore, it failed. I am confident it will be reintroduced at the next Congress.

There was a big push for A Strategic Plan Initiative. National wants the Society to look into the future. They will be providing guidelines for all Chapters and State Societies to implement the Strategic Plan. The National Society will be pushing the plan out this year to the State societies, and it will eventually trickle down to the Chapter level. A council of state Presidents was put in place, and the state Vice Presidents have been assigned to work on the plan proactively to understand how the states and chapters will fit into the plan. This will be a conduit of communication between the States and the Chapter Presidents. The following National Officers were elected: Alan Greenley, President General; Brooks Lyles, Vice President General; Scott Collins, Treasurer General; Keith Wisinger, Registrar; Wayne Els, Genealogist; James Osborne, Librarian General.

New Business

There will be no Meeting in the Month of August 2026. Everyone will have the month off.

Chaplain Philbrick gave the Benediction.

President General Appleby led the Recessional.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:48 A.M.

Birthday's

Branden George	7-1
Jason Stewart	7-1
Grant Knowlton	7-2
Rodney Grewe	7-3
Curtis Trent	7-4
Flavian Leavitt	7-6
Joseph Walker	7-12
Bryan Bacher	7-17
Benjamin Clemmons	7-18
Ryan Wade	7-19
Daniel McMurray	7-20
Charles McMillan	7-25
Dale Brake	7-30

Awards and Events

June 27, 2026

College of the Ozarks "Hard Work U", America 250 Honors celebration

The Ozark Mountain Color Guard were honored to participate in the Patriotic Program at sunset by advancing colors and presenting before the thousands gathered for a great celebration. The evening began with three music groups taking the stage beginning 6 p.m. and leading up to the reading of the Declaration of Independence after which the Color Guard were announced to march forward and present colors. The college's concert band played the national anthem setting the stage for a drone show and fireworks to conclude the night. Participating were Jeff Hicks, Gary Gift, Jim Blanton, Joe Walker, and Commander Steve Perkins.



On July 3rd, the OMC Color Guard was at Branson Landing for their annual Light Up Liberty Celebration. The Color Guard presented Colors for the singing of the National Anthem. Members present were: Dan Piedlow, Gary Gift, Alex Scranton, Jeff Hicks, and Steve Perkins.

Awards and Events

Honor Flight 07 July 2026

By Past President Charles McMillan

I attended the Honor Flight at the Springfield/Branson National Airport in Color Guard attire.

I had the privilege of shaking the hand of every veteran who had gone on the trip to DC. They truly appreciate the public meeting them on their return.

I also met the public and love to perform a little "Public Relations." There were many pictures taken with me... kids and older ones alike. They are drawn to the uniform and ask questions. This allows me to explain the Sons of the American Revolution and the Ozark Mountain Chapter, and my grandfather's participation in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

I met Korean War Veteran Walt Peterson. Walt was in Korea in 1955... I was there in 1989... conditions were a little bit different for both of us.

I also met Anna Hall, Miss Missouri Teen 2026. Anna recently graduated from the School of the Ozarks and founded Project Wallflower to support young girls with social anxiety.



- From Page 12, Valor -

Of note, his twin brother also became a Navy SEAL and now serves as Rep. Morgan Luttrell (R-TX) in Congress. He joins other outstanding Texas warriors there, including fellow SEAL Rep. Dan Crenshaw.

PO1 Marcus Luttrell and your fellow SEAL operators and Army Night Stalkers: Your examples of valor — American Patriots defending Liberty for all above and beyond the call of duty, and in disregard for the peril to your own life — is eternal.

"Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for his friends." (John 15:13)

Live your life worthy of his sacrifice.

Semper Vigilans Fortis Paratus et Fidelis

Pro Deo et Libertate — 1776

https://patriotpost.us/alexander/108613?mailing_id=8546&subscription_uuid=b6666ccb-7d37-4607-b40f-88d0603e9482&utm_medium=email&utm_source=pp_email.8546&utm_campaign=weekend_snapshot&utm_content=body



Awards and Events



July 8th at the Greene County Courthouse for the reading of the Declaration of Independence by the DAR. Color Guard in attendance are: Keith Chester, Steve Perkins, Jeff Hicks, Dan McMurray, Gary Gift, and Dan Piedlow, photographer.

The OMC "Color Guard is active" just might be an understatement. They participated in six events from June 27 through July 8 and now gratefully can rest until late August.

On June 27, Gary Gift and Steve Perkins traveled to Linn Creek for its 250th celebration which included a short parade of flags to the town hall where the flag was lowered and a new flag raised, followed by a single volley. Musket drills and training followed at the local Historical Society...the center of activities.

On return home and a short rest, Jim Blanton, Gary Gift, Dr. Jeff Hicks and Steve Perkins went to College of the Ozarks for our first-ever participation their annual celebration for America's independence. This year was special by honoring the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The guard advanced colors at the start of the patriotic segment. This event was attended by perhaps 2500 people, who were first entertained by three music groups. A drone and fireworks display was well worth the stay.

On July 3, Branson held its annual "Liberty Light Up" celebration. Prospective member Alex Scranton in a full soldier's uniform, helped advance colors onto the main stage during the singing of the National Anthem. That was immediately followed by a single volley of muskets. Steve Perkins, Gary Gift, Dan Piedlow, Jeff Hicks, and Alex gave the crowd something to cheer at and began chanting USA!



July 8th at the Springfield National Cemetery for the reading of the Declaration of Independence by the OMC President Steve Perkins, and Gary Gift. In attendance are: Norman Knowlton, Jeff Hicks, Steve Perkins, Gary Gift, Dan McMurray, Keith Chester, and George Swales.



July 4 the attending guard of Perkins, Gift, Walker, and Keith Chester kicked off the Meadowmere neighborhood annual parade. Also present was Norm Knowlton and his wife, and hosts Howard and Jan Fisk. This was the 50th year of the parade, which attracts nearby residents, children, pets, and some creative floats. Perkins led all in the singing of the national anthem. There may have been 200 or more people who walked the parade around the 4 square block neighborhood.

On July 8 guard participated in two events that centered on the 250th anniversary of the reading of the Declaration of Independence through much of

Awards and Events



July 8th at the Aurora Courthouse, Compatriot Joe Walker (above), and at the Marionville Lodge, Compatriot Rod Grewe, reading the Declaration of Independence at 5:00 PM.



the colonies. At 2 p.m. Greene County officials hosted an event before 250-300 people squeezed into the rotunda of the historic courthouse. The highlight was the reading of the Declaration by former governor Jay Nixon, who is a direct descendant of his ancestor Col. John Nixon who in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776, was the actual reader of same before the public who gathered at the tolling of bells throughout the city. Former Governor and US Attorney General John Ashcroft and former Judge Max Bacon led everyone in the singing of the National Anthem. Gary Gift, Dan Piedlow, Keith Chester, Dan Philbrick, Dan McMurray, Dr. Jeff Hicks, and Steve Perkins advanced and posted colors. The DAR joined in and posted their DAR flag. Howard Fisk provided an introduction at the beginning of the ceremony. George Swales and wife Margaret were also in attendance, as well as other chapter members.

At 5:00 p.m. Gary Gift, Dan Piedlow, Keith Chester, Dan McMurray, Dr. Jeff Hicks, and Steve Perkins, as well and Mr. & Mrs. Swales and Norm Knowlton were present for the reading of the Declaration at the Springfield National Cemetery. Photos by Margaret Swales and Dan Piedlow.

Important Dates in History

July 1, 1776: At the instigation of British agents, the Cherokee attack along the entire southern frontier

July 1–4, 1776: Congress debates and revises the Declaration of Independence

July 3, 1775: George Washington assumes command of the Army outside Boston

July 4, 1776: Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence

July 4, 1778: George Rogers Clark captures Kaskaskia, in modern Illinois

July 5, 1775: Olive Branch Petition

July 5, 1777: British capture Fort Ticonderoga

July 6, 1781: "Mad" Anthony Wayne repulsed at Green Springs Farm, VA

July 8, 1779: Fairfield, CT, burned by British

July 11, 1779: Norwalk, CT, burned by British

July 11, 1780: French troops arrive at Newport, RI, to aid the American cause

July 11, 1782: British evacuate Savannah, GA

July 15–16, 1779: American "Mad" Anthony Wayne captures Stony Point, NY

July 15, 1776: Lyndley's Fort, SC, Patriots fend off attack by Indians and Tories dressed as Indians

July 27, 1777: Lafayette arrives in Philadelphia

Awards and Events



The Missouri contingent at the National Congress in Greensboro, NC. The Ozark Mountain Chapter members in attendance are: Dan McMurray (new member of the Minuteman Award, and in the white coat), Ken Lawrence (next to Dan), and Gerald McCoy (far right).



During the monthly meeting on July 18th, the chapter had a reading of three Compatriots we have lost this year. Chapter Chaplain Dan Philbrick is reading the biography of the members, who were: Gerry Gerhart, Peter Rea, and Samuel Freeman II.



OMC President Steve Perkins presenting the widows, Darlene Rae (C), and Carol Gerhart (L) of two of our Compatriots.



Compatriots Dan Pledlow (L), and Gary Gift (R) in the Mourn Arms for our lost Compatriots.



OMC President Steve Perkins (R) with three of our tour members who are awardees of the Minuteman Award. They are (L-R): Gerald McCoy, Dan McMurray, and David Appleby. The fourth OMC member who is a Minuteman is J. Howard Fisk.

Awards and Events



Above: The July 4th parade on Meadowmere. Color Guard in attendance were (L-R): Keith Chester, Gary Gift, Joe Walker, and Steve Perkins.

Right: Color Guard at the beginning of the parade.

Upcoming Events



Friday, August 14 at 10:00 AM, the OMC will be having an event celebrating the birthday for General Nathanael Greene, at the Greene County Historic Courthouse, 940 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield. This event is for everyone. Color Guard muster at 9:30, outside the courthouse.



Saturday, August 29 at 2:00 PM, the OMC Color Guard will be participating in the Lamar Free Fair Parade. The Sgt. Ariel Nims Chapter will be having a 20 foot trailer for Color Guard to ride on. Float riders need to arrive at 1:15 PM. See flier below.



Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30 PM, the monthly Chapter Development meeting will be held at Steve's home. All members are welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events



Saturday, September 12 at 6:00 PM, the OMC will be having a Flag Retirement Ceremony at Camp Arrowhead, BSA, 4202 State Hwy DD, Marshfield, MO 65706.



Saturday, September 19 at 9:30 AM, the OMC chapter meeting will be held at Ozarks Technical Community College, 1001 E. Chestnut Expy., Springfield. All are encouraged to attend.



Thursday to Saturday, October 1-3, the NSSAR Fall Leadership Conference will be held at the National Headquarters, 809 W. Main St., Louisville, KY 40202. All members are invited to attend. See the national website for more information.



Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 PM, the monthly Chapter Development meeting will be held at Steve's home. All members are welcome to attend.



Saturday, October 17 at 9:30 AM, the OMC chapter meeting will be held at Ozarks Technical Community College, 1001 E. Chestnut Expy., Springfield. All are encouraged to attend.



Saturday, October 17 at 11:00 AM, the MOSSAR has been invited to attend the unveiling of the Architects of Freedom Memorial Monument at Fort Leonard Wood Cemetery, 25350 Highway H, Waynesville, MO 65583. THIS IS A STATE COLOR GUARD MUSTER EVENT. Color Guard muster at 9:45 AM. See flier below.

Lamar Free Fair Parade



Where: Lamar Mo

When: August 29th

Parade starts at 2:00 p.m.

Muster Location: 7th and Gulf

We cordially invite all SAR & DAR Chapters to join us.

Floats need to arrive at 12:15 p.m.

Float riders need to arrive at 1:15.

We will also have a Color Guard Processional.

Please contact me Prior to August 29th if you are interested in joining the parade or being part of the Color Guard Processional.

Brian Willet

Sgt. Ariel Nims Chapter

816-872-5856

tiger1984@currently.com

- **Sgt. Ariel Nims Chapter will have a 20 ft. trailer for riders.**
- **All Chapters are welcome to bring their own trailer/floats or you can walk with a banner.**
- **We will have flags for all chapters to pass out during the parade. You are welcome to bring candy to pass out as well.**
- **The parade route is approximately 1 mile.**



DAR
Daughters of the American Revolution

★ **AMERICA 250** ★

★ **HONORING 250 YEARS OF LIBERTY** ★

1776 ★ 2026

— ★ **JOIN US** ★ —

AS WE DEDICATE THE

ARCHITECTS OF FREEDOM MONUMENT

HONORING

**AMERICAN PATRIOTS
FROM THE
REVOLUTIONARY WAR**

*Who secured our independence,
established our Republic, and
laid the foundation of the freedoms
we cherish today.*

★
**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 17, 2026**

★ **11:00 AM** ★

MISSOURI VETERANS CEMETERY

Fort Leonard Wood

25350 Highway H

Waynesville, MO 65583



The Architects of Freedom

Dedicated to the brave Patriots
whose unshakable resolve
secured the blessings of liberty
for generations to come. Two
and a half centuries later, their
courage remains the bedrock
of our Republic. We stand as
witnesses to their valor.

America 250



17 October 2026
Ozark Patriots Chapter
Sons of the American Revolution

**AMERICA
250**

1776 ★ 2026

★★★★★
*Their Courage Built a Nation.
Our Gratitude Preserves It.*



**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
REVOLUTION**

REMEMBERING OUR PAST ★ HONORING OUR PATRIOTS ★ INSPIRING OUR FUTURE

OMC Members:

As you may have read in our latest OMC Newsletter, our Chapter is initiating a fundraiser for chapter projects. OMC has become a premier state chapter through a commitment toward public-facing projects. This is essential to its dedication toward the SAR Mission.

We are a 501(c)(3) Charitable Tax Exempt organization and any donations to our chapter outside of our dues can be considered a charitable tax donation.

To offset the costs of some of these services, events, and projects, we invite and encourage chapter members to donate to any of our Youth and Service Programs. Donations that are not used during a year when the donation is made may be transferred to our general projects fund to be used for other unfunded or underfunded programs.

These are some of our chapter programs and their approximate costs:

- Medals and Awards \$800
- Flag Awards and Certificates \$400
- Public Service Awards \$200
- Eagle Scout Award \$250
- JROTC/ROTC Awards \$350
- CAR Award \$50
- Teacher of the Year Award \$250
- Youth Brochure Awardees \$300
- Youth Poster Awardees \$300
- Knight Essay Award \$250
- Rumbaugh Oration Award \$250

OMC special “one-off” projects include permanent Interstate Highway 44 memorial signs at the east & west county line recognizing Revolutionary War General Nathaneal Greene as Greene County’s Patriot. Cost est. is \$2000.

Also, the historic Greene County Courthouse installing a bronze plaque displaying the names of all known Revolutionary War Patriots who settled in Greene County upon its founding. Cost is about \$2000 dollars.

Chapter leadership humbly asks you to consider donating and sponsoring in any amounts (small or large) to help fund our programs. We will acknowledge receipt for tax purposes. THANK YOU!!!

Cut below line and include with donation.

Your name: _____ Email: _____

Please make your check payable to **Ozark Mountain SAR**, and mail to:

OMC, P.O. Box 11014, Springfield, MO 65808-1014

I am honored to help fund the following project(s) 1. _____ amount \$ _____
2. _____ amount \$ _____