

THE PATRIOT



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Missouri SAR



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VOLUME 43 ISSUE 12 OZARK MOUNTAIN CHAPTER SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION DECEMBER 2023



The President's Message

By President Crismon Brayman

Introduction. December went quick and here it is 2024! I pray that each of you had a blessed Christmas and are off to a wonderful new year. Of course, December is always awesome...a time for family...a time for remembering Christ...a time to reflect on how tough those Christmas times must have been for those fighting in the American Revolution. All that is printed, tells us that George Washington's Army had it rough, especially in the winter of 1777 at Valley Forge. But the Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR certainly honored our history and heritage in December.

Highlights from December. December activities included 'Christmas at the Courthouse.' Three of us supported the event and showed our muskets, a laptop presentation, our marching drum and of course our colonial uniforms. It was beautiful and we had a great upfront location.

On 7 Dec, we honored those who fell during the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941. We took care to honor that event at precisely the same time as the attack (0748 Hawaii time, which was 1248 here). Did you know that 88 Missourians fell at Pearl Harbor? And, on 15 Dec, OMCSAR hosted the CAR (Children of the American Revolution), hosted by Charles McMillan at the Hickory Hills Country Club. The state CAR president, Eliana Henry, Pat Haas from the

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Rachel Donelson Chapter DARDAR, and our MOSSAR president David Shaul attended. We also were blessed by a rendition involving the history of the Boston Tea Party! Both CAR president Eliana Henry and MOSSAR president visited with us during our December chapter meeting on 16 December and President Shaul marched in the Color Guard at our 'Wreaths Across America' event at Springfield National Cemetery.

Our Mission. Yes again, as always, I want to remind
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December Meeting Minutes

OMC's 16 December 2023 meeting at the OTC Campus was called to order at 9:10 a.m., colors presented with musket guards, followed by Chaplain Philbrick's invocation and pledges to the flag and SAR. Prior to same, the Color Guard and a nice showing of chapter members met at the Springfield National Cemetery at 8:00 a.m. where Patriot William Freeman was recognized as part of Wreaths Across America.

President Brayman recognized State President David Shaul and CAR State President Eliana Stewart. New member first-time attendees Sam Freeman, Chas Boggs, David Carmichael, and Timothy Smith were recognized.

Missouri CAR President Eliana Stewart spoke about her fundraising project, the purpose of which is to support veteran causes and needs, such as service dogs, honor flights, Fischer House, etc. She is promoting the "Circle the Wagons" event in Lebanon 2024 Memorial Day weekend. Friday evening, she presented on the Boston Tea Party, along with Pat Haas and Sarah Stewart of the DAR. The Tea Party timeline was very informative.

State SAR President David Shaul spoke to attendees about veterans, their service, and their sacrifice. They have through the past 250 years been honored. But Shaul reminded of one stain on this country's effort to honor: Vietnam. For nearly 2 decades, they did not receive their just respect and honor for serving. They followed the orders from Command. President Shaul shifted to what Eliana is doing, and her dedication to the CAR mission and to the DAR as well. He passed the tri-corn asking for people to make a donation to the CAR - \$238.

Steve Perkins gave a brief review of membership: 28 new members in 2023. We increased membership by 25% or more over the year. Currently at National: 5 new apps, 4 supplements. Working on 2 apps and 1 supplement. Also, \$400 was presented to the chapter to be for future Color Guard-related purchases, said money for guardsmen serving as Honor Guard at John Hume's graveside service.

Ben Edmondson reported on the Chapter Development Committee's calendar of future events.

Ken Lawrence came before the group and gifted to the State Society a Patriot Grave Marker that will be affixed to a memorial board. The memorial board will be at a museum in Ste. Genevieve, and will honor French patriots from that area who served during and following the Battle of Ft. San Carlos, in St. Louis to repel the British from establishing a foothold during the American Revolution. He and Howard Fisk also used this opportunity to reveal the medal set available to persons who have participated in grave marking ceremonies in Ste. Genevieve.

Cris Brayman asked current officers forward and inducted Dave Shaul as an honorary member of the OMC.

Dan Piedlow unveiled the new website ozarkmountainsar.com which replaces the former .org site. The new site will enhance OMC web views and usage in many ways.

President Brayman reviewed the nominations for 2024 offices and committees. The most **critical office not yet filled**: chapter Secretary. He expressed gratitude for some of our new members stepping up to work on committees. The formal vote is at our January meeting.

Kavan Stull was presented with the Military Service Award and medal.

Three new members were called forward and inducted: Timothy Smith, David Carmichael, and Chase Boggs. Samuel Freeman was sworn in and inducted at Patriot William Freeman's gravestone at the National Cemetery. Charles McMillan read the story behind the Maltese Cross SAR emblem.

The meeting adjourned at about 10:45.



A challenge coin is available for the Boston Tea Party. They are \$15.00 each from Compatriot J. Howard Fisk.

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us all to keep our mission at the forefront:

1. **Execute the mission of the SAR** (promote patriotism and honor our patriot ancestors).
2. **Acknowledge and celebrate our heritage** (enjoy our time together, appreciate our freedom, and relish the blessing of our honorable forefathers).
3. **Serve our members** (we all need support, companionship, group camaraderie, and we need to enjoy our meetings together).
4. Improve the **efficiency and effectiveness** of our efforts, to include administrative tools, a new website and enhanced online capabilities. Some officers met to discuss this fundraising and we will be acting on those ideas soon. Keep ideas flowing; else, we cannot continue to pay for the awesome awards, buy equipment, and properly honor our outstanding members and citizens.

Attend and engage. If you have been reading my messages and the chapter newsletter, this should look very familiar... As always, I ask that all members try to make it to the monthly meetings and do what you can to help accomplish our mission. Though the meetings are important, the educational and patriotic events are also critical. Many of us are busy, with family and duty obligations so I know how tough it can be to find time to support the chapter. However, keep trying and please keep in mind that **we are obligated by our heritage and by honor, to remind our citizens how we earned our independence and our status as a great nation. And, we absolutely must fight to perpetuate our nation, the principles of our constitutional republic, and the precious freedom our forefathers fought for.** I also believe that it brings satisfaction and pride to each of us to participate, teach, and inform. Again, I know this part of my message is repetitive, but we really need help. I am sure that each of you has a special talent, capability, or ideas that will help us perform the mission of the SAR. So don't be shy ... reach out. You don't have to know everything -- just come, listen, shake hands and get the picture of what is happening and go from there. Find a mission element that you are good at, an event you are interested in, or a committee where you have

interest or expertise. Let's share the burden and the rewards and make our chapter what you want it to be. I am doing all I can to keep it interesting and fun. We must enjoy what we are doing. Our service should be impactful, but no one said that it cannot also be fun.

Cats & Dogs. I hope that 2024 dues are paid so we can move on to our mission. Again, if you have not responded, please get those dues paid...it is so critical to our operation, awards, etc. You will hear more from our new President soon, but we will continue to help build the Sgt Ariel Nims SAR Chapter in Joplin and help create the West Plains SAR chapter. As I stated last month, those OMC members will be encouraged to become primary chapter members in the new chapter, while maintaining a dual membership with OMC for several years.

On the Horizon. Please check out our **beautiful new website!** This website will allow us to highlight our mission, advertise our organization, receive donations, accept dues payments, and sell items or raffle tickets, etc. **Check it out at www.ozarkmountainsar.com** – as I told you last month, 'FireDan' Piedlow is working away on it to improve the site as I write you. There are many advantages to having this new website. You will now be able to see upcoming events, see pictures, and pay your dues with just a click. We can also use the site to sell or raffle items and raise funds. Thanks FireDan – you are a tremendous compatriot and asset to our chapter as newsletter 'Editor' and 'Webmaster'! As we look forward to January, we will see new officers elected to our chapter and new officers from our chapter covering the duties at the state (MOSSAR). Please wish them well and support them all. I will let the next president inform you as to who the new OMCSAR and MOSSAR officers are after they are officially elected. I am so excited and thankful for those members who are stepping up to hold positions for us for 2024. Come to the **Saturday, 20 Jan chapter meeting at Ozark Technical College at 9:00 a.m.** and meet the new OMC officers. In February you will see some new

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changes for our chapter organization, which includes new committees and committee members, which I have been working on with Compatriot Charles McMillan. Charles has great ideas and determination to take our chapter forward. These changes promise to help us focus and streamline our efforts. Finally, **see the website for upcoming events**. Please attend and enjoy the great camaraderie when you can.

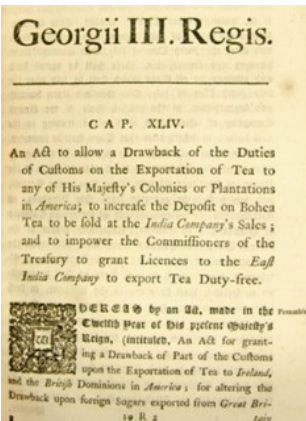
Respectfully,

Prismon A. Brayman, President

Boston Tea Party

December 16th, 1773

The Tea Act: The Catalyst of the Boston Tea Party



The Tea Act, passed by Parliament on May 10, 1773, granted the British East India Company Tea a monopoly on tea sales in the American colonies. This was what ultimately compelled a group of Sons of Liberty members on the night of December 16,

1773, to disguise themselves as Mohawk Indians, board three ships in Boston Harbor, and destroy over 92,000 pounds of tea. The Tea Act was the final straw in a series of unpopular policies and taxes imposed by Britain on her American colonies. The policy ignited a “powder keg” of opposition and resentment among American colonists and was the catalyst of the Boston Tea Party. The passing of the Tea Act imposed no new taxes on the American colonies. The tax on tea had existed since the passing of the 1767 Townshend Revenue Act. Along with tea, the Townshend Revenue Act also taxed glass, lead, oil, paint, and paper. Due to boycotts and protests, the Townshend Revenue Act’s taxes

were repealed on all commodities except tea in 1770. The tea tax was kept in order to maintain Parliament’s right to tax the colonies. The Tea Act was not intended to anger American colonists, instead, it was meant to be a bailout policy to get the British East India Company out of debt. The British East India Company was suffering from massive amounts of debts incurred primarily from annual contractual payments due to the British government totaling £400,000 per year. Additionally, the British East India Company was suffering financially as a result of unstable political and economic issues in India, and Europe was weak due to debts from the French and Indian War among other things. Besides the tax on tea which had been in place since 1767, what fundamentally angered the American colonists about the Tea Act was the British East India Company’s government-sanctioned monopoly on tea.

Provisions of the Tea Act

Prior to the Tea Act, the British East India Company Tea was required to exclusively sell its tea at an auction in London. This required the British East India Company to pay a tax per pound of tea sold which added to the company’s financial burdens. The Tea Act aborted this restriction and granted the British East India Company license to export their tea to the American colonies. This opened up the British East India Company’s markets to the lucrative American colonies. Additionally, under the Tea Act, duties Britain charged on tea shipped to America would be waived or refunded upon sale.

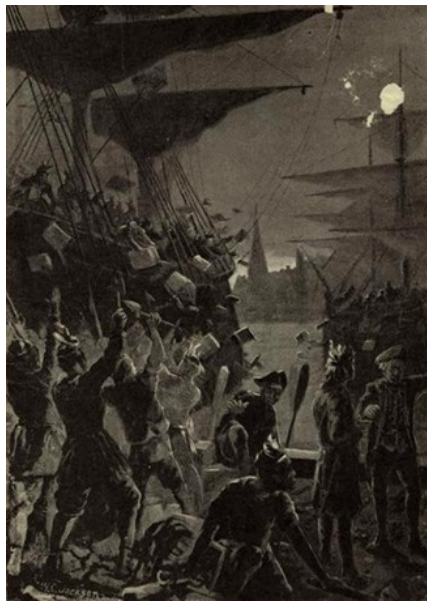
Seventeen Million Pounds of Unsold Tea

With the passing of the Tea Act, the seventeen million pounds of unsold surplus tea the British East India Company owned could be sold to markets in the American colonies. The tea was to be shipped to

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the American colonies and sold at a reduced rate. The Townshend Revenue Act tea tax remained in place despite proposals to have it waived. American colonists were outraged over the tea tax, which had existed since the 1767 Townshend Revenue Act and did not get repealed like the other taxes in 1770, and believed the Tea Act was a tactic to gain colonial support for the tax already enforced. The direct sale of tea by agents of the British East India Company to the American colonies undercut the business of colonial merchants. Prior to the Tea Act, colonial merchants purchased tea directly from British markets or smuggled it from illegal markets. They then shipped it back to the colonies for resale. Outraged that American merchants were undercut, colonists initially in Philadelphia and New York refused the British East India Company tea to be offloaded and sent the ships back to England. In many colonial ports to protest the Tea Act, the shipment of British East India Company tea was loaded and left untouched on the docks to rot. The Beaver, Dartmouth, and Eleanor arrived in Boston in late



November to the middle of December 1773. The colonists, led by the Sons of Liberty, wanted the ships to return to England and refused the unloading of the ships' cargo of tea. Lieutenant Governor and Chief Justice of Massachusetts, Thomas Hutchinson, refused to let the ships return to England and held the Beaver, Dartmouth, and Eleanor in Boston Harbor until matters could be resolved and the tea

offloaded. The framework for the Boston Tea Party was set, and on December 16, 1773, 340 chests of British East India Company tea were dumped into Boston Harbor by the Sons of Liberty.

<https://www.bostonteapartyship.com/the-tea-act>

“The most magnificent movement of all”

John Adams

Celebrate Our Commemorative Year With Us!

The United States commemorated the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 2023. The Boston Tea Party is one of the nation's most iconic events and one that propelled America down the road to revolution. If you want to see the event, click the YouTube address:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2eHfOyineM>

This article has been modified for brevity

The Boston Tea Party 250 Years Later: Here Are Seven Things You Might Not Know

By Michael Schwarz

Dec. 16 marked the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party.

On that date in 1773, dozens of patriots boarded three vessels and dumped 340 chests of East India Company tea into Boston Harbor. In so doing, they committed perhaps the most important act of civil disobedience in American history.

To help commemorate the anniversary, we have compiled seven things you might not know about that dramatic event and its consequences.

The items on our list, however, are designed to help readers better understand why the original Tea Party happened and what it meant to contemporaries.

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In light of that mid-December anniversary, readers might wonder why this story appears in late November. Well, the first item on our list will explain why.

The Clock Began Ticking in Late November

The ship *Dartmouth*, carrying 114 chests of East India Company Tea, arrived in Boston harbor on Nov. 28, 1773. At that point, the countdown to the Tea Party began.

According to an act of Parliament made applicable to the colonies in 1696, customs officials could seize any goods on which taxes had not been paid within 20 days of the carrying vessel's entrance into the harbor. That 20-day window would expire on Dec. 17.

In short, a potential showdown loomed. Customs officials, backed by a regiment of British troops, might opt to seize the tea. If that happened, Boston's patriots could no longer prevent the tea shipment's consignees from paying the required tax.

Thus, a legal and political logic lay behind the Tea Party's date. Above all, the patriots — led by Samuel Adams' "Sons of Liberty" — did not want that tax paid. And they had only 20 days to prevent it.

An East India Company Bailout

Objections to government bailouts helped give rise to the Tea Party as a political movement in the 21st century. The same dynamic contributed to the original Boston Tea Party.

In the 18th century, the East India Company emerged as one of the most important and powerful institutions in Britain. By 1772, however, the Company had fallen on hard times.

Since the British government drew substantial revenue from customs taxes on the Company's trade, Parliament took action. Under the Tea Act of May 1773, the Company received significant advantages. In short, Parliament positioned the Company to unload warehouses full of tea by selling it in the American colonies.

Ominously, however, British Prime Minister Lord North refused to eliminate the tea tax to which colonists had objected since 1767.

"No doubt there are political reasons" for maintaining the tax, Lord North said during Parliamentary debates.

"I know the temper of the people there is...little deserving of favor from hence, unless the reasons are very great," he added.

As historian Benjamin Woods Labaree has put it, Lord North thus "unwittingly hammered a nail in the coffin of the old British Empire."

"Manly Opposition"

Boston's patriots viewed the Tea Act as part of a decade-long conspiracy. British officials, they surmised, had bailed out the East India Company as part of a plan to make the colonists submit to direct Parliamentary taxation.

Like the conspiracy theorists of today, the patriots had good reason for suspicion. After all, Lord North had confirmed the Tea Act's "political" aspect during Parliamentary debates.

Preoccupied with defending their liberties — and not at all concerned with "gendered" conceptions of this or that nonsense — Boston's patriots resolved never to submit.

On Monday, Nov. 29, 1773, Bostonians awakened to notices, posted all over town, alerting them to a meeting that morning.

"Friends! Brethren! Countrymen! The Hour of Destruction or Manly Opposition to the Machinations of Tyranny stares you in the Face," the notices read.

Not many Bostonians ignored such notices. Contemporaries estimated thousands of attendees at political meetings in the ensuing weeks. In the early 1770s, Boston had slightly more than 15,000 inhabitants.

A Long History of Conflict between Boston and the Mother Country

For more than a century before the Tea Party, British officials had regarded Bostonians as the Empire's black sheep.

A "Great Migration" of English Puritans to

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Massachusetts Bay and surrounding New England colonies occurred in the 1630s. Then, in the 1640s, forces loyal to England's Puritan-dominated Parliament fought a civil war against King Charles I and his "Cavaliers." The Puritan rebels prevailed, resulting in the king's January 1649 execution.

In the "Restoration" year of 1660, however, the late king's son — King Charles II — returned to the throne. A flurry of empire-building ensued. In the coming decades, the English established colonies in New York, East and West Jersey (what became New Jersey), Pennsylvania and the Carolinas.

Meanwhile, in the eyes of imperial officials, Puritan New England and its major town of Boston remained suspect. These were, after all, the descendants and spiritual compatriots of those who had executed the king's father.

Gradually, therefore, the empire took control. Massachusetts Bay lost its self-governing charter in 1684. Two years later, the short-lived Dominion of New England brought the entire region under one administrative head. In 1691, a new charter imposed direct royal government.

Bostonians never quite rested comfortably under this new arrangement. Indeed, Puritan minister Jonathan Mayhew's legendary 1750 sermon denouncing King Charles I as a tyrant — 100 years after the king's execution — showed that New Englanders had not forgotten the civil war of the previous century and all that followed.

Thus, while modern Americans rightly view the Tea Party as the event that helped trigger the American Revolution, contemporaries viewed it as part of a story that stretched 150 years into the past.

"The Mohawks Are Come!"

On the night of the Tea Party, dozens of patriots marched to the harbor dressed as Mohawk Indians. Witnesses later recalled some men shouting "The Mohawks are come!" But no one has ever really explained why.

Disguises, of course, made plenty of sense. After all,

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Remembering Pearl Harbor

"To be prepared for war, is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace." —George Washington (1790)

In October 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared, "I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again and again: Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars." This was a reiteration of his earlier assertion, "We are keeping out of the wars that are going on in Europe and in Asia. ... Our opponents are seeking to frighten the country by telling people that the present administration is deliberately ... drifting into war. You know better than that."

Roosevelt campaigned on neutrality in 1940.

Roosevelt assured his constituents, "I give ... to the people of this country this most solemn assurance: There is no secret treaty, no secret obligation, no secret commitment, no secret understanding in any shape or form, direct or indirect, with any other government, or any other nation in any part of the world, to involve this nation in any war."

Unfortunately, Germany's Führer Adolf Hitler and Japan's Prime Minister Hideki Tojo didn't cooperate.

On December 7, 1941, more than 350 Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, killing 2,390 American servicemen and civilians and wounding 1,282. The attack sank or damaged eight battleships, three cruisers, three destroyers, and one minelayer, and destroyed 188 aircraft. It took four years and the full military-industrial capability of the United States to defeat Japan.

There was no more devastating surprise attack on the United States until 9/11.

After the attack, Roosevelt stated: "December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. ... Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might, will win

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through to absolute victory. ... With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph — so help us God.”

Historian Victor Davis Hanson writes, “After Pearl Harbor, the United States went into a rearmament frenzy the likes of which had never been seen in history. America produced more airplanes and ships than all World War II powers combined. The U.S. military grew to 12 million soldiers. American military leadership in the Pacific — led by Admirals William Halsey Jr., Chester Nimitz and Raymond Spruance, along with Generals Curtis LeMay and Douglas MacArthur — proved far more skilled than their Japanese counterparts. And the American soldier, sailor, airman and Marine, after a bruising learning experience in early 1942, proved every bit as ferocious as veteran Japanese fighters.”

It is with honor and respect for those who died or suffered terrible injuries that Sunday morning that we should never again fall into the slumber that allowed such a tragedy as Pearl Harbor — or the attack on Sept. 11, 2001.



<https://patriotpost.us/references/84702-remembering-pearl-harbor>

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those who dumped tea into the harbor certainly did not want British authorities to recognize them.

But why the Mohawks? In light of those disguises and of the Revolution's eventual success, many men in later years claimed to have participated in the Tea Party. Amid all those stories — some fabricated and many others no doubt embellished as years passed — one would think that a plausible explanation for the specific choice of disguise would have surfaced.

Oddly enough, it is possible that the men of the Tea Party meant their disguises as a partial tribute. Like Mayhew and many others, they knew their history.

In 1675-76, the combined forces of the Wampanoag and Narragansett tribes inflicted heavy casualties on New Englanders in what became known as "King Philip's War." Those attacks devastated the region.

The tide turned in 1676 when Mohawk warriors from New York entered the conflict on New England's side. It would be no exaggeration to say that the Mohawk intervention saved New England from calamity.

In short, we remember the Tea Party with fondness 250 years later, so the men who dumped tea into the harbor that night might have recalled the Mohawks with similar fondness less than a century after King Philip's War.

John Adams' Reaction

John Adams — future signer of the Declaration of Independence and 2nd president of the U.S. — played no direct role in the Tea Party itself. He did, however, leave a memorable recollection of the event.

In a letter to James Warren dated Dec. 17, 1773, the future Founding Father expressed approval and exhilaration.

"The Dye is cast: The People have passed the River and cutt away the Bridge: last Night Three Cargoes of Tea, were emptied into the Harbour. This is the grandest, Event, which has ever yet happened Since, the Controversy, with Britain, opened!" Adams wrote.

"The Sublimity of it, charms me!" he added.

Ironically, in the weeks preceding the Tea Party,

Francis Rotch — 23-year-old son of *Dartmouth* owner Joseph Rotch — had sought legal advice from Adams on how best to proceed in light of the law and the public mood. We do not know the outcome of that consultation. It is possible, however, that Adams advised Rotch of the danger of allowing his ship to leave the harbor without a clearance from imperial officials.

Otherwise, perhaps Rotch would have sent the *Dartmouth* out of the harbor. Then, perhaps the other ship owners would have done likewise, in which case the Tea Party would never have happened.

Reverberations

Though independence lay two-and-a-half years in the future, the Boston Tea Party marks the moment at which the American Revolution really began. From then onward, Anglo-American relations deteriorated beyond the point of no return.

Of course, it did not have to be that way. Parliament could have yielded and given up its claim to authority over colonial affairs. In hindsight, it should have done exactly that.

Instead — a corrupt government does with regularity — Parliament doubled down on oppressive legislation. The Boston Port Act of 1774 imposed a naval blockade designed to strangle the city's trade and, in effect, starve Bostonians into submission.

Throughout the colonies, Boston's cause became the common cause. Americans raised subscriptions for Boston's material relief. And this humanitarian effort helped strengthen an emerging American identity.

Then, in September 1774 — prompted by universal alarm over the Port Act and other tyrannical pieces of legislative revenge — delegates from 12 of 13 colonies met in Philadelphia at the First Continental Congress.

The Second Continental Congress, which gathered in May 1775, adopted the Continental Army and placed Gen. George Washington in command. That Congress also later adopted the Declaration of Independence.

Thus, we cannot even begin to speculate about what

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might have happened had there been no Tea Party. Too many momentous events followed.

Indeed, something else might have emerged in its place — perhaps even something bearing the same name — but the United States of America as we know it would not exist had the Boston Tea Party never occurred.

https://www.westernjournal.com/boston-tea-party-250-years-later-seven-things-might-not-know/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=newsletter-WJ&utm_campaign=dailyam&utm_content=western-journal

A Real Christmas Miracle: How Washington Saved the Colonies from Certain Defeat on America's First Christmas

By Johnathan Jones

America's first Christmas was held during a time of great uncertainty for a country that was just a few months old at the time and appeared destined for certain defeat at the hands of the British Empire.

But the commander in chief of the Continental Army and his volunteer army of patriots spent that holy day preparing for a surprise attack on British troops Trenton, New Jersey, that would not only shape the perception of the war but would prove to give the new country and its people the morale they needed



New Medal now available! A medal for the Battle of Fort San Carlos is now available from Compatriot J Howard Fisk. They cost \$35.00 and you must participate in the events in Ste. Genevieve.

to keep fight for liberty.

Most Americans have probably seen the iconic painting by Emanuel Leutze of General George Washington crossing the icy Delaware River just before midnight on Christmas Day, 1776.



Washington Crossing the Delaware. Painted by: Emanuel Leutze, in 1851

Washington and his force of 2,400 men crossed the river with a plan to take Trenton from the British and the empire's hired soldiers – battle-tested German mercenary fighters called Hessians, who were essentially rented by King George III.

After months of battlefield routs and facing freezing temperatures, rain, sleet and snow, the brave Continentals approached their enemy under the cover of darkness for a pre-dawn attack to prove they could hold their own as a fighting force.

Washington and his army's Christmas night crossing of the Delaware would turn into a decisive American victory the following day.

It would also put those who doubted the country's military capabilities on notice that America's earliest patriots were committed to live free or die.

With Christmas around the corner, it is important to remember how some of the most important figures in the country's history spent their first Noel.

A Revolution on the Brink of Collapse

While Americans had been fighting the British counterparts since the spring of 1775, America did not officially declare its independence from London until July 4, 1776.

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The Second Continental Congress established an organized fighting force in June 1775 and appointed Washington – an experienced former British Army officer – to lead it.

After early success against the British in Boston, Washington and his forces sustained major defeats in New York and were eventually exiled from the area and escaped into Pennsylvania by way of New Jersey.

By early December 1776, a country with hopes of independence from tyranny was losing hope, as was its military's leader.

Washington's army had faced attrition within its ranks, desertions were rampant and a vast majority of the enlisted men were about to be released from service. Having lost 2,800 men trying to keep New York from the invading British forces, Washington is said to have wept and resolved to protect Philadelphia – the new country's then-capital – at all costs in November of that year.

Important Dates in History

Dec 4: Washington bids farewell to his officers in New York City 1783

Dec 5–7: Americans repulse British at Red Bank, Pennsylvania 1777

Dec 11: Virginia and NC patriots rout Loyalist troops and burn Norfolk 1775

Dec 13: U.S. National Guard created 1636

Dec 14: British leave Charleston, SC 1782

Dec 15: Last State Signed the Bill of Rights 1791

Dec 16: Boston Tea Party 1773

Dec 19: Washington and his army winter in Valley Forge 1777

Dec 20: U.S. Space Force created 2019

Dec 22: Colonel Thomson with rangers and militia capture Loyalists at Great Canebrake, SC 1775

Dec 22: Continental Navy Created 1775

Dec 23: Washington Resigns as Commander in Annapolis, MD 1783

Dec 26: Battle of Trenton 1776

Dec 29: The British occupy Savannah 1778

Dec 30–31: American forces under Benedict Arnold fail to seize Quebec 1775

British forces led by General William Howe opted not to pursue Washington and his amateur army into Pennsylvania as he had assumed that fighting for the winter season was over.

Instead, Howe returned to New York and ordered his forces – including the hired Hessians – to set up camp for the cold season ahead.

It was a decision that would alter history.

German Soldiers at Trenton and a Chance to Change the Trajectory of the War

German soldiers garrisoned in Trenton were veteran fighters and numbered at about 1,400 in late December 1776. Washington and his forces spent several weeks watching their movements from across the Delaware River that separates New Jersey from Pennsylvania.

Knowing his own forces could soon dwindle and that retreating from superior forces was no longer an option if his country was to survive, Washington had to make a statement.

An attack and a decisive victory would need to take place as quickly as possible.

As Washington's estate notes of the plan:

"Washington hoped that a quick victory at Trenton would bolster sagging morale in his army and encourage more men to join the ranks of the Continentals come the new year. After several councils of war, General George Washington set the date for the river crossing for Christmas night 1776."

The general devised a plan to dispatch three separate units to approach the garrison at Trenton with those under his direct command leading the attack.

However, only the forces directly under his command made it east of the icy river as the men began to cross at around 11 p.m.

More than half of the army was sidelined on the west side of the river due to ice and deteriorating weather conditions, but Washington pressed on through frigid temperatures.

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Mount Vernon notes of Washington's actions, "This was an ambitious plan, one that even well-rested and experienced troops would have had difficulty in executing."

A Treacherous Night and a Decisive Victory

After making their way across the river 10 miles north of Trenton, Washington and 2,400 men marched south toward a heavily fortified position held by some of the world's toughest soldiers. They never flinched, even when troops without shoes began to turn the snow red with blood from their feet.

Two men died during the march.

Hours behind schedule, Washington reached Trenton and his forces began their attack at mid-morning.

"At approximately 8 a.m. on the morning of December 26, Washington's remaining force, separated into two columns, reached the outskirts of Trenton and descended on the unsuspecting Hessians.

"Trenton's 1,400 Hessian defenders were groggy



After a Christmas night crossing of the Delaware River north of Trenton, N.J., General Washington's army marched through snow, sleet, & wind. The Hessian garrison at Trenton was their target on Dec. 26. Washington ordered the secret operation to be "victory or death."

from the previous evening's festivities and underestimated the Patriot threat after months of decisive British victories throughout New York. Washington's men quickly overwhelmed the Germans' defenses, and by 9:30 a.m. the town was

surrounded."

Hundreds of surprised German soldiers escaped into the wilderness after attempts to mobilize and mount a counterattack against the Americans failed.

They were ultimately surprised, outgunned and outmaneuvered.

An estimated 1,000 were captured while Washington lost four of his men. While the battle was of little strategic importance, it sent a message that has echoed for centuries.

A Bold Christmas Plan Turned the Tide of the War and Altered the Course of Human History

An estimated 90 percent of Washington's troops were set to become free from their enlistments at the start of the new year – less than a week after the battle at Trenton.

As Washington's estate notes, he used their valiant efforts in the battle to inspire them to sign on to stay with him. This was a tall task for men who were cold, hungry, hunted and were most certainly envisioning the warmth of their homes.

The general and future president appealed to the men to stay and to fight.

Washington told his troops:

"My brave fellows, you have done all I asked you to do, and more than can be reasonably expected; but your country is at stake, your wives, your houses and all that you hold dear.

"You have worn yourselves out with fatigues and hardships, but we know not how to spare you. If you will consent to stay one month longer, you will render that service to the cause of liberty, and to your country, which you probably can never do under any other circumstances."

Half of Washington's army took him up on his offer.

Two days later on Jan. 2, 1777, Washington and his troops overwhelmed thousands of elite British troops at the Battle of the Assunpink Creek. A day later, the

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men routed the British at the Battle of Princeton to turn the tide of the war.

Below is a painting from July 1975 illustrating the Battle of Trenton on December 26, 1776. The battle, fought after George Washington crossed the Delaware River into New Jersey the night before, had represented an inspiring victory for the Continental Army.



A country that needed something and someone to believe in celebrated Washington's resounding victories at Trenton, Assunpink Creek and Princeton.

More and more men soon enlisted to fight for Washington and for the cause of liberty.

Revolution-minded colonists from New Hampshire to Georgia coalesced around the cause and its leaders. Years of fierce fighting and unimaginable lows followed but the victories piled up until the eventual British defeat following the successful Siege of Yorktown in the autumn of 1781.

A peace agreement was signed in 1783 and Americans were free to determine their fates. We've continued to choose our destinies through both good times and bad for 247 years.

None of what Americans have accomplished would have been possible if not for a bold Christmas plan devised and executed by a patriot and those who bravely fought for him.

As we enjoy the warmth of family or the heat of a fireplace this Dec. 25, let us not forget the sacrifices of those who spent America's first Christmas prepared to give their lives for the cause of freedom.

Birthday's

Lee Viorel	12-8
Harrison Philbrick	12-15
John Angst	12-17
Colby Jones	12-19
Steven Rinker	12-20
Ricky Pirch	12-21
Caden Frederick	12-23
Jimmie Burks	12-25
John Allen	12-28
Matthew Brunner	12-28
Fredric McKinney	12-29
Jeremy Burks	12-30

Donald Higgerson	1-2
Dale Crandell	1-3
Edward Choate	1-8
James Appleby	1-10
Roy Blunt	1-10
Gerald McCoy	1-12
Harold Finch	1-18
Pletcher Rogers	1-19
Gary Yadon	1-25
Peter Rea	1-28
Richard Snelson	1-31



The Missouri 200th Anniversary SAR Medals are for sale. They are \$30.00 if you get them from Compatriot J. Howard Fisk and \$35.00 if he has to mail it to you.

Photographs provided by: Daniel Piedlow, Margaret Swales, Norm Knowlton

Editor: Daniel Piedlow

Awards and Events



On December 2nd, members of the Color Guard attended Greene County's "Christmas in the Court House." The event was open to the public and was well attended. Color Guard members in attendance were L-R: Charles McMillan, Daniel Piedlow, and Crismon Brayman.



DAR members Sarah Stewart, and Patricia Haas, and CAR State President Eliana Henry.



On December 7th, the Ozark Mountain Chapter held their annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Members in attendance were, L-R: Daniel Piedlow, Don Higginson, Ben Edmondson, Crismon Brayman, J. Howard Fisk, Steven Perkins, Charles McMillan, Jim Clemmons, and not pictured, Norman Knowlton (photographer).



On December 15th the OMC had their annual CAR dinner. The event was attended by CAR, DAR, and SAR members. At right, State President David Shaul, and OMC President Cris Brayman present certificates to



Awards and Events



Seldom does a new member get inducted at the grave of his patriot ancestor. Even more rare is the opportunity to do so in a state west of the Mississippi. Saturday, December 16, 2023, on Wreaths Across America day, 250th Boston Tea Party celebration day, the Ozark Mountain Chapter, Missouri Society, inducted Samuel Flavius Freeman II at the Springfield National Cemetery. He is a 7th generation descendant of William Freeman, who was a private in the North Carolina 10th Regiment, under Capt. Thomas Childs, Col. Hart. The chapter has several other members who use William Freeman as their patriot ancestor. Freeman is pinned by distant cousin DAR member Jan Fisk.

L-R: Kavan Stull, Ken Lawrence, Howard Fisk, Dave Shaul, Cris Brayman, Charles McMillan, and Steve Perkins. CG not pictured – Daniel Piedlow.



Remember, you can order your Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR shirts from Missouri Embroidery. Their phone number is: (417) 889-2221 and their address is: 1307 S. Glenstone Ave.

The Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR Challenge Coins are for sale. These coins are \$5.00 each from Compatriot J. Howard Fisk.

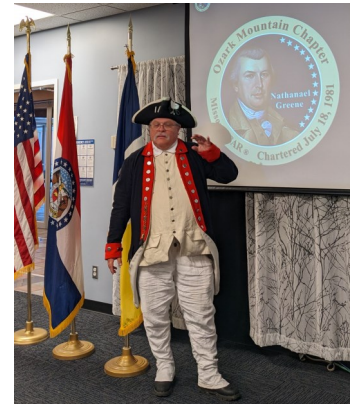
Awards and Events



At the December monthly meeting, Missouri CAR President Eliana Henry spoke about her project. Her project is called "Circle the Wagons" which is a project in Lebanon, MO raising money to help our veterans. This is an annual event held on the last weekend of May and all proceeds go to help our veterans. The middle picture is OMC President Crismon Brayman, her grandfather OMC Treasurer John Angst giving Eliana Henry a check for \$50.00.



Left: Missouri State SAR President David Shaul speaking at the monthly meeting. After President Shaul was done with his speech, he passed the hat for the Veteran's project of CAR State President Elaina Henry. Right: First Vice-President Charles McMillan giving Elaina the money that was raised from passing the hat.



Compatriot Daniel Piedlow talking about the new website that OMC has. You can find the new website at:
www.ozarkmountainsar.com



MOSSAR President David Shaul (middle) with a certificate for an Honorary Member to the Ozark Mountain Chapter. Flanking President Shaul is the OMC executive board L-R: Jeremy Boes, Jim Robinette, Dan Philbrick, Cris Brayman, Charles McMillan, and Dan Piedlow.



Awards and Events



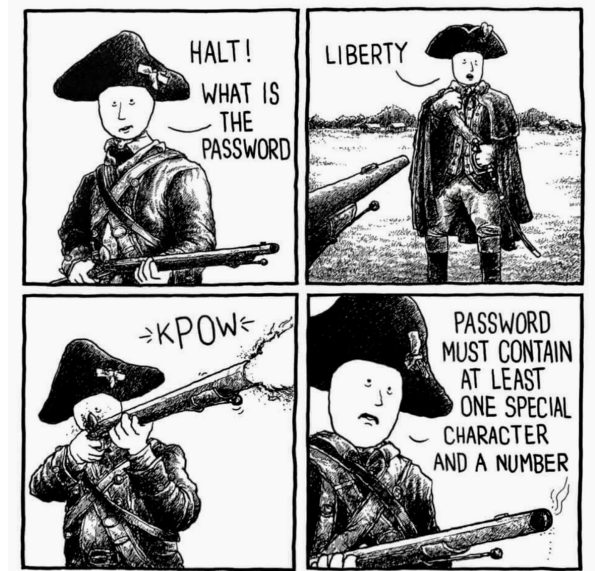
MOSSAR President David Shaul inducts three new members into the Ozark Mountain Chapter.



Newly inducted members are (from L-R): Timothy Smith, David Carmichael, and Chase Boggs with their sponsors, Ken Lawrence and J. Howard Fisk.



OMCSAR President Crismon Brayman presented Compatriot Kavin Stull with a "Military Service Veterans Crops" certificate and medal.



Upcoming Events



January 11 at 6:30 P.M., the OMC Chapter Development meeting will be at Compatriot Steve Perkins home, located at: 3831 S. Virginia Pl., Springfield. All are welcome.

Upcoming Events



January 20 at 9:00 A.M., the OMC will be having their monthly meeting at Ozark Technical College, located at: 1001 E. Chestnut Expy., Springfield. We will be having the installation of the new 2023 Officers.



January 27 at 10:00 A.M. the Missouri State SAR will be having their quarterly meeting at the Jefferson Bank, 700 Southwest Boulevard, Jefferson City, MO 65109.



January 30 at 6:30 P.M. the OMCSAR will be having another History Explorers demonstration at the Schweitzer Brentwood Branch Library, located at 2214 S. Brentwood Blvd., Springfield. The theme for this demonstration is the "Prelude to the Revolution. All are invited.



February 8 at 6:30 P.M. the OMC Chapter Executive Committee (formerly CDC) will be meeting will be at Compatriot Steve Perkins home, located at: 3831 S. Virginia Pl., Springfield. All are welcome.



February 16 at 9:00 A.M. the OMC will be having their monthly meeting at Ozark Technical College, located at: 1001 E. Chestnut Expy., Springfield.



February 16 at 10:30 A.M. the OMC will have a celebration of President George Washington's birthday at Washington Park, located at 1600 N. Summit Ave., Springfield. This will be held immediately following the meeting and all are welcome to attend.