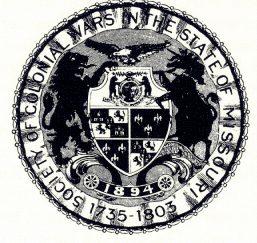


# Bravely for Country



The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Missouri

March A. D. 2016

## Heave-ho! On to the Duck Club!

The Society of Colonial Wars in Missouri held their first event of 2015 with a cruise on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. The waterway being above flood stage, the traditional mode of conveyance was deemed too dangerous, so three parties set out in smaller craft from Grafton, Illinois, to their destination the Duck Club Yacht Club, St. Charles, Missouri.

Under a bright July 17<sup>th</sup> evening sky, our worthy captains navigated through flotsam of logs and branches while traveling to the Missouri side. Midway, we gathered and tethered our boats together to hear a talk from Sean Visintainer, Curator—Herman T. Pott Inland Waterway Library, St. Louis Mercantile Library. His extemporaneous “A Journey on the Mississippi Valley Waterway: a key transportation link during colonial times” provided an rather unsavory view of the people who worked along the Mississippi during colonial times. Often times, the men would stay drunk in order to survive the difficult work (including dragging their bateaus upstream through the shallows). Piracy was common, some chaps feigning difficulties to lure less experienced travelers into their trap.

As if playing a part in an ancient sacrifice of a heathen nation, Billy Bitting

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*“As if playing a part in an ancient sacrifice of a heathen nation, Billy Bitting hurled himself twice into the waters of the muddy Mississippi and twice the muddy Mississippi happily returned him safely to his watercraft.”*

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An intrepid captain and passengers on their way to Missouri

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## Fort de Chartres

“Several attempts were made by the British to take control of Fort de Chartres. It was not until January, 1765, that a British trader, George Croghan, traveled to Illinois Country to negotiate peace with nearby Native populations....

“Finally in August, 1765, Captain Thomas Stirling of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Royal Highland Regiment was dispatched to Fort de Chartres, then located on the banks of the Mississippi. On October 9, 1765, they arrived at Fort de Chartres.

“French Commandant, St. Ange, handed Fort de Chartres over to Captain Stirling on October 10. The British struck the the French flag and raised the British. At this time, there were few French inhabitants still living in the Illinois Country. Many had opted to live under the Spanish Bourbon Monarchy rather than live under the Protestant British. As a result, the third largest city in the Midwestern North America was founded, St. Louis.”

- From “Striking the Colors at Fort de Chartres” by Yancey C. Von Yeast, Ph. D.

hurled himself twice into the waters of the muddy Mississippi and twice the muddy Mississippi happily returned him safely to his watercraft.

The Duck Club provided a fine repast for Warriors, their guests, and prospective members. Century old registers of the Missouri Society and a 1924 Winter Court program (held with the New England Society of St. Louis) were perused. Members identified many family and well-known St. Louis gentlemen from generations ago.

The return trip under the warm night revealed the new crescent moon and bright stars. Hearty thanks to organizers, Messrs. Bitting and Lammert!



Reenactors at Fort de Chartres, Illinois

## Striking the Colors

Missouri, Illinois, and Arkansas members of the Society attended the “Striking of the Colors,” a celebration and re-enactment of the surrender of Fort de Chartres from the French to the English in 1765. The two day event (October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>) was open to the public to view and experience the rougher and grittier life of our colonial ancestors, both English and French.

Colonial reenactors (including many natives) and interpreters provided an entertaining time, all prepared to answer questions about their particular roles. Although there was no battle for the fort (see sidebar), there were maneuvers by the regulars and militia. On occasion, a cease fire was held, which allowed the fort’s priest and a contingent of soldiers to enter the field of battle to remove their wounded. Fighting would resume soon after. The most impressive ordnance was the fort’s cannon.

Whether one enjoyed a walking tour of the English and French encampments, the nearby row of hucksters, cannon and musket fire, or the very reasonable Kaskaskia Brewery libations, it was a wonderful experience on a very pleasant October weekend.





Colonists marching in the Ste. Genevieve Christmas Parade

## Ste. Genevieve Colonial Homes

The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri own and provide tours to these colonial homes in Ste. Genevieve.

- ❁ The Bolduc House
- ❁ The Bolduc-LeMeilluer House
- ❁ The Linden House
- ❁ The Jean-Baptiste Valle House

## Ste. Genevieve Christmas Walk

At the behest of the The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Missouri, the colonial warriors attended the Ste. Genevieve Christmas Walk. Three warriors (Governor Barnes, Registrar Carpenter, and Historian Hunnewell) and one guest (Mrs. Hunnewell) met to have a leisurely brunch at the Brick House Restaurant until parade time.

The parade included colonial reenactors as well as traditional school bands, regiments of tractors, and be-fezzed men driving small cars. Once the parade concluded and finding themselves with time on their hands before the reception hosted by the Dames, the party made their way Holy Cross Lutheran Church where they were treated to the music of a string quartet playing traditional carols and Christmas songs.

Using such clues as moss growing on the north sides of trees, street signs, and maps, they made our way to the wrong colonial house. A guide took the wearied warriors to the proper house...half-a-block away.

It was worth it. We were treated to desserts and (Jamaican rum) mulled cider, while Terri Langerak provided entertainment on her harp. The Dames gave tours of the J. B. Valle House and let us know the plans of a colonial visitors center (a recently purchased bank building).

A side trip to ASL Pewter Foundry ended in demonstrations (and purchases) of fine pewter-ware. It is hoped that the Missouri Society will offer warriors pewter tankards with the society's seal in the future.



Outside the Louis Bolduc House

# Winter Court Held

The society's annual Winter Court was held on January 16, 2016, in conjunction with The Missouri Society - Sons of the Revolution 1776 at the St. Louis Country Club on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Tu'Penny Players provided prelude music as well as accompaniment to the Grand March, which brought participants into the dining room.

XXX gave a gracious invocation before the dinner, which started with a deconstructed Caesar salad, continued with braised short rib and vegetables, and ended with a filling and tasty bread pudding.

Society historian, Sumner Hunnewell, gave the after dinner talk "A Short History of Colonial Maine, or How Missouri Became a State." The topic explained why during colonial times Maine became a part of Massachusetts (through war, politics, religion, and creative reading of charters). Decades later, Maine's and Missouri's desire for statehood brought about a compromise brokered by Henry Clay.



An enjoyable time at the annual Winter Court



*Bravely for Country* is published by The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Missouri. Contact information:

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## Did you know?

In old manuscripts, letters, and books you might find a *y<sup>e</sup>* or *y<sup>t</sup>*. The *y* represents the Anglo-Saxon letter *thorn* (Þ), which is pronounced as a hard "th." So in the examples above, *y<sup>e</sup>* would be pronounced **the** and *y<sup>t</sup>* would be **that**.

However, *ye* (un-superscripted *e*) means **you**.

As in all communication, context is important!