



Patriot



Volume 35 #10 Ozark Mountain Chapter Springfield, MO October 2015

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Ozark Mountain Chapter will be held November 14, 2015 for our annual luncheon to honor Veterans sponsored by the Rachel Donelson Chapter of the DAR, Military order of the Purple Heart and the Ozark Mountain Chapter of the SAR at the O'Reilly Cancer Center on the second floor at 11:30 a.m. Reservations must be made by November 10th. We would like to invite all members to be present

Minutes from the Previous Meeting

OMCSAR Chapter Meeting was held at the Heritage Cafeteria October 17, 2015
The meeting was called to Order at 12:30 p.m.
President Reinbold presented a Historical note on the Surrender at Saratoga
On October 17, 1777, British General John Burgoyne surrendered his army to the American General Horatio Gates thus turning the tide of the Revolutionary War in the Americans' favor.
In the summer of 1777, Burgoyne had commenced a campaign to lead his army from Canada through New York to join British troops coming from the south and west. The plan was to meet at Albany and thus isolate New England to prevent a united war effort of the colonies. However, near Saratoga the Americans had dug in. On September 19, Burgoyne launched an attack known as the Battle of Freeman's Farm where at battle's end he commanded the field but at heavy loss. On October 7, 1777, Burgoyne began an attack in the Battle of Bemis Heights, but this time the American were victorious largely because of Benedict Arnold's rallying of the troops. After some back and forth in negotiations between Burgoyne and Gates as to terms, Burgoyne finally surrendered his army on October 17, 1777.
This American victory proved to be a pivotal event in the war. The victory led the French to openly side with the Americans providing critical funds, supplies, troops, and naval

support. Four years later Cornwallis would surrender to Washington at Yorktown on October 19, 1781 essentially ending the Revolution and guaranteeing American independence.

Invocation by Chaplain Ron Albaugh
Pledge of Allegiance Compatriot Gerald McCoy
Pledge to the SAR by Compatriot J. Howard Fisk
Minutes of the September Meeting were distributed in the September Patriot
Treasurer's Report by Glenn Gohr / Savings: \$9,000.89
Checking: \$1,820.24
Secretary Howard Fisk reported that additional copies of Chapter Directories and Membership Application and Working Materials are available
Invitations to the Annual Veterans Meeting were handed out.
Genealogist Will Carr reported that he completed and sent in two applications and has eight in the works.

Historian George Swales reported about two books: Spirit of 74, by Ray & Marie Rafiel discussing the build up to the Revolution
Mapping the Road to American Revolution by Brown & Cohen discussing the key maps relevant to the Revolution
Editor Willie Walker asked that everyone with items to submit to the Patriot try to get them in early.

A Flag Certificate Presentation was made to Springfield City Council on October 12.
The Chapter Development Committee met on October 6 to continue discussions of several Ozark Mountain Chapter activities.

Our program was presented by Phil Reinbold
Robert Cochran: Green Mountains to Yorktown
Lt. Colonel Robert Cochran (~ 1738 – July 3, 1812)

The Robert Cochran story begins during the conflicts over the New Hampshire Grants, later the state of Vermont. This territory located between the Connecticut River and Lake Champlain was claimed by both the colony of New Hampshire and the colony of New York. New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth made a number of land grants within this territory which was eventually to be declared by royal decree to be a part of New York. Robert Cochran held land in the territory by



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virtue of Wentworth's grants and in about 1768 came from Colrain, MA to Bennington from where he soon moved on to his land near Rupert. Here he built his cabin and cleared his fields, but then fate intervened when in 1771 a party of "Yorkers" with titles from New York Governor Tryon attempted to seize and occupy Cochran's land. Cochran, with the help of some of his neighbors, beat them off at the expense of a few broken heads among the invaders. Cochran then allied himself with those who, under the leadership of Ethan Allen, were trying to maintain the sanctity of their New Hampshire titles.

This loosely organized military association became the Green Mountain Boys with Allen as the colonel and Cochran as one of the captains. The Green Mountain Boys acted to drive off the hated "Yorkers" whenever they tried to establish settlements. This defiance of New York authority caused the governor to place a bounty of 150 pounds on the head of Ethan Allen and 50 pounds each on Robert Cochran and other leaders of the so called "Bennington mob". Not to be outdone, these men repaired to the official headquarters of the Green Mountain Boys, the Catamount Tavern in Bennington. The tavern, with its sign topped with a stuffed catamount baring its fangs at any "Yorker" approaching from the west, is where the Boys formed strategy, held court, and dispensed justice, as well as, celebrated their victories over numerous bowls of flip. The most common punishment decreed by their tribunals was the "beechnut" meaning the whip applied to the bare back. This day the court issued a proclamation over the signatures of Ethan Allen, Remember Baker, and Robert Cochran which offered a reward of 25 pounds for delivery to the Catamount of two of the most hated New York speculators. Over the next two years hostilities continued to grow between the two factions. Cochran rode with Allen on the raid which cleared the entire Otter Creek and Socialboro ugh areas of those with New York titles. Cochran led the men who burned the homes of two prominent "Yorkers" in the process of which the two were assaulted and badly beaten. This bold action by Cochran led Ethan Allen to declare him as "his strong right arm". Robert Cochran himself is purported to have claimed that he was a son of Robin Hood. One Vermont chronicler has dubbed him "tough Robert Cochran, a swaggering brawler". In 1774 New York authorities condemned leaders of the Green Mountain Boys as outlaws liable "to suffer death without trial and without benefit of clergy". In response Robert Cochran is said to have ridden with fifty men to Fort Edward in New York where he appeared as court was in session and challenged all the authorities there assembled to come out and take him if they could. He had no takers, but this "devil may care" gesture resulted in additional charges for riotous conduct.

After the Westminster massacre of March 3, 1775 where Tory militiamen at the command of the New York sheriff fired into a crowd and killed two settlers, and wounding others, Cochran arrived within 48 hours at the head of forty Green Mountain Boys. He rode down the street boasting that he had come to seize all those who had helped the sheriff and that he intended to find out soon "who was for the Lord and who was for Balaam". Okay, so he got his scriptures a little bit muddled (I believe Balaam was the one with the talking ass), but in the excitement of things who was editing?

Conflicts were developing into something serious in the New Hampshire Grants. Now people were getting killed not just roughed up a little bit. Fortunately, Providence seems to have intervened to defuse the situation, as events at Lexington and Concord led immediately to the submergence of the local quarrels in the larger and more important issue of national independence. Inspired by the rout of the British at Concord, Ethan Allen planned a raid on Fort Ticonderoga which he recognized as having strategic value. He was not the only one. Eventually, Benedict Arnold was allied with Allen and the Green Mountain Boys including Robert Cochran and successfully captured the fort. From Ticonderoga Cochran led troops accompanying Seth Warner in the expedition to capture Crown Point. As recognition of this service, the Provincial Assembly withdrew the act of condemnation against the leaders of the Green Mountain Boys.

No longer wanted as an outlaw, Cochran was now fully engaged in the patriot cause. Robert Cochran was a captain under Major Brown in the ill-fated expedition into Canada with General Montgomery. After successful assaults on St. Johns, Chamblee, and Montreal, they arrived at Quebec in December of 1775. The army stormed the citadel after a diversionary attack by troops under Cochran and Ira Allen failed to disrupt the British. During the assault General Montgomery was seriously wounded and soon died in the arms of Captain Aaron Burr. The attack collapsed. The army retired to the forest barely surviving as an organization for the balance of the bitterly cold winter. On July 29, 1776, Cochran was promoted to major in the 2nd New York Regiment by resolution of Congress. He served during the successful campaign of 1777 against General Burgoyne where he seems to have been on the staff of General Gates as a bearer of important dispatches. In September of 1778 he was in command at Fort Schuyler in New York and continued to give service on the frontier. He was promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel in 1780. He was with the 2nd New York Regiment at the Siege of Yorktown and the surrender of Cornwallis. One of the more noted exploits of Robert Cochran during the Revolutionary



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War came in 1778 when, because of his experience in woodcraft and knowledge of the territory, he was chosen for a spy mission into Canada. He soon learned that the British were aware of his mission and were offering a large reward for his capture dead or alive. While evading his pursuers, he was taken seriously ill while hiding in a brush pile. Driven by hunger and illness, he cautiously approached a cabin only to hear three men discussing his planned capture and the promised reward with the woman of the house. In his desperation, after the men left he crawled to the door confessing his identity and throwing himself at the mercy of the woman. She, a French habitant and no friend of the British, fed him, and, spotting his pursuers returning, hid him in a cupboard. He remained concealed while the men rested and ate at the woman's table. After they left she took him to a place of concealment away from the cabin where she continued to provide him food until he was well enough to travel and make his escape. It has been told that years later Cochran met the woman on the street at Ticonderoga and rewarded her for saving his life. Robert Cochran did not return to Rupert after the Revolution was ended as his land there had become forfeit due to his inability to make payments during and after the war. It seems that for a time the financial situation of he and his family was desperate. When at a final officers' reception with Washington, Cochran was asked by General Steuben of his future plans, he stated that his family was living in a tavern garret without means. Most accounts indicate that in later years his fortunes improved. He was an active Freemason and an original member of The General Society of the Cincinnati. He lived at Ticonderoga and then Sandy Hill, NY where he died on July 3, 1812 and was buried in the old Fort Edward burial ground. Some other notes of interest relating to Robert Cochran include the fact that he was once addressed in a correspondence from General Washington in what might be considered to be a mild rebuke. It concerned a regimental order issued by Lt. Colonel Robert Cochran that required the Surgeon and Mate to attend parade at every roll call. Washington pointed out that although Cochran had the right to order the attendance, it had not been the general practice and that it would be best not to insist on it. A more bizzare footnote relates that in 1881 the body of Lt. Col. Cochran was moved from the Fort Edward burial ground to nearby Union Cemetery. It is told that in charge was a Mr. Nash, who had been in attendance at Cochran's funeral as a lad, and that during the reburial he found the body lying face down. This fueled some speculation that Cochran had actually been buried alive. One of the more prominent descendants of Lt. Colonel Cochran was James Jones, author of From Here to Eternity, The Thin Red Line, and other well-known

works.

The Americanism Committee will be responsible for all of the competitive youth events for 2016.

The Executive committee will continue to research the benefits of moving chapter savings to the Community Foundation of the Ozarks and verify our status as a 501 C3 organization.

Members were reminded that the Veterans Luncheon on November 14, 2015 is our annual meeting that we share with the DAR and MOPH.

A Wreaths Across America event will take place at 10:00 AM on December 12 at Springfield National Cemetery. We will honor the organization that sponsors Wreaths Across America

A ceremony recognizing the efforts of The Luminary Display Committee will take place at the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield luminary ceremony.

Following a discussion regarding changing the meeting time of our chapter to 9:00 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month was discussed. Howard Fisk will research alternative locations for our meetings.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dan Philbrick and a second by George Kindrich.

The SAR Reccessional was led by Compatriot George Swales

The Benediction was delivered by Chaplain Ron Albaugh

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 20, 2015 10:30 PM Honor Flight Arrives Springfield Branson National Airport

November 11, 2015 11:00 AM Veterans Day Program OTC

November 14, 2015 11:30 AM Annual Meeting O'Reilly Cancer Center

December 12, 2015 10:00 AM Wreaths Across America Springfield National Cemetery

December 12, 2015 4:30 PM Luminary Memorial Wilson's Creek Battlefield



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Compatriot Howard Fisk



Compatriot Gerald McCoy and Howard Fisk



The remains of a Civil War soldier that were illegally removed from Wilson's Creek National Battlefield were laid to rest Saturday, October 17, 2015. "They removed them which is against the law," says Park Ranger Ted Hillmer.

It's been 154 years since the soldier died; no one knows which side of the war he was fighting for, but his remains will finally be laid to rest at the Springfield National Cemetery.

"They served their cause and we want to show honor for that veteran," says Hillmer

Note: First narration and images are courtesy of KY3 Television.



MOSSAR Eagle Scout Chairman J. Howard Fisk and 2015 Eagle Scout Scholarship winner (Missouri and National) Padraic Hennessey, who was sponsored by the Spirit of St Louis Chapter.

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