



Illinois State Organization
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Debra Ross Coe, State Regent



America 250! Committee 2022-2023

Lynda Kerstein, State Chairman
(217) 836-6698 Daylilly20@comcast.net

“Our Patriot’s Minutes” for Chapter Meetings

Inspire our members and communities by discovering, remembering, and sharing the stories of our Patriot ancestors as we celebrate **America 250!** Chapters may use any of the Patriot’s Story templates to organize information and then read aloud at chapter meetings. As a supplement to your chapter’s Patriot’s Minutes, here are some highlights of the Revolutionary War. They may be used instead of or in addition to a chapter member’s story about her ancestor.



September

September 3, 1783 - The Treaty of Paris was signed by John Adams, Ben Franklin and John Jay, formally ending the American Revolutionary War between Britain and the United States

September 6, 1757 - Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) was born in Chavaniac, France. He came to America in 1777 to volunteer in the American Revolution, beginning a long friendship with George Washington. He later persuaded Louis XVI of France to send a 6,000-man force to assist the Americans. Lafayette was given command of an army in Virginia and was instrumental in forcing Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown, leading to the American victory.

September 22, 1776 - Nathan Hale was executed without a trial after he was caught spying on British troops on Long Island, his last words, “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”



October

October 7, 1777 - The Battle of Saratoga resulted in the first major American victory of the Revolutionary War as Gen. Horatio Gates and Gen. Benedict Arnold defeated Gen. Burgoyne, inflicting 600 British casualties. American losses were only 150.

October 7, 1780 - King’s Mountain, SC: battle lasted 65 minutes. American troops led by Isaac Shelby and John Sevier defeated Major Patrick Ferguson and one third of General Cornwallis’s army.

October 19, 1781 - As their band played *The World Turned Upside Down*, the British Army marched out in formation and surrendered to the Americans at Yorktown. More than 7,000 British and Hessian troops, led by British General Lord Cornwallis, surrendered to General George Washington. The war between Britain and its American colonies had effectively ended.

November

November 15, 1777 - The Articles of Confederation were adopted by the Continental Congress.

November 25, 1783 - At the end of the Revolutionary War, the last British troops left New York City.

November 30, 1782 - A provisional peace treaty was signed between Great Britain and the United States heralding the end of America's War of Independence. The final treaty was signed in Paris on September 3, 1783. It declared the U.S. "...to be free, sovereign and independent states..." and that the British Crown "...relinquishes all claims to the government, propriety and territorial rights of the same, and every part thereof."

December

December 16, 1773 - The Boston Tea Party occurred as colonial activists disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded British ships anchored in Boston Harbor and dumped 342 containers of expensive tea into the water.

December 22, 1783 - Following a triumphant journey from New York to Annapolis, Maryland, George Washington, victorious Commander-in-Chief of the Army, appeared before Congress and voluntarily resigned his commission.

December 25, 1776 - George Washington took 2,400 of his men across the Delaware River. Washington then conducted a surprise raid on 1,500 British-Hessians (German mercenaries) at Trenton, New Jersey. The Hessians surrendered after an hour with nearly 1,000 taken prisoner by Washington who suffered only six wounded (including future president Lt. James Monroe). The victory provided a much-needed boost to American morale.

January

January 1, 1776 - During the American Revolution, George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.

January 3, 1777 - General George Washington defeated the British at Princeton and drove them back toward New Brunswick. Washington then established winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey. During the long harsh winter, Washington's army had shrunk to about 1,000 men as enlistments expired and deserters fled.

January 12, 1737 - American statesman and Patriot John Hancock (1737-1793) was born in Braintree, Massachusetts. He was elected president of the Second Continental Congress in 1775, was the first signer of the Declaration of Independence, and went on to become the first elected governor of Massachusetts.

February

February 8, 1778 - Daniel Boone was captured by a British/Shawnee war party.

February 14, 1779 - The Battle of Kettle Creek was won. One of the most important battles of the American Revolutionary War fought in Georgia occurred in Wilkes County, some 12 miles from present-day Washington, Georgia. There on February 14, 1779, a force of 400 patriots in a surprise attack under the command of Colonel Andrew Pickens of South Carolina, defeated a force of Loyalists twice their number.

February 23, 1778 - Baron von Steuben of Prussia arrived at Valley Forge to join the Continental Army. He then began much needed training and drilling of Washington's troops, who had suffered from poor morale that resulted from cold, hunger, disease, low supplies and desertions over the long, harsh winter.

March

March 15, 1781 - Battle of Guilford Courthouse-at a site which is now in Greensboro, the seat of Guilford County, North Carolina, a 2,100-man British force under the command of Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis defeated Major General Nathanael Greene's 4,500 Americans. The British Army, however, suffered a considerable number of casualties during the battle (with estimates as high as 27% of their total force)

March 23, 1775 - Patrick Henry ignited the American Revolution with a speech before the Virginia convention in Richmond, stating, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

March 29, 1780 - The siege of Charleston was a major engagement and major British victory, fought between March 29 to May 12, 1780. The British, following the collapse of their northern strategy in late 1777 and their withdrawal from Philadelphia in 1778, shifted their focus to the American Southern Colonies. After approximately six weeks of siege, Major General Benjamin Lincoln, commanding the Charleston garrison, surrendered his forces to the British. It was one of the worst American defeats of the war.

April

April 12, 1776 - North Carolina was the first state to call for independence-The Halifax Resolves.

April 18, 1775 - General Gage ordered 700 British soldiers to Concord to destroy the colonists' weapons depot. The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere and William Dawes occurred as the two men rode out of Boston about 10 p.m. to warn patriots at Lexington and Concord of the approaching British. Revere reached Lexington about midnight and warned Sam Adams and John Hancock who were hiding there.

April 19, 1775 - At dawn in Massachusetts, about 70 armed militiamen stood face to face on Lexington Green with a British advance guard unit. An unordered 'shot heard around the world' had begun the American Revolution. A volley of British rifle fire was followed by a charge with bayonets leaving eight Americans dead and ten wounded. The British regrouped and headed for the depot in Concord, destroying the colonists' weapons and supplies. At the North Bridge in Concord, a British platoon was attacked by militiamen, with 14 casualties. British forces had then begun a long retreat from Lexington back to Boston and were harassed and shot at all along the way by farmers and rebels and suffered 250 casualties. News of the events at Lexington and Concord had spread like wildfire throughout the Colonies.

May

May 10, 1775 - American forces led by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold captured Fort Ticonderoga in New York. The fort contained a much-needed supply of military equipment including cannons which were then hauled to Boston by ox teams. The Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia, with John Hancock elected as its president. The Congress placed the colonies in a state of defense.

May 20, 1777 - Treaty of DeWitt's Corner, SC: Cherokees lost most of their land east of the mountains.

May 20, 1778 - Battle of Barren Hill, Pennsylvania. Lafayette with 500 men and about 50 Oneida Indians successfully evaded British onslaught.

June

June 14, 1775 - The first U.S. Military service, the Continental Army consisting of six companies of riflemen, was established by the Second Continental Congress. The next day, George Washington was appointed by a unanimous vote to command the army.

June 14, 1777 - John Adams introduced a resolution before Congress mandating a United States flag, stating, "...that the flag of the thirteen United States shall be

thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation.” This anniversary is celebrated each year in the U.S. as Flag Day.

June 17, 1775 - The first major fight between British and American troops occurred at Boston in the Battle of Bunker Hill. American troops were dug in along the high ground and were attacked by a frontal assault of over 2,000 British soldiers who stormed up the hill. The Americans were ordered not to fire until they could see “the whites of their eyes.” As the British got within 15 paces, the Americans let loose a deadly volley of musket fire and halted the British advance. The Americans had run out of ammunition and were left only with bayonets and stones to defend themselves. The British succeeded in taking the hill, but lost half their force, over 1,000 casualties, while the Americans lost about 400, including important colonial leader, General Joseph Warren.

July

July 1-4, 1776 - Congress debated and revised the Declaration of Independence.

July 4, 1776 - The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress and was sent to the printer.

July 6, 1747 - Naval Officer John Paul Jones (1747-1792) was born in Kirkbean, Scotland. He is best remembered for responding “I have not yet begun to fight!” to British opponents who sought his surrender during a naval battle.

July 31, 1776 - Frances Salvador became the first Jew to die in the Revolutionary War. He was also the first Jew elected to office in Colonial America, voted a member of the South Carolina Provincial Congress in January 1775.

August

August 2, 1776 – In Philadelphia, most of the 55 members of the Continental Congress signed the parchment copy of the Declaration of Independence.

August 16, 1777 - The Battle of Bennington, Vermont, occurred as militiamen from Vermont, aided by Massachusetts troops, wiped out a detachment of 800 German-Hessians sent by British General Burgoyne to seize horses.

August 16, 1780 – The Battle of Camden in South Carolina occurred. The battle was a big defeat for the Americans as forces under General Gates were defeated by troops of British General Charles Cornwallis, resulting in 900 Americans killed and 1,000 captured.

August 29, 1779 - After two massacres, American forces burned Indian villages at Newtown, NY.