

The Minuteman

Coweta Falls Chapter Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

The Minuteman

Columbus, GA

Fall 2018

President's Dispatch



Dan McMichael

Greetings Compatriots:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!

As the year comes to a close I would like to thank all of Coweta Falls members for a great 2018.

We have had very interesting programs this last year. If you haven't joined us for a while at our meetings, I encourage you to do so. Regular attendees, I encourage you to offer to pick up members who do not have transportation. I know they would appreciate the conversation and the ride.

The Naturalization Ceremony at the Federal Courthouse in Columbus on September 24 was a great experience to witness. If you have never experienced such a ceremony, you owe it to yourself to attend next year. It's a great way to see our government in action and also be one of the first to welcome our new citizens.

The Traveling Trunk lead by Compatriot Dan Ginter presented scores of programs all over Muscogee County even at the NIM. I know Dan would be very grateful for any help that any member would like to add to his efforts.

Coweta Falls participated in ceremonies and parades commemorating Veterans Day. In this issue you will see members who participated in events in Manchester and Pine Mountain. Chapter members also participated in American Frontier Days on November 17 and 18 at FD Roosevelt State Park, which is another great way to share Chapter/SAR information with the public. Our annual Christmas banquet, at Green Island Country Club, was a great success. Our special guest this year was President General J. Michael Tomme, Sr. (2016-2017) and his wife, Cilla. We also enjoyed having Christmas music performed by two students from the Schwob School of Music.

I would like to thank those gentlemen who have accepted positions as officers of our Chapter for next year. If you are a new or long-time member who would like to get more involved, I encourage you to attend our BOM meeting we have each quarter. Our next BOM meeting will be January 28, 2019, at 4:00 PM. Ask any officer for the exact location.

Don't forget our Facebook page "Coweta Falls SAR" and website www.cowetafallssar.org where you can direct your friends to see more photos and activities of the Chapter. Please feel free to contact me with any articles or photos you would like posted on our website or Facebook page.

It has been a pleasure serving as your President over the last two years. Coweta Falls continues to grow but needs your help to be proactive by inviting new potential members to our meetings and staying in touch with our existing members to help everyone stay active. (continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page One)

In these days of negative press about our United States, it is even more important to keep our history and our Patriots' history alive by keeping our Chapter strong and growing.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful and joyous Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Regards

Dan McMichael

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"The Minuteman"

is a newsletter of

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Publisher: Bill Pruitt

Photographer/Printing: Wayne Cartledge

Our Chapter meets the 2nd Thursday of each month

@ THE HILTON GARDEN INN

1500 Bradley Lake Blvd, Columbus, Georgia in Brookstone Centre.

The \$16.00 buffet luncheon begins at 11:30AM and includes salad, vegetables, two meats, bread, dessert, tax and gratuity.

Our meeting begins at 12:15 PM and feature a Guest Speaker. **Visitors are welcome!**

DATES FOR THE NEXT THREE MEETINGS ARE:

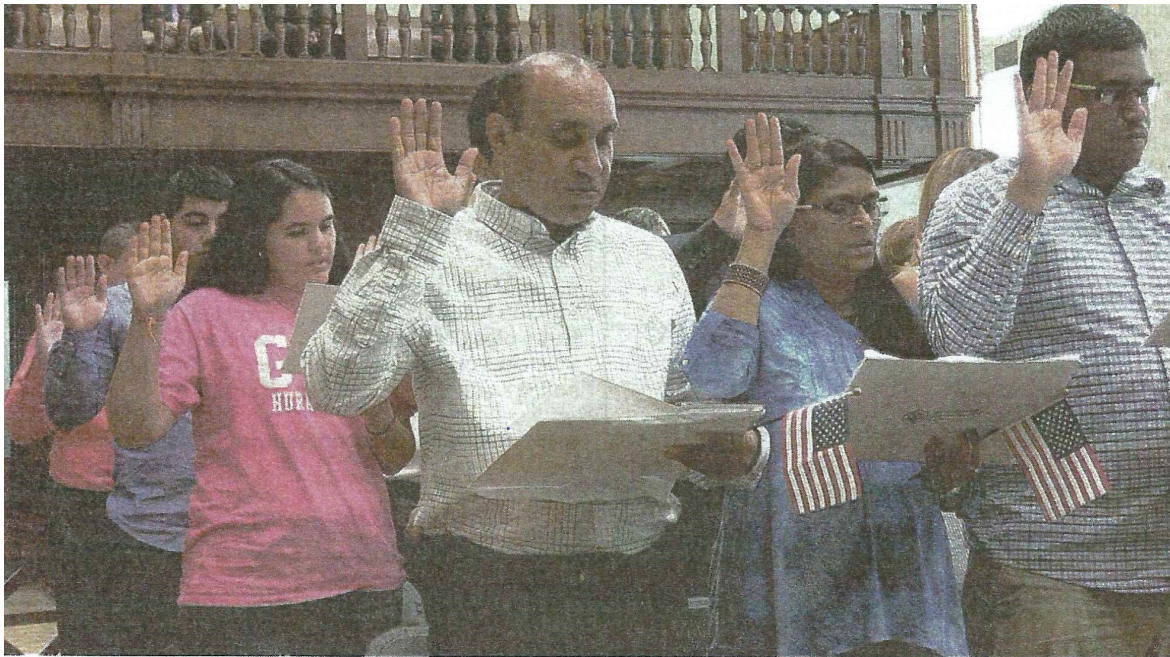
January 10th, February 14th, March 14th

Naturalization Ceremony

September 24th, 2018

Bill Hay and Dan McMichael represented Coweta Falls the Naturalization Ceremony on September 24th. Presiding over the ceremony was Judge Clay D. Land, Chief United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia. Judge Land is a member of Coweta Fallsr. Hay and McMichael presented copies of the U.S. Constitution to our newest citizens.

Jude Land believes our newest citizens deserve a special ceremony recognizing their journey to citizenship. He is responsible for resuming Naturalization Ceremonies in the Middle District.



PHOTOS BY ROBIN TRIMARCHI rtrimarchi@ledger-enquirer.com

NEARLY 50 IMMIGRANTS TAKE OATH, BECOME US CITIZENS

Archan Patel, above right, and his parents recite the Oath of Allegiance during the 2018 Naturalization Ceremony on Monday in U.S. District Court, Middle District of Georgia. The family immigrated from India six years ago, and now live in Albany, Ga. At right, a newly naturalized citizen takes a picture with the Honorable Clay Land, right, and the Honorable Stephen Hyles on Monday.



Meeting on October 11th, 2018

President Dan McMichael introduced guest speaker George W. Steuber, Deputy Garrison Commander at Fort Benning. Steuber spoke on centennial of Fort Benning and the events which have and are occurring to celebrate. The camp was first located south of Columbus on Macon Road (near the library). Fort Benning was one of the last installations to be activated in October 1918, just a month before the armistice was declared on Nov. 11, 1918. This site was selected for close proximity to downtown Columbus, city water supply and the streetcar service. Home to the U.S. Army Infantry School and the United States Army Armor Center and School, Fort Benning has confirmed its place as the premier school of arms.

Don Williams was presented, by McMichael with a certificate of appreciation for his work in maintaining our website.



**Veteran's Day Parade
Manchester, Georgia
November 3rd, 2018**

The Coweta Falls Chapter of the Sons of the American participated in the Manchester (Georgia) Veterans Day Parade on November 3rd. Representing Coweta Falls were Robert Moore and Dan McMichael. Dan Dykes (along with McMichael) represented the First Hamilton Legion.



Happy Birthday!

Compatriot Charles Maupin celebrated his 99th birthday on November 4th. The milestone was marked with a reception at Covenant Woods. Compatriot Maupin is a veteran of World War II and took part in the Normandy Invasion on June 6th, 1944.



Pictured is Compatriot Charles Maupin on his 99th Birthday (pictured below with Compatriot Bill Hay).



Meeting on November 8th, 2018

President Dan McMichael called the meeting to order. The opening prayer was delivered by Compatriots Bill Pruitt, Bill Hay, and Chuck Hall presented the Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance.

The annual Christmas Party will be on December 13th at Green Island Hills Country Club. Door prizes are needed. The membership was asked to consider donating items to be used.

There were no updates from Children of the American Revolution. Compatriot Chuck Hall does have some merchandise (shirt) to sell.

The Traveling Trunk has been to five local schools along with the US Army Infantry Museum.

Two applications are pending at National. One is in progress on the local level.

Compatriot Bernie Talley presented the program. Talley has 30 plus years in law enforcement with the Harris County Sheriff's Department and the Georgia State Patrol. Raised in an Army family, he served as a jet engine mechanic on the USS Independence. He was aboard her when she was part of the carrier task group supporting the invasion of Grenada.



**Veterans Day Program
Pine Mountain, Georgia
November 11th, 2018**

The Coweta Falls Color Guard took part in the Pine Mountain Veterans Day Program. Participating in the Color Guard were Bernie Talley, Dan Dykes, Caleb Kinard (Grandson of Dan McMichael) and Dan McMichael. Taps was presented by Chuck Hall



Thanksgiving

Dear Editor,

How did the Thanksgiving holiday get established in America? George Washington started it!

In 1789 George Washington issued a proclamation designating November 26 of that year as a national day of thanksgiving to recognize the role of providence in creating the new United States and the new federal Constitution, according to Washington's Mount Vernon research staff.

Americans traditionally recognize the "first" Thanksgiving as having taken place at Plymouth colony in the autumn of 1621. The Separatist Puritan settlers of Plymouth, known as Pilgrims, held a feast after their first harvest as a way of thanking God for their blessings. Invited to their observance were members of the neighboring Wampanoag tribe, but the 1621 thanksgiving celebration did not become an annual event.

During the American Revolution, the practice of thanksgiving continued. Colonial legislatures set aside days of prayer to recognize military victories against the British army. After British General John Burgoyne surrendered to the Americans at Saratoga, New York, in October 1777, the Continental Congress suggested that a national day be set aside to recognize the victory. Commander of the Continental Army, General George Washington agreed, proclaiming December 18, 1777 as the first national thanksgiving day.

In 1789, Representative Elias Boudinot from New Jersey presented a resolution requesting that Congress persuade the now-President Washington to declare a thanksgiving observance in honor of the creation of the new United States Constitution. Congress agreed and passed the resolution creating a joint committee to make their request to the president.

Washington issued a proclamation on October 3, 1789, designating Thursday, November 26 as a national day of thanks. In his proclamation, Washington declared that the necessity for such a day sprung from the Almighty's care of Americans prior to the Revolution, assistance to them in achieving independence, and help in establishing the constitutional government. Not ignoring the authority of state governments, Washington distributed his proclamation to the governors, requesting that they announce and observe the day within their states. Newspapers throughout the country subsequently published the proclamation and public celebrations were held. Washington himself marked the day by attending services at St. Paul's Chapel in New York City, and by donating beer and food to imprisoned debtors in the city.

The 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation, however, did not establish a permanent federal holiday. Washington issued another proclamation in February 1795 to recognize the defeat of a taxation rebellion in Pennsylvania and it was later celebrated sporadically by other Presidents. It was not until the Civil War of the 1860s that President Lincoln initiated a regular observance of Thanksgiving in the United States. The Holiday of Thanksgiving evolved through time, so let us pause and be thankful for the many blessings we enjoy in the United States of America! For more information, contact the Sons of the American Revolution or Daughters of the American Revolution.

In Patriotic Service,

Dan McMichael

Christmas Party, December 13th**Green Island Country Club**

The Coweta Falls December Meeting and Christmas Banquet was held Thursday, December 13th, 2018 at Green Island Country Club. Presiding was President Dan McMichael. Entertainment was a Special Violin and Viola Duet courtesy of the Schwob School of Music, Columbus State University. A Thirty Year Award was present to Dr. Hugh Rodgers. The Guest Speaker was J. Michael Tomme, President General NSSAR (2016 – 2017). Reports from the CAR and the Nomination Committee were received. The evening concluded with the drawing for door prizes.

Christmas Party—Green Island Country Club

More Pictures!



Wreaths Across America, December 15th Fort Benning, Georgia



Compatriot Charles Hall, Jr. at the National Wreaths Across America Day at Fort Benning Cemetery, Fort Benning, Georgia



Master of Ceremonies Colonel Richard H. White. US Army, Retired, at the National Wreaths Across America Day at Fort Benning Cemetery, Fort Benning, Georgia



Graves Covered with Wreaths at the National Wreaths Across America Day at Fort Benning Cemetery, Fort Benning, Georgia

Fort Benning honored the memory of the nation's military veterans with a wreath-laying ceremony that marked the first time the post has taken part in National Wreaths Across America Day.

Army Col. Richard H. White, told the audience, "The freedoms we enjoy today have not come without a price."

"Laying here before us in cemeteries throughout this nation, are men and women who gave their lives so that we can live in freedom, without fear. We can worship as we see fit. We can raise our children to believe as we do. We can travel from one end of this great nation to the other, and not ask for permission to go. We are free to vote for whomever we feel should be in government offic-

Wreaths Across America, December 15th

Fort Mitchell, Alabama



Wreaths Across America

Fort Mitchell, 2018

Veterans buried at the Fort Mitchell National Cemetery were remembered in an annual wreath laying ceremony Saturday.

Wreaths Across America is an annual nationwide event where the goal nationwide is the place live wreaths on the headstones of veterans laid to rest at all national cemeteries.

The Wreaths Across America committee in Fort Mitchell made history this holiday season. The project received more than 7,000 veteran wreaths. This is the largest number ever received for the Fort Mitchell National Cemetery.

The Color Guard for Wreaths Across America included Coweta Falls SAR members Dan McMichael, Robert Moore, and Roy Collier, along with 1st Hamilton Members Dan Dykes and Dan Hutchenson.

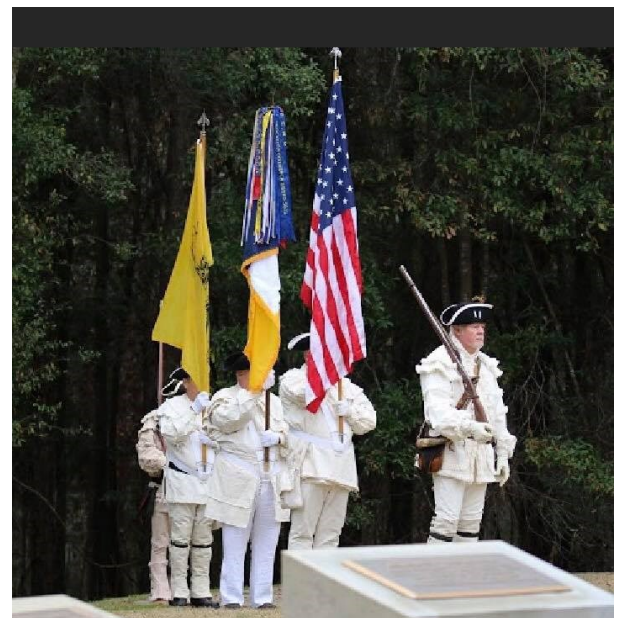


**Wreaths Across America, December 15th
Fort Mitchell, Alabama**



Wreaths Across America, December 15th

Fort Mitchell National Cemetery



The Traveling Trunk

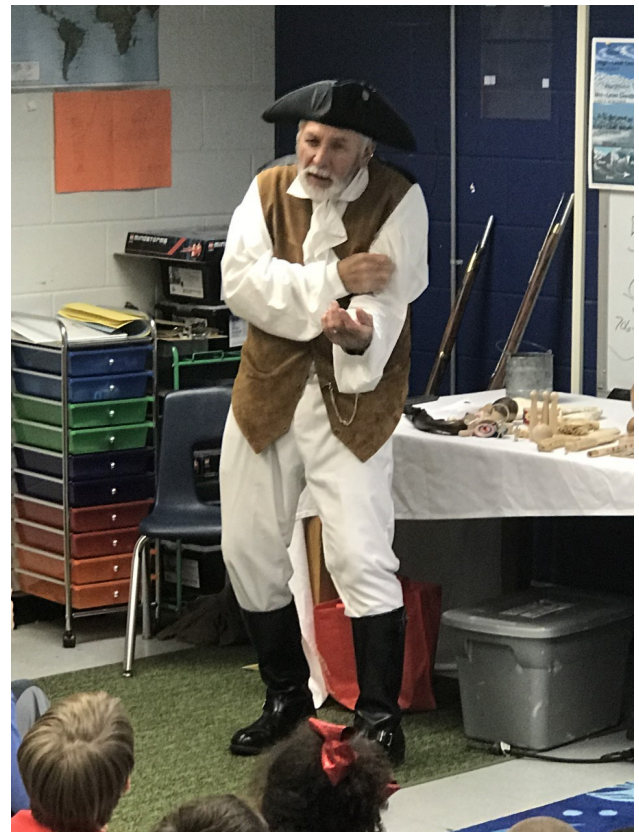
The Traveling Trunk has been making the rounds at local elementary schools. Danny Ginter, presented the Traveling Trunk to 86 students and 7 adults at various elementary schools throughout the area.



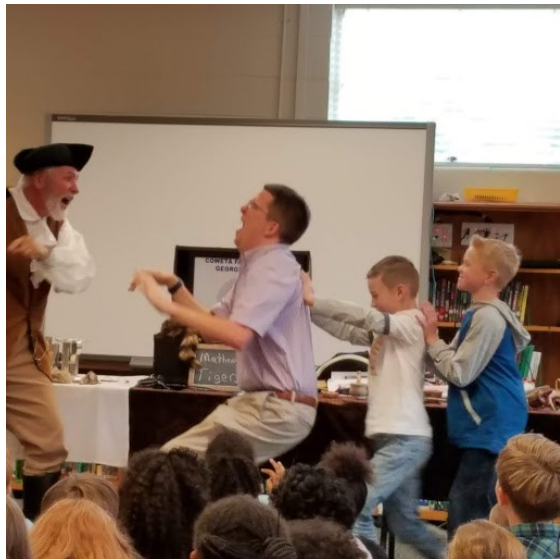
Some young patriots learning about the American Revolution at Key Elementary.



The Traveling trunk appeared again at River Road Elementary.

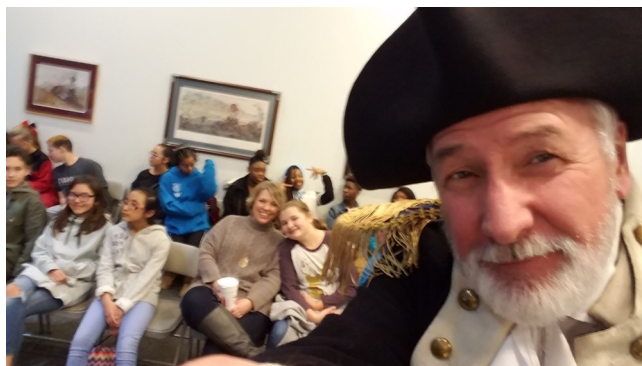


More of The Traveling Trunk



A funny picture of Danny Ginter "pulling a teacher's tooth" as he practices a bit of dentistry... Colonial Style!

Ninety students and eight adults at Russell County Middle School learned about the Revolutionary War and the Traveling Trunk.



Roosevelt Memorial Church

Dan McMichael, on behalf of Coweta Falls, awarded Roosevelt Memorial Church a Flag Certificate for displaying the U. S. Flag every day and night. The church has just recently built a monument to all those that have serviced in the US Military. The certificate was accepted by Pastor Keith Jennings. Roosevelt Memorial Church is located 60 B Street in Pine Mountain Valley, Georgia.



Fort Morris

Fort Morris is an earthen works fort in Liberty County, Georgia, and is on a bend in the Medway River. It played an important role in the protection of southeast Georgia throughout various conflicts beginning in 1741 and ending in 1865 at the conclusion of the American Civil War. The fort saw use in the French and Indian War, the American Revolutionary War, and War of 1812.

At the onset of the American Revolution, the Continental Congress saw need to defend the Medway River. The Continental Congress authorized the construction of two forts in Georgia. One was to be built at Savannah and the other at Sunbury. Fort Morris was built southeast of Sunbury and serve as a base for several campaigns in British Florida and as a defensive position in defending Sunbury and upriver point.

A small contingent of British soldiers attempted to take the fort on November 25th, 1778. The 200 Americans at Fort Morris were led by Colonel John McIntosh. McIntosh defiantly replied, "Come and take it!" after the British demanded the surrender of the fort. The British declined and pulled back only to return in January with a larger force.

It was attacked by the British on January 9, 1779, and was taken the following day. The number of lives lost is not well documented. Historians suppose that less than twelve American soldiers died and fewer British. It was renamed Fort George and was occupied by the British until September 1779, when the garrison was ordered to Savannah. After the fort was abandoned by the British, colonial forces again took it. It was retaken by the British in October. It remained under British control until 1782.

It would again see use in the War of 1812 and the American Civil War.



Robert Moore attended ceremonies at Fort Morris. He participated in the Color Guard and presented a wreath.

In Memoriam**Dr. W. Spurgeon Warr****May 24, 1934 - November 22, 2018**

Dr. W. Spurgeon Warr, age 84, of Phenix City, AL, passed away on Thursday, November 22, 2018. Dr. Warr was born May 24, 1934, in Abbeville, AL, to the late Mary Louise McCloud Warr and Buford S. Warr. He graduated from Central High in 1952, Auburn University in 1955, UAB in 1959, Internship and Residency at the Medical Center in Columbus, Georgia from 1960-1962. He began his practice in 1962. He was a member of American Academy of Family Practice, Southern Medical Association, Sons of American Revolution Coweta Chapter, Traveler's Protective Assoc., Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association, Amen Choir of Phenix City, and the Auburn Alumni Assoc. Dr. Warr loved his God, family, horses, AU Tigers, golf, traveling, and attending his community sports events. His dedication was always to his patients and the love of being a physician. At the age of 12 his focus was becoming a doctor of General Practice and Surgery. He practiced 38 years in Phenix City, but upon retiring was bored and took on other physician duties at the Russell County Correctional Institution, and Brodwyn and Associates. At the time of death he was still employed by Russell County and Sensational U, Columbus, Ga. He always said "I want to work until I die".

Other than his parents, Dr. Warr was preceded in death by his daughter Crissy Warr Vaughan, and sister, Doris Warr Cole. He is survived by his wife, Gloria Gillis Warr, Son W.S. (Spud) Warr, Jr. (Jeanette), Son-in law, Duke Vaughan, Step son, Johnny Weaver (Amanda), and daughters, Rhonda Major (Johnny), Julie Bowman, and Kathy Daniel (Joe), 8 Grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, 3 step grandchildren, nephew Will Cole (Diane) and step cousin Jerry Tapley.

Visitation for Dr. Warr was held November 25th at 1:30 PM at First Baptist Church in Phenix City, AL, and a Celebration of Life followed at 2 PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the First Baptist Church, 2608 Summerville Rd. Phenix City, AL, 36867, or The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 9143, Columbus, Georgia 31908

Christmas During the American Revolutionary War

By Hollee Chadwick

The American Revolutionary War, also known as the American War of Independence was fought between Great Britain and the thirteen British colonies between the years 1775 and 1783. The mutinous colonists declared themselves no longer allied with the crown and kicked off an eight year struggle against the political and economic policies of the British Empire. The Declaration of Independence was signed during the revolution in 1776 and declared the thirteen colonies, now to be separately chartered and governed, the United States of America.

It is accepted among some historians that Hessian soldiers who fought alongside the British first introduced the Christmas tree to the colonies during the Revolutionary War. Others claim German immigrants who settled in Eastern Pennsylvania started the tradition. All agree that prior to the Revolutionary War, Christmas was not celebrated with much merriment and outward adornment, as this did not befit the proper Puritan of that day. Christmas celebrations were regarded as tributes to the practice of Bacchanalia-the worship of Dionysus, whom the Romans called Bacchus-and were therefore sacrilegious.

Some colonists did not hold to the Puritanical ban however. Philip Fithian, of colonial Virginia, recorded in his diary entry for December 18, 1773: "When it grew to dark to dance....we conversed til half after six; Nothing is now to be heard of in conversation, but the Balls, the Fox-hunts, the fine entertainments, and the good fellowship, which are to be exhibited at the approaching Christmas."

Fithian's Christmas Eve, 1775 diary entry from Staunton, Virginia, described other common pastimes of the holiday celebration: "The Evening I spent at Mr. Guys-I sung for an Hour, at the good Peoples Desire, Mr. Watts admirable Hymns-I myself was entertained; I felt myself improvd; so much Love to Jesus is set forth-So much divine Exercise."

The month of December was ironically a turning point many times during the war. It was on November 28, 1775 that Congress established The American Navy. December 23rd of that same year King George III issued a royal proclamation closing the American colonies to all commerce and trade, to take effect in March of 1776. Also in December, Congress was informed that France might offer support in the war against Britain.

On January 5, 1776, the assembly of New Hampshire adopted the first American state constitution. It was on January 9, 1776, that Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" was published in Philadelphia. Paine criticized King George III and attacked allegiance to Monarchy in principle while providing strong arguments for American independence. "We have it in our power to begin the world anew...America shall make a stand, not for herself alone, but for the world," Paine wrote.

On December 6, 1776, the British captured the naval base at Newport, Rhode Island. On the 11th of that month, Washington took his troops across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania. The next day, over concerns of a possible British attack, the Continental Congress abandoned Philadelphia for Baltimore. Among Washington's troops was the infamous Thomas Paine, who wrote of that event, "These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country: but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like Hell, is not easily conquered. Yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

(Continued)

(con't) December 25, 1776, saw George Washington taking 2400 of his men and re-crossing the Delaware River to conduct a surprise raid on 1500 British-Hessians at Trenton, New Jersey. The Hessians surrendered after an hour with nearly 1,000 taken prisoner. six Colonial troops were wounded. Washington reoccupied Trenton. On January 3, 1777, Washington had a second victory at Princeton. He established winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey. During the harsh winter, Washington's army shrank to about a thousand as enlistment periods expired and deserters fled. By spring, with the arrival of recruits, Washington had 9000 men.

Mark Alexander wrote in *The Collegiate Patriot* (Dec. 22, 2002): "Indeed, our first national Christmases tell the tale of the Revolutionary War's ebb and flow. The so-called Christmas Campaign successes of 1776 at Trenton and Princeton were presaged by General George Washington's writings of December 18: 'If every nerve is not strained to recruit the New Army with all possible Expedition I think the game is pretty near up....No Man I believe ever had a greater choice of difficulties & less the means of extricating himself than I have-However under a full persuasion of the justice of our Cause I cannot but think the prospect will brighten.' But these surprising victories were followed a year later by the Revolutionary Army's retreat to Valley Forge, the trail marked by bloody footprints in the snow. Washington's discouragement was evident in his writing of 'A character to lose-an estate to forfeit-the inestimable blessing of liberty at stake-and a life devoted, must be my excuse,' and how 'it was much easier to draw up remonstrances in a comfortable room by a good fire-side, than to occupy a cold bleak hill, and sleep under frost and snow, without clothes or blankets.'"

It was also Christmas (1783) that General Washington chose to step down as leader of the Revolutionary Army. Weintraub wrote in his book "General Washington's Christmas Farewell": "In late November 1783 when Washington finally received formal notice of the signing of a peace treaty with England he had little more than a month to accept the transfer of power from British troops in New York; to bid farewell to his troops; and to resign his commission to Congress if he hoped to make it to Mount Vernon for Christmas. He could have remained in charge and become a virtual king to the Americans who loved him. Control of the newly forming government was his to take – yet he chose to resign. It was that decision, coupled with his later decision to step down from the presidency after two terms, that rendered him 'the greatest character of the age'.

Washington's homeward journey is a moving and inspiring story from his great life. When he bade farewell to his troops at Fraunces Tavern in New York City there were no dry eyes. When he reached Congress and gave a retirement speech, it cemented his greatness more fully than had his victory over the British. When he made it to Mount Vernon, finally, on Christmas Eve, it could not have been a happier homecoming."

Christmas has not only brought us the Prince of Peace, it has also brought us the freedom to worship the prince of Peace in the manner which we as a free nation choose. The fight for individual freedom for all Americans would come less than a century later.

Chadwick, Hollee, (2002, May 30). Christmas During the American Revolutionary War, Retrieved from <https://mymerrychristmas.com/christmas-during-the-american-revolutionary-war/>