



The Quill & Bugle

Saramana Chapter Newsletter

National Society Sons of the American Revolution

11 February 2013

Webpage: SaramanaSar.org

EXTRA, EXTRA, EXTRA, EXTRA **George Turns 214 Today**



To be a legend, you must become a legend.

To celebrate the legend, you must be there.

When: Saturday, 23 Feb 2013. **Where:** Holiday Inn Lido Beach. **Time:** 11:30 AM Cordials; Noon Program.

Menu Details: Soup du jour, served with crackers. Warm Rolls with Butter served with entrée.

Entrée Selections: Yankee Pot Roast, Chicken and Dumplings, or Chicken Caesar Salad

Dessert: Trifle. **Refreshments:** Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaf & Assorted Herbal Hot Tea.

Please record your entrée selection on the RSVP Form above.

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RSVP Form, with Menu Selections

RSVP By 20 Feb 2013, for the Saturday 23 February 2013
George Washington Luncheon: To be a legend, you must become a legend.

Send your reservation & payment for the luncheon honoring George Washington to **Saramana Chapter SAR**, c/o Ted Hornback, Treasurer; 1538 Belfry Drive; Venice, FL 34292-4334. Telephone: 941-485-4481 TED1538@aol.com

_____ Luncheon(s) @ \$22.00 = _____ * Detail Menu on page 1. Mark selection here:

___ Yankee Pot Roast or ___ Chicken and Dumplings or ___ Chicken Caesar Salad

Your name (Print) _____

Guest name (Print) _____

***Send reservation and payment to be received by Wednesday, 20 Feb 2013; make checks payable to Saramana Chapter SAR. Time, Place, and Menu details below.**

Program Preview

Preview -- George Washington Luncheon Program: To be a legend, you must become a legend.



Part I. George and Lady Washington were legends. He came to prominence by crossing the Delaware; she, because behind every man there is a great woman. *The SAR and DAR Players will present a skit, "A Legend is born."*

Part II. The night before he died, George Washington worked late. *"And when he laid himself down to sleep, little came to mind that the morrow would cause people to weep. Instead he turned to Lady Washington to say, do you recall Freegift Patchin who became a legend on that seventh of April day?"* **A unique reading, given under the program title of "This Time in History."**

Part III. A "Revolutionary War Re-enactment" will be presented by Charles and Dorothy Churchill in Colonial attire. *Turn to page 3.*



“Revolutionary War Re-enactment Continued...”

Sarasota Chapter SAR member Charles Churchill is a G4 grandson of Freegift Patchin, who on April 7, 1780, while serving in the New York Militia, was captured by Indians not far from Albany, New York.

Led by Chief Joseph Brant, his captors forced Freegift and eleven other minutemen to march 300 miles in deep snow and freezing temperatures to Fort Niagara. They were sold to the British for eight dollars a head. Freegift found himself in prison, placed in irons, and deprived of just about everything needed to survive. After two years in captivity, Freegift was released. He returned to Wilton, Connecticut, where he courted and married Molly Morehouse.

In 1828 Freegift wrote a narrative entitled, "The Captivity and Sufferings of Freegift Patchin Among the Indians as told by Himself." It was published in 1833 and handed down from generation to generation. Charles Churchill obtained a copy of the narrative in August 2005 and decided to condense it and become a re-enactor portraying his ancestor. Helping Charles in the program will be his wife Dorothy, who plays the role of Molly Morehouse.



R-L Compatriot Charles Churchill and his wife, Dorothy.

George Washington, Chief Brant, and General Patchin: To be a legend, you must become a legend.



Thayendanega or Chief Joseph Brant (March 1743 – 24 November 1807) was a Mohawk military and political leader, within the Iroquois Confederacy.

He was closely associated with Great Britain during and after the American Revolutionary War. He met many of the most significant Anglo-American people of the age, including both George Washington and King George III.

During the War of Independence, Chief Brant led Mohawk raiding parties and Colonial Loyalist from Fort Niagara for the frontiers of New York, Pennsylvania and as far south as Virginia. Returning to Fort Niagara, the parties brought in prisoners, livestock, and reports of settlers killed and barns burned. In the spring of 1780, one of the prisoners was Freegift Patchin, who over the course of time became an American legend.

This *EXTRA Quill & Bugle* is being sent on George Washington's real birthday, February 11th.

According to the Center of Legislative Archives, National Archives George Washington's Birthday has a history. George Washington was born in Virginia on February 11, 1731, according to the then-used Julian calendar. In 1752, however, Britain and all its colonies adopted the Gregorian calendar, which placed Washington's birth on February 22, 1732.

Currently George's birthday is celebrated as a federal holiday on the third Monday in February. It is one of eleven permanent holidays established by Congress. Federal holidays apply only to the federal government and the District of Columbia; Congress has never declared a national holiday binding in all states and each state decides its own legal holidays.

Americans celebrated Washington's Birthday long before Congress declared it a federal holiday. The centennial of his birth prompted festivities nationally and Congress established a Joint Committee to arrange for the occasion. At the recommendation of the Committee, chaired by Henry Clay of the Senate and Philemon Thomas of the House, Congress adjourned on February 22, 1832 out of respect for Washington's memory and in commemoration of his birth. Prompted by a memorial from the mayor and other citizens of Philadelphia, the House and Senate commemorated the 130th Anniversary of Washington's birth by reading aloud his Farewell Address.

In a special joint session held in the House Chamber, the House and Senate, along with several cabinet officials, Justices of the Supreme Court and high-ranking officers of the Army and Navy, gathered to listen to the Secretary of State read the address aloud. Eventually, the reading of George Washington's Farewell Address became an annual event for the Senate, a tradition that is still observed to this day.

Washington's Birthday, however, did not become a legal holiday until January 31, 1879 when Congress added February 22nd to the list of holidays to be observed by federal employees in the District of Columbia. The act did not stipulate that employees were to be paid for the holiday - in fact, some government employees in the District of Columbia were paid while others were not.

Washington's Birthday was celebrated on February 22nd until well into the 20th Century. However, in 1968 Congress passed the Monday Holiday Law to "provide uniform annual observances of certain legal public holidays on Mondays." By creating more 3-day weekends, Congress hoped to "bring substantial benefits to both the spiritual and economic life of the Nation."

One of the provisions of this act changed the observance of Washington's Birthday from February 22nd to the third Monday in February. Ironically, this guaranteed that the holiday would never be celebrated on Washington's actual birthday, as the third Monday in February cannot fall any later than February 21.