

Mississippi Compatriot

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Mississippi Society

Sons of the American Revolution



MSSAR Website:
www.sar.org/mssar
NSSAR Web Site:
www.sar.org

November 29, 2019

MSSAR Officers:

President:

Dr. John F. Fulwider

1st Vice President:

Dr. Bryant Boswell

2nd Vice President:

Jak Smith, Esq.

Secretary:

Julius S. Hite

Treasurer/Registrar:

Stewart L. Herron

Genealogist:

Larry Hellums

Historian:

Dr. Andrew M. Jones

National Trustee:

Michael P. Schenk

Alt. National Trustee:

Dr. John Fulwider

Chancellor:

George M. Henry, Esq

Chaplain:

Glenn D. Shows

Sgt-at-Arms:

Robert Cox

Color Guard Commander

Julius Hite

Event Schedule:

ExCom Meeting -

January 11, 2020
Lake Tiak-O-Khata Resort
(near Louisville, MS)

2020 State Conference -

March 27 - 28, 2020
Ridgeland, MS

NSSAR 130th Trustee and Leadership Mtg.

February 27- 29, 2020,
Louisville, KY

MSSAR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Everyone at the MS SAR Executive Committee wishes you and your family Happy Holidays 2019. Thanksgiving is behind us, and Christmas is on the way. I hope all of our Mississippi Compatriots are enjoying the holidays with good health, and strong faith. My wife Pam has been overseas caring for her very ill mother since July 21, 2019. She has stabilized her mother and will return home to Mississippi and to a very happy family on January 1, 2020. She has asked many times how our MS SAR family is doing, and sent kisses and good wishes to all of her SAR friends.

The photo above shows from L to R Southern District Vice President General Bobby Joe Seales, MS and SD Color Guard Commander, MS SAR Secretary Julius Hite, MS SAR 1st VP Dr. Bryant Boswell and on far right, President Dr. John Fulwider. The above photo was taken by Bobby Joe Seales wife Diane at the National SAR grave-marking event of 5 Patriots in Piney Flats, TN September 13, 2019. The next day September 14 we all attended the Gathering at Sycamore Shoals in Elizabethton, TN.

(con't on p. 8)



MAY WE ALL BE THANKFUL
FOR THE GRACE OF A LOVING GOD

Mississippi Society Oration Contest

It is almost time for our annual state convention and the deadline is fast approaching for contestants for the Joseph Rumbaugh Oration Contest. Unfortunately, we did not have a contestant last year to represent us at the national level. Let's not let this happen again this year. Get out to all of your high schools, promote this event and the potential for a substantial cash award and let's get these young people judged at your local level and submitted for the state competition which will be held at our state convention in Ridgeland in March 2020. Remember, only one contestant per chapter. Please forward all entries along with their completed application and draft of their presentation to the state chairman, Bob Cox, at bcox1951@gmail.com no later than February 1, 2020. Let's get out and strongly promote this very worthwhile event and recognize the outstanding youth that the state of Mississippi has to offer.

Note: All the documentation for the Oration Contest can be found on the MSSAR Website.

State Officers Reports

- National Trustee - Michael Schenk -

2019 SAR Fall Leadership Meeting

Louisville, Kentucky - The Fall Leadership meeting of the NSSAR was held from September 19-21, 2019 in the historic Brown Hotel. Items of business conducted at the Trustee meeting included:

1. The contract with Solid Light, Inc. was amended to add a retail store to the museum plans at no additional cost.
2. \$2,400 in the U.S. stamp fund was reallocated to the 250th Anniversary Fund
3. \$10,000 in the King's College Project Fund was reallocated to continuing the upgrade of accounting software and a new storefront.
4. \$38,500 was allocated to the remaining work on the membership data module. The new membership database should be on-line by the Spring Leadership meeting.
5. The proposed 2020 budget was approved.
6. The George Washington Endowment Fund will contribute evenly toward the Howard F. Horne, Jr. Fund and the Walter Buchanan "Buck" Meek Fund to build up the amount of money in these funds.
7. The 2024 National Congress will be held in Pennsylvania.
8. Five donated swords found to be from the 1800's or later will be sold at auction, with the proceeds going to the Museum Special Artifacts Fund.

- Web Master -

Mississippi State Society Sons of the American Revolution is getting ready to celebrate its first year using the new MS SAR web site at MSSAR.ORG . Our state web site is a living thing, and thus always evolving. The web site is growing ever so fast, and like anything that grows, it needs to be fed. Your web site is only as good as the material you provide to be shared with its viewers and users.

I need your input to keep the web site growing, evolving with your ideas of what you want. All submissions are directed as to our compatriot's wants and needs. If you want or need information and the site does not have it, let me know. The web site is so very flexible and informative. Try it and let me know your reaction.

Thank you, Michael A. Nolley Sr. michaelnolley@hotmail.com

State Committee Reports

- Flag Committee -

We are well into the year, and I need Chapter info on all Flag Certificates given out so far. Remember not to forget your own Chapter Members. If they fly the Great American Flag properly then they too should get the Certificate. Ask around next chapter meeting. I was told that for every Chapter that gives out 5 or more Flag Certificates that Chapter will receive National SAR recognition. So please get me the info as soon as you can. Thank you. Michael A. Nolley Sr. michaelnolley@hotmail.com .

(con't on p. 3)

State Committee Reports (continued)

- Long Range Planning Committee -

A lot of effort has gone into the planning of the 2020 Annual Meeting scheduled for March 27, 28, 2020. A new and exciting Silent Auction is being developed by the ladies of the Central District. You will see a lot of new signage and color when you enter the hotel. All the ballrooms have been reserved. Along with our usual Friday and Saturday banquets, there will be an Awards Lunch rather than a breakfast. You may move at your usual pace on Saturday morning and enjoy a complimentary breakfast. Most of the awards, given in the past on Saturday night, will be given at lunch. The Saturday night Banquet will have a few special awards, but will be more of a wonderful meal, after dinner speaker, and a dance. The Sons of Independence will be unveiled for you on Friday night, exhibiting one of its many varied educational venues, "The War Letters", on Saturday afternoon, and then the Generals will welcome you on Saturday night and share the dance floor by teaching the beautiful period dances and waltzes of the Revolutionary Period.

Mark your calendars, make your hotel reservations early, and just come prepared to see a lot of new things, experience something different, and just have fun! The final agenda and registration packets will be mailed on January 2. Did you know there is a new chapter being formed in the state? Want to know all about it? It will be unveiled as well at the Annual Meeting. **BE THERE.**

Hotel Reservation information can be found on the next page

- Silent Auction Committee -

Silent Auction enters a New Era:

The much loved Silent Auction held during our Annual Meeting is moving into a new era. Gerry and Sandy Brent have decided it is time to "pass the torch" to others. These are huge shoes to fill. Sandy, with her organizational skills and Gerry with his woodworking skills made a fantastic team and created an auction each year that was just phenomenal. Gerry and Sandy – Thank you so much for the years of service.

The Silent Auction is very important to the financial success of the Annual Meeting. Without it, registration fees would have to increase. Plus, it's just fun to have it.

This year we divided the State into three districts (North, Central, and South). There are five chapters in each district. There is a District Director for each. The Annual Meeting will rotate through the Districts. This year the Annual Meeting will be in the Central District in Ridgeland. Next year, it will be in the South District in Hattiesburg. In 2022, it will be held in the North District in Oxford.

A Silent Auction Committee, comprised of ladies from the District hosting the Annual Meeting will be responsible for Auction that particular year. This year the Chairman is Sarah Boswell. Ladies on the Committee are Kathy Henry, Laura Schenk, Melanie Couth, Karen McBride, and Carol Irving.

Everybody in the State needs to help. Ladies – BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ITEMS!

Items might be purchased by you and then donated for the auction, or you, a friend or relative may have a particular craft in which an item or package could be put together for the auction. Or, a business might want to donate an item. Any item donated by a retailer will receive a free half page ad for their business. (All ads must be submitted to Bryant Boswell at mtcreeklodge@aol.com no later than Feb. 15, 2020.)

(con't on p. 6)

2020 State Convention Information

MAKE YOUR Hotel Reservations for the Annual 2020 Meeting TODAY

EMBASSY SUITES by Hilton
Ridgeland, Mississippi

111th Annual Convention
The Mississippi Society
Sons of the American Revolution
March 27 – 29, 2020

SPECIAL ROOM RATE IS \$129.00 per night + tax
(Regularly priced \$145+ per night)
(Includes complimentary breakfast)

MAKING YOUR RESERVATION: By phone or Internet

1-601-607-7112
or online
www.msasar.org/news/convention

Use Group Code: MSS

Check-in: 27-MAR-2020
Check-out: 29-MAR-2020

Please make your reservations early. Deadline is February 28, 2020

Please consider purchasing space in the new and colorful 2020 Mississippi State Convention Program of Contributors

Place an ad to honor your Patriot Ancestors, Family, Father, Mother, Children, Memorials, Past SAR Officer positions, Business, Organizations, or Chapter. These memorials, acknowledgements and ads provide critical funding for the Convention and help keep the registration cost down.

\$100 full page ; \$50 half page

We can help you put it together, insert graphics, pictures, logos and general typesetting. Submissions will be printed in color.

Contributors to the Silent Auction will have the opportunity to place an ad as well.

The cutoff date will be February 15, 2020.

Let us help you. You can send a copy of your desired ad to the address below or you can send an electronic version to my email address. Email address is mtcreeklodge@aol.com. You may also call to talk about what kind of submission you would like to put together. Call:

601-845-7994 (H)
601-966-0670 (C)

- Chapter News -

- Desoto Patriots Chapter -

The Desoto Patriots Chapter met on June 20, 2019. for the program, each member gave a brief history of their Revolutionary Patriot. Members attending the meeting were: Standing (L to R) Mike Dudas, David Stephens, Chris Heuer, Lyn Herron, Chapter President Tommy Thompson, Randy Hailey, Bill Horne, James Luther Nabors, Jamie Nabors, Bill Witt. (Seated:) Charles Garrison left, and James Mason.



- Central Mississippi Chapter -

It turned into a dark stormy night, but members of Central Mississippi Chapter SAR had a great September meeting and feasted on fried chicken and fixin's while the storm passed. Pictured here are (L-R): Guest Ron Humphrey; Mark Henry; William Kilpatrick; Tyler Bilbo; Erik Norman; Robert Kalka; Ben Eubanks; John McBride; and Glenn Shows.



(con't in next column)

Along with members of the Walter Leake Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Compatriot Erik Norman of the Central Mississippi Chapter SAR performed color guard duty as Mayor Phil Fisher proclaimed Constitution Week, a commemoration of America's most important document, September 17-23, at the Olde Towne Depot in Clinton.



(con't on p. 6)

- Central Mississippi Chapter (con't) -

Congratulations to the new Central Mississippi Chapter SAR officers and to our award recipients: Michael Schenk, Ben Eubanks, Mark Henry and Erik Norman. The ladies received roses--as all ladies should--for their continued support. The chapter will soon have two new members including a "registrar-in-training." Deceased compatriot Raymond Ball was honored with a formal resolution and a missing man table. New officers are: President Benjamin Eubanks, Vice President John McBride, Treasurer Robert Kalka, Secretary Ben Jones, Registrar Michael Schenk.



President Jones presents awards to the following:

Top left: Erik Norman receives the Chapter Meritorious Service Award.

Top right: Benjamin Eubanks is awarded the Chapter Distinguished Service Award.

Left: Michael Schenk is presented the Oak Leaf Cluster for the Roger Sherman.



Left: President Jones presented roses to Mrs. Sarah Boswell, left, and Mrs. Laura Schenk for their continued support to the SAR.

- William Gray Chapter -

Members of the William Gray Chapter mourned the passing of long time member Mr. David Thomason. Memorial services were held Tuesday Sept. 24, 2019 at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church.



The William Gray Chapter participated in a Constitution Day Event in Aberdeen, Mississippi. Among those in attendance is From left: Polly Grimes, Honorary DAR MS State Regent, Jack Hamilton, Wm. Gray Chapter President, and Dr. John Fulwider, MS SAR President.

(con't on p. 7)

- Silent Auction Committee - (con't)

Any item collected for the auction should be mailed or brought to Sarah Boswell or Laura Schenk, A description of the item and the value of should be sent. The Committee will start to set the Auction tables at 1:00pm on Friday, March 27, 2020. All items must be received no later than 3:00pm.

PLEASE help us. The Committee wants the Auction to be "second to none" with items any of us would love to have in our homes or use in our lives. All items need to be new or like new.

Let's make our Auction the envy of any organization with craft items, home accessories, or art.

Thank you for your ideas and contributions. Feel free to direct any questions to either Sarah or myself.

Sarah B. Boswell – sarahbboswell@aol.com – PO Box 420, Star, MS 39167 – 601-9402557

- Chapter News (con,t) -**- Joseph Warren Chapter -**

Members of the Joseph Warren Chapter in Vicksburg participated with the Ashmead Chapter DAR in a grave marking ceremony held at the historic City Cemetery in Vicksburg on July 20. The DAR marker was placed on the grave of Mrs. Caroline Posey, longtime Chaplain of the Ashmead Chapter. Mrs. Posey died in 2013. Participating in the ceremony were Mrs. Bobbie Edwards, Regent of the Ashmead Chapter, Jane Speyerer, Current Chaplain of the Ashmead Chapter, Mr. Edward Campbell, President of the Joseph Warren Chapter, Roeland Bell and son, Bart Bell of the Warren Chapter, Janis Koestler, Ashmead, Chapter Registrar, and CAR Representative, and Mrs. Laura Virginia Cook, Treasurer of the Ashmead Chapter. The Joseph Warren Chapter is looking forward to other activities in which both groups can work together.

**The Mississippi Society mourns the passing of the following members:**

02/20/2019	Frank Luke Zelinka
03/12/2019	William Crawford Flewellen Jr.
03/18/2019	George Wayne Parrish
07/17/2019	Raymond Arnold Ball
09/06/2019	Bryan Willis Brabston Jr.
09/17/2019	James Edward Black
09/21/2019	David Thomason
10/12/2019	Thomas Wayne Hallum
10/20/2019	Charles Thomas Gillies

- Jacob Horger Chapter -

The Jacob Horger Chapter has two new members since our last report, Mr. Barry Mason and Mr. Casey Palmer Zimmerman. There is also one new member pending at National, Mr. John Price. On October 18th our chapter made a donation of nine (9) new books to the Genealogy section of the Laurel - Jones County Library. The chapters annual Christmas/Holiday dinner is scheduled for December 7, 2019, at Annie B's Restaurant in Collins, MS.

Regards.

Bob Cox, President, Jacob Horger Chapter



On October 18, 2019 the Jacob Horger Chapter was pleased and honored to make a presentation of books to the Genealogy section of the Laurel-Jones County Library. These books represent historical data pertaining to early Mississippi and will, hopefully be a valuable asset to the Genealogy section of the library for all patrons wishing to learn more about their ancestors and history of our great state. On hand for the presentation to MS Susan Blakeney, Genealogist at the library, were chapter members Bob Cox, President, John Taylor, Registrar, Daryl Gambrell, Secretary, Mrs. Jill Taylor and Mrs. Anita Gambrell. The Genealogy section of the library has always been willing and able to assist in any way possible, and it was a pleasure to make this small donation.

President's Message con't

Attendance was by the invitation from TN SAR President David Carr and his VP Steve Gaines. Thank you both for a wonderful, and well-planned event that occurs each year in TN.

Traveling the Southern District states of Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi has been a lot of fun, and the meeting of new friends a blessing. Since our last newsletter listing of events your president has visited and attended nine (9) Chapter meetings, and one funeral for a compatriot. Other 2019 events attended were DAR and Captain William Hillhouse Chapter State DAR Reception for MS DAR Regent Hellen Hicks Polk on 26 July 2019 in Starkville, MS, Aberdeen Constitution Day DAR/SAR 9-17-19 celebration, National Leadership Conference Louisville KY September 22-2019, Southern District Grave Marking Chapel Hill, TN October 19, 2019. DAR Rosalie Day Natchez, MS a two day event October 23-24-2019, Grave Marking at May Cemetery in Macon, MS November 2, 2019.



Our MS Chapters are in the holiday mode, and some of the upcoming chapter dates are the William Gray December 3rd Christmas Dinner at the Tupelo Country Club, the Jacob Horger Christmas meeting December 7th in Collins, MS, the Daniel McKie meeting December 12th in Oxford, the James Vernon Lynman Sr. December 12th in Biloxi, MS, the David Murphree meeting December 17th in Bruce, MS. January meetings see Dr. Joseph Warren on January 2, 2020 in Vicksburg, South Central Chapter is hosting a large awards ceremony and meeting on January 5, 2020 in Brookhaven, MS. , Daniel McKie meets January 9th in Oxford. My next meeting is the MS SAR Executive Committee on January 11th, 2020 10am at the Lake Tiak-O'Khata Resort in Louisville, MS. This will be an important meeting with all MS Compatriots invited, and also the MS SAR Ladies Auxiliary will be meeting. The resort also has rooms to rent for those who will drive a long distance to enjoy a great location for a meeting. Call the resort for room reservations and rates.

My wife and I plan to continue to visit our MS Chapter meetings along with attending the Alabama SAR Convention 21-22 February 2020, National SAR Leadership in Louisville, KY February 26-29, 2020. We go early to the Leadership conference and volunteer. TN SAR Convention March 19-21- 2020, Our MS SAR Convention March 27-28-2020 and the LA SAR Convention April 17-18-2020.

The NSSAR Congress will be in Richmond VA. I will attend July 9th through the 16th as my wife and I always go early to volunteer our time and then leave late. We spend quality time with close SAR friends like Jim and Uni Fosdyck, NSSAR Color Guard Commander and Western District Vice President General.

I cannot over state how honored I am to represent our great state of Mississippi as your MS SAR State President. Bless you and your family throughout this holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dr. John Fulwider

MS SAR
President



Letters to the Editor



Should Women attend SAR meetings?

Azalia Moore

Years ago, women did not often attend the meetings of local chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution. Like other such gatherings, the programs and procedures of the SAR chapters were masculine both in interest and content. However, now many SAR chapters are encouraging the attendance and participation of the wives and daughters of SAR members and/ or of women who are interested in the history of this country and the programs offered by this organization.

At the William Gray SAR meeting in November, there was a table for women who shared a delightful program related to the history of Mount Vernon and the life and accomplishments of George Washington. In addition to attendance at the meetings, women are supportive of the Mississippi State Sons of American Revolution organization in a variety of actions. Support for the annual conference is given by women who donate items for the auction, who decorate the meeting rooms and who assist in other valuable ways. Many of the women who attend these gatherings are members of the Auxiliary even though they may not belong to the Daughters of the American Revolution Chapters. These groups contribute to the promotion of the SAR in several valuable ways.

Often women who are DAR members find that the attendance at a SAR meeting allows them to further gain understanding of the lives and deeds of the heroes and heroines of American History. With similar goals and objectives, those who attend both group functions can double the information they acquire. Usually the two groups have different schedules and subjects for the meetings.

If a woman becomes interested in the lineage of her family and that person does not have the opportunity to affiliate with a DAR chapter due to conflict of schedule or completion of the application process, then the SAR often welcomes these women as guests and supportive personnel. In several groups in this state, the women become valued supporters of the local endeavors such as assisting in celebration of Flag day, honoring fallen patriots, encouraging participation in competitions like the essay contests and public speaking events.

Finally, the supportive interaction of members of two primary historic societies in an area promotes greater interest and enhances communication about the achievements and strengths of both organizations.

The following is a poem written by Miss Chandler Wall, a member of the Olde Towne Society, Children of the American Revolution, Tupelo, MS. Senior President Mrs. Sylvia Thornton had challenged the chapter members to write a poem and read it during a chapter meeting. Chandler is the daughter of William and Stacie Wall of Fulton, MS.

A Midnight's Rumination in the Middle of a Revolution

By: Chandler Wall

**Member of the Olde Towne Society
Children of the American Revolution
Tupelo, MS**

A cry, a cry split through the air!
A cry of warning. A cry of despair.
Amongst the sharp clapping of the horse he was riding,
A shout rang out, "The British are coming!"
The young and old
The meek and the bold

(Con't on p. 10)

- Letter to the Editor (continued) -

A Midnight's Ruminations in the Middle of a Revolution

Rose from their slumber
In many a number
Grabbing what weapon on which they depend,
They, like myself, were minutemen.
Trained to be ready if this time should come,
Trained in gun, in powder, in drum.
Revolution, like gunpowder, filled the air
While the British were marching without a care.
In a minute, sure, I had to be ready
We had to be quick. We had to be steady.
But after I snatched by rifle and powder
And took a quick glance at the late night hour,
I paused and looked up at the stars;
I doubted not if we had come too far,
However, I wondered...
Oh, I wondered so,
Where would all of this fighting, this war, would go?
Would this be the start of something grand?
A great revolution, a war God had planned?
Would this be a turning point in history
Or would this only be buried leagues under the sea?
My head dropped as I said, "Is anyone going to remember me?"
Then, I heard it!
The marching of feet!
I lifted my head and saw the British army and fleet.



- Membership Renewal -



It's that time of the year to pay our dues and renew our membership.

Soon each one of us will receive a dues notice. President Fulwider and all the state officers strongly encouraged all of our members to submit your dues to Treasurer Lynn Herron and retain your membership. So, again, when you receive the dues notice drop a check in the mail to Treasurer Herron.

- Mississippi Society Leadership Profiles -
- Charles Franklin Garrison -



In 1988 my cousin Thomas Wallis asked if I would be interested in being a member of the SAR. My remarks to Thomas was, what is the SAR. Thomas said the SAR is Sons of the American Revolution and membership is proven by lineage by bloodline from the applicant to a patriot of the war. He explained, to be a member of the Sons of the American Revolution you supply proof for each generation by blood line from you to a patriot that served in the military or supplied needs for the cause. I told Thomas if he would help with my application, I would like to be a member. However, after he prepared the application and told me that I would need to furnish the proofs for each generation I did not follow through. In January of 2001 Thomas informed me that a SAR Chapter was being formed in Desoto County, and if I was interested to contact John Caldwell or Lyn Herron, and he gave their contact information. After calling John Caldwell I started going to all meetings to organize the Chapter. Thomas and Bill Lyle completed my application, and this time I did give the proofs for membership and became a Charter Member of the Desoto Patriots Chapter. The Chapter was Chartered 18 August 2001, and I have served in several Chapter Officer's positions including President 2006 through 2008.

My first State Convention was 2003 in Bay Saint Louis, I was added to the membership committee, and I think Buck Meek and Bill Lyle had something to do with that. Since that time I have attended 16 state conventions. In 2007 I started attending the State ExCom meeting and have served on several Committees, served

as MSSSAR Genealogist, Secretary, 1st VP and President. As Secretary I served under four state President's, James Lamar Roberts Jr., Gerald Brent, Michael Schenk and Joseph Edmund "Toby" Winston. Thanks to Dr. Andrew Jones for his support and guidance when I took the Secretary position. If I had a question, Andy had the answer. Over the years, I have attended, William Gray, Central Mississippi, Jacob Horger, South Central Mississippi, Isaac Carter, David Murphree, Daniel McKie, Capt. William Hillhouse, Nathaniel Greene Chapter meetings. I attended twelve leadership meetings in Louisville and two other State Conventions and have made acquaintance and friends with other SAR members. I received many certificates and Medals on the Chapter, State, Southern District and National levels. On the state level I received "Lifetime Achievement Award" and from National the Liberty Medal for first line signer of new members. My greatest enjoyment is working with John Taylor, Bill Lyle, Lyn Herron, Chad Couch and others in helping new members completing their membership applications and finding proofs that they had no idea that were available.

It is an honor to serve in an organization, which honors our ancestors who helped create the United States of America, gave us our Constitution, Bill of Rights and a Nation of free men (and women).

Charles, the Mississippi Society thanks you for your years of service and dedication to the society.

- Thanksgiving -



The first Thanksgiving was a harvest celebration held by the pilgrims of Plymouth colony in the 17th century. Many myths surround the first Thanksgiving. Very little is actually known about the event because only two firsthand accounts of the feast were ever written. The first account is William Bradford's journal titled *Of Plymouth Plantation* and the other is a publication written by Edward Winslow titled *Mourt's Relations*. What is known is that the pilgrims held the first Thanksgiving feast to celebrate the successful fall harvest. Celebrating a fall harvest was an English tradition at the time and the pilgrims had much to celebrate. The 53 pilgrims at the first Thanksgiving were the only colonists to survive the long journey on the Mayflower and the first winter in the New World. Disease and starvation struck down half of the original 102 colonists. These pilgrims made it through that first winter and, with the help of the local Wampanoag tribe, they had a hearty supply of food to sustain them through the next winter.

Although the modern day Thanksgiving feast takes place on the fourth Thursday of November, the first Thanksgiving did not. This feast most likely happened sometime between September and November of 1621. No exact date for the feast has ever been recorded so one can only assume it happened sometime after the fall harvest. The celebration took place for three days and included recreational activities. Guests at the feast included 90 Wampanoag Indians from a nearby village, including their leader Massasoit. One of these Indians, a young man named Squanto, spoke fluent English and had been appointed by Massasoit to serve as the pilgrim's translator and guide. Squanto learned English prior to the pilgrim's arrival after he was captured by English explorers and spent time in Europe as a slave. Neither Bradford or Winslow's account indicate whether the Indians were actually invited to the celebration or how they learned of it. Many historians have simply assumed they were invited. Edward Winslow's account merely states: "Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner (con't on p 13)

- Thanksgiving Con't -

rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the company almost a week, at which time amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

The names of the pilgrims present at the First Thanksgiving:

Women: Eleanor Billington, Mary Brewster, Elizabeth Hopkins, Susanna White Winslow,

Men: John Alden, Isaac Allerton, John Billington, William Bradford, William Brewster, Peter Brown, Francis Cooke, Edward Doty, Francis Eaton, [first name unknown] Ely, Samuel Fuller, Richard Gardiner, John Goodman, Stephen Hopkins, John Howland, Edward Lester, George Soule, Myles Standish, William Trevor, Richard Warren, Edward Winslow, Gilbert Winslow.

Teenagers and Children:, Mary Chilton, Constance Hopkins, Priscilla Mullins, Elizabeth Tilley, a maidservant name Dorothy, Francis & John Billington, John Cooke, John Crackston, Samuel Fuller, Giles Hopkins, William Latham, Joseph Rogers, Henry Samson, Bartholomew, Mary & Remember Allerton, Love & Wrestling Brewster, Humility Cooper, Samuel Eaton, Damaris & Oceanus Hopkins, Desire Minter, Richard Mor,

What Did the Pilgrims Eat on the First Thanksgiving?

Many dishes served during modern Thanksgiving meals were not present at the first Thanksgiving. The colonists didn't have potatoes, nor did they have butter or flour necessary for making pies. The pilgrims hadn't even built their first oven by the time of the first Thanksgiving. Cranberries might have been served but only for color or tartness, instead of as a sweet sauce. Neither Bradford or Winslow's writing reveal what was actually served at the first Thanksgiving meal, besides fowl and deer, but guesses can be made based on the types of food they often wrote about such as mussels, lobsters, grapes, plums, corn and herbs. There is no actual proof that the colonists ate turkey at the feast either. Turkey wasn't even associated with the Thanksgiving holiday until an editor of a magazine called Godey's Lady's Book came across Edward Winslow's writings about the feast in the 1840s. When this editor, Sarah Josepha Hale, read Winslow's writings, she decided to bring this historic celebration back to life. Up until then, Thanksgiving was only a regional New England holiday and wasn't celebrated across the country like it is today. Hale began publishing recipes and articles about the feast. Shortly after, in 1854, Hale heard about Bradford's book, which had gone missing during the Siege of Boston in 1775 and resurfaced in the library of Fulham Palace in London that year. Hale focused her attention on the brief sentence about the colonist's hunt for wild turkeys that fall: "And besides waterfowl there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc," Bradford wrote. Despite the fact that Bradford never stated they ate turkey at the Thanksgiving feast, Hale started publishing articles about Thanksgiving dinners with roasted turkey and the two became synonymous. Many people believe Thanksgiving became a reoccurring celebration for the pilgrims. Whether this is true or not is unclear. There are no other accounts of the pilgrims holding any more harvest celebrations after 1621. It is possible that the feasts happened, but if it did it wasn't recorded.

Why Is it Called Thanksgiving?

The feast celebrated by the pilgrims in 1621 was never actually called "Thanksgiving" by the colonists. It was simply a harvest celebration. A few years later, in July of 1623, the pilgrims did hold what they called a "Thanksgiving." This was simply a religious day of prayer and fasting that had nothing to do with the fall harvest. Over the years, the names of the two events became intertwined and by the late 1600s many individual colonies and settlements, began holding "Thanksgiving feasts" during the autumn months.

When Did Thanksgiving Become a National Holiday?

Continental Congress declared the first national Thanksgiving on December 18, 1777 and then in 1789, George Wa-

- Thanksgiving Con't -

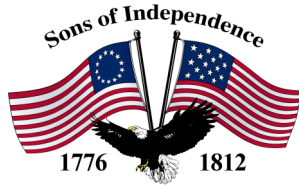


shington declared the last Thursday in November a national Thanksgiving as well. These were merely declarations and not official holidays. Future presidents did not continue the Thanksgiving declaration.

Thanksgiving didn't become a national holiday until Hale began writing letters to each sitting president starting in 1846. She wrote letters to five presidents: Zachary Taylor, Millard Filmore, Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan and Abraham Lincoln asking them to declare Thanksgiving a national holiday. Abraham Lincoln was the only president to listen and supported legislation making it a national holiday in 1863. America was in the middle of its bloody Civil War at the time and Lincoln hoped the new holiday would unify the bitterly divided country. The holiday was finally a success and Thanksgiving has continued ever since.



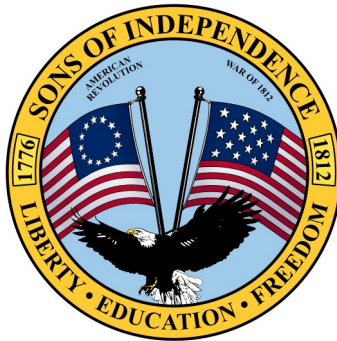
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What is it?

What is its purpose?

What are its goals?



Find out at the Annual Meeting !!!