

# PELICAN



# PATRIOT

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Spring 2021

*Celebrating 131 years*

*Louisiana Society Sons of the American Revolution, organized May 15, 1890*



*Louisiana Society  
Sons of the American Revolution*

*President's Message*

Dear Compatriots,

I happened to sit down to write my greetings on the anniversary of George Washington's birthday. Perusing quotes by the great man, I came across the following. "Show not yourself glad at the misfortune of another though he were your enemy." Some of you may recognize that it is not actually a quote by President Washington, but rather one of 110 Rules of Civility \*\*which he copied by hand as a teenager as a penmanship exercise, and have since become known as George Washington's Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior. If you have not read through this list, I highly recommend it.

I believe that this particular rule is critically important during these times of violent and partisan political rhetoric. It is extraordinary to me that as the world becomes smaller through technology, we seem to have become in some ways more intolerant of each other. The vitriolic hatred spewing from all sides of the political spectrum is abhorrent to all but the lowest. As the descendants of those who risked their lives to win the freedoms that we enjoy, we should look to Washington as our model of genuine humility and civility. Let us never rejoice in the failures or sorrows of our fellow man, and thereby prove by our actions that the spirit of Washington still lives on in his beloved country.

Yours,  
Christopher Achee

**\*\*To see the 110 Rules of Civility go to:** [https://managers.usc.edu/files/2015/05/George-Washingtons-Rules.pdf#:~:text=George%20Washington%20to%20Thomas%](https://managers.usc.edu/files/2015/05/George-Washingtons-Rules.pdf#:~:text=George%20Washington%20to%20Thomas%20)

**Attention those planning on attending State Meeting in April.  
See page 2 and last 4 pages for details and Registration form**

## ***Attention Members planning on attending the State Meeting in April !***

*We have exciting news regarding the Annual State Meeting in April. Because the registration has, understandably, been going slower than normal this year, I spoke with the host venue again and, in order to try and encourage good attendance, the hotel has agreed to discount the room rate that had been previously offered from \$169 down to a new, lower price of \$139 for the third weekend in April. This is a substantial reduction and a great savings for our membership. One would be hard-pressed to find less expensive accommodations at this time of year in New Orleans. We hope you'll all take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and join us in-person for the meeting in April. The meeting is less than two months away so please send in your registration now and make your reservations!*

**Booking Link:** <http://group.curiocollection.com/SonsoftheAmericanRevolution>

**Hotel:** The Higgins Hotel New Orleans, Curio Collection by Hilton

**Group Name:** SAR Annual State Meeting

**Arrival Date:** 16-Apr-2021

**Departure Date:** 18-Apr-2021

\*Please note, the entire URL must be copied and pasted for it to work properly.

**NOTE:** Be sure to ask for new room rate @ the Higgins Hotel. The old rate is on the registration form.

*John Laurens b. Oct 28, 1754 d. Aug 27, 1782 at battle of Combahee River at Orangeburg District, that formed (1797) Barnwell Co., SC*

February 11, 2016

Submitted by James Edward Mitchell, NSSAR # 165184

John Laurens was the oldest son of Henry Laurens (1724-92) and wife, Eleanor D. *Ball* (1731-70) born in Charleston, SC. John's father was sent by the SC Assembly as a member of the Continental Congress; and, he was elected the new president of that body at Philadelphia during Nov 1777. John Laurens had two bros., Henry b. 1763, and James b. 1765; and two sisters, Martha *Laurens* Ramsey b. 1759 and Mary Eleanor *Laurens* Pinckney b. 1770.

John advanced his education in Great Britain before returning home in 1777, and he married Martha Manning during 1776. A daughter was born in Feb, 1777. John was commissioned at this time, an officer assigned to Gen'l George Washington's staff as a confidential secretary during the Philadelphia Campaign. He served with distinction and bravery although he displayed an untoward leaning to rashness and risk-taking. He was part of storming the Chew mansion at the battle of Germantown; at Monmouth, he was credited with saving Washington's life, while receiving severe wounds. Col. John Laurens, was wounded a second occasion fighting a British force at the Carolina Lowcountry defending Savannah, on May 3, 1779 led by Gen'l Augustine Prevost, at Coosawhatchie (koos-uh-HATCH-EE) now, Jasper Co., SC. Laurens was wounded, and with his second in command he fell back to the main American force, with Col. Wm. Moultrie and retreated to Charleston.

Reassigned to American Gen'l Benjamin Lincoln's army besieged by Gen'l Lord Cornwallis, John Laurens was taken prisoner with 5,000 soldiers and exchanged 17 months before the final surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, VA on Oct 18, 1781.

The Congress appointed in early 1781 Lieut. Col. John Laurens, with Thomas Paine as his secretary, to travel to France aboard an American naval vessel, to persuade the French Foreign Minister and King Louis XVI to provide the United States a grant supplies, clothing, shoes and guarantees of additional French naval help. After four months, Laurens was returned to Boston during Jun, to deliver the news of France's agreement to furnish and equip Washington's forces and send a French fleet that would prevent the British reinforcements from arriving to the aid of Cornwallis' fortification in Yorktown.

Although the treaty for peace was yet to be signed, the American Revolution continues with skirmishes especially in the South during the so called, *Backcountry Campaign*. In one of these minor skirmishes on Aug 27, 1782 at the Combahee River, Laurens age 27, a few weeks before the British withdrew from the occupation of Charleston, exposed himself to the enemy and was killed. When news reached Gen'l Washington he deeply lamented losing one of his favorite champions....

Initially, young Laurens remains were buried at a nearby plantation. However, his father, Henry Laurens having been released from his own imprisonment in London, found his son's remains and relocated them to his Cooper River plantation, at the family 'Mepkin Abbey' cemetery situated at 1098 Mepkin Abbey Road, Moncks Corner, SC, 29461 ; Latitude: 33.114583 Long.: -79.952892



Gálvez at the Siege of Pensacola.  
Painting by Augusto Ferrer-Dalmau

## *The Beginning: Spain, Gálvez, and St. Gabriel Part I*

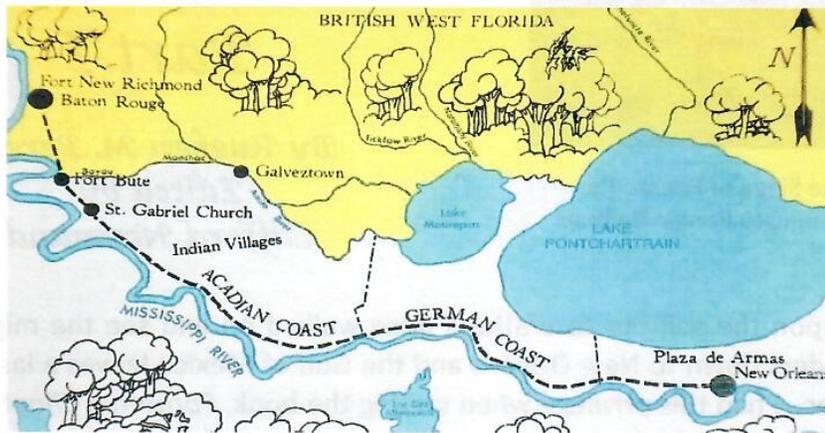
*By Rueben M. Perez  
Edited by  
Clifford Normand*

To walk upon the soil our forefathers once walked on and see the mighty Mississippi River as it meanders down to New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico leaves a lasting impression that stays forever. I had this privilege when writing the book, *Forgotten Chapters of American History, Spain, Gálvez, and Islenós* and visited Granadero Clifford Normand of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It was a trip I will never forget, visiting the historical St. Gabriel Church and other historical sites. Along the way, the mighty Mississippi River was always with us. I gained a better understanding of the lay of the land and tried to visualize what it may have looked like during the time of Bernardo de Gálvez. Granadero Clifford Norman was a perfect tour guide as we drove around visiting the sites and he explained what I was seeing, farmland today versus what the forested land looked like when the Spanish arrived.

It was hard to comprehend what it must have looked like in the past. Time passes on, the characters for my story are gone, and unable to tell their stories, experiences or what hardships they went through. As they look at us from the past, we now stand where they once were. Someday, we will be where they are now. To learn from our forefathers, we can only hope we can be as strong and brave as they were, to fight for the things we believe to be our inalienable rights to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. Our forefathers fought for freedom of religion for us to enjoy and they entrusted a divine Providence to build this great country. As we look at the past, we learn from it and continue to build on it, not destroy it. The mighty Mississippi River continues to flow downstream, lazily at times but it gets out of control and ravages the land, levees, and engulfs structures and graves of those from the past.

This is a story about a part of history that played an important role during the American Revolution when Spain helped defeat the British, a forgotten chapter of American History and seldom told about two forts held by two divided countries, separated by Bayou Manchac and about 400 feet apart. The forts that once stood are gone, however, it is where Gálvez had his first win against the British. About four miles away, a church that has weathered the elements of time and still stands today is the Old St. Gabriel Church, downstream on the Mississippi River from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The Church has been tested by time and was moved to save it from the ravages of the river. A new church has been built but the old church still proudly and majestically stands. As we get into our story, we will discuss Spain entering the

war against Great Britain in Part I. In Part II we will find Gálvez preparing for war, the Post at St. Gabriel, the British Fort Bute, and the battle of Manchac. In Part III we will discuss the historical significances of St. Gabriel Church. Interestingly, the question arises: Is St. Gabriel the church where Governor Bernardo de Gálvez prayed the night before the battle of Manchac? So, let's get it going.



Drawing depicting Fort Bute in English territory. Bayou Manchac divided the British fort and Fort San Gabriel de Manchac that provided a passage to Lake Pontchartrain and the Gulf of Mexico.

The British built Fort Bute or Manchac Post named for the Earl of Bute, designed to hold supplies and a garrison of up to two hundred men and had artillery for defense. The Spanish countered by building Fort San Gabriel de Manchac (near present day Saint Gabriel, Louisiana, in Iberville Parish) in 1767 on the opposite side of Bayou Manchac. It was completed in 1768 and was fitted with four small cannons.

**SETTING THE STAGE:**

Often left out of American history books are the contributions made by Spain in the winning of the American Revolution. France ceded Louisiana to Spain in the secret Treaty of Fontainebleau in 1762, thus making the Louisiana Territory the eastern frontier of New Spain, which also had regained Cuba. Following the Treaty of Paris in 1763, New Spain occupied much of the "New World" west of the Mississippi up to the arctic snows. This included present day México, Central America, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and South America, with the exception of Brazil. The British on the other hand, claimed ownership of the 13 colonies, parts of Canada, Bermuda, Bahamas, Jamaica, Florida and West Florida. In addition, the British had forts up the Mississippi River starting at Manchac and Natchez. In the beginning of the American Revolution Spanish assistance was being provided to the American Colonies in secrecy with France through a third party. Both the French and Spanish Courts secretly gifted two million "livres tournaises", one million from each country by laundering money into a fictitious company. Spain had already started her assistance to the colonies prior to the writing of the Declaration of Independence. This aid was in the form of guns, ammunition, and various supplies. In June 1776, the American Revolutionary War had just begun between the American Thirteen Colonies and the Kingdom of Great Britain that turned into a global conflict.

Skirmishes between the colonists and British troops started in April 1775 in Lexington and Concord. This would give rise to:

**“the shot heard ‘round the world.”**



The time was quickly approaching that war with Britain was imminent for Spain. Spain was allied with France through the Bourbon Family Compact, and both countries were eager to retaliate against Great Britain, which had defeated these countries in the Seven-Years War and resulted in the Treaty of Paris of 1763.

#### **SPAIN'S INVOLVEMENT-DISCUSSION:**

Spain ruled one of the most geographically extensive empires in the history of the world. Being a colonial power itself, Spain found itself in a dilemma whichever way it went, it had little to gain and much to lose, including her own colonies. Britain was a bitter enemy and, if they defeated France, could become the world's leading dynasty. Spain's contributions, both militarily and economically early in the American Revolution, made a significant impact in aiding the continental army. In addition, the engagements between Spain and Britain, forced the British to overstretch her forces and fight multiple fronts all around the world. The truth of the matter was that Great Britain could not defend her interests and possessions everywhere. Each location of engagement meant spreading out and distributing manpower, ships, supplies, food lines and necessities to fight.

Spain first attempted to stay out of the American Revolutionary War, knowing the Bourbon Family Compact might force her to join with France through mediation. However, that attempt failed and on April 12, 1779, the Spanish State Minister, Count of Floridablanca, and French Ambassador, the Count of Montmorin, signed the *Treaty of Aranjuez*. Spain's intent to enter the war was more than siding with the French. An objective was to eliminate Great Britain's presence along the Mississippi River, the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean where Britain had smuggling activities going on and was raiding Spanish possessions, especially treasures being carried by Spanish fleets. In addition, the loss of Minorca and Gibraltar still presented a thorn to Spain. Britain was thus facing several fronts fighting the Thirteen Colonies including a front on the Western frontier being fought by George Rogers Clark. The Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi River would be critical to the American Revolution and even became important factors in the war. Without Spain's participation, along with Bernardo de Gálvez's intervention, the American dream of independence could have been diminished. By the British maintaining several operational fronts, it drastically reduced the employment of British forces that possibly could have suppressed the insurgents in the Thirteen Colonies. The Treaty of Paris, signed on February 10, 1763, gave Spain the Isle of Orleans that included New Orleans and rights to share the use of the Mississippi River with Britain.



**The drums were beating for War**

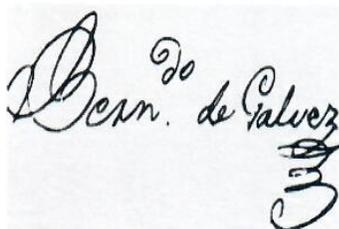
### **SPAIN ENTERS THE WAR:**

On May 18, 1779, Spain notified the colonies that war would soon be declared on Great Britain. Spain then entered into the American Revolution on June 21, 1779. Orders went out on July 8<sup>th</sup> to the colonial subjects to engage in hostilities against the British, including the British on the Mississippi, Mobile, and at Pensacola. Bernardo de Gálvez refrained from announcing the second proclamation publicly until later. In the meantime, Gálvez had secretly been preparing for an offense against the British and ordered the men at Bayou Lafourche to form companies out of the local militia and called the men to active duty. This was a practice of local militias that O'Reilly had begun in September 1769. This unit was also intended to prevent the British from using Bayou Lafourche to reach the Mississippi.

Shortly after the war started with Britain, Gálvez advised Louis Judice (Captain of the German Coast militia and commandant of the Ascension District) of his intention to lead forces upriver to expel British forces along the Mississippi River and to have the militia ready to join him. An unexpected hurricane hit New Orleans on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Gálvez planned to start his expedition on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 1779; however, he had to delay his departure until August 27<sup>th</sup>. Preparations were well under way for the movement to Manchac, but a hurricane hit with such violence that, within three hours, it destroyed a large number of houses in New Orleans, destroyed crops, killed cattle, but, worst of all, sunk some of the vessels of his fleet, excepting the frigate *El Volante*. Governor Gálvez ordered all the boats which had been spared and those raised out of the river to accompany the army up the river.

In further correspondence Gálvez states: "That he has had the satisfaction of the *El Volante* being found, although without the masts, and also the Brig *Kaulican* and the *Baliza* without any damage. I have immediately given instructions to the commanders to the effect that they send me at once all the bigger canoes that can be found in their respective districts...I find myself without anything in which to send the baggage, artillery, and so forth, to go up to Manchac."

Gálvez's correspondence on August 19<sup>th</sup> to Diego José Navarro, Captain General of Havana, stated that he has two small canoes that seat four men. He could go and find out what happened to his ships after the hurricane. Gálvez stated that he has ordered all of the commanders not to execute any movements and went on to state the Englishmen had no vessels lost from the storm, they have their people, forts, artillery and ammunition. Gálvez goes on that he is unsure if he even has a vessel and due to the hardships, he requested from the Court all assistance they can give him. Of a noteworthy statement, Gálvez continued, "...although it has not terrified me, I am however, with my hands tied up, and without finding some means that can assist my desires of complying with the orders of the King. May God, keep you many years, Yours very truly, Bdo. De Gálvez (rubic) New Orleans, August 17, 1779."

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bern. de Gálvez". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Bernardo de Gálvez continued ..., "there was absolutely not a vessel or canoe left in the river, others, half broken and useless, were in the woods; and finally, others whose whereabouts are unknown, the town is a pitiful spectacle. There is hardly one house that is not destroyed, and many are ruined crops, cattle, stores, and all is lost."

The next part of Gálvez's correspondence to Navarro justified why the local militia could not participate in the campaign of Manchac and Baton Rouge. This shows how concerned Gálvez was towards the soldiers and citizens: "Although I would not like to give them up, it would even be impossible for me to take the first step, not only due to the absolute lack of boats and canoes, which are lost, but because the militiamen I had in view, who are desolated, and who in their majority have taken refuge with their families, among the ruins of their homes and even underneath the carts, I believe that they would rather let themselves be sacrificed, than to be separated from their unfortunate parents, wives, sons and brothers left to grief and to the roughness of the weather in the fields." He goes on: "But knowing that the critical situation in which I find myself obliges me to make use of all means and resources that can be imagined to remedy to some extent the inexplicable loss that has been suffered, and having knowledge of the ruinous condition of the people upon whom I had counted, besides feeling that it would be the **greatest inhumanity to try to make them follow me by force**, it is believed that doing so, it would not only result in an excitement in their families, but they themselves, violated, (in spite of the promises of their good will and loyalty), would decide not to oppose the Englishmen with the only condition that they would let them alone with their families."

Again, Gálvez demonstrates his compassion for the people of New Orleans who were faced with food shortages after the hurricane, "As regard to food, I cannot help in any way; rather, fear in that the colony would suffer some hunger, I have taken the precaution of instructing all commanders of the whole jurisdiction to the effect that they have their respective inhabitants to plant at once a certain amount of potatoes and peas, considering this today as a recourse of first necessity."

Preparations were in the making for Gálvez and his army to make the march up the Mississippi River to fight the British at Fort Bute.

~ TO BE CONTINUED ~

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## *The First Campaign- March To Manchac Fort Bute Part II of a Series*

*By Rueben M. Perez  
Edited by Clifford Normand*

Bernardo de Gálvez had a plan to lead his forces upriver to expel British forces along the Mississippi River. In a report by Gálvez dated October 16, 1779 to Diego Joseph Navarro y Valladares (Governor and Captain General of Havana) we learn his plans and what happened. In his report, he reflected over his victorious campaign in Manchac and Baton Rouge. He started the report by calling the Commanding Officers and Captains of the garrisons together then telling them the English forces along the Mississippi number over 800 army veterans. Gálvez mustered what he could from New Orleans with forces only reaching 609 men. He did not expect reinforcements from Havana, thus making it necessary for the city of New Orleans to be fortified and defended. Gálvez proceeded to discuss the effects of the hurricane on August 18<sup>th</sup> that hit New Orleans and if he delayed the attack on Manchac, this would only provide the British ample time to further reinforce their establishments. His strategy would be to seek the enemy forces in their forts and establishments, rather than having them come looking for him. Gálvez continued reporting that it was necessary to refrain from letting the colony know of his appointment as Governor, also that Spain had declared war with England and supported the American colonies. He did not want to give the British time to make preparations to defend themselves. He continued his correspondence to Navarro that he would take the Oath at the Church for his new title, but at the same time, for now, he wanted to ensure the protection of the colony.

Gálvez announced to his officers the plans and preparations for the expedition to Manchac. He called for the canoes that were not damaged in the hurricane to be used and he had the Galliot and three Gunboats pulled out of the river. Aboard those vessels, he placed ammunitions and ten cannons, one of 24, five of 18 and four of 4, (Cannons were sized by the weight of its iron shot in pounds) and Lt. of the Artillery Don Julian Álvarez would take charge. New Orleans would be under Lieutenant-Colonel Don Pedro Piernas. He noted, that he would leave behind Militiamen to protect the town.



Spanish commander Bernardo de Gálvez.

was in route back to Pensacola after delivering supplies and munitions to Manchac. Another boat was captured on the Amite River and three more on the lakes. Other tactical operations involved Vizente Rillieux, Captain of a Spanish ship, who identified an English transport ship going to Manchac. In between Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas at Pass Manchac, Rillieux concealed his ship with fallen trees waiting for the ship. After it approached at close range, the Spanish ship bombarded the English ship and raised a bedlam of bloodcurdling yells that the English, thinking they were beset by four or five hundred men, sought refuge below deck. Rillieux and his men jumped on board and made them prisoners. "What was their surprise to find themselves, numbering fifty-six soldiers of the Waldéck regiment and ten or twelve sailors, apprehended by only fourteen creoles until they had surrendered."

### THE REGIMENT OF LOUISIANA:

Gálvez's campaigns were at Manchac, Baton Rouge, Natchez, Mobile, Pensacola, St. Louis, and as far north as Fort Saint Joseph, Niles, Michigan. Maintaining the defense of the province was El Regimiento Fijo de Infanteria de la Luisiana or the Fixed Infantry Regiment of Louisiana. Spain employed two types of regular units to protect the Viceroyalty of New Spain. The first unit was a peninsular regiment of forces recruited directly from Spain or in other locations in Europe. The second category consisted of figo regimientos, permanent or fixed battalions located in the colonies and kept there, as with the Regiment of Louisiana. The Regiment of Louisiana primarily consisted of soldiers raised in the colonies but it never reached the full strength as defined by the 1768 Regulations. When Spain declared war with England, the Louisiana Regiment only had five companies, however, in July with additional troops from Mexico and the Canary Islands, an additional 159 men joined Gálvez in New Orleans to expand the regiment to eight companies.

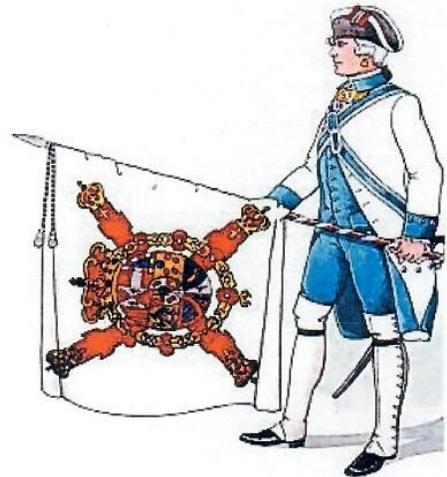
The battalion's garrisons included units at outposts in Spanish Louisiana as far as Illinois, Arkansas Post and Balize. Gálvez reported: "With these men to walk 90 leagues through thick



Painting entitled, "La Marcha de Gálvez, or The March of Gálvez by Augusto Ferrer-Dalmau

woods and impracticable roads, without tents, baggage and other indispensable aid, we started, as it is said, at a venture".

Gálvez continued, "It will make you as tired as the army was when arriving at Manchac, if I would tell you of all the difficulties that we had in the way from the City to that place, and Opelousas, Atacapas and Punta Cortada (Point Coupee), about 600 men were added to us, with 160 Indians who voluntarily offered themselves; but it is to be observed that although our army should be composed of 1427 men, according to the number of soldiers quoted,



Gálvez appointed Don Martin Navarro for the Administrative Quartermaster duties. He also appointed Don Miguel Gonzáles as Commander of the Army and second to him Lt. Colonel Don Estevan Miró was assigned. Major of the expedition was Captain Don Jacinto Panis.

In the next part of his letter, he wrote that he left on the 27<sup>th</sup> in the morning, with the intentions to take from the German Coast as many people as he could. The same day in the afternoon, a small army left town, composed of 170 veteran soldiers, 330 Recruits, 20 Musketeers, 60 Militiamen or inhabitants, 80 free negroes and Mulattos, and Don Oliver Pollock, Agent of the American Congress who was by his side during the whole campaign with 2 Officers and 7 Volunteer Americans (who carried the Betsy Ross flag), all of who were 667 men of every class, nation and color. He was without an Engineer and an Artillery Officer, who were very sick at the time.

### **LEADING UP TO MANCHAC - THE FIRST MILITARY ACTIONS:**

Gálvez informed his commanding officers Grand Pré of Pointe Coupée, Collell of Gálveztown, and DuBreüil at San Gabriel de Manchac, that the war had started and they needed to prepare as soon hostilities on the British Fort at Manchac started. He also requested assistance in troops by calling up the militias. Correspondence at this point was going back and forth between Gálvez and various points of contacts. Gálvez issued the order on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to seize English ships on Lakes Pontchartrain, Maurepas and Borroc. On August 31<sup>st</sup>, Raymundo DuBreüil updated Gálvez on the British activities at Manchac and reported all is quiet. Gálvez notified Collell that prisoners were taken in a piragua (canoe or dugout) in Bayou de Tekfonte coming from Pensacola with mail for British Colonel Dickson and related that Lt. Moor and two Negroes had started out overland with dispatches to Dickson. Gálvez simply stated, "Catch them." On September 1<sup>st</sup> DuBreüil from Paroquia (parish) San Gabriel acknowledged receiving Gálvez's memo on the 30<sup>th</sup>, noting that Gálvez was sick with fever and stated that he could not delay hostilities against the British. If Collell delayed seizing the vessels he was almost certain the desired time would have expired. In another incident, Miguel Gonzáles, Commander of the Army under Gálvez, reported that prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> an English schooner and a frigate were seized carrying 11 soldiers and 10 marines. It was necessary to seize the two boats or they would have conveyed the news of the Spanish activities to the fort at Manchac. Gonzáles kept Gálvez apprised, reporting that the Goleta (gun boat) and barcas (boats) were safe and the rate of travel for the Goleta had been making five leagues in 24 hours.

What would follow would be the beginnings of hostile actions against the British leading up to the Battle of Manchac. Gálvez noted the performance of Grand Pré after he had drawn forces from Pointe Coupée and captured the British post (Thompson Barrack) on Thompson's Creek and the Amite River. Gálvez rewarded him by placing him in command of the district and assigning him as commanding officer of the small garrisons captured. The critical strategic advantage of what occurred was that the small outpost became a listening ear to British activities in West Florida. More importantly, once the British posts were captured, British communications between Baton Rouge and Natchez was severed. Other events occurred when Collell, at the Spanish settlement Gálveztown, seized three British galleys and a brig that

however, due to sickness and weariness I had already lost more than one third of the men when I arrived at English Manchac, which fort we took on the morning of September 7<sup>th</sup> by surprise and assault, without meeting a misfortune on our part.”

After traveling 105 miles in eleven days, losing at least a third of their number due to sickness and fatigue, they reached the British garrison, Fort Bute located at the junction of Bayou Manchac and the Mississippi River. The site no longer exists there today and has been eroded away by the Mississippi River. At dawn on September 7, 1779, Captain Don Gilberto Antonio Maxent (Gálvez’s father-in-law) was the first to enter through one of the embrasures (opening in a battlement between two raised solid portions). The Spanish Army took Fort Bute by surprise and won their first battle for Gálvez. Inside the garrison were a captain, a lieutenant and a second-lieutenant with 24 men of whom five escaped with the second-lieutenant taking advantage of the little daylight. Another one was killed and the rest were made war prisoners two days before, having left for the Fort of Baton Rouge. **Gálvez won his first major victory** without loss of a single soldier and defeated the British in the first major encounter of the war between Spain and the British Empire.

#### **BATTLE OF FORT BUTE, MANCHAC, LOUISIANA SEPT 7, 1779**

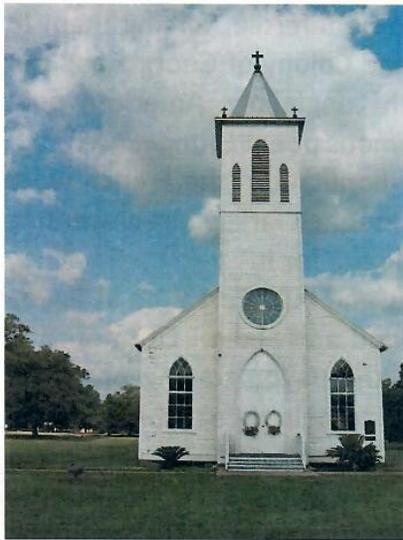
Bernardo de Gálvez allowed his men to rest and on September 21<sup>st</sup>, with his small army of Spanish regulars and his trusty militia, proceeded to Baton Rouge and captured the British fort.



Photo provided by Clifford Normand, the surrender of the fort at Baton Rouge.



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# ST. GABRIEL CHURCH

## Part III

~ ~ ~

By *Rueben M. Perez*

Edited by  
*Clifford Normand*

The story of St. Gabriel Church and Parish in Louisiana is one of hope for exiled Acadians who found a place to call home. The expulsion of the Acadians, known as the Great Upheaval, the Great Deportation and *Le Grand Déangement*, was the forced removal of the Acadian people by the British from the present-day Canadian Maritime provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, northern Maine and other parts of an area historically known as *Acadia*.

The Expulsion (1755-1764) occurred during the French and Indian War and the British campaign against New France. The first removal of the Acadians was to move them to the



Painting by George Craig depicting the 1755  
Deportation in Grand-Pré, Nova Scotia, Public  
Domain

Thirteen Colonies. After 1758, the Acadians were transported to England and France. Approximately 11,500 Acadians were deported and 2,600 Acadians remained. British Governor Charles Lawrence and the Nova Scotia Council ordered Acadians to be removed to the British colonies, England and France, however, some migrated to Spanish Louisiana.

The Acadians wanted to remain neutral and refused to sign the unconditional oath to become British subjects. The British monarch was the head of the Protestant Church of England and the Acadians were mainly Roman Catholic. The first

deportation began on August 10, 1755 at Bay of Fundi, then the Grand-Pré, Nova Scotia and Annapolis Royal.

The plights of the Acadians during *Le Grand Déangement* were harsh. Some left under the assistance of Henri Peyroux de la Coudreniere, a French politician and author, and settled in the Spanish colony of Louisiana. Others went to places such as French Guiana, Falkland Islands, and Saint-Domingue. Over a 1,000 died when both the Duke William Violet and Ruby ships sunk. Other Acadians were placed in overcrowded warehouses in England and many

were subject to the plagues or sent to lands that turned out to be infertile, forcing them to relocate again. About 1,400 were sent to the British Carolinas and Colony of Georgia and put to work on the plantations as field hands. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American poet memorialized the plight of the expulsion of the Acadians in his famous poem *Evangeline*.

The Louisiana population contributed to the modern Cajun population (the French word "Acadian" evolved to "Cadien". In December 2003, Governor Adrienne Clarkson, representing Queen Elizabeth II, acknowledged the expulsion, but did not apologize for it.

In 1764, the British established a trading post called Manchac and built Fort Bute at Bayou Manchac, which was the international boundary between England and Spain. Of interest is Oliver Pollock who was personally involved with Manchac and the Bayou trading post. He owned land on both sides of the Bayou and returned with Gálvez to help defeat the British at Fort Bute.

The town of Manchac was located at the point where the Mississippi River flowed into Bayou Manchac, which the British referred to as the Iberville River. As late as 1778, the British reported that large chunks of earth were falling into the river. Bayou Manchac provided a short route between the Mississippi River to Lake Ponchartrain. The Indians called the bayou *Ascantia* and the Spanish called it Manchac meaning a 'back entrance'.

Eventually, some of the land at Manchac washed away by the erosion of the river and Fort Bute disappeared.

Many Acadians found their way to Louisiana from 1759 to 1763 and settled along the Mississippi River, which led to the area being called the "Acadian Coast". Some of the exiles settled the land up to the Iberville River (or Bayou Manchac) and, being industrious, started to farm and build large plantations along the river banks.

Prominent family names such as Landry, LeBlanc, Trahan, Melanson, Clotre, Dupuy, Blanchard, Herbert Babin, Richcard, Chiasson, Como, Allein, Braud, Rivet, Capdeviel, Forret and other family names are still found there today. Still, the early settlers lacked spiritual guidance due to an absence of churches and no resident priests. In 1769, General Alexander O'Reilly requested a report to recommend where churches and priests should be located. One recommendation was the Post of St. Gabriel.



Map shows location St. Gabriel

The original settlers in St. Gabriel were originally part of some 900 Acadians exiled to Maryland. Approximately 200 reached New Orleans at the end of July or early August 1767. On August 8, 1767, the Acadians set out for New Orleans in boats provided by the Spanish Government, arriving there August 17. The Spanish provided them with land, farming tools, other services and enough provisions to sustain life until their first harvest came in.

The treaty of 1763 between England and Spain defined

Bayou Manchac as the boundary line between the two countries. The Spanish section below would become known as the *Island of Orleans*, following the French turning over Louisiana to Spain. In the meantime, the British established Fort Bute at Bayou Manchac.

In 1768, Spanish Governor Ulloa sent soldiers to build a fort on the opposite side of Bayou Manchac, approximately 400 yards from Fort Bute. A wooden bridge connected both sides of the bayou. Unfortunately, Governor Ulloa, who had little sympathy for the Acadians, sent them to settle near the new fort St. Gabriel de Manchac to help support the fort, also called *Fort of the Infante Gabriel*. The name St. Gabriel was in honor of Archangel Gabriel and also the name of a son of Spain's King Charles III. Still, there was no church for the Acadians and the need was getting greater.



Photos taken by author at St. Gabriel Church showing a drawing and a model of the church.

In 1770, Spanish Governor O'Reilly issued a royal decree for establishing a church for the Coast of Iberville to be named St. Gabriel and the parish would extend from Fort St. Gabriel to Ascension Parish. It wasn't until Spanish Governor Luis de Unzaga that, at last, the needs of the Acadians would be given attention. He reported the situation to the officials in Cuba and on July 19, 1772, two Spanish Capuchin priests were assigned to serve the Acadians in the Manchac area. The missionary work of Father Aloysius would be at St. Gabriel. In March 1774, Commandant Dustine wrote that construction on the church had not begun due to a lack of skilled craftsmen. In another letter, he writes "The settlers began [building] a church on November 20. The church is sixty feet long by thirty-three and a half feet wide. Louis

LeConte, a settler from Lafourche is doing the job for the turnkey price of 1450 piastres. The settlers have decided to pay for the church with a per-arpent" (property tax)."

The church construction is a rare 18<sup>th</sup> century French colonial building now referred to as Creole Architecture. Built out of cypress from the nearby swamps, it is sturdy, solid, simple in design and still stands to this day. It is noted that about 73% of the original Creole form of the church still remains. Due to erosion by the Mississippi River, the building has been moved back several times. It still stands majestically today as it did when Gálvez saw it.

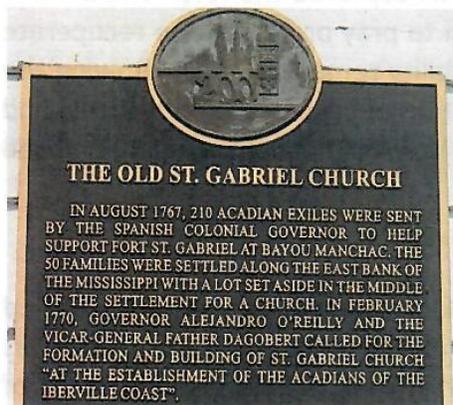




Photo furnished by Clifford Norman, note the Kerosene lamps on the posts



Photo of inside of the church today  
Picture furnished by Clifford Norman

The old St. Gabriel Church faithfully stands today, showing the resilience of the descendants whose ancestors came from afar. The bell to the right was cast in Spain and donated in 1771 to the church. Today, the bell survives in the new St. Gabriel Church built in 1953. On the top is inscribed: "*Sancta Maria de la Merceora pro nobis* (Holy Mary of Mercy pray for us) and the lower half reads, *Se Hizosiendo Comendador el M.R.P.I. Ygnacio de Jesus Maria, Año de 1768* (Commissioned to be made by MRPI Ignacius of Jesus Mari, in the year 1768.



Historic Old Bell  
Sancta Maria Amressed 1768

King Carlos III of Spain declared war on England on June 21, 1779. On August 27, Gálvez and his little army of some 667 men of all sorts and colors set out to defend the colony from the English. Gálvez had endeavored to conceal from the English of West Florida that Spain and England were at war. His followers were ignorant of their real objective. Only when they had come in sight of Fort Manchac on September 6, did Gálvez announce to them that Spain had declared war and that he was ordered to attack the posts on the Mississippi. Joyfully receiving the news, his men seemed anxious to come to grips with the English.

On Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> under the command and orders of Bernardo de Gálvez, Spanish forces led by Captain Gilbert Antonio de St. Maxent (Gálvez's father-in-law) captured the fort. The answer to whether Bernardo de Gálvez went into St. Gabriel Church to pray or perhaps to recuperate from his illness is still unknown. In all likelihood, the probability remains strong, knowing the concern he had for the welfare of others, his generous donation of his personal resources, and ties to the Church as demonstrated when he was appointed Viceroy of New Spain and finished the completion of the Cathedral of México in México City.

#### Interesting Facts About St. Gabriel Church

- James Bowie's brother Rezin Pleasant Bowie, a local resident was originally buried in the San Gabriel Catholic Church cemetery, but in the late 1850s his body was disinterred and reburied at St. Joseph Cemetery at Port Gibson, Mississippi, the home of his daughter.

- The first baptism record for St. Gabriel Church is dated 1773 and the first marriage record is January 1, 1773.
- The first resident pastor was Father Valentin, French Capuchin, August 1779.
- Four chapels were established under St. Gabriel: St. Raphael and St. Paul in the Bayou Goula area, Iberville Parish. St. Rose, and St. John the Evangelist Church in Plaquemine.
- St. Gabriel Church was completed in July 1776 and remains the oldest church building in the Louisiana Purchase.



With funds left by Father De Saintpierre, St. Gabriel's College for boys was founded in 1828. The college became difficult for the next Father to support. Bishop Blanc came to the rescue with funds and it continue to operate under Father Ennemond Dupuy, his successor. However, the school was discontinued in 1848 and the building later was used as a rectory.

- The church steeple was destroyed by Hurricane Gustav in 2008.
- St. Gabriel Church in Iberville Parish, Louisiana, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- From the Sunday Advocate, Sept. 25, 1994-The old St. Gabriel Church was once called the Manchac Church of the Iberville Coast and finally:



"The Granaderos and Damas de Gálvez" of San Antonio,

### **San Antonio Granaderos visit St. Gabriel Church November 2006**

Front row: Michael Rojas, Orey Poret, Richard Whynot, speaker, Joel Escamilla, Past Governor of The Granaderos, Tito Fernandez, Ralph McKenzie, and Jesse Benavides (drummer)

Back Row: Clifford Normand and Larry Landry.

**A very Special 'Thank You' to Granadero Clifford Normand for providing photos, research material and editing and to Eugene LeBlanc, Resource Historian for St. Gabriel Church**

#### **Primary Resources:**

Baudier, Roger, K.S.G., *Dedication of The New St. Gabriel Church- 1773-1953*

Broussard, David., *Mysteries and Myths: Unraveling the History of Old St. Gabriel Church*

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Caughy, John Walton, *Bernardo de Gálvez in Louisiana, 1776..... Thecajuns.com/genealogy, history, andcultureAcadians.htm*

Willey, Leroy E., *St. Gabriel Church, Le Baton Rouge, Winter 2007, Vol.27, No. 1.*

*Awards  
Presented at the LASSAR State Meeting  
January 30, 2021  
Mandeville, Louisiana*



LASSAR President Chris Achee presents Joel Whitehead with the Military Service Veterans Award



Brent Morock was presented with the Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal and 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.

Cliff Normand was presented with the Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal and 1 Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.

Winner of the State LASSAR American History Teacher Award  
Joel Whitehead presents Henry Motty, member of the George Pierre Rousseau LASSAR Chapter and 7th Grade American History Teacher from Mandeville Junior High School

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**  
**DR. TOM & BETTY LAWRENCE AMERICAN HISTORY**  
**TEACHER AWARD ESSAY**

**BY:**

**HENRY B. MOTT**

## THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ERA

Although in his eighties at the time of the interview, Dominic Young, a Maryland native and Catholic priest, recounted a boyhood story of how he had once seen General George Washington while attending a parade. The elderly clergyman admitted that at the time he and his fellow companions had no interest in attending the social function- except for the fact that they were enticed by “the promise of a supply of town gingerbread.” But upon arriving at the scene with alternative motives, Dominic Young and his friends saw the great man, General George Washington, as “we boys were tremendously impressed by his big cocked hat. That was all the greatness we saw about him. He was a tall man, with massive shoulders and a face that looked kind,” Young recalled. “I thought he was the greatest man I ever saw, but I didn’t know why. All I knew was that he whipped the British, and everybody pointed him out as the chap that whipped the British. I could recognize him this moment, though, he made such an impression on me.”<sup>1</sup>

To modern-day Americans, perhaps the opportunity to see someone famous such as George Washington would be a real treat. Unfortunately, much like the young boys mentioned above, many Americans might comprehend that Washington was a great man but not know the reasons why. Much of the Revolutionary War and Early National Era of our nation’s history are shrouded in myths. Though the mythical stories about the period are often entertaining, the more complicated, factual, and realistic version of our nation’s founding is no less fascinating. The period’s cast of founding characters faced numerous conflicts, challenges, setbacks, and triumphs. Their story offers relevant lessons that help modern day students better understand- and appreciate- how our nation began. Historian

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<sup>1</sup> Article titled “Oldest Priest in North America,” *New York Herald* (Saturday, November 30, 1878).

David Hackett Fischer notes that we have much insight and knowledge to gain from studying our nation's founders. As we are faced with numerous challenges of our own, we must remember that "we have much to learn from these half-remembered men- a set of truths that our generation has lost or forgotten . . . The history of a free people is a history of hard choices."<sup>2</sup>

Teaching the Revolutionary War and Early National Era offers an excellent opportunity to emphasize to young students how the nation's founding was not simply a tax revolt that led to a fight for independence against Great Britain. The period entangles the challenges of numerous political, military, and social struggles the British colonies faced not only with their mother country, but also between themselves. Much of what is studied and remembered from this period has significant meaning to us today. Indeed, the internal bickering of the thirteen colonies during the Revolutionary War and the political strife that followed over how best to govern the new country proved a troublesome task. Faced with serious questions about how to best protect the basic rights and civil liberties of its citizens, the young republic was also plagued with many contradictories, especially proclaiming to be a land of the free while allowing slavery to exist. As historian Carol Berkin notes, the founding generation's "world is not ours . . . If they knew they were making history, they did not know what that history would be."<sup>3</sup> Though our struggle for creating a "more perfect union" continues, studying our nation's past provides the historical context for our modern events.

Seeking personal connections with early American history is what I strive to do as a junior high social studies teacher. Although I am a teacher, I still consider myself a

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<sup>2</sup> David Hackett Fischer, *Paul Revere's Ride* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994), xviii.

<sup>3</sup> Carol Berkin, *The Bill of Rights: The Fight to Secure America's Liberties* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2015), 2.

student of history. I continuously expand my personal knowledge through reading, researching, and traveling to historical sites. I am also continuing my education and pursuing a PhD in American History at Louisiana State University. The knowledge gained from these endeavors allows me to better understand and better present the information about the past to my students. However, obtaining their attention sometimes requires creativity.

Numerous activities and ideas can be found through various educational resources and websites, which can be modified to my students' needs. For example, one resource I have adopted for my classroom when teaching the causes of the American Revolution is the Boston Massacre Crime Scene Scenario. Upon entering the classroom students find themselves in the midst of a mock crime scene depicting the aftermath of the Boston Massacre. The students explore and examine the "evidence" such as paper snowballs filled with rocks and paper clubs (real clubs were common among Bostonian men since they were used as a rope making tool). After viewing the crime scene, the students read first hand accounts from people who actually witnessed the event. Based on the primary source evidence, the students determine whether they believe the Boston Massacre was an act of self-defense or if it was murder on the part of the British soldiers. This activity allows students to immerse themselves in the past through a scenario and forces them to critically think and back their conclusion with factual evidence.

Activities such as this help to supplement the traditional modes of lectures and note taking, which makes learning more hands-on and relevant to their lives. Our school also invites a member from our local Sons of the American Revolution chapter to come into our classroom as a guest speaker to discuss the American Revolution. In years past,

our local SAR representative came dressed in a Continental Army uniform and brought the Revolution alive through an interactive presentation, which not only entertained, but inspired many of our students to want to learn more about our nation's founding.

If given the opportunity to further my education through the Dr. Tom & Betty Lawrence American History Teacher Award, I would love to attend the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute summer workshop. Their program offers a hands-on approach based on using primary sources to teach early U.S. history. The institute gives teachers access to opportunities to see the past come alive through living history interpretations, along with providing valuable classroom resources and opportunities to collaborate and share ideas with other teachers. The value of this experience would greatly enhance my seventh grade classroom, as I would pass along useful historical knowledge, skills, and resources to my students. I also think that being able to share my experiences at Colonial Williamsburg through personal stories and pictures would enrich my students' learning experience, especially since many students are visual learners and would be able to see the past come alive.

As history continues to be studied and debated, its understanding helps shape our perceptions of the present time. Remembering our nation's past struggles and the individuals who experienced and lived through these conflicts and challenges provides not only a model of how to deal with modern issues, but also offers inspiration to today's Americans. Despite the flaws of our founding generation's lifestyles and personal choices, their actions, devotion, and perseverance in times of seemingly constant struggles offers hope and inspiration to future generations of Americans. Historian Joanne Freeman says it another way: "If these fallible, flawed people could accomplish

great things, perhaps future generations can do so as well. It is the logic that inspired their greatest hopes for the future, the ultimate message they hoped to impart.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Joanne B. Freeman, *Affairs of Honor: National Politics in the New Republic* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2002), 288.

*Pierre George Rousseau Chapter, LASSAR,  
Covington, Louisiana  
Grave Marking*

On November 21st the SAR Pierre Georges Rousseau Chapter of Covington held a Grave Marking Ceremony for Pvt John Bankston at the Dyson Family Cemetery in Kentwood, LA. Patriot Bankston was honored for his service as a private in the Georgia Troops during the Revolutionary War. He also served in the War of 1812. His grave (1823-27?) is supposedly one of the oldest if not the oldest in Tangipahoa Parish, LA. In attendance at the ceremony were members of 4 of the families who descend from Pvt Bankston. The colors were presented by color guard of the PGR Chapter



## *JAMES Huey Chapter, LASSAR West Monroe, Louisiana*

On January 28th and 29th 2021, Chapter President Ted Brode delivered a presentation to the students of the Geneva Academy located in West Monroe, Louisiana. The students were informed about the Revolutionary War in Louisiana and covered topics such as the types of weapons used and how they worked, the soldier's uniforms worn during this period and also the types of food eaten by the soldiers. Mr. Brode treated the students to a staple of the soldiers meal called "hardtack" and the history of this food and why it was used. The students were also given a demonstration on how hardtack is made and samples were provided to the group.



*Notes from Compatriot James E. "Jim" Mitchell  
James Huey Chapeter, LASSAR,  
West Monroe, Louisiana*

Colonial road, "Importantly for members of my Louisiana Society SAR James Huey Chapter, West Monroe, many more area kin than a few hundred West Ouachita Parish residents are logically unaware that their surname families migrated west after the first (1818) Federal Road from Augusta, Georgia was opened to Natchez making waggoneering safe between Washington, Wilkes Co., GA that now, is mapped a few miles from Interstate (I-20) due west to West Monroe, Ruston and beyond." Although my allied Gaar Families 1st resettled at Elbert Co., Wilkes Co., GA after the Rev War a surprising number of Ouachita Parish allied kin were native residents of colonial Georgia prior to the American Revolution including Judge Jesse Heard, dec'd., a cousin, Howell H. Heard, L.L.D., dec'd. and many additional West Monroe families whose ancestors resettled from SC, NC, AL Territory (1817) and Mississippi Territory (1798).

Befriended: During 2006 at a Virginia Society annual event for SAR, I arranged with several Georgia Society pals of mine to hold a new grave marking ceremony on 3 Nov 2007 to dedicate our families newly obtained US Military Headstone for my Primary SAR Patriot Lieut. Michael Gaar/Garr; Rev War Culpeper Co., VA militiaman buried at Van(n)s Creek Baptist Church Cemetery at John Rucker Road in Ruckersville, GA. Michael's 1797, Georgia, granite boulder covered grave was physically surveyed next to a son, George Gaar and wife, Mary "Polly" Rucker, a dau. of John Rucker a native of Ruckersville, Virginia (VA) some miles south of the towns of Culpeper and Madison, VA. Over the next 10 yrs., Richard Doyle Grant and our allied Gaar family kin were fortunately able to dedicate other allied direct line kin buried within yards of one another at Van(n)s Creek Cemetery and they too, were jointly marked with U.S. Military Headstones involving a most helpful and friendly, Chapter Pres., Larry James Wilson, Georgia Society Samuel Elbert Chapter.

## *Upcoming Happenings 2020-2021*

3/4-6/2021	NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville, KY
3/13/2021	NSSAR Special Congress, Washington, D.C.
3/19-20/ 2021	TNSSAR Annual Meeting, Memphis, TN
3/26-27/2021	MSSAR Annual Meeting, Ridgeland, MS
4/16-17/2021	LASSAR Annual State Meeting, New Orleans,
TAB	OPM historical marker commemoration, Opelousas, LA

## *Did you know!*

The current NSSAR approved future Congress locations are:

2021	131st Annual NSSAR Congress, Reston, VA- Washington D.C.
2022	132nd Annual NSSAR Congress, Savannah, GA
2023	133rd Annual NSSAR Congress, Florida
2024	134th Annual NSSAR Congress, Pennsylvania

<http://www.sa.org/annual-sar-congress/future-congress-locations>

## *And Did You Know?*

Louisiana Society Sons of the American Revolution is in the NSSAR Southern District. Other states in this District are: Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Check out the Southern District Webpage at <http://www.tnssar.org/sd-sar-htm>

As of April, 2020, there were 34,732 members of the Sons of the American Revolution, with Louisiana having 591 members & 30 applications seeking approval,

### *In case you can't remember:*

**New Applications: \$115.00 to NSSAR & \$19.00 to LASSAR; Family Plan (additional applications submitted at the same time and within three generations) Each would owe NSSAR \$65 & LASSAR \$19.**

**Supplemental: \$60.00 to NSSAR & \$7.00 to LASSAR;  
Family plan for supplemental: \$60.00 for first member and \$30.00 for other family members to NSSAR & \$7.00 to LASSAR**

*131st Congress  
National Society Sons of the American Revolution  
July 10-1 July 15, 2021  
Reston, VA-Washington, D.C.*

Hotel Name: **Hyatt Regency Lake Washington**  
**1053 Lake Washington Boulevard North,**  
**Reston, VA 98056**

Online Reservations at:

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/SEARL/G-SONS>

Group Name:

**National Society Sons of the American Revolution**

Phone Number for Reservations: **800-233-1234**

Room Rates: **\$205 per night with tax**

There is an Alaska Tour that is an add on tour after Congress. It departs on Friday July 16, so if you are taking that tour, please make sure you extend your stay through Thursday night at the SAR rate.

Problems with Reservations email [LTCMRSC@aol.com](mailto:LTCMRSC@aol.com)

Please be specific about the issue and give dates you arrive and depart with specific problems . If you have a reservation number please provide. You may also call 906-273-2424

Paul Callanan  
NSSAR Congress Planning Chair

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The LASSAR Chairman appointed for SAR Library.

Chris Achee of the General Philemon Thomas Chapter, He serves as our state point of contact for the NSSAR Genealogical Library. He will keep us informed of items of interest to our state society as well as our advocate for the NSSAR Genealogical Library.

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If you have any news you'd like to have included in the next PELICAN PATRIOT, send it to Fred Hamilton at [fredh@suddenlink.net](mailto:fredh@suddenlink.net) .

Thanks!

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Brent Morock, Sec. – [tegrecon@gmail.com](mailto:tegrecon@gmail.com)  
Website - <http://sites.google.com/site/emclassar>  
Meets every other monthly at noon on 3rd Saturday, plus  
October @ Copeland's Restaurant, Alexandria

**BATON ROUGE** - General Philemon Thomas Chapter  
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Wednesday @ the Petroleum Club, Lafayette

LADIES AUXILIARY  
Sarah Hayes, Pres.—[scavin456@yahoo.com](mailto:scavin456@yahoo.com)

*LASSAR's Pelican Patriot*  
*William F. "Fred" Hamilton, Editor*  
*1711 Broadway Ave*  
*Ruston LA 71270*  
*Email: [fredh@suddenlink.net](mailto:fredh@suddenlink.net)*  
*Phone: 318-255-1946 (home)*

**MONROE** - Benjamin Tennille Chapter  
William Guy, Pres. – [rodguy100i@yahoo.com](mailto:rodguy100i@yahoo.com)  
Scott King, DDS, Sec. – [kingscot@bayou.com](mailto:kingscot@bayou.com)  
Meets monthly at noon on 2nd Monday  
@ Jade Garden Restaurant, Monroe

**NATCHITOCHE** – Natchitoches Chapter  
Tony Vets, Pres. – [tonyvets@bellsouth.net](mailto:tonyvets@bellsouth.net)  
Tony Vets, Sec. – [tonyvets@bellsouth.net](mailto:tonyvets@bellsouth.net)  
Monthly at noon on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday  
@ Merci-Beaucoup Restaurant, Natchitoches

**NEW ORLEANS** - George Washington Chapter  
John Mouton, Pres. – [jibemouton@gmail.com](mailto:jibemouton@gmail.com)  
Joe Childress, Sec. – [joechildress15r@gmail.com](mailto:joechildress15r@gmail.com)  
Meets every other month (Jan/Mar/May/Sep/Nov) @ 11:30  
a.m. on 2<sup>nd</sup> <sup>t</sup> Wednesday at the Southern Yacht Club; during  
"Summer Recess" (Jun/Jul/Aug) @ 11:30 a.m. at Two  
Tony's Restaurant; during Feb/Arp/Oct/Dec the meetings are  
weekend/evening affairs at the SYC (George Washington's  
Birthday, Lexington & Concord, Victory at Yorktown  
banquet + Annual Meeting/Christmas Party  
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/george\\_washington-  
chapterLASAR/](https://www.facebook.com/george_washington-chapterLASAR/)

**SHREVEPORT**- Galvez Chapter  
Dan Phoenix, Pres. -[rranger.phoenix@gmail.com](mailto:rranger.phoenix@gmail.com)  
Mike Deeter, Sec. – [mdeteer@aol.com](mailto:mdeteer@aol.com)  
Meets monthly at 11:30 am on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  
@ Petroleum Club, Shreveport

**THIBODAUX** - Atchafalaya Chapter  
Randall Domingue, Pres.— [randalldomingue@ymail.com](mailto:randalldomingue@ymail.com)  
Dana Ourso, Sec.— [dana.ourso@gmail.com](mailto:dana.ourso@gmail.com)  
Contact Chapter for more information.

**WEST MONROE** - James Huey Chapter  
Theodore H. Brode, Pres. – [tbrode@comcast.net](mailto:tbrode@comcast.net)  
Steve Ray, Sec.— [Kermitt1141@aol.com](mailto:Kermitt1141@aol.com)  
Meets monthly on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday (Except Dec. & Feb.)  
@ BBQ West, West Monroe 7:00PM

*Visit the LASSAR WEBSITE @ [www.lassar.org](http://www.lassar.org)*

*LASSAR COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN  
FOR 2020-2021*

American History Teacher Award -- Joel Whitehead  
By-Laws -- John McKay  
C.A.R. Liaison -- Tom Jacks  
Color Guard -- Ted Brode, Steve Ray, Leonard Rohrbagh  
D.A.R. Liaison -- Henry Grace  
Eagle Scout Scholarship -- Pat Hugg  
Finance Committee -- Jim Schneider, Leonard Rohrbagh, Sandy McNeely  
Flag Display & Etiquette -- Henry Grace  
Geo. Washington Endowment Fund -- Leonard Rohrbagh  
Geo. S. Knight Essay Contest -- George Clemenceau  
Grave Marking & Registration -- Steve Ray  
Membership -- Jim Morock  
Nominating -- Ted Brode  
Medals & Awards -- Cliff Normand  
Orations Contest -- John McKay  
Poster Contest -- Bo Vets  
Records Retention -- Cliff Normand  
ROTC/JROTC -- Sandy McNeely, Bradley Hayes, Rodney McElroy  
Veterans -- Tony Vets  
Website -- Tony Vets



The Louisiana Society Sons of the American Revolution proudly presents the Louisiana Society State Medal, honoring cherished Patriot and esteemed leader, General Bernardo de Galvez, and his vital contributions, as well as those of Spain, to the War for Independence. The reverse side of the medal features one of General Galvez's victories at the Battle of Baton Rouge. Among other victories are those at Manchac, Natchez, Mobile, Pensacola and St. Louis. The medal may be purchased and worn by any active member of the SAR, not limited to the members of LASSAR, nor to the descendents of the Galvez Patriots. Only medal sets (large and mini medals) are being produced (after pre-order sales) @ \$40 per set (postage included).

Large Medal



(Shown in full color)

Mini Medal



*Note: Actual medal is **not** in color. Ribbon drape is the red Cross of Burgundy on white background. The medal is bronze-colored with 3-D figures and inscriptions.*

*Note: Medals may be worn by pin mount or by bar mount.*

(Detach bottom portion and mail with payment. **Please print clearly.**)

### LASSAR Galvez Medal Order Form (pre-order sale)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

NSSAR Member No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Medal Sets ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$40 per set)

Total payment enclosed (postage included): \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check or money order payable to:  
Enemund Meullion Chapter SAR

Mail order form with payment to:  
James A. Morock, Sr. MD  
3915 Maywood St.  
Alexandria, LA 71302-2526

For more info call: (318) 442-5776  
or email: jamkma@aol.com

# SAR BERNARDO DE GALVEZ LARGE Medal

W/REGISTRATION MARKS ©



## Medal Specifications

32 mm x 32 mm x 3 mm, Soft Enamel, 3-sides Polishing, and 3-sides Brushing

## Ribbon Specifications

37 mm x 35 mm, Attachment - 2 long posts on metal plate

The dimension and size of both ribbon and medals to comply with the regulations prescribed by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

# SAR BERNARDO DE GALVEZ MINI Medal

W/REGISTRATION MARKS ®



## Medal specifications

18 mm x 18 mm x 2 mm, Soft Enamel, 3 –sides Polishing, and 3-sides Brushing

## Ribbon Specifications

17 mm x 35 mm, Attachment – 2 long posts on medal plate

The dimension and size of both ribbon and medals to comply with the regulations prescribed by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

## SOUTHERN DISTRICT SAR MEMBERSHIP MEDAL



The Southern District SAR Membership Medal was approved, as submitted, by the 2015 SAR Medals and Awards committee at the Spring Leadership meeting in Louisville. The VPG will have medals for sale.

The Medal is available, without restriction, to any member of the Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and/or Tennessee societies. As planned, 100 medals were presold and ordered for production. Distribution will begin at the Southern District SAR Meeting at Congress. A new District Logo is a residual benefit.

Proceeds from the sale of the medal will support the Walter Buchanan “Buck” Meek Award Fund that recognizes the state society with the largest numerical increase of George Washington Endowment Fund members. Special thanks are extended to the District Logo/Emblem Committee who made this possible – Michael P. Schenk (MS), Chair, Thomas E. Jacks (LA), James K. Stone (TN), James (Jim) J. Thweatt (TN), Thomas Robert (Bob) Thomas (AL), and Michael (Mike) C. Wells (AL). Also, I am especially appreciative that the Valentine Sevier SAR Chapter and its Treasurer Cleo G. Hogan agreed to serve the Treasury role during initial medals sales.



# CAR

Children of the American Revolution  
*LSCAR News*

On Saturday, January 23, 2021 members of the Louisiana Society Children of the American Revolution traveled to Many, LA to spend the day as a soldier in No Man's Land for the 2021 State Conference.



State President Nicholas Tarver chose his project, *Why No Man's Land?*, to educate members on the neutral strip between Louisiana and Texas and to commemorate its bicentennial anniversary.

The Neutral Strip (No Man's Land) draws its name from the area's brief stint as the buffer zone between Spain and the United States after the Louisiana Purchase.

There are eight parishes who are historically tied to the No Man's Land region.

Sometimes described as a place filled with an outlaw culture or as a region with a reputation for a tough and isolated place, the region is better understood as a bastion for those cultural groups who wished to find a home where they could preserve a way of life they cherished.

The day included several activities:

**A visit to Los Adaes State Historic Site-** The boundaries of Spanish and French territories in the present-day Texas and Louisiana borderlands had never been formally established prior to the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The original boundaries had been drawn, via a gentleman's agreement, between the Spanish commander at the presidio of Los Adaes (then the capital of the Texas; today part of Louisiana) and the French commandant at Natchitoches, the oldest settlement in the entire Louisiana Purchase. Los Adaes served as the official capital of the Spanish province of Tejas on the northeastern frontier of New Spain. Part presidio (fort) and part mission, this outpost was intended to keep the French out of New Spain and to bring Christianity to the Caddo Indians and their neighbors.

**Lunch in the Old Kitchen at Fort Jesup-** Fort Jesup was built in 1822, 22 miles west of Natchitoches, Louisiana, to protect the United States border with New Spain and to return order to the Neutral Strip.

**Business Meeting and Installation of new officers-** Fort Jesup- 4 societies were represented at the State Conference, Fort Jesup, Fort Atkinson, Ann Fairfax and Captain William Pickles. Following a business meeting with reports from State Officers, State Chairmen, and Society Presidents, Caroline Kaough presented the slate of officers to serve from 2021-2022, and National Registrar, and Honorary State President Cagle Kaough installed the new officers. Nicholas Tarver was named an Honorary State President for life, and was presented a proclamation from Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser congratulating him on a successful term.

**Exploring Fort Jesup-** Upon adjournment members explored the grounds surrounding Fort Jesup with treasure hunters. Using metal detectors and shovels they found musket balls, belt buckles, buttons, pieces of pottery, bricks, and glass bottles.

Honored guests of the meeting included N.S.C.A.R. National President Liza Fridenmaker, and N.S.C.A.R. First Vice President Jacob Shadinger, who joined us via ZOOM, Chris Achee' - President of the Louisiana Society Sons of the American Revolution brought greetings. Katie Lombardino- First Vice Regent of the LSDAR brought greetings and presented Nicholas with a DAR Challenge Coin and a gift from the State Regent's project- which is raising money to restore the Badin Roque House, which is also Located in No Man's Land.

The L.S.C.A.R. thanks members of the SAR and DAR for their generous support and contributions each year!

Michael Dunlap, of the Ann Fairfax Society was elected President. He will be installed during the N.S.C.A.R. National Convention in April, and the 2022 L.S.C.A.R. State Conference will take place in Baton Rouge, LA.

*Photos from CAR  
State Meeting,  
January 23, 2021  
Fort Jesup State  
Park*



# CAR

Children of the American Revolution





The January Meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary Board of Directors took place on the 30th in Covington. We discussed the raffle for the hand-crafted table by Glen Armand Furniture of Alexandria. Ticket sales will be ongoing until the April 2021 Annual State Meeting, when the winner will be drawn. If you'd like tickets to sell or purchase, please reach out to me and I can mail them to you. Tickets are only \$1.00 each!

There are still chapters that do not participate. We strive to have 100% participation! Please speak to your SAR President about a donation. We need to start getting our auction items ready for April!

We currently have 61 members, 45 of whom are Life Members. Our "New Member" incentive program is still ongoing. The Martha Washington medal (or an Oak Leaf Cluster) will be awarded for every 5 members brought into the Ladies Auxiliary. Please advise of any progress in recruiting 5 new members, so that medals may be purchased for presentation in April.

Dues Notices were emailed October 1st. Please pay your dues! Upgrade to Life Membership for \$100.00 and you will not have to pay every year. If you are not sure if you're up to date, I'll be happy to check for you.

THANKS TO EACH OF YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR THE LASSAR AND THE LADIES AUXILIARY.

**See you April 17th, 2021 in New Orleans!**

Yours in Patriotic Service,

Sarah C. Hayes



*The Ladies Auxiliary of the  
Louisiana Society Sons of the American*

For any additional information, contact: Sarah C. Hayes



The Ladies Auxiliary of the LASSAR met at the Winter Board Meeting on Saturday, February 20 in Covington.. L-R: Katharine Hess (Attakapas Chapter), Sarah C. Hayes, Auxiliary President (George Washington Chapter), & Martha Whitehead (Pierre Georges Rousseau Chapter)

Not pictured, attended via Zoom: Cheryl Morock, (Enemund Chapter), Marlene Sawrie (Enemund Chapter), Cielle Clemenceau (Pierre Georges Rousseau Chapter), and Liane Blanchard (Atachafalaya Chapter)



# Ladies Auxiliary

of the

Louisiana Society

Sons of the American Revolution

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Husbands Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SAR Member: \_\_\_\_\_

NSSAR Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues - \$10.00

Life Member Dues - \$100.00

Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Marlene M. Sawrie

6203 West Pointe Blvd.

Alexandria, LA 71303

**Make checks payable to : Ladies Auxiliary - LASSAR**

THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION IS COMING TO NEW ORLEANS!



Book your room(s) at the following link:  
[http://group.curiocollection.com/  
SonsoftheAmericanRevolution](http://group.curiocollection.com/SonsoftheAmericanRevolution)

# H<sup>+</sup>H **HIGGINS** HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

THE MEETING LOCATION is the official hotel of  
the National WWII Museum in New Orleans

Block room rates are available for  
April 15th-17th, 2021 (call  
504.528.1941 & use group code:  
SAR Annual State Meeting)

•••

This year's Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Society  
Sons of the American Revolution will be held at the  
Higgins Hotel in New Orleans, co-located with the  
NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM!

Alternate rates and a secondary block of rooms are  
available at the Copeland Tower Comfort Inn &  
Suites in Metairie, an easy 15-minute drive from  
the meeting location. Reservations can be made  
there at the following link (or, by telephone at  
504.888.9500 / if you call, the group code is  
"Sons of the American Revolution"):

[https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/  
groups/GC72Y7](https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/GC72Y7)

**CURIO**  
COLLECTION  
BY HILTON

**WWII**  
THE NATIONAL  
WWII MUSEUM  
NEW ORLEANS

1000 MAGAZINE STREET  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

**LOUISIANA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

**Annual State Meeting Registration**

**April 16-17, 2021**

**New Orleans, LA**

**Host Hotel and Business Meeting Venue information:**

The Higgins Hotel  
1000 Magazine Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
(504) 528-1941 or (833) 357-1172

**Alternate Hotel:**

Copeland Tower Comfort Inn & Suites  
2601 Severn Avenue  
Metairie, LA 70002  
(504) 888-9500

**Reservations at the following links:**

Higgins Hotel (\$169/night) -

<http://group.curiocollection.com/SonsoftheAmericanRevolution>

Copeland Tower (\$99.99/night) -

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/GC72Y7>

Please choose between either hotel and use the hyperlinks above to book your reservations. In addition, complete the following form and mail it in with your check made payable to **"George Washington Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (or LASSAR)"** to the address below.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

NAME (inc. title of address): \_\_\_\_\_

SAR POSITION / TITLE (inc. Past Office, if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE /GUEST(S): \_\_\_\_\_

STATE SOCIETY or LA CHAPTER: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notate the number attending with the Amount due -

Member: \$50.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / Guest: \$25.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Includes FRIDAY night - WELCOME RECEPTION / EARLY REGISTRATION with passed hors d'oeuvres at Rosie's on the Roof (6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) and

SATURDAY morning – CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST / LATE REGISTRATION – Second floor (7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.)

SATURDAY – ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING and LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING – Second floor (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

Not included with registration fee:

SATURDAY – Discounted tours of the WWII MUSEUM (all day)

SATURDAY – PRESIDENT’S RECEPTION (Cocktail Hour) – Second floor (5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)

LEXINGTON & CONCORD BANQUET with PLATED DINNER (choice of chicken or pork)

Bone-in Herbed Chicken: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Roasted Pork Tenderloin: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend, but would like to help defray costs with a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\*Indicate any Dietary Restrictions, Special Requests or Medical Issues we should know about:

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**Mail checks and completed form no later than March 15, 2021, to:**

Mrs. Sarah Hayes  
Ladies Auxiliary President  
122 College Drive  
Hammond, LA 70401

Please consider purchasing space in the 2021 LASSAR Annual State Meeting Program book!

Place an ad to honor your Patriot Ancestors, Family, Father, Mother, Children, Memorials, Past SAR Officer contributions/positions, Business, Organizations, or Chapter.

These memorials, acknowledgements and ads provide critical funding for the Meeting and help defray other costs not covered by registration. The rates are as follows:

\$100.00 full page

\$50.00 half page

\$25.00 quarter page

The cutoff date will be March 1, 2021 for program submissions.

Let us help you. You can send a copy of your desired submittal to the address above or you can send an electronic version to the following email address: [bthayesesq@gmail.com](mailto:bthayesesq@gmail.com). You may also call me at 504-247-6926 to discuss what kind of submission you would like. We are happy to assist with layout and formatting, etc.

Thank you for your generous support,

**Maj. Bradley T. Hayes**  
**LASSAR Annual Meeting Committee Chairman**



# Louisiana Society Sons of the American Revolution

## 2021 Annual Meeting Program Ads

Please consider purchasing space in our 2021 LASSAR State Meeting Program Book! Email your submission(s) to [bthayesesq@gmail.com](mailto:bthayesesq@gmail.com).

Place an ad to honor your Patriot Ancestors, Family, Father, Mother, Children, Past SAR Office contributions/positions, Business, Organizations, or Chapter.

These memorials, acknowledgments and ads provide critical funding for the State Meeting and help defray other costs not covered by registration.

Rates are as follows (please make check payable to George Washington Chapter):

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	\$10.00 Individual Memorial
	\$10.00 Individual Memorial
	\$10.00 Individual Memorial