

# Pennsylvania 1812

June 2014



*1814 Celebrating our Bicentennial Year 2014*

## Welcome to our Celebration Year

The Pennsylvania Society has an exciting list of events and speakers to celebrate our Bicentennial in 2014. Our Annual Meeting on March 8th featured Elizabeth Laurent, Director of Historic Resources at Girard College, who spoke on Stephan Girard's important role in the 1812 War. Next up was a talk in the Merion Cricket Club Speakers' Series by an excellent lecturer, Professor Jeremy Black, from Exeter University in England, on the international perspective of the 1812 War, during, and subsequent to it. We followed that up with our Annual Church Service. This year we moved to Paoli for an Episcopal Service at The Church of the Good Samaritan followed by lunch at St Davids Golf Club.

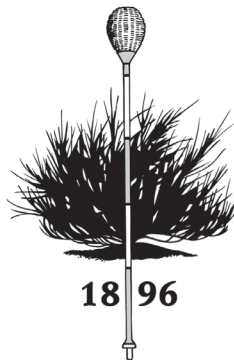
This summer we will have one more BBQ at the Merion Golf Club. This annual event, hosted by board members of the Adams family, grows larger each year.

On Saturday Evening, September 20, 2014, our celebration of the Bicentennial will culminate in dinner and a talk on the conclusion of the War and the Treaty of Ghent. Glenn Williams, Historian of the National Museum of the U.S. Army Project at Fort Belvoir, VA will speak. The title of his talk will be, "Smith Was Not A Winder." It will cover the respective defenses of Washington and Baltimore in 1814: It was more than Fort McHenry.

These activities promise to be unique and I urge you to attend as many of them as possible.

We were happy to approve an additional six new members at our recent Board Meeting. That brings to 12 the list of new members for the year. That's a major jump up for us in members. We look forward to a number of additional new members coming in based on a large list of proposed members. Now is a propitious time to propose family members or eligible friends.

Feel free to contact me at [rfmarvin@verizon.net](mailto:rfmarvin@verizon.net), or through our Website "Contact Us" page.



**Next Event:**  
**BBQ at Merion Golf Club**  
**Sunday, July 13.**

## 2014 National Group's Bicentennial Event

You are invited to join the General Society in Baltimore MD, on September 10-14 for the Triennial Meeting of the General Society membership. The event is planned to coincide with the Bicentennial of the bombardment of Ft. McHenry, which Baltimore plans to celebrate in style.

They will hold a Banquet on Thursday September 11, at Ft McHenry. Reenactments are scheduled at Ft McHenry on Friday and Saturday. A public fireworks display is scheduled for Saturday Night. See the National website or the War Cry for sign-up information.

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Society of the



War of 1812



## War of 1812 & Merion Cricket Club Present

On April 2, our members gathered at The Merion Cricket Club for a joint speaker event. President Marvin arranged to have Jeremy Black, renowned Professor of History at Exeter University, Great Britain, talk to us on "The International Context of the War of 1812, both Military and Political." This was an excellent lecture. It was refreshing to hear a British point of view on what the War means to those on the other side of the Atlantic. Below are some facts and thoughts from the lecture.

Much of the scholarly work on the topic has been done in the US and Canada, so most of what we would have heard is from our side.

He started out by saying that the British in this period were fighting a real war in Europe against the French.

In June of 1812 the United States declared war. The strategy of the Warhawks, led by Henry Clay, and southerners, was that if the British were out of Canada, the Indians would be easier to work with. It was a good plan at that moment since the British part of the big war with



**Mr Black chats with members Martin Peicker and John Clement before the lecture. Tee Adams Photos**

the French wasn't going too well. Taking the French side seemed like a relatively good idea.

It went wrong for the Americans, though, in that the French then had a bad year during the rest of 1812. In June of 1812 Napoleon took the biggest gamble of his life and headed off with 600,000 troops to invade Russia.

This turned out to be a bad decision however, when he later staggered back out with only 20,000 men. From the American point of view we had backed the wrong side.

England had the most powerful navy in the world. So the war would end when the British decided to stop fighting. The Americans were unable to go over and invade England.



As the war went on the US tried to get Russia to mediate for them. Britain wanted direct talks, and eventually succeeded.

The British weren't eager to get the colonies back. Who wants an unruly bunch of citizens to govern? They wanted to "rectify borders," stop America from taking over Canada, and get some concessions for the Indians.

Great Britain didn't send great numbers of troops until 1814, as the French war slowed down. As Napoleon's army folded, Wellington's troops were picked up and brought to America.

The Americans built up several myths about the war. These include:

1) We thoroughly beat the British. Actually, the British were fighting in all sorts of places around the globe. There was that war with the French that was the first priority. In 1814-15 they were also fighting in India, and Ceylon.

The War of 1812 is more problematic for the United States to claim victory. We did not have the ability to sail over to England and go ashore in any force. There wasn't a fleet on our side that would go blockade British ports. So the war ended when England got tired of having wars and losses.

2) England could come back and try this again.

As a result of the war, what did America spend a lot of money between 1815-60 doing? We built forts and garrisoned them to defend the ports. But on the other side, Britain had plenty of other things on their plates to deal with, so the effort was wasted.



Americans had developed good individual ships, but they hadn't an organized, strong navy. Jeffersonians believed in a militia system for the army, not a large standing force, and had even less interest in a navy.

It wasn't until the 1860s that the Union naval fleet become the second largest in the world, but it was mostly made up of coastal vessels - monitors. So, while large, our navy wasn't an international threat. Our first international navy was the Great White Fleet, years later.

Question: Comment about IMPRESSMENT as a motivator for the war. He suggests the British position was, if you ever were a British subject, then you remained one regardless of the ship you were on. If they could get you, you had a duty to the Crown. Also, the British were blockading France but US ships still thought they should have free passage and trade. US ships were taken.

Question: About the 1823 Monroe Doctrine. That was designed to be against the French and Spanish. As the United States had no real fleet, enforcement was mostly by the British navy. The British government felt ok at the time supporting a US doctrine against their regular enemies.

Question: Peace signed before Battle of New Orleans. Yes, it was. But there was no phone or internet at that time, so it took quite a while to transmit to all parties. After New Orleans the British forces went on to invade and take another southern coastal town or two

before the end. And remember treaties needed to be ratified by each government, so as that hadn't happened yet, the war was still ongoing.

News of the Peace took even longer to reach the Pacific where there were even later naval clashes. US Commerce Raiders were after British whaling ships.

Question: About Canadians in the period. Remember that many of them were ex-US colonists who had been kicked out of the United States when they supported the British side in the war for independence. Many lost most everything they had in the process. So thinking the Canadians might get behind a US invasion was foolhardy. They fought hard to keep their new life in Canada.

Question: About the burning of Washington. A couple of comments - 1) The Washington burning was in retaliation for the US burning of York, later to be called Toronto. 2) The British only burned public buildings, other than those that people chose to shoot from.

Question: Knowledge and feelings about the War of 1812 in Europe. Next to none. In that period many more major events were happening on their home fronts. This was a blip on the screen then and now. Napoleon headed off to the disaster that was the Russian invasion. In 1813 the Germans fought for liberation. In 1815 the Battle of Waterloo. Currently England is about to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.

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## Status of ex-Junior members who have gone missing.

As you may know we have been researching our membership over the last several years. The Registrar, Jefferson Moak, is looking for the current status of 13 junior life members elected between 1958 and 1976 who are no longer carried on the rolls. Of the 13, (List will be shorter as we found several in the proofing stage.) it was discovered that two have passed on. What do you know about the rest?

PA 991. John Cadwalader Bunker, born 1961, elected 1963, died 2011. Listed in 2004 yearbook.

PA 1056. William Drew Aller, born 1958, elected 1971, died 1988.

The other 11 (now 9) are:

Listed in 2004 yearbook, but not since:

PA 940: Theodore Hillsley Wentz, Jr., born 1946, elected 1958.

PA 943: Winthrop Sargent, V, born 1957, elected 1958.

PA 1079: John Joseph Whealen, Jr., born 1965, elected 1970.

PA 1122: Howard Coonley, III, born 1973, elected 1974.

PA 1127: Timothy Edward Brown, born 1972,

elected 1975.

PA 1137: Ryan Michael Brown, born 1975, elected 1976.

Not listed in 2004 yearbook

PA 929: Geoffrey Roberts White, born 1948, elected 1958.

PA 992: Lambert Cadwalader Bunker, born 1963, elected 1963.

PA 1028: Daniel DuVal Dent, born 1964, elected 1966.

One more question arose:

William Morris Rawle, born 1937, elected 1968 Listed as life member in 2004.

If you know the whereabouts of any of these missing members please get in touch with us. In our big year it would be great to welcome some of them back to our ranks.

## Pennsylvania 1812

Created by F. T. Adams III

Text editing by Steve Mark & Bob Marvin





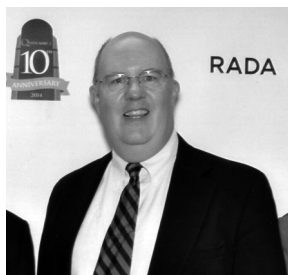
## The Bicentennial Annual Meeting

The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of PA gathered at the Corinthian Yacht Club on March 8, 2014. This year we welcomed back the Color Guard newly re-organized by Steve Mark. The Color Guard presented the Colors to President Marvin at the start of the meeting as shown below.



## Board Changes

This year we only made two changes. Your Editor, Tee Adams, was moved up to Secretary, to give title for all the communications, and more, he is already doing for the group. Last fall Jefferson Moak was moved to Registrar and he has also taken over the genealogist function to bring that back in-house.



## Membership

We have had a great year on that front. Before we added four more at this meeting, we had 154 members which is up from 147 in 2013. Of those, 104 live in Pennsylvania and 50 live elsewhere in the country.

In addition we have around 29 prospects in the pipeline. Many thanks to many but especially Jefferson Moak and Andy Sullivan for their efforts to attract the new prospects.

*President Marvin discusses plans for the year ahead, as Tom Showler, Rob Van Gulick and Jefferson Moak look on.*



(Above) Group Historian, Ray Longacre, addresses the meeting.  
(Below) After the meeting we sat in the warm sun for the Yacht Club's best lunch. Tee Adams Photos



## Important Events In The War - 200 years ago 1814

DATE	OCCURRENCE
April 25 — May 30	British extend blockade to New England
April 29	The Peacock defeats HMS Epervier
June 28	The Wasp II defeats HMS Reindeer
July — September	British occupy eastern Maine
July 3	Americans capture Fort Erie
July 5	Battle of Chippewa
July 25	Battle of Lundy's Lane
August:	United States public credit collapses
August	U.S banks suspend specie payments
August 8	Peace negotiations begin in Ghent
	Great Britain outlines initial peace terms
August 9	The Creek Indians sign a treaty at Fort Jackson ceding much of their land
August 13 — September 21	Siege of Fort Erie
Sept. 4th and 11th	Battle of Plattsburgh
Sept 12th	North Point Md. Victory
Sept 13th	Fort McHenry Bombardment



## Annual Meeting Speaker Elizabeth Laurent Stephen Girard Financed Our War

On March 8, 2014, Elizabeth Laurent, Director of Historic Resources at Philadelphia's Girard College, addressed the Society at the Corinthian Yacht Club on the topic "Stephen Girard and the War of 1812." Ms. Laurent recounted Girard's 1750 birth in France, his arrival in Philadelphia in June, 1776, and, his becoming by the time of his death in 1831, one of the wealthiest men in America with fortunes in shipping, banking and real estate.



*(Above) Our speaker Elizabeth Laurent. (Above Right) a book documenting that Girard raised \$16 million for the War of 1812.*

In his famous Will, Girard made a lasting impact on his city by leaving half a million dollars to turn Philadelphia into a world-class port through the creation of Delaware Avenue. He left the bulk of his fortune to build and operate a residential school, for children from financially needy families headed by a single parent or guardian. His school opened in 1848 and in 166 years has educated over 20,000 children.

Of most interest to our Society, was Girard's role in arranging the financing of the War of 1812. The fed-

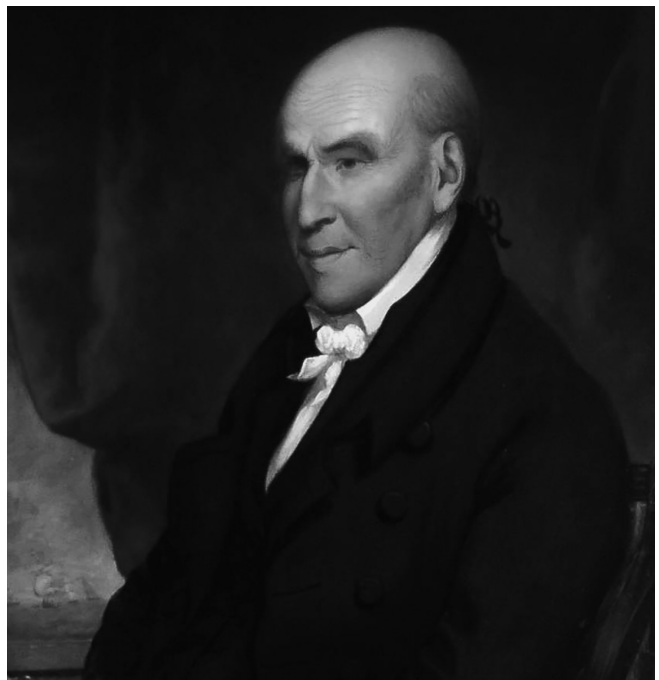
*(Right) Oil portrait of Girard by Bass Otis in 1832. (Below) Part of the largest private book collection in the city.*



eral government, led by U. S. Treasury Secretary Albert Gallatin, had tried unsuccessfully to raise the necessary 16 million dollars. Gallatin then asked Girard to take responsibility, and Girard raised the 16 million dollars. The three largest contributors were Girard, John Jacob Astor and David Parish, along with 124 investors of smaller sums. In a very real sense, Stephen Girard and his bank succeeded where the United States Treasury had failed!

Many of Ms. Laurent's illustrations were of objects from the Girard College Museum on the school's campus in the Fairmount neighborhood. The museum's Stephen Girard Collection, is the city's great, intact single-owner collections of artifacts and archives from the early national period. The museum is open to the public, and for more information please go to [www.girardcollege.edu](http://www.girardcollege.edu).

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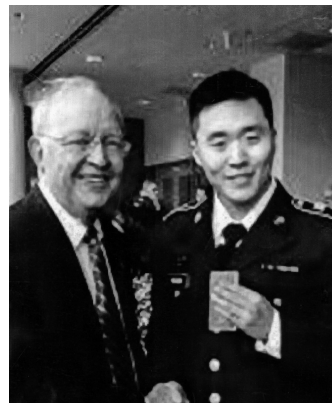
*Retired COL Bill Boswell presents our first ROTC award of the year to Cadet Rebecca Roberts of the University of Pittsburgh's AFROTC Det 730. The presentation was Saturday, March 22 at 10:00 at the University Club on campus.*

## ROTC Awards - Moving Forward

We have had a busy season providing ROTC awards to universities to award to deserving cadets from any branch of the military.

6 With Sam Hoff handing off the coordinating of both the National and State ROTC awards, we have a whole new crew at work. Robert Pollock of Fairfax, VA is handling the National side, and Tee Adams has taken over coordinating the awards for Pennsylvania. To date we

*Ted Cillo went to Carnegie Mellon U and gave our award to Midshipman 3/C Noelle Davis.*



*(Above) Bob Marvin presented at Temple U. (Above right) We thank Dr. John G. Inman for presenting at Slippery Rock U.*



*Cadet Pezdirtz received her award from Rich Blair (Right) at University of Scranton. (Not shown) Ron Horner was lucky enough to teach at the college we needed him to present at - Indiana Univ of PA.*



have delivered 18 medals to 16 PA university programs.

In addition, Tee has reached out to try and find more of our members across the state to present at the ROTC ceremonies. We are pleased that members we asked generally were very happy with their experience at the colleges and most want to go again next year. We are showing a representative sample of presentation photos received. See our website for the complete list of colleges.

We again note that your PA Society pays for all the medals we present. The colleges need only say "yes."

## Fort Mifflin Update By Anthony Selletti

A fire in the War of 1812 era officers quarters at Fort Mifflin on 23 March 2014, caused "devastating damage" to the structure as reported by Lorraine Irby, a nineteen year employee and spokeswoman for Fort Mifflin on the Delaware, Inc. the management group at Fort Mifflin for the City of Philadelphia who owns the historic property. This was the second major fire at the fort while the Boys Scouts of America were in overnight attendance but fortunately there were no injuries at either fire. The first fire, on 26 October 1980, that gutted the entire interior of the Commandants house, was started when Boy Scouts built fires in clearly marked "DO NOT USE. UNSAFE" fireplaces. That structure's exterior has been stabilized but the interior still awaits a multi-million restoration decades later. The official cause for the fire has been reported by the PFD Fire Marshal's





Office as “Undetermined.”

Since 2010, the historic fort has been hit by hurricanes, floods, electrical and water outages, a collapsed sea wall, an uncommon East Coast earthquake and all of the buildings are in need of new roofs. The much needed, and long awaited sound abatement work to be done to offset sound pollution created by aircraft landing and taking off directly over the fort seems nowhere in sight.

Where is the City of Philadelphia, deed holders of Fort Mifflin, in all of this, and what do they contribute to keep their property in good and safe condition? Elizabeth Beatty, executive director for Fort Mifflin on the Delaware, Inc., lamented to Peter Woodall in a recent interview, “We don’t get money directly from the City but we do receive support from the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.” That grant was reported in the same interview to be \$6,500. The Philadelphia Cultural Fund is not a city agency but is itself a not-for-profit corporation created to aid culture based programs in the city of Philadelphia.

What about other sources of income? The latest 990 filed by Fort Mifflin on the Delaware, Inc. on 13 October 2013 reported a total income of \$207,000 down from \$240,000 in the previous year. From that amount a salary of \$52,000 was paid to Ms. Beatty, a total of \$80,000 to other employee compensations, \$26,000 in benefit packages, \$14,000 in taxes, and \$14,000 in liability insurance. However while the contents of the buildings are insured, unfortunately the structure itself was not and only \$7,000 for repairs to the entire campus. What is the future for Fort Mifflin? There have been no major repairs or preservation since the 1990s when the Executive Director was an employee of the City of Philadelphia and they, and the City, as the deed holders chose to direct tax and private dollars to maintain and keep safe Fort Mifflin for those who wished to visit. Many who came out to aid in the clean out of the fire, smoke and

water damage, water needed for the one hour fire fight caused the most damage to the 200 year old structure and relics, Officers quarters have called for a “Mifflin Spring.” Much like the “Egyptian Spring” they want a change of the City of Philadelphia’s attitude toward Fort Mifflin. Many concerned about Fort Mifflin agree that a “business as usual” culture of indifference that has caused the decline of Fort Mifflin over the last two and a half decades must not continue. One individual, with decades of time helping at Fort Mifflin, spoke “We have been lucky twice now that no children were killed or injured in the fires. How much longer will our luck hold out?”

If you can help fund restoration projects, call 215-685-4168 or see <http://fortmifflin.us>.

## PA State Death Certificates Coming Online

Tim Gruber - Pahr-Access spokesperson

The initial batch of Pennsylvania state death certificates is now online through Ancestry.com (as of April 18th). Remember only birth and death certificates that are open records will be online (50 years for death certificates and 105 years for birth certificates). The overall schedule for release is:

- 1906-24 death certificates — April 2014
- 1925-44 death certificates — June 2014
- 1945-63 death certificates — November 2014
- 1906 birth certificates — March 2015

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Pennsylvania residents (and only Pennsylvania residents) have free access to this particular database as they do with other Pennsylvania State Archives records already scanned and made available online by Ancestry. Free access for Pennsylvania residents is accomplished by registering online at no cost through this link (please be sure to read the instructions carefully):

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/>

Pennsylvania residents that already have a subscription to Ancestry do not need to do anything as long as they continue to have a subscription to Ancestry.

Out of state residents do need a subscription to Ancestry to access these records. However, many libraries and research centers everywhere provide free access to Ancestry. After three years the records will be moved to the Pennsylvania State Archives website and be free to all.

Thank you for your help in getting the PA state law changed that made this possible. Without your help we would still be stuck with the old extremely restricted access to Pennsylvania state birth and death certificates and wishing it were different. For more information please visit [www.pahr-access.org](http://www.pahr-access.org). Good luck in your searches and keep in mind mistakes in indexing (most especially on Ancestry) and the original certificates are to be expected.



## Necrology

At the annual meeting we announced the passing of three of our members in the last year.

William Benjamin Neal, elected 6 September 1990, died 15 April 2013

Donald Gene Patterson, elected 7 December 1988, died 20 April 2013

Nicholas Sellers, elected 13 February 1960, died 8 February 2014

Since the meeting two other deaths in 2013 have come to our attention.

### James Henry Shaw, Sr., 1917-2014

James Henry Shaw, Sr Age 96, of Uniontown, PA passed away on Monday, January 27, 2014

He was born on May 31, 1917 in Fredericktown, PA the son of the late James Carroll and Linnie Lucille Hayes Shaw. He was preceded in death by his wife of almost 72 years, Coletta Elizabeth Murray Shaw as well as five other siblings.

8 Jim graduated from East Bethlehem High School class of 1935. After graduation, Jim joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC's) and helped to restore the first George Washington Monument in Boonsboro, Maryland in 1936. He was a veteran of WWII. He served in the US Army as a T/5 in the Anti-Aircraft Automatic Weapons Battalion in the Panama Canal Zone.

Jim worked as an office manager at various places and held the title of Chief Controller/treasurer of the H.B.C. (Hillman) Barge Company in Brownsville until his retirement in 1981.

Jim enjoyed fishing, stamp collecting, traveling and researching family history. Upon retirement, he and his wife toured the country in their motorhome, visiting relatives, sightseeing and researching family genealogy. He published several books on his and Coletta's family history. Jim was a member of the General Arthur St Clair Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), the Welcome Society, Society of the War of 1812, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, Brownsville Historical Society, Preston County Historical Society, American Legion, VFW, NACCCA and the American Philatelic Society. He was a member of the Fort Burd Presbyterian Church in Brownsville.

### Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, July 13 - Annual BBQ  
Wed Sept 10 through Sun Sept 14 - Triennial in  
Baltimore, Maryland (See Page 1)  
September 20 - Grand Bicentennial Dinner

### Pittsburgh PA Area Members

The local US Daughters are organizing a Chapter reception, for September 27 at 2 pm. If you can attend and represent us, contact us through our website or the E-mail/Phone below.

He is survived by his three children: James H. Shaw, Jr. and wife Zita, of Perryopolis; David C. Shaw of Markleysburg; Karen M. McGee and husband Richard, of Uniontown; 6 grandchildren: 13 great-grandchildren, a sister Kathleen, in Oregon and many nieces and nephews.

### Gerald van Syckel Henderson, 1927-2013

Gerald van Syckel Henderson 85 of Strafford, Pa and Quonochontaug, RI, a retired Real estate broker died peacefully on Friday, July 5th 2013 at The Hospital of The University of Pennsylvania. He was born 10/17/27 and joined the Society 12/3/64.

Mr. Henderson attended The Haverford School, The Fessenden School then graduated in 1946 from The Hill School in Pottstown, PA. In 1946 he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was honorably discharged in September of 1948. He then went on to graduate from Harvard University in 1953 where he was a member of The Pi Eta Club, The Phoenix SK and The Hasty Pudding Club. Mr. Henderson met Joan Bristol at a Harvard-Yale football game in November of 1956 and married her in October of 1959.

Mr. Henderson went on to have a successful Real estate career co-founding Henderson-Dewey Real estate with offices in Wayne, Haverford and St. David's. Mr. Henderson was a member of The Society of The Cincinnati, Sons of The Revolution, Society of Colonial Wars and Society of The War of 1812. He was a founding member of Waynesborough Country Club and a member of The Merion Cricket Club. Mr. Henderson and his wife enjoyed spending winters in St. Barths and summers at their home in Quonochontaug, RI.

In addition to his wife of 53 years, Mr. Henderson is survived by his children, Gerald Jr. (wife Susan), William (wife Anne) and Julie (husband Jack Low) as well as grandchildren Emily, Caroline, Madeline and Charlie.

### On The Web

PA site: <http://www.societyofthewarof1812pa.org/>  
General Society site:  
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NEW On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GSWarOf1812?fref=ts>



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