

MARCH

Historic Preservation Education Patriotism



Regent's Message

Spring is almost here, and we are one month closer to celebrating America's 250th birthday. The administration of the National Society DAR has started an initiative to recognize the contributions of lesser-known Patriots during the American Revolution. In the last two issues, I have focused on women patriots, and although a few women like Deborah Sampson and Margaret Corbin, fought in active battles during the war, many women such as Mercy Otis Warren served the Patriot cause in a different way.

Mercy Otis Warren was born on September 14, 1728 in Barnstable, Massachusetts. She was the third of thirteen children of James Otis and Mary Allyne Otis. Her father was a prominent attorney and was insistent that she be tutored alongside her brothers.

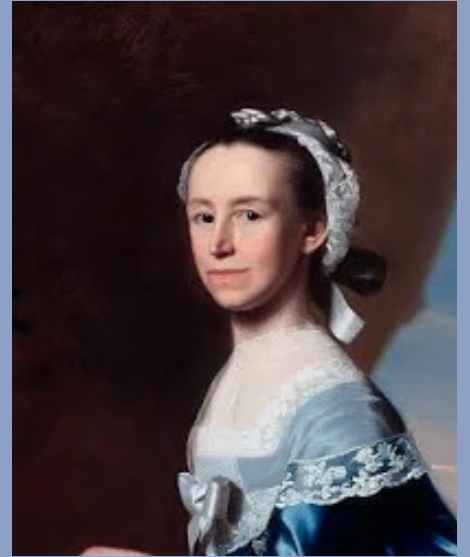
Mercy was raised in a wealthy and prestigious family of devout Puritans.

MERCY OTIS WARREN

As the oldest daughter, Mercy helped her mother manage the household and raise her siblings. She also learned to sew and weave. She grew up with a blend of both gender conforming activities and gender breaking values. This may have contributed to her feelings that, even though she was educated, politically involved and a published author, she believed it necessary for women to remain in an "appointed subordinate" role for the sake of social order.

Mercy's father and brother were politically involved in Massachusetts in the mid-1700s, and in 1754 Mercy married a political activist, James Warren. James was very supportive of Mercy and her writing. She wrote two plays, *The Adulator* and *The Group*, both of which denounced British policies and key officials in Massachusetts.

Being married to a political activist, her home became a meeting place where several known patriots gathered and discussed ideas of independence from Great Britain. Mercy was friends with John and Abigail Adams, George and Martha Washington, Samuel Adams and Dr. Joseph Warren (who was not directly related to her husband James). Mercy corresponded and influenced these leading figures of the American Revolution. After the Boston Tea Party, John Adams encouraged her to write a poem in support of the rebellious event. The following stanza is taken from Mercy's poem.



*The Heroes of the Tuskeraro Tribe,
Who scorn alike, A Fetter, or a Bribe,
In order Range'd, and waiting Freedoms Nod,
To make an offering, to the Watry God.*

Mercy is referring to the patriots dressed as Native Americans as the Tuskeraro tribe, and throwing the tea into the harbour as making an offering to the Water God.

By the 1770s, Mercy had the support and encouragement of many powerful men. In 1175, she began working on a non-fiction documentary of the American Revolution, History of the Rise, Progress and Termination of the American Revolution. This 1298 page collection took 30 years to complete and was published in 1805.

After the US Constitution was drafted, Mercy's Anti-Federalist views were in opposition to the Federalist views of friends like John Adams. Even though this political disagreement led to the end of their friendship, Mercy's work and influence helped inspire the Bill of Rights.



New Member Induction & Officer Installation



Induction of New Member Sarah Brady



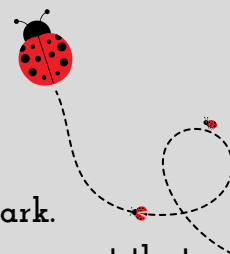
Installation of Nova Mastrogiovanni,
Chapter Secretary



Guest Speaker Diane McClure talking about the Give Me Liberty Program

March Dates of Note

- March 1, 1872: Yellowstone National Park is established as the first U.S. National Park.
- March 5, 1770 - The Boston Massacre: British troops killed five civilians in Boston, an event that significantly increased tensions.
- March 10, 1862: The first U.S. government paper money (\$5, \$10, and \$20 bills) begins circulation.
- March 17, 1737: Boston holds the first public St. Patrick's Day celebration.
- March 22, 1765 - Stamp Act Passed: Parliament passes the Stamp Act, leading to widespread "no taxation without representation" protests.
- March 23, 1775 - "Give Me Liberty" Speech: Patrick Henry urged Virginia to arm against Britain.



President General's Message



February 2026



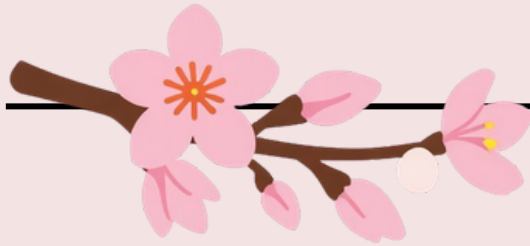
Dear Daughters,

As we begin February, I am filled with excitement for the many meaningful moments ahead for our Society. This year is already shaping up to be truly remarkable, and the weeks to come will reflect the energy, dedication, and purpose that define the Daughters of the American Revolution.

I am pleased to remind you that registration for the DAR Genealogy Research Institute (GRI) is open. Whether you are just beginning your genealogy journey or have years of experience, GRI offers an exceptional educational opportunity. Industry-renowned experts will present timely genealogy topics, alongside DAR specialists who will share valuable insights and guidance related to DAR research. GRI will be held Monday, May 4, through Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at our DAR Headquarters in Washington, D.C. I encourage you to mark your calendars and plan to join us for this enriching experience.

Looking ahead to spring, plans are underway for DAR to celebrate America 250! in a grand fashion. To commemorate this historic milestone, we will host a spectacular weekend of events this April, coinciding with the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Members, families, and the public are invited to join us as we honor our nation's past, celebrate our present, and look boldly toward the future. Weekend highlights will include, Illuminate 250!, a Welcome Reception on Friday, April 17th for members, America's 250th Birthday Party the morning for Saturday, April 18th, followed by a special concert event in Constitution Hall, DAR Celebrates America 250! – A Salute to Women Veterans, featuring Patti LaBelle, the Godmother of Soul.

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Patriot Spotlight



NATHANIEL BELKNAP 3 OCTOBER 1748 – 18 JUL 1826

Nathaniel Belknap's family came to America by 1637. Abraham and his wife and children settled in Lynn, MA.

Just prior to Nathaniel going to war he had a neighbor named Richard Gilchrist, like many, was suffering through severe hardship This story comes from the "Sketch of the Life of Nathaniel Belknap" by his son, Lawson Belknap:--

"In the summer of 1779, the situation of the American army became somewhat critical, and a call was made for more troops. Richard Gilchrest was selected to go; but the situation of his family was such as to make it necessary for him to be at home. He requested Mr. Belknap to go in his stead. Mr. Belknap said he would go if his wife were willing. After the situation of the army and the necessity for more men were explained to her, Mr. Belknap put the question, 'Are you willing I should go?' It was a trying moment t, even for a woman of the Revolution. She had two small children the oldest but two and a half years old, three cows, and some other young stock, and her husband would not return before mid-winter. She turned to Mr. Gilchrest, and said, 'If we are sick or need help, will you assist us?' His answer was, "Yes". Then, turning to her husband, she said, "You may go and fight. Mr. Gilchrest will take care of us." During Mr. Belknap's absence, Mrs. Belknap took care of her children and cattle. Mr. Gilchrest assisted in bad weather, harvested her corn and potatoes; and she worked at her loom so much that money enough was earned to purchase another cow, which she bought and paid for before her husband's return. Mr. Belknap served six months, was promoted to the post of Orderly Sergeant, and was discharged in Rhode Island at the time of the great snow- storm, 1780. He not was engaged in no general battle, but took part in several skirmishes, in one of which his right-hand man fell, and he saw his cousin's head split open by a British sabre [sic]. He received pay for his services in paper money; the worth of which may be judged from the fact, that, while on his way home, he paid fifty dollars for a pair of snow-shoes, twenty-five dollars for a meal of victuals, and five dollars for a glass of brandy."

Nathaniel Belknap served under Captain Daniel Emerson's Co. and Colonel Hercules Mooney's Regiment. They were called upon to assist in the defense of Rhode Island that was under siege.

*Nethaniel Belknap is one of chapter member Virginia 'Gini' Addamo's Patriots.
Thank you Gini for sharing his story!*

Civics question for Naturalization

1. The U.S. Constitution starts with the words "We the People." What does "We the People" mean?
2. How many seats are on the Supreme Court?
3. How many Supreme Court justices are usually needed to decide a case?
4. Why were the Federalist Papers important?
5. The words "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" are in what founding document?

(Answers on next page)

Vets Chat



At our February's Vets Chat, Rabbi Zucky joined us and talked about various military and commemorative challenge coins. He brought a sample of his 350+ collection for show and tell.

National Defender



FREEDOM HOUSE AMBULANCE SERVICE: THE NATION'S FIRST PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM

Pittsburgh of the 1960s and 70s was a city in dire need of economic help. In the predominantly Black Hill District, a majority of the residents fell well below the poverty line and fought constantly against racial injustice. Many of the residents were deemed "unemployable" by the city welfare offices and had bleak prospects for long term stability.

In 1966, the Freedom House Enterprise was founded with a grant from the federal government to provide economic stimulation to the people of Pittsburgh, and specifically those in the Hill District. The goal of Freedom House Enterprises was to create job-training and employment opportunities for residents of the area and to provide the "unemployables" with the opportunity to train and work in the city.

Then, in 1967, Freedom House Enterprises started an ambulance service under the supervision of Dr. Nancy Caroline and Dr. Peter Safar. Caroline and Safar were responsible for training the first paramedic crew in the United States. The first class was a mix of men and women, and they achieved their qualifications in no time and quickly got their service running. But they weren't without their challenges.

The position of Emergency Medical Technician, to operate the ambulances, was designed as a "new career" through which individuals could enter the health profession. The technicians were trained to administer a wide range of resuscitative techniques required to sustain life at the scene of illness or accident and during transportation to the hospital. The training was carried out by the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Pittsburgh at Presbyterian University Hospital. It included clinical rotations in the recovery room, intensive care unit, and emergency room.

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National Defender

Answers to Civics Questions:

1. Self-government • Popular sovereignty • Consent of the governed
2. Nine (9)
3. Five (5)
4. They helped people understand the Constitution • They supported passing the Constitution.
5. Declaration of Independence

Flag Minute



Current Use: Beyond government functions, the flag has become a part of American culture, appearing in art, fashion, and products. It represents national pride and is widely seen during national holidays, especially Independence Day.



Native American Minute

Adrienne Keene, born in 1985, is the author of the book, *Notable Native People: 50 Indigenous Leaders, Dreamers, and Changemakers from Past and Present*. Keene herself is a notable Native person, raised far away from her Cherokee community. Keene is a Harvard graduate, School of Education, Ed. D. Keene is an assistant professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies at Brown University, where her research focused on educational outcomes for Native students. Keene is a scholar, writer, and podcaster whose work focuses on representations of native people in popular culture and higher education. Source: Keene, Adri

Constitution Minute



Article 4 of the United States Constitution has several provisions. In general, it details the relationship between the States and the Federal Government. In Section 1 it makes clear that states must give "Full Faith and Credit" to the "Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings" of other states. This is very important because oftentimes states acted as their own countries- and their citizens were apt to think of themselves not as an American, rather a Virginian or a New Yorker. With travel difficult, this was understandable. Yet, for the United States to be truly "united," the documents of the citizens of one state had to be respected by other states. The same was true of the laws of the other states.



Conservation Minute

Water Conservation: A Drop in the Bucket Conserving water is crucial, and small, actionable steps can have a big impact on preserving this precious resource. Begin by fixing leaks- check faucets, toilets, and pipes monthly, replacing worn washers or seals with a wrench and parts from a hardware store. Install water-efficient fixtures, like low-flow showerheads and dual-flush toilet kits, to cut usage without sacrificing comfort. Collect rainwater by setting up a barrel under a downspout; use it to water plants or wash outdoor gear. In your garden, plant drought-tolerant species like succulents, lavender, or native grasses- space them wisely and mulch with wood chips to retain moisture. Reduce daily waste by turning off the tap while brushing teeth, running full loads in the dishwasher, and sweeping driveways instead of hosing them down. Monitor your efforts with a water meter check biweekly. These actions ensure every drop counts.

2026 Spring Calendar

March 14 - 10am Regular Meet - Methodist Church

March 18 - Vets Chat (time TBD)

March 27-29 - State Conference - Reno

April 11 - Chapter Anniversary Luncheon

April 15 - 10:45 Vets Chat

May 9 - 10am Regular Meeting &
Installation of Officers

May 13 - 10:45 Vets Chat

June 18 - America 250! Reception at the
Mesquite Fine Arts Center

