PRESIDENT GENERAL’S MESSAGE
MARCH 2016

It is hard to believe that Spring is upon us and that a quarter of 2016 has passed. On January 8, my wife and I had the honor of being guests of the Tennessee Society at the Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson, to honor the 201st anniversary of his victory at New Orleans. Following a ceremony at the Jackson tomb, we were given a personal tour of Jackson’s home by Howard Kittell, President and CEO of the Andrew Jackson Foundation (formerly the Ladies’ Hermitage Association) which owns the historic estate. It is truly one of America’s treasures.

I have been reviewing the 2015 reports of the General Officers and am pleased with the hard work being conducted on behalf of the Society. Treasurer General Russ DeVenney completed the collection of dues from State Societies and reconciling the membership lists. He will formally present his 2015 financial report at the 2016 Board of Directors meeting. Expenses for the year were within budget and income was greater than expected. Performance of our investment portfolio was better than expected, yielding a modest return on investment of nearly 6%. The finances of the Society are on very sound footing.

Back in the fall, Deputy President General Rick Hollis spent a few days with Archivist General Eric Johnson at the Ohio Genealogical Society’s library in Bellville, Ohio where our records are housed in a secure, archival facility. Eric had completed inputting data on members and their 1812 ancestor names from 1894 through July 2015 in preparation for the publication of the Society’s Bicentennial Register. It was decided that the publication would be more valuable if it included the state of service (or branch of military if regular troops) for the 1812 soldiers, making our Bicentennial Register similar to the 'patriot index' of other groups. Rick and Eric made good progress on this effort while Rick was there in the fall and Eric recently completed the task, bringing the publication closer to fruition. On a side note, I think it is important to note that our Archives is in very good order, in a very safe place, and is equal to or superior to the Archives of other organizations to which I belong. Eric Johnson and Assistant Archivist General (and former Secretary General) Paul Morehouse deserve a great deal of credit for this, as well as Former President General Larry Casey and Assistant Genealogist General Floyd Miller. Each spent countless hours cataloguing and organizing over a 125 years of applications and other documents of the General Society.

This year, we will start to see some changes to the 1812 War Cry. As we discussed at the Board meeting in New Orleans, we wanted a 'return to normalcy' with the newsletter, specifically, returning to a four-issue per year schedule with a consistent 8 pages per issue. We have all been a bit spoiled with the special Bicentennial issues which had more pages, though often only three issues per year. I received a lot of member feedback on this issue, and it is clear that members prefer longer issues (more content) even if there are fewer issues. In 2015, we published 4 issues. VPG Publications Ken Roach and I discussed this and for 2016, we will switch to 3 issues of 12 pages (9 net pages of content) resulting in 27 pages of net content for the year. The increased cost of adding 4 pages to an issue will be more than offset by the elimination of mailing of an issue. The new publication schedule will be roughly April, August, and December. VPG Public Relations William Allerton is completing work on updated design and graphics that will be incorporated in later editions this year.

As you might have noted in the last 1812 War Cry, the new production of the original model grave marker is now available. Quartermaster General John Taylor has sold several and has received positive feedback. We have both stake and flush mounted versions. It took me a long time to find a company that would take on the project, but I am pleased with the result, both in quality and price. The new markers are only marginally more expensive than the previous version (1980's version) and both sell for the same price. During the initial phase of the project, I had the company produce some sample pieces made from bronze colored aluminum. Frankly, the small cost difference did not justify the switch to that material, so all versions being sold now are bronze. The Quartermaster General continues to do a "brisk trade" with high sales and works closely with our vendors to insure timely delivery. He is currently working on a few new items to show at the Board meeting in Springfield.

VPG-Military Awards Robert Pollock has reported that to date he has mailed 219 ROTC ribbons units in 41 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Several dozen more requests are expected during this "peak" season for the ROTC Awards. Colonel Pollock and the State Societies who supply medals and presenters to the units in their respective states deserve are to be commended for the hard work required to maintain this important program.

An updated PDF-fillable membership application form has been prepared and has been placed on the website. The new form fixed a lot of "kinks" in the previous form, added some additional spaces for information on the veteran, and...
took out some little used things, and included our updated graphic. It went through several iterations/revisions. I have used the form extensively this fall and it seems to work well.

Let me also commend our state societies. Their diligent efforts in membership recruitment and programming keep our General Society growing and relevant to our local communities.

Finally, please note the details for the 2016 Board meeting in September in Springfield, Illinois.

Don't Give Up the Ship,
Tom Jacks

President General Thomas Jacks addressing the attendees of the Wreath Laying Ceremony conducted at the Hermitage January 8, 2016

National Meeting of the General Society War of 1812

This year, the General Society War of 1812 Annual Meeting will be September 16 and 17, 2016, in Springfield, Illinois.

During the War of 1812, Native American hostilities occurred incited by Tecumseh. Although no British and American battles happened in Illinois, here were plenty of small groups raiding and killing. There were almost a hundred forts and blockhouses used as protection from raiding Native Americans, mostly Winnabago and Potawatamie Indians. Many southern Illinois raids and killings occurred. Hills Fort, one such fort that provided protection, was named after surveyor Isaac Hill, and located in Greenville, Illinois.

On Friday, September 16th, the day is open for touring Springfield’s many museums, the Lincoln Library and Lincoln Museum, Lincoln’s first law office, the old Capitol where Lincoln was a Senator, and the Military Museum. Most sites are within walking distance from the hotel.

At 1:00 p.m., the General Society of the War of 1812 Annual Meeting will begin, followed by a wreath laying by our President General and the United States Daughters 1812 National President Jacque-Lynne Amann Schulman, at the grave of Ninian Edwards, first Illinois Territorial Governor.

Many volunteers have reconstructed Hill’s Fort to its actual dimensions and that’s where the first leg of the bus tour on Saturday September 17 will take you. There will be sutlers, a Fife and Drum Corps, bullet makers, and cannoners. Also on hand will be Illinois Territorial Rangers re-enactors such as were led by Ninian Edwards, the First Territorial Governor of Illinois, out of Fort Russell in Edwardsville during the war.

On the second leg of the tour you will have a catered lunch and see the Lewis and Clark museum near where Lewis and Clark left for the great Northwest Expedition in 1803. Then we will come back to Springfield for the Saturday night banquet.

More information about the Annual Meeting, schedule of events, and a registration form is found on pages 6 and 7. Please register as early as you able.

Front Cover—The Old Connecticut State House in Hartford, Connecticut, which was the scene of the infamous Hartford Convention. The Hartford Convention was a series of meetings from December 15, 1814 to January 5, 1815, in Hartford, Connecticut, in which the New England Federalist Party met to discuss their grievances concerning the ongoing War of 1812 and the political problems arising from the federal government's increasing power. The Old State House is located in downtown Hartford.

Back Cover—Senate Chamber in the State House where the Hartford Convention was held.

Photos taken by the Editor.
Dr. Heidi Weber, an associate professor of military history at the State University of New York at Orange presented a program at the fall 2015 meeting and luncheon of the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of New Jersey. This was a joint event along with the New Jersey Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America. The luncheon was held on December 12th at the Cranbury Inn in Cranbury, New Jersey. Professor Weber’s program was entitled, “The Post-Revolutionary Generation: John C. Calhoun, the War Hawks, and the Coming of the War of 1812”. She gave a very detailed talk on events leading up to the War of 1812, and especially the role of Calhoun and his later life.

New Jersey Society holds Joint Meeting with the Order and the Founders and Patriots of America

Society of the War of 1812 in the State of New Jersey President Gerald DeGroat (left) and New Jersey Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, Governor Henry Swain, (right) present a Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Heidi Weber.

EDITOR’S CORNER

The publication schedule follows: July 1 (deadline for submission June 1); November 1 (deadline for submission September 1). Keep sending in those articles.
The 201st Anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans

Representing the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Louisiana (left to right) Roger Villere; military escort Major Jacques Walker (former State President, Louisiana Society); and Edward Cailleteau (State President, Louisiana Society).

British Marine reenactors participated at this year’s Chalmette Battlefield Anniversary commemoration.

Honoring General Andrew Jackson at the Hermitage January 8th

Tennessee USD 1812 President Linda Tripp and President General Thomas E. Jacks laying a Wreath at the grave site of General Jackson.

Members of the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Tennessee join President General Thomas and Tara Jacks and Lieutenant General John M. Pickler at the Hermitage grave site of General Jackson.
2016 Annual Meeting - September 15
General Society of the War of 1812
WAR OF 1812 in the ILLINOIS TERRITORY

Wyndham Springfield City Centre
700 E Adams St. | Springfield, IL 62701
For a reservation:
217-789-1530 | ask for Society of the War of 1812
Room Rate:

WHEN IN SPRINGFIELD
COME TO SPRINGFIELD, IL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
12:00 - 5:00 pm       Registration
6:00 - 10:00 pm       Reception in President’s Room
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
7:00 - 8:00 am        Breakfast buffet included
Morning                Free time to explore Springfield
1:00 - 4:00 pm        General Society Anniversary Program
4:45 - 5:45 pm        Wreath Laying Ceremony
6:00 - 6:45 pm        Social hour/Cash bar
7:00 - 10:00 pm       Dinner (Business Attire)

LEWIS & CLARK
Lewis and Clark State Historic Site is the home of Camp River Dubois, the Expedition’s first winter encampment. The Corps of Discovery established their first camp site at the Confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, along the River Dubois or Wood River.

The expedition wintered here from Dec 12, 1803 until May 14, 1804. Camp River Dubois is where the Corps of Discovery was formed and where the men came to know and trust each.

The winter encampment served as the final staging area where the men gathered their remaining supplies.
September 15 - 17 - Springfield, Illinois

WARTIME | WAR OF THE WAR OF 1812

WARTIME | LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION

TOBY CHAMBERLAIN

Mail check to:
Toby Chamberlain
230 Marblestone Drive
Chatham, IL 62629
217-483-6267

Registration form and check must be received before August 15th. Make checks payable to Illinois Society of the War of 1812. $50 extra charge if past August 15.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
6:00 - 7:30 am  Breakfast buffet included with room
7:45 am           Welcome
8:00 am           Buses depart
4:00 pm           Buses return
6:00 - 7:00 pm    Social hour/Cash bar
7:00 - 10:00 pm   Formal Banquet (black-tie)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
6:00 - 9:00 am    Breakfast buffet included with room
2:00 pm           Hill’s Fort reenactment**

*Breakfast buffet included with room
**Sunday activities; no transportation provided

ILLINOIS

Governor Ninian Edwards
formed the Illinois Rangers

Lewis and Clark State Historic Site is the home of Camp River Dubois, the Expedition’s first wintering area

The Corps of Discovery established their first camp site at the Confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, along the River Dubois or Wood River.

The winter encampment served as the final staging area where the men gathered their remaining supplies and equipment before continuing their journey.

The expedition wintered here from December 12, 1803 until May 16, 1804.

GOV NINIAN EDWARDS
Illinois Territorial Governor
organized the Illinois Rangers

LAND OF LINCOLN

Thursday, Friday morning, or Sunday, there will be plenty of time to explore the Land of Lincoln.

To learn more about Springfield, Illinois, please go to www.visitspringfieldillinois.com/

Our hosts have planned outstanding outings that will be educational and entertaining. Please make plans now to attend.

1812 General Society Annual Meeting, Springfield, IL, Sept. 16 & 17, 2016

NAME:__________________________________________

Email:__________________________________________

Phone Number:________________________________

Address:________________________________________

City__________________ State ___________ Zip Code________

Guest Names:____________________________________

Total Attendees:_________ X $180 ea. Without Saturday Bus Tour:_________ X $100 ea

PLEASE NOTE ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Mail check to:
Toby Chamberlain
230 Marblestone Drive
Chatham, IL 62629
217-483-6267
Fort Bowyer Dedication

On September 12, 2015, a dedication ceremony was held for three interpretative makers funded by The Society of the War of 1812 in Alabama and The United States Daughters of 1812 at the site of Fort Bowyer located on the Fort Morgan peninsula of the Alabama Gulf coast. Fort Bowyer was an earthen and stockade fortification erected by the US Army during the War of 1812. Fort Bowyer was attacked twice by the British during the War of 1812.

The first battle at Ft. Bowyer took place on September 14, 1814 and was an attack by the British in preparation for an assault on Mobile. The attack was under the command of Captain William Percy of the Royal Navy. The attacking force included 60 Royal Marines, 60 Indians, the 22 gun HMS Hermes, the 18 gun HMS Sophie and two other British Navy Vessels. Defending the fort were 160 American infantry. The American commander of the fort was Major William T. Lawrence. The fort was bombarded by the Hermes and the Sophie. The fighting was at such close range that during the battle the Hermes and the fort were within musket shot range. After two hours of battle, the Hermes ran aground and lay helpless under fire from Ft. Bowyer. After the Sophie took off the Hermes' crew, Percy set the Hermes on fire and the ship blew after the fire reached her magazine. The Americans held and the attack was unsuccessful. British losses in the battle were 34 killed and 35 wounded. American losses were 4 men killed and 5 wounded. After the defeat at Ft. Bowyer, the British decided to bypass Mobile and attack New Orleans.

After the September battle at Ft. Bowyer, Andrew Jackson realized the strategic importance of the fort and ordered Ft. Bowyer strengthened. It was garrisoned with 370 men of the U.S. 2d infantry Regiment under the command of Major Lawrence. Following the British defeat at New Orleans, British General John Lambert decided to attack Mobile a second time and to commence the attack by a second assault on Ft. Bowyer. The British attacking forces consisted of 1400 infantry from the British 4th, 44th and 21st Regiments, all of whom had fought at New Orleans. While Ft. Bowyer was a formidable defensive fortification from the seaward side, it was vulnerable to attack from the landward side. The British forces landed seven miles from the fort and advanced to within a short distance from the fort. Fortifications were then constructed by the British from which siege was laid to the fort. On February 12, 1815, following a barrage of artillery fire, General Lambert, under a flag of truce called upon the Americans to surrender. Lawrence acquiesced and the British took control of the fort.

The next day, February 13, 1815, the HMS Brazen arrived carrying news that the Treaty of Ghent had been signed the preceding Christmas Eve. When later news of the of the ratification of the Treaty arrived, the British withdrew from Fort Bowyer.

Of the importance of the two battles at Fort Bowyer, historian Wilbert Brown has written: "Major William Lawrence's successful defense of Fort Bowyer in September, 1814 kept Mobile out of British hands then, and his delaying action in February, 1815 again prevented their winning that prize until news of the ratification of the Treaty of Ghent put an end to British designs on Mobile and West Florida. The value of the major's achievement is too often overlooked. It is impossible to see on what grounds, under the terms of the Treaty of Ghent, the United States could have expected Mobile or any part of West Florida, to have been returned to her, had the British and Spaniards actually been in possession when the Treaty was ratified. American title rested entirely on the right of possession by forcible occupation. By 1815, only Andrew Jackson and his subordinate, William Lawrence, retained a vestige of title for the United States but that was enough."

The interpretative markers funded by The Society of the War of 1812 in Alabama and The United States Daughters of 1812 tell the story of the creation and erection of the fort and the stories of the first and second battles of Ft. Bowyer in 1814 and 1815.

Pictured above attending the dedication in September 2015 were: General Society War of 1812 Quartermaster General John R. Taylor Jr., USD 1812 President National Jacque-Lynne Schulman, General Society War of 1812 President General Thomas E. Jacks, 1812 Alabama Secretary C. W. Posey Jr., 1812 Alabama VPG, 1812 Alabama Treasurer & Past President Price Legg. Continued Page 9
Old Defender’s Day in Maryland

The Maryland Society celebrated its annual Old Defenders’ Day on Saturday, May 23rd with a tour of the Brookeville Home of Duane and Sandy Heiler who owned the Bentley house which temporarily housed President Madison when they fled Washington after the British burning. The nearby Brookeville Academy Community Center also a historic building served as the backdrop for a wonderful catered meal of shrimp, wraps, chicken satay, and other hors d’oeuvres and drinks. The owners gave a tour while in period dress explaining the role the home had played in saving the National leaders after the British attack, their loving restoration of the home and its recent awards as one of the most beautiful historic homes in Maryland. VIPs from the General Society, Daughters of 1812 and the National Society Sons of the American Revolution attended as well including Past President Generals Dan Brooke and Hall Worthington, President General Lindsey Brock of the NSSAR and Daughters of 1812 President National Jacque-Lynne A. Schulman and Past President National Virginia Apyar. The home is a private residence so the invitation and tour was done exclusively for our 1812 members on a day with perfect weather.

Old Defender’s Day attendees standing outside the Bentley House pictured below.
Indiana Society Celebrates Statehood Bicentennial

The Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Indiana had the honor to present the colors at the First Lady's Bicentennial Celebration Luncheon on March 8, 2016, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Indiana's First Lady, Karen Pence, hosted the event celebrating Indiana's bicentennial and Miss Indiana, Morgan Jackson, sang the National Anthem for the event.

On December 11, 1816, Indiana was admitted as the 19th state to join the Union.

On December 11, 2015 the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Indiana provided a color guard in collaboration with the Military Department of Indiana at the annual Statehood day at the State Capitol in Indianapolis. After the ceremony members and ladies paused for a picture.

US Flag flown over the United States Capitol building on January 8, 2015, presented to the General Society of the War of 1812 by the Tennessee Society

Tennessee 1812 President Jerry V. Smith (left) presents the US Flag to President General Thomas Jacks and Deputy President General Rick Hollis
**GENERAL SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812**  
*Founded September 14, 1814*

**MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST – 08 / 2015**  
*(Prices Include Shipping)*

Name: ____________________________________________ National Number:___________________  
Address:____________________________________________________________________________  
City, State and Zip:____________________________________________________________________

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Membership insignia only sold to members in **good standing**. Include **membership number** if ordering membership insignia items

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**PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.  CREDIT CARDS NOT ACCEPTED.**

Make Checks Payable to: **“GENERAL SOCIETY OF THE WAR OF 1812”**

Mail Order Form and Check to:  
John R. Taylor, Jr., Quartermaster General  
4509 SCR 83  
Mize, MS 39116-5608  

taylorj1947@yahoo.com

**Website: www.gsw1812.org**