

# Henry Knox and Nathanael Greene



Nathanael

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

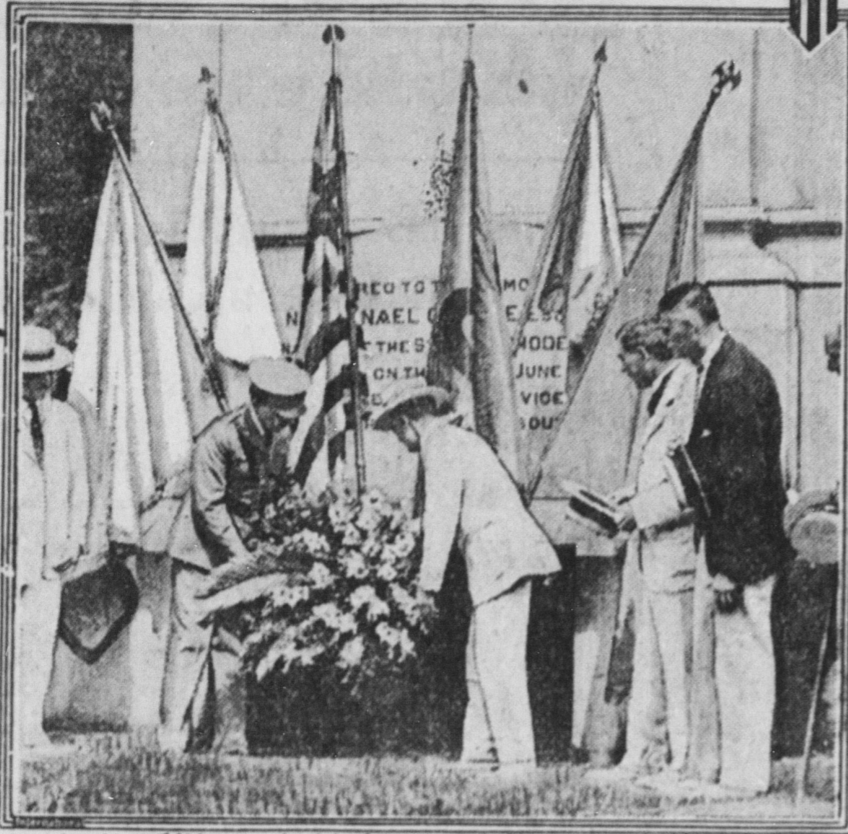
AS THE researches of our historians continue to make clearer an understanding of the Revolutionary struggle which was fast approaching its climax in 1777, just a hundred and fifty years ago, more and more are some of the lesser figures in that conflict coming into the limelight and loomed up as of outstanding importance in the outcome of the fight for liberty. Particularly is this true of Gen. Henry Knox and Gen. Nathanael Greene whose right to fame has for so long been overshadowed by the all-important name of Washington. So it is gratifying to know that at last deserved, though tardy, honors are being paid to both men.

A short time ago a group of distinguished military men and civilians gathered before the equestrian statue of General Greene erected in Washington, and there on the one hundred and eighty-third anniversary of his birth paid homage to his memory. Now comes word that a memorial to General Knox is assured by recent gifts to a fund which has been raised for the purpose of erecting a reproduction of Montpelier, the Knox family home in Thomaston, Maine. This reconstructed mansion will be used as a repository for the historical and artistic treasures which were formerly in the Knox home and as a museum for Revolutionary relics, so that it will be not only a symbol of Maine's pride in one of her distinguished sons but a patriotic national shrine, as well.

The Revolutionary careers of Henry Knox and Nathanael Greene present one of those curious paradoxes of fate which calls a man from a simple civilian pursuit and brings out in him an unsuspected military genius. Unlike Washington, Putnam, Morgan, Stark and other prominent leaders, neither Knox nor Greene had previous experience in war. But when the struggle for liberty opened these two New Englanders, Knox, the book-reiter in Cornhill, Boston, and Greene, the Rhode Island blacksmith, plunged into it at once and their natural ability soon brought them into prominence.

No sooner had Washington taken command of the Continental army and besieged the British army in Boston than he appointed Knox commander of the artillery. Knox immediately went to Concord, where there were many cannon, and a little later the army saw him ride into camp at the head of 42 sleds, drawn by oxen, loaded with cannon, powder and balls with which to batter down the walls of Boston around the ears of the red coats. He became one of Washington's most beloved officers and as chief of artillery was his right hand man through all his campaigns. He went on that Christmas night march to Trenton and his cannon roared triumphantly at the surprise attack on the Hessians in salute to one of Washington's greatest victories.

At the battle of Princeton it was Knox's cannon that swept the bridge over which Cornwallis sought in vain to hurl his soldiers against the Continental forces and sent them reeling back in defeat. He was at Brandywine and at Germantown, and in the darkest days of Valley Forge it was Knox's cannon which stood guard over the camp of



PLACING WREATH AT GREENE MONUMENT ON ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH



Knox



STATUE TO GEN. GREENE

freezing, starving men to prevent a surprise attack. His guns played an important part, too, at Yorktown, for it was their ceaseless battering of the British defenses that brought about the surrender of Cornwallis and the end of the war.

When Washington became President Knox was given the dual portfolio of secretary of war and navy and when his cabinet services ended, he retired to Thomaston, Me., where he built Montpelier in which to spend his declining years. He died in 1806 and was buried on the highlands overlooking the Georges river. For awhile Montpelier served as the home of his family. Then it passed into other hands and soon became but a shell of its former glory. Eventually it was torn down and its site occupied by business buildings. Now it is to be restored on a plot on Main street which was purchased by the General Knox chapter of the D. A. R. and a recent gift of \$50,000 by Cyrus H. K. Curtis, the Philadelphia publisher and a former resident of Thomaston, guarantees the completion of the project to make the new Montpelier a permanent memorial to Washington's right hand man and America's first secretary of war.

The career of Nathanael Greene is even more remarkable than that of Knox. His campaign in the Carolinas has been compared—and not unfavorably—to Washington's Trenton and Princeton campaign, and he has been called "after Washington—and not far after him—the ablest tactician, the most brilliant strategist and the greatest fighter of the Revolution, the man who could lose a battle and win a campaign."

Greene was the son of a Quaker preacher and he scandalized his brethren of that faith by being among the first to advocate forcible resistance to the British king. Although he was self-educated, he was elected a member of the Rhode Island assembly in 1770 at the age of twenty-eight. At the outbreak of the war he enlisted as a private in the Rhode Island troops but his rise was so rapid that he soon found himself a major general and he was never out of the service until the end of the war.

Greene fought in every battle, except one, in which Washington commanded until he was sent South in 1780. Although he performed brilliantly as a subordinate under the great commander in many of these engagements, it was not until he took charge of the Continental forces in South Carolina that he had an opportunity to display the military genius

that entitles him to rank not only with the great during the Revolution but with the great captains of all time.

The situation that faced Greene when he took charge in the South was one which might well have daunted any commander. The British had overrun Georgia and South Carolina and, with Lord Cornwallis in command, it seemed as though the province south of Virginia had been finally won back to the crown. Greene lacked sufficient men, he lacked money and all other necessities for carrying on war. But he had no sooner taken command than he launched an aggressive campaign which soon had Cornwallis worried and as time went on the Briton found even more to worry about.

A whole volume could be written about this campaign and the way in which Greene, naturally impetuous and dashing, became the incarnation of caution and resourcefulness in using his meager forces to the best advantage. He outmaneuvered, outmaneuvered, outguessed and outwitted the British leader repeatedly. He lost battles, it is true, but the final result was what counted and in that final result Greene was victorious. Cornwallis, after failing to corner Greene, was forced to retreat to Yorktown. There he lay while Washington prepared to hurl his army like a thunderbolt from the north and Washington's deception of Sir Henry Clinton, the British commander in New York, and his rapid march south to crush Cornwallis was a fitting climax to the events of Greene's campaign.

Just how important was the contribution of this Rhode Islander to the winning of American independence has been revealed within the past year through researches into his papers and letters which have been acquired by the William L. Clements library at the University of Michigan. "These papers place Greene in his proper position as the organizer of victory in the Revolution," says Randolph G. Adams, custodian of the library. "Without his services the cause of liberty might not have survived."

At the close of the war Greene returned to Rhode Island, where he was given many honors. In 1785 he retired to a large estate granted to him by the legislature of Georgia and there he died the following year. But Rhode Island, which gave him to the nation, claimed him at last. In recent years his body was brought back from Georgia and reinterred in his native soil. Rhode Island also bought the Greene home-stand at Coventry and keeps it as a memorial to her greatest warrior.

worth of metal, weighing around 5,720 pounds, with speed and safety, considerably reducing the loss of interest which is always a heavy item of expense in shipping precious metal.

### Tiny Circular Saw

The smallest circular saw in the world now in actual use is a tiny disk less than a fourth of an inch in diameter used in the Tiffany jewelry establishment for slitting gold pens. It is about the thickness of a sheet of writing paper and revolves at the rate

of 4,000 revolutions a minute. The high velocity keeps the saw rigid, notwithstanding its thinness.

### Result of Loss of Eye

An eye hospital informs us that the loss of one eye will affect a person in discerning the roundness of an object for a while following the operation. As time goes on the eye will accommodate itself to the new condition and the patient will be able to discern the roundness of an object.—Washington Star.

## Decrease Seen in Bovine TB.

### Million "Reactors" Have Been Eliminated in Various Sections.

The Department of Agriculture, through the bureau of animal industry, has just announced that federal inspections show tuberculosis among cattle and swine has decreased generally. According to the report, since 1917 more than a million "reactors" to the bovine tuberculosis tests have been removed from the cattle of the United States. Because tuberculosis poultry have been infecting swine, the report says, fowl tuberculosis is now receiving special study.

**Text of Announcement.**  
The full text of the announcement follows:

According to charts prepared in the bureau of animal industry, United States Department of Agriculture, bovine tuberculosis has shown a general decline since 1916, and tuberculosis of swine has decreased since 1924. The charts, which are based on records of federal meat inspection, cover a sufficiently large number of animals to be considered representative of conditions in the cattle and swine industries.

Though the improvement of the tuberculosis situation is shown, infection among cattle and swine received at federally inspected packing establishments is still rather extensive. Records for the fiscal year 1926 show that nearly 14 per cent of swine showed tuberculosis to some extent, though lesions were of a minor nature in a large proportion of the cases. The corresponding figure for cattle was 1.3 per cent for the same period. In 1916 about 2.3 per cent of cattle showed infection, 1 per cent more than last year. In 1924 about 15.2 per cent of the swine inspected were diseased. Reports from field workers indicate that the large extent of infection among swine is caused partly by tuberculous poultry. Accordingly, fowl tuberculosis has been receiving special study by tuberculosis-eradication officials.

Coincident with the decline of this disease among cattle and hogs, a decreasing human death rate from tuberculosis is shown by a recent report of the Department of Commerce. The low death rate of children under four years may be attributed in part to the aggressive campaign for testing tuberculous cattle and disposing of reactors. Since 1917, when the present tuberculosis campaign was undertaken, more than a million reactors have been removed from the cattle of the United States.

## Better Soil Fertility by Using Rotation Plan

The Ohio experiment station has doubled the average acre yields on its farm during the last 25 years. For a number of years that institution has been getting an average of 70 bushels of corn, 30 bushels of wheat and 2.5 tons of clover hay per acre. These crops have been obtained on fields that have been in a three-year rotation for a quarter of a century, consisting of corn, wheat and clover. Prof. F. E. Bear of the soils department of that station says that not only must a rotation of that sort be faithfully carried out in order to obtain such yields, but that a lot of other things must be done as well. This is expressed in the following words: "The rotation must include clover and alfalfa or some other legume at least once every third year. The crops must all be fed or enough concentrates must be fed to compensate for the hay or grain sold. The barnyard must not leak. All liquids must be saved. Hot fermentation of the manure must be stopped. Acid phosphate must be used regularly. Limestone must be applied as required. Then high yields are guaranteed."

## Straw Contains Much of Phosphorus and Potash

Straw contains a great deal of phosphorus and potash as well as organic matter. These are all essential materials for plant growth. Their continual destruction or loss through burning straw stacks will finally necessitate replacing them through commercial fertilizers—and commercial fertilizers are expensive.

The only time a straw stack should be burned is when it is full of weeds. In such cases more damage is often done by returning the weed seeds to the land than the benefit derived from the straw as a fertilizer.—Extension Service, Colorado Agricultural College.

## FARM NOTES

If we plan ahead, we should never get far behind.

Sudan grass is the best nonlegume to use for hay pasture.

The formalin treatment for oat smut is well known to farmers and scarcely needs to be restated.

Crop rotation can be practiced usually with no outlay of money, whereas the use of commercial fertilizers requires an expenditure of money.

Cyanide gas reduces rat population in corn cribs, barns, etc., as quickly and effectively as anything yet discovered, recent trials in many Iowa counties indicate.

## Striving for Large Increases of Crops

### Of Importance to Recognize Three Factors.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

It is frequently pointed out by the bureau of soils of the United States Department of Agriculture that the nation will have to depend upon the cultivation of the soil for about one-third of its combined wheat, corn and oats produced; upon crop rotation for another third, and upon the use of manures and commercial fertilizers for the other third. It is logical that cultivation adds both rotation and fertilization, that rotation aids in rendering fertilizers more effective, and that fertilizers increase the value of rotation. Recent experiments in Illinois, however, bring out the fact that rotation and the use of fertilizers, when practiced together, may interact to the extent that their conjoint effects, as measured in terms of crop increases, may be not only equal to but greater than the sum of their separate effects.

The average yield of corn obtained without fertilizers and rotation in this particular experiment was 23.4 bushels per acre. The gain due to using fertilizers and lime was 9.2 bushels per acre, and the gain due to rotation alone was 27.8 bushels, or practically three times that obtained from the fertilizers and lime. The total increase effected by conjoint rotation and the use of fertilizers was 42.2 bushels per acre, or 7.2 bushels greater than the sum of their separate increases.

Other experiments have corroborated these results, which emphasize the importance of recognizing all three factors in striving for permanent soil productivity.

## Ten Good Commandments for Successful Farmer

The following so-called ten commandments for the farmer, compiled from reports on an assignment to students in farm crops, Iowa State college, are interesting and contain a good deal of practical common sense:

1. Thou shalt have no other business before farming.
2. Thou shalt not deny thy farm time, but give it manure, legumes and phosphorus, also.
3. Thou shalt not permit thy fields to scatter weeds and diseases to provoke thy neighbor's wrath.
4. Thou shalt keep a record of thy crops and thy flocks so that thou mayest know wherein thy profit lieth.
5. Thou shalt beware of the seed of strangers for thou knowest not what it may bring forth.
6. Thou shalt sow what the people desireth, for great is the reward thereof.
7. Thou shalt watch thy neighbor and procure for thine own fields those seeds which profiteth most in thine own community.
8. Thou shalt not permit thy seed to fall on poorly prepared ground, but be wise that thine efforts increase thy yields.
9. Thou shalt cast new seed upon thy pastures and disk them also that they may bring forth many fold.
10. When thou hast done all these things put thy trust in God, expecting a bountiful reward, for no man can do more.

## Manure Should Be Taken Directly to the Fields

There is only one place where manure can be exposed to rains, and yet not lose its value. That is on the field. If the manure is comparatively free from noxious weed seeds, this is the very place for it, hauled and distributed direct from the barn, and if no field is ready for it, manure will benefit the pasture. While piling manure in the field puts the plant food there, it gives the spots that the pile covers, the major portion. I saw one wheat field where this method had been used and the wheat at the spots was much higher and a deeper green, says a writer in an exchange. Every farmer should have a manure spreader ready to receive all the manure as taken out, and it should be under a shed.

## Forest Trees Will Grow Readily From Good Seed

Tree raising is not a long-time proposition as many people believe, according to Chester A. Lee, Extension Forester, Colorado Agricultural college. "One can grow his own trees from seed. Seed of the ash, hackberry, box elder, honey locust, Russian olive, and the evergreens are now ripe. Before gathering a quantity of seeds, cut a few of them in two and see that they are full of meat." Where a good percentage of the seed is sound, pick as many as desired and plant in accordance to the suggestions outlined for each species in "The Farm Nursery for Forest Trees."

## Cornstalks for Horses

The feeding of cornstalks to horses that are idle during the winter will probably not cause them definite injury although there is very little feed value to them. If you have a considerable amount of this product on hand feed one-half as much oat straw as usual, making up the balance with the cornstalks. When spring time comes and you are ready to put your horses in condition for their season's work, the cornstalks and the straw should both be dropped and a good quality hay substituted for them.

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## Took It Quietly

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Marie—Yes, Charlie acted horribly.  
Mabel—I thought you broke it yourself.  
Marie—I did, but he made absolutely no fuss about it.—Progressive Grocer.

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## Not Interested

Agent—Madame, this hair tonic will grow hair on billiard balls. It will—  
Lady—Go away, you idiot! This isn't a pool hall!

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