

"Friend of Washington"

ALEXANDER HAMILTON'S FAME SECURE



Statue of Alexander Hamilton, First Secretary of the Treasury, on the Treasury Plaza at Washington.

Real Story of Trenton Fight

In the Star Magazine of February 22 was a reproduction of the picture by Emmanuel Leutze of "Washington Crossing the Delaware," in which the general is portrayed standing at the bow of the boat on "dress parade." The descriptive article in regard to the picture said that it had been suggested that Washington endangered his boat by standing and that there was no historical data as to the general's exact position in the boat. The following letter from C. P. Philbrick of Downey, Calif., throws an interesting light on this question.

May I offer the following that may to some extent supply the deficiency?

In 1860, just before starting from Boston for Kansas, my mother took me with her to pay a parting visit to her old friends near the place of my birth, Manchester, N. H. I was then a boy nine years old. Among others that we visited was a very old man whose name I cannot now recall, but who had "crossed the Delaware" with Washington. He said that at the time of the battle of Trenton he was fourteen years old, so it is easy to compute his age as being ninety-eight at the time of our interview.

He was a native of Marblehead, Mass., and he belonged to the contingent known as the "Marblehead Fishermen," which body of men, history tells us, was very efficient in the handling of boats for Washington, and rendered such service at the famous crossing of the Delaware.

Spies had brought reports to General Washington that the Hessians at Trenton were holding "high carnival" with Christmas hilarity; that, owing to "handed immunity from the possibility of attack by Washington, then on the opposite side of the ice-gorged river, they had almost abandoned military vigilance, and, in fact, were mostly all "drunk."

Washington saw his opportunity to strike a blow and decided to make the attempt, issuing orders that absolute silence must be maintained until the moment of collision with the enemy, and then to use the bayonet exclusively, and to endeavor to avoid the discharge of firearms. To the "Marblehead Fishermen" was assigned the handling of the boats, and all were ordered to obey the instructions of that "water wise" body of men.

Instructed to Lie Down.

Accordingly, all armed men were instructed to lie down in the bottoms of the boats. Washington himself lay down in one of the largest boats, at its stern, covered up with a fisherman's "sleeker." All loud talking was forbidden.

After landing, a rush was made for the Hessian sentry posts, many of the sentinels being caught napping. All were, as the old man gleefully said, "bagneted like rats." When the quarters were reached the same method was applied to the Hessians as they swarmed out and attempted formation. Colonel Rahl, the commander, was mortally wounded by numerous bayonet thrusts.

Washington, as we know, after most of the Hessians that were able to fight had been successfully "bagneted," had to make a hurried getaway, as the main body of the British army was only a short distance away. The captured survivors were hurried to the boats and taken back across the river as prisoners of war. Washington and most of his men were back to their old position before the British knew definitely what had happened.

Hatred for Hessians.

The foregoing is practically the old veteran's story, only eliminating a profuse profanity with which it was decorated. His hatred of the Hessians was intense, and his old eyes would gleam when he told of "ramming the bagnets in the d--d Hessians." The

Colonial soldiers regarded the Hessians as paid hirelings of King George. That was true, but they were sold by the prince of Hesse-Darmstadt and obliged to come over and fight for England.

Many of the Hessians hated the idea of having to fight against the liberty which they themselves had dreamed of, but the old Colonial soldiers had no knowledge of that. A Hessian in their estimation was no better than a rat. Many were butchered ruthlessly; and of course, in their desperation, they retaliated in like manner.

No, General Washington did not stand up in the boat on "dress parade," as portrayed by Leutze. He obeyed the orders of the "Marblehead Fishermen" and lay down during the perilous crossing. Thereafter he was on his feet most emphatically.—Kansas City Star.

Haym Salomon

Financier Whose Services Helped Win Struggle for Independence.



An unknown grave in Philadelphia holds the body of Haym Salomon, whose loans to aid the struggle for Independence were regarded by Robert Morris as having saved the American Revolutionary war from disaster.

That relatively unknown grave of the financial benefactor of his adopted country is on Spruce street, between Eighth and Ninth streets, in the cemetery established by Spanish and Portuguese Jews in 1740, the year that Salomon was born in Lissa, Prussian Poland.

Although born in Poland Salomon was of Portuguese-Hebrew descent. While a youth, he visited many countries, acquiring various languages, and came to the United States before the Revolution. He was in New York when the British took possession of the city, and was arrested with other patriots and thrown in prison. When released, he went to Philadelphia and settled as a merchant and banker. He handled the war subsidies of France and Holland, and became the French banker in this country.

Throughout the Revolution he devoted his money and services to financing the American cause. He lent \$900,000 to Robert Morris, financier of the Revolution, and gave funds outright to several leaders, including Jefferson. He financed agents or ministers of foreign countries when they could not get money from their governments.

When he died, in 1785, the government still owed him \$400,000, which Morris had borrowed, and his relatives sought to claim it. The matter came to the attention of congress, and, although committees reported at several sessions that the claim was just and should be paid, Salomon's descendants never were able to collect.

"Ben Franklin"

Statue at Philadelphia Recalls Memory of Great Patriot.



On January 17 all Pennsylvania, as well as other states, pays tribute to the memory of Benjamin Franklin, on his birthday anniversary. Here is his statue at the Post Office building in Philadelphia, and it marks the spot where he stood when he flew the kite in a thunderstorm and discovered the first rudiments of electricity.

Benjamin Franklin lies in a little cemetery at the corner of Fifth and Arch streets in Philadelphia. The burial ground is somewhat neglected.

The claim has been advanced from time to time that Franklin's remains should be removed to Boston, the city of his birth, or to Washington, where a memorial should be erected in his honor to match that of Lincoln. Owing to the fact that this was known to be contrary to Franklin's own wishes, the movement never progressed far.

It is one of the paradoxes of mankind's reverence for dead heroes that the simpler the memorial the less attention it receives. And yet there is much to commend this simplicity, all the more so when it expresses the character and wish of the man himself. Great and varied as was Franklin's life, he never lost the unaffected naturalness which was his birthright, even when he was the idol of the most sophisticated court in Europe. Simplicity was part of his charm when living. It is part of the distinction of his final resting place.

John Sevier

Forever Remembered for Glorious Victory at King's Mountain.



The battle at King's Mountain, S. C., is known to historians as one of the most brilliant victories in the Revolution. Henry Cabot Lodge described its effect as "electric."

King's mountain country, still wild and picturesque, was stark wilderness in the days when the 900 backwoods-men, wearing leather jerkins and bearing flintlock, muzzle-loading firearms, charged up the seemingly impregnable slope in the face of fire from 1400 well-armed troops under Col. Patrick Ferguson, a crack officer of George III.

Under leaders such as Col. John Sevier, who had come from warfare with the French and Indians in the West, the valley pioneers gathered to turn the loyalists back to the sea. Their answer to Ferguson's shout of "Crush the rebels," was to gain the top of the ridge and take more than half his men captive. With Ferguson out of the reckoning, Cornwallis had to concentrate his army. Yorktown was then only a year away.

As a military exploit, despite the thoroughness of the victory, the battle in itself was of small import. Yet in its effect it was another Bennington, coming as it did at a time when hopes were lowest and it seemed the low-burning flame of the patriotic cause was about to sicken and die. It heartened and stimulated the whole country and put an end to the wanton cruelty of Tory groups which had persecuted patriots and driven them from their homes throughout the South.

De Kalb

Volunteer Who Gave His Life for American Freedom.



The brilliant ideology of the American Revolutionists and their military inexperience attracted gallant or needy soldiers whose hands were free and whose courage was bright, or whose necessities were great and whose prospects were dismal. Great Britain drew upon the German reservoir and the French helped America.

Johann de Kalb was born at Hüttenlofer, Bavaria, July 29, 1721. He had military experience in Europe, chiefly with the French army, which he entered in 1743. He served through the seven years' war and came out of it with the rank of major general. In 1768 he was sent to America as a secret agent of the French government, and that visit accounts for his subsequent service in the Revolutionary army. Like John Paul Jones it was his acquaintance with the Colonies and with the American people and their ideas that made him sympathetic and eager to be of service when military service was needed.

De Kalb joined Gates, the general in command of the surviving American army in the South, at Camden, S. C., in August, 1780, just in time to be involved in the final collapse of that general's reputation and pretensions. In the defeat the Delaware troops were almost annihilated and the Maryland regiments lost half their number.

The desperateness of the resistance offered by De Kalb in this shocking disaster to the American army in the South is shown not only by the casualties in his ranks but by the fact that he was wounded eleven times and when taken was dying.

A monument to his memory was placed at Camden in 1825. Lafayette laid the corner stone of this memorial to his old comrade in arms.

Kosciuszko

Patriot of Poland Who Fought for Liberty of America.



More than a century has passed since he died in exile, an impoverished and broken-hearted failure, yet the world still thrills to the name of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the beloved Polish patriot, who, incidentally, was one of the most useful and popular officers in the American army during the Revolution.

He was less than thirty when in the autumn of 1775 he left Poland for France, where the conversation was all of the struggle between Britain and her North American colonies. So enthusiastic did he become over the prospects of fighting on foreign soil for a freedom denied his own country, that in the spring of 1776 he sailed for Philadelphia, where he volunteered his services and was accepted by the American forces, which he faithfully served during the six years that followed.

His first job was the fortification of Philadelphia against possible attack by the British fleet. So well did he do his work that congress gave him the rank of colonel in the engineering corps. A second achievement of his was the fortification of West Point on the Hudson, the site of which he is said to have chosen. He threw up the fortifications which saved Saratoga and fought brilliantly there and at Yellow Springs. Later, in the South, he succeeded Laurens in charge of military intelligence.

Pursuing the "Redcoats"

MINUTE MEN'S DAY OF GLORY



The Minute Men Pursuing the "British Redcoats" Across the Old North Bridge at Concord, Mass., During the Re-enactment of the First Episode of the Revolutionary War, Before 20,000 Persons, as Part of the Massachusetts Tercentenary Celebration.

Paul Revere's Midnight Ride

Revere is the name of Paul Revere, But listen, my children, and you shall hear The truth about that midnight ride That roused every man in the countryside.

So the immortal Longfellow might have commenced his historic poem and gone on to relate that the lanterns were hung in the North church tower only to warn the Charlestown committee of safety, so that in case Revere were captured crossing the Charles river from Boston, other messengers might be sent from Charlestown. For, it would appear, Revere knew the intention of the British even before he crossed the river.

In Revere's own words (a letter to Rev. Jeremy Belknap, dated January 1, 1798, and published by the Old South association, Boston):

"The Sunday before, by desire of Dr. Warren, I had been to Lexington, to Messrs. Hancock and Adams, who were at the Rev. Mr. Clark's. I returned at night through Charlestown; there I agreed with a Colonel Conant & some other gentlemen, that if the British went out by water, we would shew two lanterns in the North Church steeple; and if by land, one, as a signal; for we were apprehensive it would be difficult to cross the Charles River, or get over Boston Neck."

Revere at Medford.

But two friends rowed Revere across the river, past the British man-of-war Somerset, and successfully landed him. After he got going on his horse and had evaded two British sentinels, he made for Medford where, he says, "I awaked the captain of the Minute Men; and after that, I alarmed almost every house, till I got to Lexington." There he found Messrs. Hancock and Adams and told them it was believed the British soldiers were either on their way to Lexington to take them prisoner or bent for Concord for the purpose of destroying the Colonists' store of guns and munitions.

But another messenger had been dispatched by Doctor Warren before Revere left Boston. William Dawes had gone by the longer land route, via Boston Neck to Lexington, through Roxbury and Cambridge. At the time there were no bridges from Boston to the towns on the other side of the Charles river. Dawes reached Lexington about a half hour after Revere.

Setting out together for Concord the two messengers met a young Dr. Samuel Prescott who agreed to accompany them and help spread the alarm among the people, many of whom he knew. But halfway to their destination the trio were held up by mounted British officers and forced off the road into a pasture. Again, in Revere's own words, "Doctor Prescott jumped his horse over a low stone wall, and got to Concord." Dawes also escaped and reached Concord soon after the doctor.

Back in Lexington.

Revere, however, was questioned thoroughly by the British officers and conducted back to Lexington, where his captors, alarmed by the firing of a volley of guns, released Revere and rode off with his horse.

Then Revere for the second time that night sought out Hancock and Adams, told them what had happened and helped Hancock's secretary, a Mr. Lowell, carry a trunk of papers from the tavern to another house whither Hancock and Adams had fled. After Revere and Lowell had passed through our militia, numbering some fifty or sixty, "who were on a green behind the Meetinghouse," they saw the redcoats appear and heard the first shot fired by the British. Then volleys of shots, and the first battle of the Revolution was on.

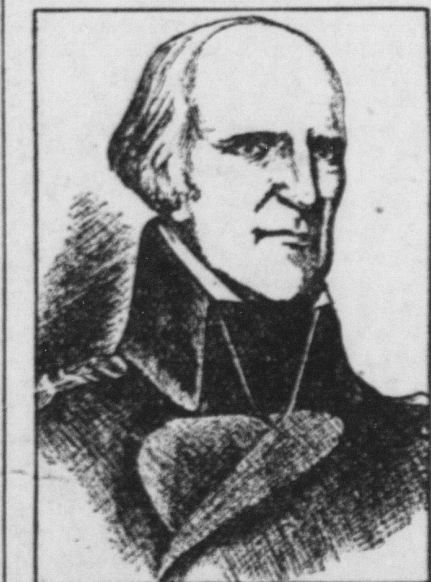
So when Longfellow wrote: "It was

two by the village clock when he (Revere) came by bridge in Concord town," the great poet juggled the facts somewhat, for Revere didn't go to Concord on that trip.

Nevertheless, Paul Revere performed a great service to the future United States of America that memorable night of April 18-19, 1775. And he, no doubt, inspired his companions, Dawes and Prescott, who were, perhaps, luckier than he in completing the ride from Lexington to Concord.

John Stark

Revolutionary Hero Who Won Commendation of Washington.



Gen. John Stark, hero of Bennington, Bunker Hill and Trenton, was one of the outstanding figures of the Revolutionary war. Washington had implicit faith in his patriotism and ability. His soldiers loved him and would wade through anything if he gave the command. And New Hampshire has always looked upon him with deep pride as one of her most distinguished sons, and ideal soldier and citizen.

At Bennington he had 1,700 men in his command. He was opposed by a force of veterans under Colonel Baum, a man of military skill and experience, who had a battery posted upon a commanding position. Stark had no cannon and scarcely any bayonets. The battle was fought several miles from Bennington, on New York soil. It lasted two hours and resulted in the complete rout of the British with a loss of 207 killed, 750 captured and an unknown number wounded. Four cannon and much other equipment were taken by the Americans, who lost thirty killed and forty wounded.

As showing the importance of this battle, Washington said, on hearing the news: "One more such stroke and we shall have no great cause for anxiety as to the future designs of Britain." The "one more stroke" came sooner than he expected—the surrender of Burgoyne.

Stark fought in the battle of Springfield, N. J., in 1780. He was a member of the tribunal that tried and convicted Major Andre as a spy. Washington sent him with twenty-five hundred troops to surprise the British on Staten Island. He was given charge of the northern department, with headquarters at Saratoga, and while there learned of the surrender of Cornwallis. In 1783 he was ordered to headquarters by Washington, and received the warm personal thanks of the commander in chief. He was given the rank of major general by brevet.

He returned home and resumed farming and saw milling. He lived forty-five years after the battle of Bennington, surviving all officers of equal rank in the American army.

He was the father of eleven children, five sons and six daughters. He lived until he was ninety-four years old, dying May 8, 1822.