

BROADSIDE

The Newsletter of the
American Revolution Round Table

<http://www.arrrt-ny.org>

December 2019

ANTHONY WAYNE: FLAWED, BUT NOT MAD

Mary Stockwell published two books in 2018: *UNLIKELY GENERAL: "MAD" ANTHONY WAYNE AND THE BATTLE FOR AMERICA*, in April, and *INTERRUPTED ODYSSEY: ULYSSES S. GRANT AND THE AMERICAN INDIANS*, in September. Busy pen! Mary has recently gone from teaching to full-time writing.

"I'm going to pretend I'm a movie director," Mary decided, while planning her book. The book will unfold in flashbacks. She began her talk by asking the Round Table the question President Washington had to ask himself: Whom shall I send to negotiate and if necessary fight the Indians in Ohio? The president had a list of sixteen names before him. Wayne was not on the list. But Wayne was the one he picked, because he wanted the job, he was a great writer, and would send back good explanations of his policies for the public to read, and he was a seasoned professional who had learned much from his combat record in the War for Independence – just as Washington himself had. Even though everyone from Hamilton to Jefferson was horrified at the choice, the president sent Wayne.

And it worked. Through diplomacy, psychology, and fighting (winning a great victory at Fallen Timbers), Wayne produced a peace on the Ohio frontier that lasted ten years. In those ten years, the settler population rose, and the government's ability to protect them rose too.

In the flashbacks, Dr. Stockwell reviews what the president reviewed. He remembered Wayne's failures from the war, like the British massacre of

Wayne's men at Paoli, Pennsylvania, but now, reviewing the record, Washington had to admit that Wayne had been right and he had been wrong in predicting British movements at the Battle of Brandywine, that Wayne had succeeded at Stony Point, New York, and that Wayne had handled other difficult assignments well, such as campaigns in Canada and Georgia that are forgotten today.

Dr. Stockwell benefitted, in writing her bio, from Wayne's policy of keeping his letters – including his love letters to Kitty Greene – General Nathanael Greene's wife! And Wayne's wife and son kept his letters to them, too. Usually, wives would burn their personal correspondence with their husbands after the husband's death.

Not only did Wayne succeed in Ohio in 1792 through 1794, but he trained young William Henry Harrison in his successful methods, and Harrison, succeeding him in command, won a great victory at Tippecanoe.

Dr. Stockwell did not bring copies of her book to sell. Instead, she gave everyone postcards advertis-



Mary Stockwell (Amazon.com author photo).

ing her Wayne book and her Grant book. Treasurer Jon Carriel announced that the Round Table will give a rebate to any member who buys the book.

ROUND TABLE SENDS POLLY GUÉRIN TO CONGRESS!

The 6th Continental Congress of American Revolution Roundtables, appropriately held in Philadelphia at the Museum of the American Revolution (MOAR), was a blockbuster event with attendance of close to 50 Roundtablers. Just to get into the spirit of the American Revolution, 6th Continental Congress attendees were invited to tour on their own, prior to public access, the Museum and its exhibits from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. At 11 a.m. we were invited to meet at the “Washington's Tent” exhibit to view this presentation before the start of the 6th Continental Congress Meeting.

The meeting was attended by well-established ARRTs as well as fledgling start-ups seeking information to improve or promote their activities. The general theme was information. The meeting was mainly an opportunity for each ARRT to report on their current operations. Each representative distributed glossy flyers, newsletters and promotional brochures that related to their activities. The general vibe among the attendees was friendly, with conviviality to lighten the day's activities. A large downstairs classroom in the Museum had been set up with a slightly squared round table. It is interesting to note that registration to this biennial Congress was \$25 and that included a box lunch, quite nice indeed.

The Welcome and Opening Remarks included the “Congress Vision” given by David Reuwer. Then the host of the event, the Museum of the American Revolution Chief Operating Officer, ZeeAnn Mason, gave welcoming remarks, and Bill Welsch focused on starting a Round Table.

Round Table reports, practices and ideas were on the agenda, with established Round Tables scheduled to report in the order in which the States ratified the Constitution and were admitted to the Union. Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey were up first, and you should obviously know why New York and

my comments would not come up until around 3 p.m.

During the lunch break we discussed the planning for the 250th American Revolution Anniversary, with Dan Smith, Acting NPS Superintendent and 250th National Park Service representative designee, and Paul Coussan, Senior Manager for Federal Relations, American Battlefield Trust.

The Round Table Reports continued with Georgia, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and after a short break, Virginia, followed by Polly Guérin, Board Member of ARRT-NY reporting.

Polly introduced herself and told the members how proud she was to be at her first Roundtablers Congress. She conveyed greetings to the Congress from ARRT-NY Chairperson David Jacobs.

Polly described the New York operation with these points:

1. The New York City ARRT, established in 1958, is considered to be the oldest American Revolution Roundtable.
2. ARRT-NY meets for a dinner with a speaker on the first Tuesday of October, December, February, April and June, at the Coffee House Club, a private facility in a historic building, the General Society Library. However, Board members communicate with each other on a regular basis on topics that require immediate attention.
3. The total number of members was 52 at the close of our last season. Membership yearly cost is \$40 for Regular Members, \$30 for Seniors and \$20 for students.
4. Since ARRT-NY is located in the publishing capital, we do have an advantage in soliciting authors to speak at our dinners. However, the Speakers Committee also engages out-of-town author speakers, and in that case we provide overnight accommodation. We can do this because of generous donations to the Speakers Fund and the ARRT-NY's financial solvency.
5. A list of the authors who have spoken to us during the most recent eight years, as well as links to other

pertinent information, is on our website www.ARRT-NY.org.

6. The dinner cost for members is \$45 and \$55 for guests. However, if any member from another ARRT is visiting New York City, they are welcome to attend a meeting at the member price of \$45.

7. We offer student membership at \$20 and the dinner price at \$25 for the first year.

At the end of the reports an open discussion ensued, and some topics included promotional advertising and use of Mailchimp, Facebook and other media outlets. Finally we were urged to provide support and assistance to new, developing ARRTs.

—Polly Guérin

OCTOBER MEETING REPORT

For the first time in forty years, said Chairman Dave Jacobs, the Round Table met on a Thursday instead of the usual Tuesday. Conflict with the High Holy Days, and rain, and whatever else kept the attendance a bit low.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

David Preston is the author of *BRADDOCK'S DEFEAT: THE BATTLE OF THE MONONGAHELA AND THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION*, Oxford University Press, 2015. The book is in a series called "Pivotal Moments In American History," David Hackett Fischer, series editor. Preston won five book prizes for this volume, and has revisited his theme in the October, 2019 Smithsonian Magazine.

Preston writes that he was reading in the British National Archives at Kew, and wading through a big bundle of papers from the Colonial Office, when he spotted a paper he says no one had ever paid attention to before. One of the Iroquois leaders reported after the Jumonville Glen battle that it was Colonel Washington himself, commanding Virginia militia, who fired the first shot in that battle, and so the first shot of the Seven Years' War, killing the French commander, Jumonville.

Preston interprets this as raising Washington's culpability as aggressor, firing, literally, the first shot of history's first world war, pitting the British Empire

against the French on three continents. Others might chalk the shooting up to the 22-year old's inexperience, and to the usual total confusion of fighting in the wilderness, with uncertain allies and imperfect translators. And besides, as commander, Washington must take, and always afterward *did* take, responsibility for the first shot, whether it was himself or one of his militia or one of his Indian allies who actually pulled the trigger.

And one commentor on the Smithsonian article says that the earlier French attack on a British position was the real reason for the war, not the Jumonville battle in any case.

IN THE NEWS

Actress Eva Dorepaal, from the Netherlands, is writing a one-woman show on Rachel Faucette, the mother of Alexander Hamilton. Your editor and Mrs. Editor saw Eva perform her show November 9 at her apartment, with about ten others, including Jimmy Napoli, Eva's boyfriend, who has been for many years the Hamilton specialist among NYC tour guides. The show is currently a half hour long, but that could change as Eva continues to refine it. It works just great already, though. We got a vivid picture of a strong, determined woman facing a very rough life as a single mom running a store on St. Croix, an island nine-tenths slaves, with a vengeful ex-husband trying to chuck her into prison as he has already done once before. She wears a loaded pistol in her belt at all times – that gives you an idea. The show is called "Raising a Revolutionary." We will let you know when the show gets produced.

On October 2, Roger Clark, on Spectrum TV's New York 1, reported that General Washington's log book is housed at the Walsh Family Library at Fordham University in The Bronx.

FUSILIERS SIGHTED ON LONG ISLAND!

By Dr. Joanne S. Grasso

Not too long ago, at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration Fair on Long Island, I had the opportunity to speak briefly with the re-enactors of the 23rd Royal

Welch Fusiliers who were outside the oldest house, the Schenk House. Generally, at encampments, I see



Re-enactor with the 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers
[photo by Dr. Joanne S. Grasso]

re-enactors of Patriots, such as the Huntington Militia or the Continental Army, so I was intrigued to both engage in a short conversation with these men and take a couple of pictures.

During the Revolutionary War the British occupied Long Island from September 1776 to December 1783. These men that I spoke with, though, stated that the 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers were not on Long Island during the Occupation, but were indeed in America.

According to the website *British Regimental Drums and Colours*, “The 23rd sailed to America in April 1773 and took part in the opening shot of the American war of independence at Lexington in April 1775. They fought at Bunker Hill in June 1775, the siege

of Charleston in February 1780, Camden, in August 1780, Guilford Court House in March 1781, and were at the surrender of Yorktown in October 1781.”

The names and spelling of this regiment have been changed at different times since its founding in 1689, but its long and proud history is evident even today in the re-enactors.

Ed. Note – “Welch” and not “Welsh” is how the regiment spells it. There were British outposts on Long Island, Governors Island, and Staten Island that were evacuated after New York City itself was evacuated on November 25, 1783 – the day celebrated for a century thereafter as Evacuation Day. See the Fraunces Tavern Museum website to reserve a spot on the Museum’s annual Evacuation Day Walking Tour around November 25th of next year.

PILGRIMAGE TO FORT GREENE PARK

By Jon Carriel

Alerted by an e-mail announcement forwarded by Polly Guérin, I headed out on Saturday, October 19th to Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn, on the occasion of an “Open House” of the Prison Ship Martyrs’ Monument—a one-day-a-year event.

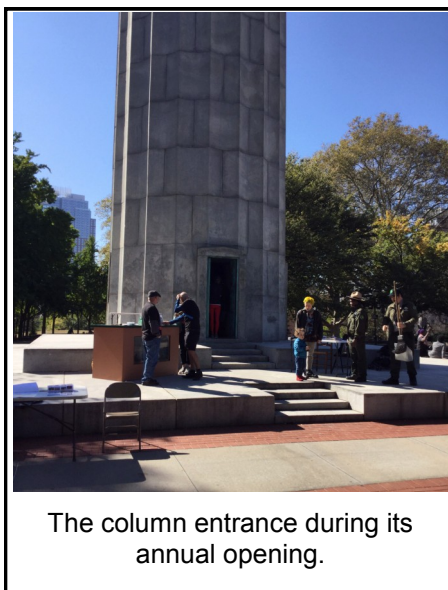
The park is a great hill jutting upward from Brooklyn’s downtown area. In its summit, the skeletal remains of some of the 11,500 persons, mostly sailors captured by the British during the American Revolution and brutally imprisoned on decrepit ships in nearby Wallabout Bay, have been interred. The collection, interment, and re-interment of the bones was an on-again, off-



The Prison Ship Martyrs’ Monument, a 149-foot granite column designed by McKim, Mead and White.

again project throughout much of the 19th Century, finally completed in 1873. The city park also evolved over decades, and the monumental column and plaza were added 35 years later, in 1908.

In ARRT's own *Broadside*, a year or so back, our editor described a virtual tour of the park, and took the city to task for not making more



The column entrance during its annual opening.

of such an important memorial of the Revolution. It's estimated that some 25,000 Americans perished during that war, which means that *nearly half* of them are buried right here in New York City, so I'd say he has a point! One of Fred's particular complaints was that the burial crypt itself ought to be opened to the public on a daily basis, not just once a year. Thinking this "Open House" had to be that annual event, yours truly mustered his faltering patriotism to pay tribute to the nation's first martyrs. (It didn't hurt that it was a beautiful day for an excursion.)



Inside the column, ascent to the erstwhile viewing area being prohibited, there's nowhere to go, so all one can do is to look up ...

Frankly, I wasn't quite sure I was ready for a burial crypt of eleven thousand humans. One sees photos of European catacombs, sepulchers, and churches where centuries of mortal remains have even been organized in *decorative patterns* that strike this squeamish American mind as unpleasantly macabre. However, I needn't have worried: the crypt, if one actually gets to see it, is said to hold some twenty-two slate coffins in a brick-lined mausoleum dug into the hill. And that,

incidentally, is only a fraction of the dead, the rest of whose bodies were either disintegrated by the elements or remain deeply buried in the bay and the shore.

And anyway, I had misread the notice. What was open was the *monument*, not the crypt the monument heralds. And the monument, while indeed impressive, is a single Doric column, perhaps twenty feet in diameter at the base. It too is locked off throughout the year, and the elevator (and even the ladder) that once hoisted visitors



... or look down. What appears to be perhaps the door of a stairway down to the crypt, is actually the completely *faux* plywood top of a drainage culvert.



The actual entrance to the crypt, located 100 steps down from the monument plaza and the column. Nothing in the immediate vicinity explains this, the original plaque having been vandalized and removed long ago. As usual, the door was locked.

to a dandy viewing window at its top, is now completely off-limits. So what took place was that whenever a dozen or so folks gathered for the tour, a Parks ranger crowded them all inside the hollow column and gave a ten-minute recital of the prison ship history, the post-war attempts at honoring the dead, the park, and the monument. The trip would have been a rather sorry disappointment if I hadn't enjoyed a discussion afterward with the

pleasant and chatty tour-guide, NYC Parks officer Walden, and if it hadn't been a lovely day. But I did and it was.

ROUND TABLE HISTORY

October 4, 2011 saw the Round Table meet at the Coffee House Club at the General Society Library Building for the first time. The speaker was John Nagy, on the subject of Pennsylvania spies.

SITE CITES SIGHTS: HAMILTON GRANGE

Alexander Hamilton's "country seat": his summer home, is reachable from the A, B, C, and D 8th Avenue subway lines at 145th St., an express stop, or from the 7th Avenue line at either 137th Street-City



Hamilton Grange
[courtesy of Wikipedia]

College or 145th Street stations. The City College buildings are an added architectural treat.

Hamilton bought land from one pharmacist and one farmer and assembled a holding of 35 acres for his estate. He named it after his family's manor in Scotland. The house has been moved twice, most recently in 2008, when it was moved from next to St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Convent Ave. to a sylvan site in St. Nicholas Park, where it looks more or less as it did when it was finished in 1802.

It is open Wednesday through Sunday, 9 to 5. It is a National Parks Service site, so you will see the National Parks Rangers inside, with their Smokey the Bear hats, and volunteer guides. To get a guided tour, you must make reservations on the Hamilton Grange website. These are given at 10 a.m., 11 a.m.,

and 2 p.m. The tours are strictly limited in size because of the cramped quarters. The same rooms are open to anyone walking in, though, from 12 noon to 1 and from 3 to 4. During the guided tour hours, if you don't have a reservation you must content yourself with a few minutes worth of displays in what had been the house's cellar, and a film on Hamilton's life. There is a line sketch on the wall of the duel. Read about the duel and then spot all the major historical inaccuracies in the drawing.

When the main floor is open, you will see Hamilton's study near the front door and the dining room and parlor. You will not be allowed upstairs to see the bedrooms, because the staff use them for offices. What you can see gives a fairly good picture of elegant living such as the Hamiltons and their eight children knew during the brief two years that Hamilton lived here. There is much more to see, though, at the Morris-Jumel Mansion, so plan a two-mansion trip. The latter is a half-mile north, at the 163rd St. C train station. Start at Morris-Jumel – then you will be walking downhill to the Grange, and you will pass the Bailey mansion, at St. Nicholas Ave. and W. 150 St., and many beautiful townhouses on Convent Ave.

DECEMBER SPEAKER

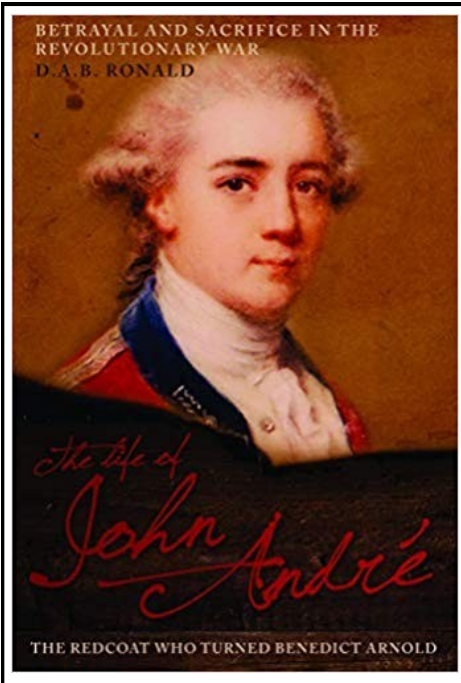
Our December speaker will be D.A.B. Ronald, author of John Andre: The Redcoat Who Turned Benedict Arnold.

In his 30-year career as a merchant banker, Ronald lived in the US, Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia. Now he is back in the UK completing a doctorate at Exeter University. His topic is how boy sailors in the British Navy were seen by the public in the period from the American War to the Napoleonic War.

The publisher of his Andre book is Osprey, of Oxford and New York, a leading publisher of military history.

Mr. Ronald will be speaking on Thursday, December 5 at Mt. Vernon, so we can't detain him more than a day – it wouldn't do to keep the General waiting. (Hamilton found *that* out the hard way!)

Major John Andre was the M as well as the James Bond of the British Army in our War for Independence.



He masterminded the defection of Major General Benedict Arnold, and he hoped to kidnap General Washington at the same time.

Our speaker hopes to answer the question: Why did Major Andre disobey, at the cost of his life, the orders given him by his friend, patron and commanding officer General Sir Harry Clinton? The latter had told Andre: Do not go behind American lines, do not get out of uniform, and do not keep incriminating papers in your possession. Andre did all three. Mr. Ronald and his book will tell us not only why Andre did this, but also how he hoped his actions would be perceived by others.

DEADLINE

Midnight, Tuesday, January 21 will be the deadline for submissions to the February Broadside. Keep those cards and letters comin' in, folks! We need stuff for this newsletter. Any news item, comment on past newsletters, and anything of interest to Rev fans.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

The next meeting of the Round Table will be held on Tuesday, December 3 at the Coffee House Club, 20 West 44th Street, 6th floor, at 6 p.m. Dinner will feature a *choice* of salmon or rack of lamb.

The semi-annual meeting of the Round Table's Board of Governors will be held before the December dinner. Meeting time will be 5:00, in the same room as the dinner, the Coffee House Club.

Your most obdt. Svt.,
Dr. David W. Jacobs