



# Watson News & Views 2013



## Christmas Time

by Ronald Doe

Christmas Time is finally here,  
It only comes but once a year.  
And it's a time to spread good cheer,  
To those we love and hold so dear.

Christmas Time is a time to pray,  
Put love and kindness on display.  
Show compassion along the way,  
Christmas Time should be everyday!

During the holiday season let us remember to be grateful for the gifts God has bestowed upon us instead of envious of the gifts He has bestowed upon others.

## Revolutionary War Officer

### Remembered

by Marston Watson

In Middlebury, Vermont on Thursday, July 18 the grave-stone of Captain Jonathan Nichols was marked as a Revolutionary War patriot by the Vermont Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (VTSSAR) at the Old Town (Hammond-Bushey) Cemetery. State President Douglas "Tim" Mabee and his Vermont Society members joined Middlebury civic leaders in placing the SAR Revolutionary War grave marker next to the headstone of Captain Jonathan Nichols. The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) encourages its members to locate and mark as many of its Revolutionary War patriots as it can.

Captain Jonathan Nichols (1727-1814), a native of Massachusetts, lived in Mansfield, Connecticut where he married Sarah Bassett of Middleboro, Mass., who bore him eleven children at Mansfield. He was among the men responding to the Lexington Alarm in the American Revolution and served as a captain under Lieutenant Colonel Experience Storr (1732-1834) in exercising and training their regiment. Captain Nichols was appointed to a committee to encourage enlistments in April 1777, and in September to a committee to provide clothing for soldiers in the Continental Army. He and Sarah relocated to Middlebury sometime before 1800.

Their son Lieut. Jonathan Nichols (1758-1829) served in the American Revolution in Colonel Levi Well's regiment on 9 Dec. 1780 and at Germantown and Valley Forge as well. He relocated from Mansfield to Middlebury about 1794, where he applied his skills as a mechanic and familiarity with the manufacture of iron in his businesses, after he purchased Appleton Foote land and a water power. He erected below Foot's mills, successively, a forge, trip-hammer and gun factory. He



was not very successful in the management of these establishments and they fell into the hands of different persons. These businesses were kept in operation partially for several years, but fell into decay and were finally consumed with the other works in that location. Lt. Jonathan and his wife Rebecca (Swift) Nichols relocated to Providence, Rhode Island where they are buried at Swan Point Cemetery.



As the 5th great-grandson of Captain Jonathan Nichols, I spearheaded the event but was unable to attend the ceremony. In November, our travels took us to Vermont so we were able to visit the cemetery and see the grave marker.

## Twenty Years and Counting

by Marston Watson

If "the third time's a charm" according to popular belief, then the past twenty years of our third marriage together is a testament to the truth of that statement. What better way to celebrate this joyous anniversary on November 27 than to invite our family (my children Karen & Erik and Kathy's daughter Dionne) and their respective families (14 of us in all including my sister Kim) to travel from California to "our" 40,000 square foot mansion in Washington, D. C. If truth be told, this mansion (known as the Anderson House) is really the property of the Society of the Cincinnati, whose members include Marston, Erik and Karen's son Michael Amador.

The bitter cold (20+ degree) in D. C. created a perfect opportunity to celebrate our twenty years together with a pizza party on Wednesday in the Lafayette Gallery (common area on the 3rd floor) of the Anderson House. We continued our celebration with a Thanksgiving dinner the next day, in a cozy area of the dining room at the Cosmos Club, across the street from the Anderson House.

Kathy and I are truly blessed in our marriage and with our loving blended family. We are twenty years and counting in our life together.



The Watson "clan" on Thanksgiving Day 2013. Seated l. to r. are Rob Maniaci, Marston Watson, Karen Amador. Standing l. to r. Dionne Maniaci, Xander Maniaci, Haley Watson, Lexie Watson, Sophia Amador, Jill Watson, Kathy Watson. Back row l. to r. Al Amador, Kim Watson Michael Amador, Erik Watson.

## *Samuel Adams (of Connecticut)*

### *Grave Marking*

*by Kathleen Watson, 5 November 2013, West Haven Vermont*

One of the privileges of belonging to the NSDAR is being able to mark your revolutionary war patriot's grave with a brass marker which displays the DAR insignia. When I found Samuel Adam's grave, I decided at that moment to honor his memory by placing the marker.

It was not easy to find the grave, but I persisted when all the research pointed to the actual existence of the cemetery. Vermont vital records indicated that Samuel was buried in Rutland County in the Hitchcock Cemetery. Calls to several town clerks in the area finally resulted in finding where the cemetery was located (West Haven, Vermont). On one of the trips to the east coast in 2012, Marston and I resolved that we would find the cemetery. Thanks to Mark Maloof, Marston's first cousin, who generously loaned us a car, we were able to visit many cemeteries in one day and found Samuel's grave.

Samuel Adams was born in 1736 in Suffield, Hartford County, Connecticut. At the age of 31 he married 22-year-old Dorcas Frost, and a little over a year later Abraham, the first of Samuel's nine children was born.

Samuel Adams was 38 years old and the father of four children when the Revolutionary War began in 1775. Another child was born to the Adams's early in 1776. Tragically, Samuel's wife, Dorcas, died two years after the birth of this child, leaving Samuel a widower with five children ranging in age from nine years to two years. How stressful it must have been to go off to war under these circumstances! But Connecticut people were especially ardent in the cause of independence, due partly to Connecticut's geographical location and large population. As early as 1774 Connecticut delegates to a state-wide convention had agreed to support the Revolution. And so Samuel Adams, a true son of Connecticut, went off to war.

Samuel Adams served under Colonel John Durkee, one of the founders of the Connecticut Sons of Liberty. The Sons of Liberty were associations formed to resist the Stamp Act, which the Colonists viewed as taxation without representation. This law was simply disregarded in some instances, and resisted with violence in others. Terrified Stamp Masters nearly all resigned their posts or refused to carry out their duties. In Connecticut, Stamp Master Jared Ingersol was tried in absentia, and hanged in effigy by the Sons of Liberty.

During the war, Samuel Adams, father to five motherless children, married a woman named Elizabeth Purchase. Samuel survived the war, and he and Elizabeth had four more children. Samuel died in Vermont in 1811, at the age of 74.

There were about fifteen people at the ceremony including Mark Maloof who served as photographer.



Members of Ann Story Chapter NSDAR I to r. Nancy West, Charlotte Fenton, Carol Schwenk (Chapter Regent), Melissa Clarke, Julianne Sharrow, Cheryl Gosselin with Kathy & Marston Watson. The Ann Story chapter was instrumental in the planning and execution of the marking which was sponsored by my DAR chapter.

## *Maryland, Virginia and Gettysburg*

*by Marston Watson*

The trip that ended with our 20th wedding anniversary celebration in Washington, D. C. began the day after our flight to BWI on November 15. We spent Saturday night at The Parsonage Inn (B&B) in the quaint town of St. Michaels, Maryland. An evening of wine tasting was capped by a delicious

meal at the Town Dock Restaurant overlooking Chesapeake Bay. We attended service the next day at Christ Episcopal Church before we departed for Virginia Beach.



Four days with our Templar friends, Captain (ret.) Keith and Judy Larson, were filled with daily treks to nearby museums and naval bases with its many historic war ships from World War II and later. We were delighted to see Keith's long-standing project of expanding and remodeling their beautiful home, which mostly he did with his own skilled hands.

We spent two nights in Richmond where we visited the Confederate Museum and nearby Confederate White House, where Jefferson Davis and his family lived until the end of the Civil War. It was a history lesson that this "Damn Yankee" from Boston needed to learn, especially with ancestors who were loyal officers in the Union Army which included the Battle of Gettysburg, our next stop.

Our two-night stay in Chambersburg, about 25 miles from Gettysburg, gave us the opportunity to see some of the Pennsylvania countryside on our way there. We visited the Gettysburg Museum and some of the battle site the first day. We attended a special ceremony on Saturday, November 23 at the statue of Albert Woodson (1847-1956), the last surviving Union Army veteran. It gave us the opportunity to see many of our friends from the Military Order of the Loyal Legion in the United States (MOLLUS), of which I am a member. The 30+ mph winds and bitter temperatures below 20 degrees kept us from staying to watch the parade afterwards. We headed for Washington on Sunday, to face equally cold weather.

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*