



Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution

Arlington Chapter #7 Bulletin

Arlington #7 Chapter

Established 1938

Re-Chartered 1994



September 2025

Chuck Andrews, Editor

Meetings: 2nd Saturday of each month, **Visitors Welcome**

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: Skillet-N-Grill Cafe 1801 W. Division St. Arlington, Texas 76012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — SEPTEMBER 2025

"Lessons from September 1775: Courage in the Face of Uncertainty"

By Joe Kohn, President, Arlington Chapter #7

Compatriots,



As we turn the calendar to September 2025, we find ourselves just seven months away from April 2026, when our nation will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord—the opening shots of the American Revolution.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, in September 1775, our Patriot ancestors faced a time of uncertainty and decision-making. The colonies had been at war with Britain for five months, following the bloody encounters at Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill. While open conflict had begun, independence was not yet declared. Many colonists still hoped for reconciliation with the Crown, even as King George III rejected petitions for peace and reinforced his armies.

The Situation in September 1775

- The Siege of Boston tightened as General George Washington worked tirelessly to transform a group of colonial militias into the Continental Army.
- The Invasion of Canada began under Generals Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold, as the Patriots sought to gain allies and secure their northern frontier.
- Communities across the colonies were deeply divided, with Loyalists and Patriots often living side by side, and families forced to choose between loyalty to the King or the cause of liberty.

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PRESIDENT KOHN'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

It was a time of hardship and great risk. Supplies were scarce, training was inconsistent, and success was far from guaranteed. Yet, through perseverance and vision, our forefathers pressed forward.

Parallels for Us Today

As members of the Sons of the American Revolution, we are called to remember and honor their sacrifices. Though we no longer face muskets and bayonets, our mission is just as important:

- To preserve their memory,
- To educate future generations, and
- To inspire others to serve their communities and country.

Just as Washington united diverse militias into one army, we must work to unite our communities, bringing together citizens, schools, and organizations to celebrate and safeguard the ideals of freedom and independence.

Our Call to Action

- Share Patriot stories with your family, friends, and neighbors.
- Participate in Constitution Week programs this month.
- Volunteer at schools to educate young people about the meaning of liberty.
- Invite others to join our chapter and carry forward this vital mission.

Our Patriot ancestors faced incredible odds in 1775, yet they persevered. May we, too, show courage, commitment, and unity as we prepare for this historic milestone.

Looking Ahead

In the coming months, our chapter will be deeply involved in events leading up to April 2026. I encourage every compatriot to get involved—whether it's attending a meeting, participating in a color guard event, or simply sharing our message with others. Together, let's ensure that when future generations look back on 2026, they will see that we rose to the occasion, just as our ancestors did in 1775.

Yours in Patriotism,

Joe Kohn

President, Arlington Chapter #7

Sons of the American Revolution



ARLINGTON CHAPTER #7 HOLD BOM MEETING



June 19, 2025– SAR Arlington Chapter #7 held its Board of Managers meeting at Southern Recipes Grill. In attendance L-R– Compatriots Chuck Andrews, John Anderson, David Friels, Bob Pope, President Joe Kohn and Bill Goodman.

Arlington Chapter BOM Proposed Agenda Items included:

General Topics– Short Term

- Bill Watts– Medical condition and his story going forward
- July 4th at David Hubler’s house with America 250 event
- Future BOM meetings in person or Zoom and timing– Decision– Semi-annual– Spring and Fall
- Additional discussion items
- ◇ Chapter Newsletter going forward
- ◇ Processfo mentoring new members– New Member Manual
- ◇ Use of SAR University
- ◇ Establish Public Relations Committee with Chairman

General Topics—Long Term

- DAR Constitution Week in September– need Arlington SAR to post Colors
- Discuss awarding MOH Museum a Flag Certificate with DAR– Bob Pope
- Texas State Fair volunteering
- Nominating Committee for 2026 Officers cand Committee Chairs
- New awards from SAR National for Chapters
- Begin a quarterly or monthly BOM meeting– See Short Term topics
- Establish a budget for Arlington Chapter
- Discussed voluntary member donations in lieu of raising Chapter dues

COLOR GUARD ACTIVITIES

Contributed by Compatriot Dan Hamilton



June 25, 2025— At left, Color Guard members Dan Hamilton and Vann Cunningham of the Maj. K. M. Van Zandt Chapter presented and posted the Colors at U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Dallas Fiels Office for the Naturalization Ceremony. Over 100 new citizens were sworn in by The Honorable Barbara M. G. Lynn. This was Judge Lynn's final Naturalization Ceremony prior to retirement.



July 3, 2025— Pictured Right— SAR Color Guard presented and posted the Colors at the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Field Office prior to the ceremony where Director Michelle Montgomery administered the Oath of Allegiance to 60 new citizens.



July 3, 2025— Pictured Left— Some of the new citizens, family and Field Office staff pose with Color Guard members Steve Hole, Vann Cunningham, Dan Hamilton and Bobby Gresham following the administration of the Oath of Allegiance at the Naturalization Ceremony in Irving.

July 3, 2025— Pictured right, SAR Color Guard members presented and posted the Colors at the ACTIV Arlington Senior Center's Stars and Scoops Celebration.

Color Guard members L-R— Bobby Gresham, Dan Hamilton, Steve Hole and Vann Cunningham.



ARLINGTON JULY 4TH PARADE COLLABORATION SAR & DAR



July 4, 2025– SAR and DAR Compatriots assembled on the UTA Campus to participate in the City of Arlington’s July 4th Annual Parade. It was cloudy all morning but the rain held off. Everyone had a great time waving to the crowds that lined the streets along the parade route wishing them a “Happy July 4th”.

Arlington July 4th Crew– Those L-R– Dan Hamilton, Jim McCain, Bobby Gresham, Steve Hole, 2 unidentified crew members, Meg Anderson, John Anderson, 3 unidentified and Vann Cunningham.



July 12, 2025– Photo right– Chapter members listen to Compatriot Dan Hamilton's comments. Then July meeting was also notable as it, happily, brought the return of Compatriot and Chaplain Bob Wehr after a health related absence.



**NATION'S
250TH BIRTH-
DAY IS COMING—
4 JULY 2026**

The celebration of the founding of America includes the time period from the Stamp Act to the Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War. As the Revolution included Political and Civic actions, as well as War activities, events will include all that shaped the development of our Great Nation during the time period.

America 250 Website: www.america250sar.com

July 12, 2025– Above- Compatriot Bob Pope discusses options for the Arlington SAR Chapter's celebration of America 250 on July 4, 2026.

July 12, 2025– Photo Left– President Joe Kohn provided a slide presentation relating his travels along the South Carolina Liberty Trail





Arlington Chapter #7

Established 1938

COMPATRIOT DAVID HUBLER'S FINAL OFFICIAL MEETING



July 12, 2025 Longtime Compatriot David Hubler marked his final official SAR Arlington Chapter #7 meeting discussing providing copies of the U. S. Constitution for distribution. David will be moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

COMPATRIOT CAPSULE

CONTRIBUTED BY COMPATRIOT DAVID FRIELS

Jacob Smock is one of my Patriot ancestors which unfortunately I can't prove to SAR's satisfaction. However, I still claim Jacob as an ancestor. What follows is a family legend regarding two of his sons. John (my 3rd great grandfather) and Peter who were captured by the Indians.

Compatriot David Friels' 4th great grandfather, Sergeant Jacob Smock served over 7 years in the 7th and 8th Regiments of the Virginia Continental Line. He is also listed on the Valley Forge muster roll. In 1793 Jacob and family were living in Shelby Co. KY when sons John (Friels' 3rd GG) and Peter were taken captive by Indians. Mathias, another son, was killed during the raid. According to family legend the Chief liked the two boys and kept them unharmed. After approximately 2 years, Jacob was able to ransom his boys through a French-Canadian Indian trader for a keg of rum.

ARLINGTON #7 MERCHANDISE

Keep in mind that Arlington #7 offers logo merchandise:

Challenge Coins- \$10

Lapel Pins- \$5

Coffee Cups- \$15

These can be purchased by contacting:
Sergeant-at-Arms:
Richard Martin

furball2604@gmail.com



SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

MISSION

The Sons of the American Revolution honors our Revolutionary War patriot ancestors by promoting patriotism, serving our communities, and educating and inspiring future generations about the founding principles of our country.





July

2nd John Fehler
 6th James R. McClain
 10th Alexander E. Cole (Jr.)
 11th Grant A. Hamilton
 15th Ray H. Wehr
 20th Kevin S. Joffrey
 21st Stan Kennedy
 22nd Glen G. Foster
 22nd Brent Houser
 23rd Curtis L. Oliver
 26th John D. Anderson, Jr.

August

3rd Preston C. Kennedy-Jr.
 11th Dr. Richard B. Fleming
 11th Willard J. Sparks
 14th Kyle A. Stephenson (Jr.)
 15th Aeden C. Cole
 19th Wendell W. Black
 23rd David K. Setzer
 26th Lee Bryan Ehrler
 29th Ronald K. Carter

September

3rd Daniel R. Hamilton
 4th Michael B. Hutchins, Jr.
 4th Wm. Laurance Oliver, DDS
 5th James M. Gibson
 6th Steven T. Anderson
 6th Grayson D. Freeman (Jr.)
 29th Wm. J. McCoy

Anniversaries

July

David R. Wells 07/18/2001 24 yrs
 Willard J. Sparks 07/24/2009 16 yrs
 James W. Benton 07/22/2017 9 yrs
 Roland A. Brucks, II 07/29/2016 9 yrs
 Daniel R. Hamilton 07/20/2018 7 yrs
 Christopher S. Martin 07/20/2018 7 yrs
 Dustin D. Decker 07/20/2018 7 yrs
 William J. McCoy 07/24/2020 5 yrs
 Jonathan T. Kennedy 07/01/2022 3 yrs
 Stan Kennedy 07/01/2022 3 yrs
 Grayson K. Kennedy (Jr.) 07/01/2022 3 yrs
 Preston C. Kennedy (Jr.) 07/01/2022 3 yrs

August

Robin D. Teagarden, Jr. 08/31/1977 48 yrs
 Ronald K. Carter 08/09/2007 18 yrs
 Robert H. Wehr 08/13/2012 13 yrs
 Roger E. Wehr 08/13/2012 13 yrs
 Jeffery D. Meller 08/11/2017 8 yrs
 Scott D. Hamilton 08/30/2019 6 yrs
 Phillip N. Roe 08/30/2019 6 yrs
 Ian A. Yuhasz 08/30/2019 6 yrs
 Alexander S. Hamilton (Jr.) 08/30/2019 6 yrs
 Douglas Scott Steward 08/07/2020 5 yrs
 McCoy A. Salmon (Jr.) 08/06/2021 4 yrs
 Adrian B. Cole (Jr.) 08/13/2021 4 yrs
 Aeden C. Cole (Jr.) 08/13/2021 4 yrs
 Alexander E. Cole (Jr.) 08/13/2021 4 yrs
 Brent Houser 08/05/2022 3 yrs
 Charles H. Blumenfeld 08/18/2023 2 yrs
 Chase Blumenfeld 08/18/2023 2 yrs
 Nick Nichols 08/18/2023 2 yrs

September

Richard L. Martin 09/26/2006 19 yrs
 James D. Friels 09/04/2012 13 yrs
 Grant A. Hamilton 09/04/2014 11 yrs
 Nicholas B. Hamilton 09/04/2014 11 yrs
 Robert B. Pope, Jr. 09/08/2017 8 yrs
 Bill C. Goodman 09/03/2021 4 yrs

DUAL MEMBER RUSS GODWIN ATTENDS AMERICA 250 MEETING



July 29, 2025 Compatriot and Arlington Chapter Dual Member Russ Godwin of Lake Charles, La. Attended the America 250 meeting in Washington, D. C. which took place at the National Archives Museum.

Compatriots-

Last week I represented SAR and Louisiana at the second America 250 States and Territories Convening in DC. 52 states and territories were represented at the Convening.

The states and territories were asked to make a presentation about their America 250 plans. Some states also shared videos. Below you will find links to the presentations and videos.

Slide Presentations

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mVsvqcVZkMLSTPGdYda6qQy25-qP_DFp?usp=drive_link

Videos

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1toikQxPdzgylDOsAMMSj_LCReoys7RSm

If you see something you would like to know more about let me know.

Lynn Forey Young is the Secretary of the National America 250 Commission and a past President General of the DAR. Lynn urged the assembled commissioners to engage SAR and DAR. Only a few states and territories mentioned SAR and DAR so we can and should do more there.

Russ Godwin

National Trustee

Past President, Louisiana Society

Past President, Oliver Pollock Chapter

Life Member

George Washington Fellow

Sons of the American Revolution

Secretary

America 250 Commission

HELP US BRING THE LIBERTY TREE MARKER TO LIFE!

On November 9, 2025, at Veterans Park, we will officially plant the Liberty Tree and unveil a beautiful bronze marker honoring the enduring spirit of our Patriot ancestors. Like Liberty itself, the Liberty Tree's boughs offer safe harbor and protection from life's storms — a symbol of unity, courage, and resilience.

Why This Project is Important:

The 250th SAR Liberty Tree Program was rolled out at the Spring 2023 Leadership meeting by the NSSAR History 250 Committee the goal of planting 250 Liberty Trees for the 250th Anniversary with at least one tree in each state on or before July 4, 2026. We feel with by planting a Liberty Tree that it will help educate the public of the importance of the American Revolution and the sacrifices that were made to become our nation. Trees are installed with a dedication plaque. It is recommended that the Liberty Trees be planted in counties or cities named after a Patriot or in a location that will serve as a tribute to veterans.

Project Costs:

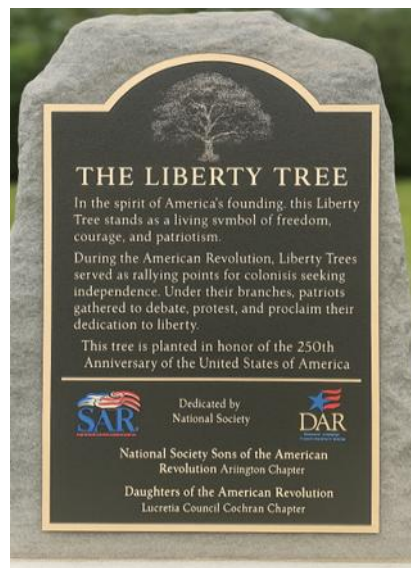
- Tree: \$300.00
- Bronze Plaque: \$2,675.00
- Stone: \$600.00
- Mounting: \$300.00

Total Costs: \$3,875.00

DAR Portion: \$1,937.50

SAR Portion: \$1,937.50

SAR Funds Collected to Date: \$490.00



We need your help to close the gap! Your donation — no matter the size — will help us honor our Patriot forebears and preserve their story for future generations.

How to Contribute:

Please send your donation to the SAR Arlington Chapter Treasurer or bring it to our next chapter meeting. Checks should be made payable to: Arlington Chapter SAR. **Checks may be mailed to:**

Mr. Richard Coffey

SAR Arlington Chapter Treasurer

719 Monique

Cedar Hill, Texas 75104

Make checks payable to: Arlington SAR

Dedication Ceremony: November 9, 2025 – Veterans Park

Join us for the planting of the Liberty Tree and unveiling of the marker.

Time : TBA

WASHINGTON'S TOMB VIGIL

Compatriot Dan Hamilton, Contributor

From time to time each of us has an opportunity to experience something that not a lot of folks have the opportunity to do.

Standing vigil at the tomb of George and Martha Washington at Mount Vernon Virginia is one such experience.

This experience is made possible to SAR Color Guard members from all across the United States

In **2025**, it will happen on 13 September. Though this date may have passed when you receive this newsletter, it can be expected the opportunity will present itself in future Septembers.

How do you find out about this event? Quarterly, National HQ publishes the E-magazine "The Color Guardsmen" Information including the sign-up Genie link can be found in the magazine. After an early morning muster, 8AM the Command Staff will give instructions and then at 8:30 AM a march to the tomb will begin. Guardsmen who will stand vigil march to the tomb beginning at 9AM. And ending at 4:30PM. Each hour will be comprised of either (4) Four 15 minute shifts or (2) Two 30 minute shifts.

The sign-up Genie link for the 2025 Vigil is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FABAD29A2F4C61-57463790-mountain#/>



George Washington was interred what is known as the "New Tomb" in 1831 alongside various members of the extended Washington and Custis family. Previously, members of the Washington family including Washington had been laid to rest at what is now referred to as the "Old Tomb." Washington was placed in the "Old Tomb" three days after his death per his instructions on December 18, 1799.

CALENDAR

2025

11 Sept **National Day of Service and Remembrance**

13 Sept **Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting**– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM (C)

17 Sept **Constitution Day**

26 Sept **Texas State Fair Opening Day Parade** (S-CG)

26 Sept-19 Oct– **Texas State Fair– DAR House volunteering** (C), (S)

29 Sept **National V.F.W. Day**

11 Oct **Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting**– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM (C)

2-4 Oct **Texas SAR Fall Leadership Meeting**- (S)

17-19 Oct **Texas SAR Fall BOM Meeting**– Hilton Garden Inn Houston/Sugarland (S)

8 Nov **Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting**– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM (C)

9 Nov– **Massing of the Colors**– Birchman Baptist Church, Ft. Worth (CG)

11 Nov **Veterans Day Parade Ft. Worth**– 11 am (S), (N)

6 Dec **Dickens on the Strand Parade**– Galveston 11 am-3pm (CG)

13 Dec **Arlington #7 Chapter Meeting/Wreaths Across America**– Skillet-n-Grill Café-9:30 AM **or** Parkdale Cemetery Arlington 10:30 am (C)

2026

15-19 Apr **Texas SAR State Convention**– Austin– Austin Southpark Hotel (S)

10 Jul **136th Annual Congress**– Greensboro (N)

(CG) = Color Guard , (C) = Chapter, (S) = State, (N) = National

PROFILES IN PATRIOTISM

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire was a separate royal province in the late seventeenth century, but for most of the colonial period was subject to the jurisdiction of Massachusetts and its governor.

New Hampshire achieved separation from their southern neighbor in 1741.

Before any other American colony, New Hampshire drafted a constitution in January 1776 that effectively declared the province independent from Great Britain.

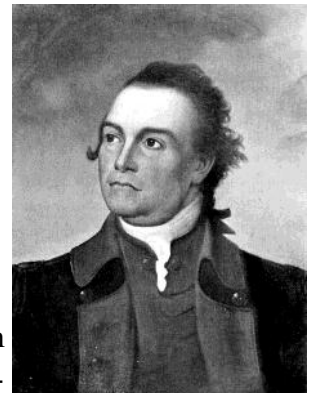
On December 13, 1774, Paul Revere rode to Portsmouth with a warning that British warships and soldiers were on their way to New Hampshire to reinforce Fort William and Mary, a tiny garrison guarding the entrance to Portsmouth's harbor. Over the next two days, hundreds of men descended on the fort and seized its gunpowder before the British arrived. Governor Wentworth declared the raids' participants—including future leaders John Sullivan, John Langdon, and Alexander Scammell—to have acted "in the most daring and rebellious Manner" and committed "many treasonable Insults and Outrages".

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SULLIVAN: REVOLUTIONARY WAR LEADER AND EARLY AMERICAN STATESMAN

Major General John Sullivan (1740-1795) was a pivotal figure in the American Revolutionary War whose military and political career exemplified both the complexities of wartime leadership and the challenges of nation-building in early America. Born on February 17, 1740, Sullivan would go on to serve as a Continental Army officer, politician, and judge, leaving a lasting but controversial legacy in American history.

Sullivan's early career began in law, studying under Samuel Livermore of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, between 1758 and 1760. He established his practice in 1763, initially in Berwick, Maine, before moving to Durham, New Hampshire, in 1764. Though his early years as the only lawyer in town made him unpopular due to numerous foreclosure suits, Sullivan had firmly established himself by 1772 and expanded his interests into milling, which provided substantial income. His law practice grew when Alexander Scammell joined him in 1773.

The escalating tensions between Britain and the American colonies thrust Sullivan into military leadership. Following the Boston Tea Party and Britain's closure of Boston's port, Paul Revere was sent by the Massachusetts committee to warn the Portsmouth militia of a rumored British movement toward Fort William and Mary. Sullivan demonstrated his commitment to the colonial cause by leading militia raids on Fort William and Mary in December 1774. These raids, which seized gunpowder, cannons, and muskets, positioned Sullivan as a key figure in New Hampshire's resistance movement. His political involvement deepened when he was sent as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress in January



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1775, where he argued that war had begun with the Battles of Lexington and Concord.

Sullivan's military career began in earnest when Congress appointed him brigadier general in 1775. His service encompassed some of the war's most significant campaigns, though not without controversy. After commanding the faltering invasion force in Quebec in 1776, he faced criticism from Congress seeking a scapegoat for the failed Canadian campaign, though he was ultimately exonerated and promoted to major general. At the Battle of Long Island, Sullivan's personal bravery was evident as he fought Hessian attackers with pistols, but he was captured and temporarily became an unwitting diplomatic messenger for British peace overtures, earning John Adams's criticism as a "decoy-duck."

Sullivan's contributions to key American victories were substantial. He rejoined Washington before the Battle of Trenton. There his division secured the crucial bridge over Assunpink Creek, preventing Hessian escape and ensuring high prisoner numbers. He performed well at Princeton and later led Continental troops in the inconclusive Battle of Rhode Island, where a planned joint operation with the French fleet failed when Admiral d'Estaing's ships were damaged by storms.

The most controversial chapter of Sullivan's career was the Sullivan Expedition of 1779, a scorched earth campaign against the British-allied Iroquois in western New York. Ordered by Washington in response to American defeats at Wyoming and Cherry Valley, Sullivan's forces destroyed 40 Iroquois villages and numerous crop fields, killed 200 Iroquois including women and children, and forcibly displaced 5,000 to British-controlled Fort Niagara. The harsh winter of 1779-1780 brought additional deaths from starvation and disease. Modern historians continue to debate whether Sullivan's actions constituted genocide, ethnic cleansing, or necessary military strategy, reflecting the complex moral legacy of Revolutionary War violence.

Disappointed by Congress's lukewarm response to his expedition, Sullivan resigned from the Continental Army in 1779 and returned to New Hampshire. However, his public service continued in the political realm. He served as a delegate to the Continental Congress, where he signed the Continental Association and worked closely with French Ambassador Chevalier de la Luzerne. His post-war career culminated in his election as New Hampshire's third governor and his appointment by George Washington as a United States district judge for the District Court of New Hampshire.

Sullivan's life embodied the transformation of colonial resistance into American statesmanship. From his early days as an unpopular small-town lawyer to his role in major Revolutionary War battles and his later service in the highest levels of early American government, Sullivan navigated the challenges of creating a new nation while wrestling with the moral complexities inherent in revolutionary warfare. His legacy remains multifaceted: a brave military leader who contributed to American independence, a controversial figure whose actions against Native Americans continue to provoke historical debate, and an important architect of early American legal and political institutions. John Sullivan died on January 23, 1795, having witnessed and helped shape the birth of the United States from colonial rebellion to functioning republic.



JOHN LANGDON JR.:

FROM MERCHANT TO FOUNDING FATHER

John Langdon Jr. (1741-1819) stands as one of New Hampshire's most significant contributions to the founding of the United States, embodying the transformation of colonial merchants into revolutionary leaders and constitutional architects. Born on June 26, 1741, Langdon's life spanned the critical decades from colonial resistance through the early republic, during which he played pivotal roles as a Revolutionary War supporter, naval administrator, Constitutional Convention delegate, and early American statesman.



Langdon's journey into revolutionary politics was deeply rooted in economic necessity and principle. As a merchant whose shipping business suffered under British control of maritime industries, he possessed both personal motivation and practical understanding of how British policies stifled colonial commerce. This economic grievance transformed him into a vigorous and prominent supporter of the colonial American revolutionary movement throughout the 1770s. His business acumen and local prominence positioned him as a natural leader in New Hampshire's resistance efforts.

The breadth of Langdon's involvement in pre-revolutionary activities demonstrated his commitment to organized resistance. He served on New Hampshire's provincial committee of correspondence, a crucial network that coordinated colonial opposition to British policies across the thirteen colonies. Additionally, he participated in non-importation committees that boycotted British goods, using economic pressure as a weapon against imperial control. His attendance at various Patriot assemblies further solidified his role as a key figure in New Hampshire's revolutionary movement.

One of Langdon's most dramatic contributions to the revolutionary cause came in 1774 when he participated in the seizure and confiscation of British munitions from Fort William and Mary at Portsmouth harbor. This bold action, taken alongside figures like John Sullivan, represented one of the first acts of armed resistance in New Hampshire and demonstrated Langdon's willingness to move beyond peaceful protest to direct confrontation with British authority. The captured munitions would prove invaluable to colonial forces in the coming conflict.

Langdon's transition from local revolutionary to national leader occurred through his service as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress from 1775 to 1776. During this crucial period, he served on the Marine Committee, which supervised the beginnings of the Continental Navy. This appointment reflected both his maritime expertise and Congress's recognition of his administrative capabilities. His work on the Marine Committee positioned him at the forefront of America's efforts to challenge British naval supremacy, understanding that success in the revolutionary war would require control of coastal waters and supply lines.

The practical application of Langdon's naval expertise became evident when he resigned from the Continental Congress in June 1776 to become an agent for Continental naval forces against the British. This career shift from legislator to administrator demonstrated his commitment to hands-on leadership in the war effort. His superintendence of the construction of several new American warships, including the *Raleigh*, the *America*, and the *Ranger*, represented critical contributions to American naval capacity. These vessels would serve as the

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backbone of America's emerging naval power, challenging British dominance at sea and providing essential support for coastal operations.

Langdon's military involvement extended beyond naval administration to direct battlefield participation. In 1777, he equipped an expedition against the British, demonstrating his willingness to invest personal resources in the revolutionary cause. His participation in the Battle of Bennington in nearby Vermont showcased his commitment to supporting allied colonial forces beyond New Hampshire's borders. Perhaps most notably, he commanded Langdon's Company of Light Horse Volunteers at the crucial Battles of Saratoga, where American forces achieved the decisive victory that convinced France to enter the war as an American ally. His later involvement at Rhode Island further demonstrated his sustained military engagement throughout the conflict.

Following the successful conclusion of the Revolutionary War, Langdon's influence in shaping the new nation continued through his participation in the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia during the summer of 1787. As one of New Hampshire's delegates, he joined the exclusive group of fifty-five men who crafted the fundamental governing document of the United States. His signature on the Constitution marked him as one of the Founding Fathers, cementing his place in American history as both a revolutionary warrior and constitutional architect.

Langdon's post-constitutional career reflected his continued commitment to public service and the new federal system he had helped create. As one of the first two United States senators from New Hampshire, he helped establish precedents for the new legislative body and participated in the critical early debates that would define American governance. His twelve years of service in the United States Congress, including his role as the first president pro tempore of the Senate, demonstrated his ongoing influence in national politics. This position placed him third in line for the presidency and highlighted the respect he commanded among his fellow legislators.

Langdon's later career in New Hampshire politics saw him serve as both president and governor of the state, bringing his national experience to bear on local governance. His decision to turn down a nomination for U.S. vice presidential candidate in 1812 reflected both his advanced age and perhaps his satisfaction with his already substantial contributions to American political life.

When John Langdon Jr. died on September 18, 1819, he left behind a remarkable legacy that spanned the entire founding era of American history. From his early days as a merchant chafing under British commercial restrictions to his role as a signer of the Constitution and senior statesman, Langdon embodied the American revolutionary spirit and its transformation into constitutional governance. His contributions to American naval development, his battlefield service, his constitutional craftsmanship, and his legislative leadership established him as one of New Hampshire's most important founding figures and a significant architect of the early American republic. His life story illustrates how individual grievances against British rule could evolve into comprehensive leadership in creating and governing a new nation, making him a quintessential example of the Revolutionary War generation's journey from resistance to republic-building.



Alexander Scammell: From Law Student to Revolutionary War Hero

Alexander Scammell (1747-1781) represents the tragic heroism of the American Revolutionary War generation, embodying the transformation of young colonial professionals into dedicated military leaders who sacrificed everything for independence. Born on March 22, 1747, Scammell's brief but remarkable life spanned just thirty-four years, yet his contributions to the Continental Army and his ultimate sacrifice at Yorktown secured his place among the war's most distinguished officers and martyrs.

Scammell's journey toward revolutionary leadership began in 1773 when he joined John Sullivan's law practice in New Hampshire to read law. (This professional relationship would prove transformative, as Scammell developed tremendous respect for Sullivan, whom he described as "an excellent instructor and worthy patron.") Sullivan's influence extended far beyond legal training; as a member of the Continental Congress in 1774 and 1775, Sullivan provided Scammell with direct exposure to the revolutionary movement's intellectual and political foundations. When Sullivan was appointed brigadier general, Scammell witnessed firsthand the transition from legal advocacy to military leadership that would soon define his own career.



The mentorship between Sullivan and Scammell was tested in action during one of New Hampshire's first acts of armed resistance. Scammell accompanied Sullivan during the Capture of Fort William and Mary on December 14, 1774, a bold raid that seized British munitions and demonstrated the colonial commitment to armed resistance. This experience provided Scammell with his first taste of military action and established him as a trusted associate in Sullivan's revolutionary network.

With the formal outbreak of the American Revolution, Scammell's military career began in earnest. He was commissioned as a major in the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment, serving within Sullivan's Brigade. His early service included participation in the Siege of Boston, after which the regiment was sent to reinforce Continental Army units in the ill-fated Invasion of Canada. Though the Canadian campaign failed, it provided Scammell with crucial experience in large-scale military operations and demonstrated the challenges facing the Continental Army in its early phases.

By August 1776, Scammell's competence and reliability earned him appointment as Aide-de-Camp to Sullivan, a position that placed him at the center of military planning and decision-making. However, his talents were soon recognized beyond Sullivan's immediate command. In September, he was ordered to assist Colonel George Reid in New York City, where he fought at the Battle of Long Island alongside Sullivan. This battle, though a defeat for American forces, showcased Scammell's courage under fire and his ability to maintain effectiveness in chaotic battlefield conditions.

Scammell's rapid advancement through the Continental Army hierarchy reflected both his exceptional abilities and the army's desperate need for competent officers. In October 1776, he was appointed Assistant Adjutant General for Charles Lee's Division, and by November he had been promoted to colonel. His appointment on

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December 11, 1776, to command the 3rd New Hampshire Regiment marked his emergence as a senior regimental commander, though the practical challenges of the Continental Army soon became apparent when the regiment had not yet been recruited.

While awaiting the completion of his regiment's recruitment, Scammell demonstrated his commitment to the cause by accompanying the 1st and 2nd New Hampshire regiments under Colonel John Stark to join Washington's Army. This decision proved fortuitous, as it placed him at the center of one of the war's most crucial periods. Scammell crossed the Delaware with Washington and participated in both the Battle of Trenton and the Battle of Princeton, engagements that revitalized American morale and demonstrated the Continental Army's potential for victory.

At Princeton, Scammell distinguished himself in extraordinary fashion, reportedly preceding Washington himself in rallying troops who were being beaten badly. This act of battlefield leadership, performed under intense enemy fire, established Scammell's reputation as an exceptional combat commander. Both he and Washington emerged from the battle unscathed but with enhanced reputations as extraordinary battlefield leaders, cementing Scammell's position among the Continental Army's elite officers.

The completion of recruitment for the 3rd New Hampshire Regiment in June 1777 finally allowed Scammell to assume full command of his unit, though their service began inauspiciously with the evacuation of Fort Mifflin just two weeks after mustering. However, the regiment's subsequent service at Saratoga provided Scammell with his greatest military triumph. He commanded the regiment with distinction in the battles of Freeman's Farm and Bemis Heights, engagements that ultimately led to British General Burgoyne's surrender and France's entry into the war as an American ally.

During the Saratoga campaign, Scammell's courage under fire became legendary. Though he may have been wounded at Bemis Heights, his letters to his brother revealed the narrow margins by which officers survived, noting that bullets had passed through his clothing and struck his weapon. His command during this period included Henry Dearborn and his light infantry, demonstrating his ability to coordinate complex operations involving multiple units.

Scammell's exceptional performance at Saratoga earned him one of the Continental Army's most prestigious appointments. Just two days after Burgoyne's surrender, as the army moved to winter quarters at Valley Forge, General George Washington appointed Scammell as adjutant general of the Continental Army. This position, which he held through 1780, placed him at the administrative heart of the Continental Army and made him one of Washington's most trusted staff officers.

The adjutant general position brought both honor and burden, as demonstrated by Scammell's appointment in October 1780 as executioner to Major John André, the British officer involved in Benedict Arnold's treason plot. This duty weighed heavily on Scammell, who understood the moral complexities of executing a brave enemy officer who had been caught in the machinery of war and espionage. The psychological toll of this responsibility led to his letter of November 16, 1780, to Washington requesting permission to resign his staff position and return to line command of a regiment.

Scammell's request was eventually granted, and he was replaced as adjutant general by Edward Hand in early 1781. His reassignment as commander of the 1st New Hampshire Regiment returned him to the direct leader-

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ship role he preferred, but his service in this capacity was brief. On May 17, 1781, he received command of a specialized light infantry detachment that became known as Scammell's Light Infantry, a unit that would serve as the vanguard for the army's march south to Yorktown.

The light infantry command represented the culmination of Scammell's military evolution from staff officer to elite combat commander. His regiment fought at the Battle of King's Bridge and served as the vanguard during the Continental Army's strategic movement to Virginia. At Yorktown, the regiment was organized as part of the 2nd Brigade of the Light Infantry Division, positioning Scammell at the forefront of the siege that would end the Revolutionary War.

Tragically, Scammell's distinguished career ended just as American victory was within reach. On September 30, 1781, while serving as Field Officer-of-the-Day, he was wounded while reconnoitering recently abandoned British fortifications. Having become separated from his scouting party, Scammell encountered British light dragoons and was shot in the side. Historical accounts differ as to whether this occurred before or after he attempted to surrender, but the wound proved mortal. Though taken into Yorktown and subsequently paroled to Williamsburg due to the gravity of his condition, Scammell died on October 6, 1781, making him the highest-ranking American officer killed during the Siege of Yorktown.

Alexander Scammell's death, occurring just weeks before Cornwallis's surrender would effectively end the Revolutionary War, represents one of the conflict's most poignant ironies. His sacrifice came at the very moment when the independence he had fought to achieve was finally within America's grasp. From his early days as a law student under John Sullivan's tutelage to his final reconnaissance mission at Yorktown, Scammell embodied the Revolutionary generation's commitment to transforming colonial resistance into national independence.

His career trajectory from legal apprentice to Continental Army adjutant general to elite light infantry commander illustrates the remarkable adaptability and dedication required of Revolutionary War leaders. Scammell's legacy rests not only on his battlefield courage at Princeton, Saratoga, and Yorktown, but also on his administrative contributions to the Continental Army's development and his willingness to accept the moral burdens of command, as demonstrated in his handling of the André execution.

In Alexander Scammell, the American Revolution found a leader who exemplified the transformation of colonial professionals into revolutionary heroes, whose sacrifice at the war's end ensured that the independence he had fought to secure would be achieved by others. His story remains a testament to the personal costs of revolution and the individual courage that made American independence possible.



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