

SAR Sentinel

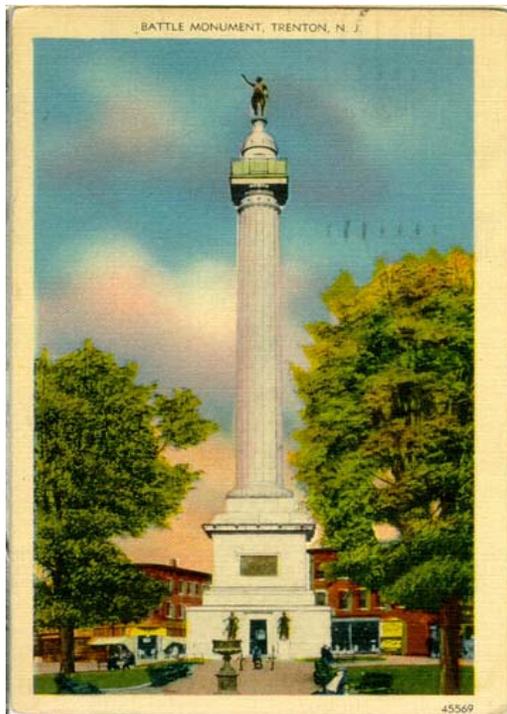
Oklahoma City Chapter Sons of the American Revolution



March 2018

Heading by Megan Sanford

Next meeting is Monday, March 12, 6 PM dinner, 7 PM meeting at Rococo's, North Park Mall



NJ battle monument needs sponsor

The Trenton Battle Monument is a project in search of a sponsor. The soaring memorial to the Battle of Trenton which is widely credited with helping turn the tide in the American Revolution is closed to visitors and has been for too long.

The existing elevator, the only way to reach the top of the 148-foot granite column, is more than a century old - and neither safe nor operational.

Scott Miller, a man who works and lives near the monument, is passionate about having it reopen, and runs a Facebook group called "Friends of the Trenton Battle Monument."

It took years for the monument to progress from concept to reality—more than 100 of them, as it turned out. And even then, when the structure finally was ready for visitors in 1893, its builders didn't have the cash to pay for an elevator. That amenity came three years later: a state-of-the-art Otis elevator, the same one that now stands empty since the state's Department of Environmental Protection closed it down about four years ago. More than a dozen firms contacted by the DEP's Division of Parks and Forestry since then have said the renovation's cost would be sky high - appropriate terminology when you're talking about an elevator, prohibitive when you're talking about a city whose annual budget is already strained to the max.

The hollow Roman-Doric fluted column of the monument is constructed of granite, as is the pedestal which supports it. The column is capped by a small, round pavilion, forming an observation deck; accessible by means of an electric elevator, that has provided thousands of tourists an excellent view of the city and the surrounding scene of the battle. Encircling the column, just above the cap, thirteen electric lights, symbolizing the original Thirteen Colonies, shed their radiance at night.

Featured Program Civil War in Indian Territory



Many are unaware that the state of Oklahoma hosted several civil war battles. Not Mike Sheriff, however. Battles in Cabin Creek, Honey Springs, Perryville, and Middle Boggy Depot were an important part of the war. These battles were all within what we now know as Oklahoma, which was Indian Territory at that time.

Mike, an avid historian, is an authority on the Civil War, the Revolutionary War, early day cattle drives, and he portrays many living history characters. He has a BSA in Electrical Engineering from OSU and a MBA from OCU. He retired from OG&E after 40+ years where he was responsible for projects totaling more than \$1 Billion.



The Weapon that Won the War

The 'Brown Bess' or the Long Land Pattern Musket and its variations were designed and produced from the year 1722 into the mid-1800s by the British Empire. It was used in service by both sides during the Revolutionary War. Unlike modern weapons, the musket was slow to load, inaccurate, and frequently unreliable. The Brown Bess fired round lead balls, some the size of a quarter. With such an inaccurate gun, soldiers were often massed tightly together, firing a shower of lead balls at the enemy. For charges and fighting at close quarters, soldiers fixed deadly, spear-like bayonets to the ends of their muskets.

Six Foreign-Born Patriots You Should Know

Tadeusz Kościuszko

Polish military officer Tadeusz Kościuszko arrived in the United States in the summer of 1776, having been forced to flee his homeland after an unsuccessful attempt to elope with a general's daughter. Commissioned a colonel by the Continental Congress, the 30-year-old soon established himself as one of the Continental Army's most brilliant combat engineers.



Following the fall of Fort Ticonderoga in 1777, Kościuszko oversaw the damming of rivers and the destruction of bridges to delay the British advance. He was also instrumental in setting up the fortifications that secured the Continentals' crucial victory at the Battle of Saratoga. After spending two years beefing up the defenses of West Point, Kościuszko transferred to the war's Southern theater in 1780 and served under General Nathanael Greene, who placed him in charge of building fortifications, scouting territory and constructing troop transport boats.

Always a staunch believer in the revolutionary cause—he supposedly wept the first time he read the Declaration of Independence—Kościuszko later returned home after the war and became a leading figure in Poland's conflicts with Russia and Prussia. Thomas Jefferson, who struck up a friendship with Kościuszko, would later call him "as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known."



▪For **membership** inquiries, contact Chapter Registrar Bob Thomas at 405.737.6181 or rbjthomas@sbcglobal.net. For membership transfers, contact Secretary George Thompson at 405.722.1286 or gdt40@cox.net.

▪For **website** inquiries (<http://okssar.com>), contact Glenn Lee at 405.216.3275 or gleeedmond@gmail.com.

▪Like us on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/okcsar.

▪Join the **Color Guard** by contacting Commander Terry Handley at 405.285.4933 or thandley1@me.com.

▪Chapter **meetings** are held on the second Monday of every month except June, July, and August, at Rococo's, 122nd & North May Ave in the North Park Mall in Oklahoma City. Members and their guests meet at 6 PM to place dinner orders with the business meeting starting at 7 PM.

▪**SAR Sentinel** is published monthly except June, July, and August. Article suggestions should be sent to Todd Murray at toddmurray65@att.net.

