



Talking Points

***“We are not building this country of ours for a day.
It is to last through the ages..”
Theodore Roosevelt, President and SAR member***

Introducing the SAR

- ◆ The NSSAR has been headquartered in Louisville since 1979 and celebrated its 30th anniversary in February 2009; a well kept secret that we intend to keep secret no more.
- ◆ We are a historical, educational, patriotic lineage organization with more than 28,000 members in the US, Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom and Europe.
- ◆ Founded in 1889, SAR fosters appreciation for American freedoms, patriotism and citizenship through keeping alive memories of those who supported the cause for independence or who fought in the Revolutionary War.
- ◆ Chartered by an Act of Congress in 1906 (President Teddy Roosevelt was a member), SAR chapters now number 535 throughout the country including Kentucky. We are proud of the 16 United States Presidents that are among our membership.
- ◆ In 1927, SAR established an office in Washington D.C. to house the books and records of members and their genealogical records; SAR was a major force in the development of the National Archives in D.C.
- ◆ Our collection has now grown to more than 59,000 books, periodicals, journals and microfilm; we are a national resource for information on the Revolution and early American history; our SAR Genealogical Research

Library's growth is just one of the reasons that we expanding and moving our entire operation to West Main Street.

- ◆ Our library and exhibits make us a necessary resource for scholars, schools, civic groups and the general public; we partner with other museums and agencies to further develop programming and experiences for students.
- ◆ Each fall for the past three years, we have hosted a Naturalization Ceremony attended each time by nearly 200 new citizens as they took the oath to become part of the fabric of this community and our country; our Color Guard played a significant role in reminding us and our new citizens how important our country's symbols are.

Introducing the Center for Advancing America's Heritage

- ◆ The Center for Advancing America's Heritage is the public face of the Sons of the American Revolution's outreach education initiatives. The remaining purchased space of the former Fulton Conway Building, 805 – 809 West Main Street, will be a destination point for school groups, community and civic organizations, as well as residents and tourists.
- ◆ The three-phase project will culminate in The Center offering the community and its members a genealogical research library, museum with traveling exhibits, educational facilities, and the offices of the national headquarters.
- ◆ To ensure that the SAR is able to secure and protect its collections and to broaden the scope of its activities to reach more students and families, the leadership voted in 2008 to establish The Center for Advancing America's Heritage.
- ◆ As a result, the leadership has placed the current headquarters building on South Fourth Street up for sale.
- ◆ We feel strongly that this new location not only affords us more space (40,000 square feet) and an opportunity to upgrade our facilities, but it also puts us in the heart of Louisville's thriving tourist district, and will allow us to better partner and participate with each of you and the exciting activities in this area.
- ◆ We intend The Center to be its own buzz of activity from visitors researching their family roots to enjoying a nationally recognized speaker to participating in workshops, summer camps, and school field trips.

Phase I: The SAR Genealogical Research Library

- ◆ On Sept. 25, 2010, Phase I the SAR Genealogical Research Library was completed and a dedication ceremony was conducted. The library is located in the western most section of the Fulton Conway Building.
- ◆ The library mission statement reads, “The mission of the SAR Genealogical Research Library is to maintain and enlarge the collection of genealogical and historical materials available for research by SAR members and the general public. Additional, it is to acquire and preserve records of the American Revolution and foster and encourage historical research in relation to that historical period.
- ◆ The primary goal of the SAR Genealogical Library is to provide a means of information storage and preservation of historical and genealogical materials. The basic objective of the library is to increase the quantity of the collection and, at the same time, improve its quality. Focus is on collection, communication, modernization, and expansion.
- ◆ The library's new location at 809 West Main Street includes a rare collections room for special exhibits. The Mary and James S. Craik, Jr. Room features the George Washington Book Collection in addition to rotating museum exhibits. These exhibits will showcase the SAR museum collection as well as items on loan from other institutions. An exhibit highlight is a rare miniature of Dr. James Craik, painted during the winter encampment at Valley Forge (1777) by Charles Willson Peale.
- ◆ The library's total collection, excluding the SAR Archives, was 21,000 items in 1988 and has grown to 59,000 items as of 2011.
- ◆ The SAR has collected American Revolutionary-era histories, genealogies, and state and county histories, since its founding in 1889. By 1926, the SAR had acquired 225 books, which became the nucleus for the first library in 1927 at a Washington, D.C. location.
- ◆ The SAR Genealogical Research Library's new web site (library.sar.org) is a fresh resource that will give visitors near and far on line access to information that will help them plan their trip to the library or enhance their research efforts off site.
- ◆ The library generates significant traffic from our own membership as well as from scholars and researchers; we also see this as an event venue and an opportunity for us to tell the story of our future plans.
- ◆ At the conclusion of Phase II, we will relocate our national headquarters offices and fulfill our goal to complete the Center for Advancing America's Heritage.

Fundraising for Phase II

- ◆ SAR membership has been very supportive of Phase I, having supplied much of the funding to buy the building and preserve and protect the site. We have enjoyed public and private support for this phase. The Genealogical Research Library cost \$2.7 million.
- ◆ Funding to complete the build-out of Phases II is estimated at \$5 Million.
- ◆ Our capital campaign continues to generate funds for this need from throughout the community and the nation and we expect continuing support from our members, other individuals, corporations and foundations.

Another Community Asset

- ◆ We see the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution's expanding Center for Advancing America's Heritage as a tremendous opportunity for this community:
- ◆ It raises the positive awareness of Louisville on regional and national levels through increased chapter activity across the nation.
- ◆ It complements the educational and entertainment activity already existing on West Main Street – Museum Row.
- ◆ It creates another opportunity for Louisville to be a travel and tourist destination; for scholars, history organizations, students, authors and SAR members; helps to keep visitors here longer.
- ◆ It adds to the investment energy of downtown, particularly Main Street.
- ◆ It preserves another one of our iron front façade buildings along West Main.
- ◆ It provides another educational and historical amenity for downtown residents; extends our classrooms even further by providing a terrific student experience guided by national and state education standards.
- ◆ The Center for Advancing America's Heritage will provide an opportunity to further promote democracy and freedom for citizens of all nations. Now more than ever we must preserve and sharpen the national memory of the freedoms our patriot ancestors provided.