

Genealogy, History, and Lineage Society Programs

Terry Manning – Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution

(Revised April 6, 2016)

The following programs provide a listing of some of the subject areas that I can speak on at club or chapter meetings. Most are presented in uniform or costume related to the subject (General George Washington, President George Washington, militia man, Uncle Sam, Christopher Columbus, American Indian, etc.). (See the last page for a brief biography.)

There has been a growing trend by some lineage groups for requests for 15-minute programs. Please contact other speakers if your group has such a restriction. The following programs are typically about 30 minutes or can be limited to 30 minutes. Commute times from the metro-Atlanta area and set-up for some of the programs can constitute a significant investment of time by the speaker, so extremely short presentations can no longer be accommodated due to the many demands on my schedule.

History Subjects

New in 2016 – “George Washington and the Newburgh Conspiracy” – The story of how General Washington saved the republic with a pair of spectacles and prevented becoming the King of America.” (Short – 15-minute program)

New in 2016 – “John Paul Jones – Sailor, Hero, & Father of the American Navy” – The story of John Paul Jones and his lifetime of political challenge to become an American hero.

New in 2016 – “George Washington and the Creek Indians – The McGillivray Moment” – Washington’s views and diplomacy in dealing with the Creek Indians circa 1790.

New in 2016 - “Christopher Columbus – The Four Voyages” – The fascinating story of the man who opened the New World to discovery and who fumbled away his empire.

New in 2016 – “John Paul Jones’ Other Adventures” – Sea captain John Paul Jones is famous for his adventures on the *Bonhomme Richard*, but there is much more to his story, including an admiralty with the Russian navy.

“Martha Washington – A Brief Biography” – Her obituary noted that, “She was the worthy partner of the worthiest of men.” Learn more about this Founding Mother.

“Court-Martial Findings of the Revolutionary War” – What type of punishment did a soldier receive for theft, desertion, and other offenses? You’ll be surprised at the often unusual punishments assigned by court-martials of the time.

“Georgia Resident David Bushnell: Inventor of the “Turtle” Submarine” - David Bushnell invented a wooden submarine for use against British shipping during the Revolutionary War. His discovery for exploding gunpowder underwater and creating a time bomb led to the Battle of the Kegs during the war and later impacted the War of 1812. He later moved to Georgia where he taught in the universities and lived out his life in Warrenton. (Also discusses the Civil War *Hunley* submarine.)

“The Creation & Development of Gunpowder” – An overview of the accidents that led to the discovery of gunpowder and how it changed warfare forever, leading to the invention of the cannon and gun.

“Social Events in the 18th Century” – An overview of the “Gentleman’s Frolic,” “Tea Time for the Ladies,” and “Fan Language”

“Home Life in Colonial Days: The Family Meal Time” – The first fork in America, the trencher, the voider, and other tidbits about sources and types of early tableware and accessories and mealtime practices.

“Dr. Durham’s Cures: An Early Physician’s Unique Use of Medicinal Herbs” – A whimsical look at early “cures” for a variety of maladies. Who knew that applying a fresh rabbit skin to one’s jaws could cure the mumps!

“Myths of the Revolution” – Leeches, closet taxes, poisonous tomatoes, people dying younger, leading causes of death...

“Washington the Spy Master & the Art of Spying During the American Revolution” – The American Revolution brought a new kind of warfare into being and it required a new method of spying. Learn about Washington’s innovations and how the Culper Ring was operated out of British occupied New York.

“The Impact of Naval Traditions, Customs, & Superstitions on the English Language – and a Few Other Navy Tidbits” – A sailor has a variety of unusual terms used to describe the parts of a ship and a sailor’s life which all veterans are familiar with, many of which are common to everyday civilian life as well. Learn the interesting and sometimes comical sources of many of these terms such as poop deck, starboard, and skull and crossbones and learn the origins of many other superstitions, customs, and traditions that you thought you knew about.

“The Underground Railroad Quilt Code: Fact or Fiction” – Quilters are familiar with stories about quilts being used as signals or educational tools during the Civil War to direct slaves from the South to freedom in the North via the Underground Railroad. What were these codes and were they really used? The **Quilts of Valor** program is also discussed – a program in which today’s quilters across America create patriotically themed quilts for donation to soldiers wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“The Traveling Trunks” – We bring our Traveling Trunks (the largest collection in Georgia) of colonial era household, clothing, school, Indian, and military items for show and tell. **Lots of fun for everyone and our most popular program!** (Note An half-hour set-up time and half-hour break-down time is needed to present this program. Two or three 6-foot tables are also needed if possible.)

“American Indian Wars (1620 – 1755)” – An overview of the Indian wars that weakened the Indian nations and contributed to the European settlement of North America and their impact on Indian participation in the Seven Years War and the Revolutionary War.

“Native American Weapons” – A brief history of the use and development of weapons among the American Indians east of the Mississippi.

“Captured by the Indians” – Stories of whites captured by Indians and their experiences until released or escaped. (Includes examples of stories of torture and atrocities against captives, and is not recommended for some audiences.)

“The Battle of Kettle Creek – February 14, 1779” – An overview of this turning point in Georgia’s and America’s history.

“Clothing and Weapons of the Revolutionary War” – This program can vary widely depending on the time frame allotted and is done in colonial attire. With sufficient advance notice, female clothing can also be covered by a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution in colonial attire.

“Revolutionary War Trivia Challenge” – A game of Revolutionary War tidbits. Teams or a couple of individuals can compete against each other for prizes or points to the entertainment of the other members. A fun activity in which you can pit your SAR members against their DAR wives, officers against general membership, or one team of members against another. It can also be done in a lecture style with individuals competing just against themselves. Each multiple choice question has at least one answer to tickle the funny bone. (Overhead projector format - which I can provide)

“Sea Power in the Revolutionary War” – A discussion of the governmental and privateer British, French, and American sea power leading up to and during the war. Given in navy “slops” – the sailor’s uniform of the period.

“The Making of Santa Claus: 1773 to the Present” – The history of Santa Claus from his early origins as a version of St. Nicholas circa 1773 in New York to the jolly old elf we know today. Given in St. Nicholas costume. Perfect for November and December programs.

“Oglethorpe’s Folly: The Founding of Georgia” – The story of the man behind the founding of the Georgia colony and the challenges that faced Georgia’s creation.

Prisoners of War Prison Ships – An overview of the British prison ships in New York City and the monument inspired to honor the Revolutionary War veterans that died in them.

Patriotic Subjects

The Story of the Liberty Bell – How the bell came into being; served the populations of Philadelphia, New Orleans, & San Francisco; was hidden during the Revolution, gained its famous crack; and earned its name.

The Constitution and Compromise – A short program appropriate for Constitution Week that highlights Benjamin Franklin’s viewpoints on the strengths and weaknesses of the Constitutional Convention.

“Flag History – Flags Over American Since 1620” – the development of the American Flag from its British origins to present day using a collection of about 20 full size flags. Various battle flags of the Revolutionary War are included in the presentation depending upon the audience. **This is another popular program for young or old.**

Genealogy Subjects

New in 2016 - “Using Military and Related Records in Family Research” – There are hundreds if not thousands of military records that cite the names of our ancestors, but they seldom provide much more information. However, military related records such as draft registrations, pension applications, and bounty distributions can provide useful information to aid in your continued research.

“Platting Metes and Bounds” – An exercise in using old land records to determine the outline and possible location of an ancestor’s land holdings.

“Creating Your Home Genealogy Library” – An overview of a dozen important general reference books to keep in your home library.

“Using Census Records To Trace Your Ancestry Back to 1790” – An overview of the types of information found in census records and how to move from one census year back to the next in tracing your ancestors.

“Tombstone Tips” – How to use, interpret, and care for tombstones.

“Your Rights Regarding Your Ancestor’s Burial Site” – Information regarding protection and access to old burial sites.

“Write Your Family History As You Go” – Tips for compiling your family genealogy in narrative format using document citations and using it to further your genealogy road trips.

“Genealogy Collections in Georgia” – Traveling about Georgia? This program outlines some of the genealogy collections housed across the state.

“Navigating Some of the Trials and Tribulations of Using Census Records on Ancestry.com” – tips for finding that ancestor that must be there in the census records, making the most use of your timeline, and avoiding those false ancestors before 1850

“Spruce Up Your Family Story” – Tips for inserting and using footnotes, adding photos, relying on the census, and adding “what if’s” and “maybe’s” to your family history.

General Interest

“Whimsy in the Media” – The humor behind recent newspaper headlines is the subject of this monologue.

“Colonial Origins to Modern Sayings” – What did, “Pulling Your Leg,” “the King Pin,” “In the nick of time,” and other common sayings today mean when they first originated during colonial times?

“Onomastics – The Study of Surname Origins” - This program explores the history of last names and such subjects as naming patterns by our ancestors. It is equally of interest to persons not involved in genealogy as well as those studying family history.

“Find It in 60 Seconds or Less” – Tips for readily organizing and finding information in your home genealogy collection or for organizing your records as an officer or member of a club or organization. Provides tips for managing multiple projects in a busy schedule.

“Creating an Award-Winning Scrapbook of Your Lineage Society Experiences” – Tips for finding scrapbook artwork and papers, for creating interesting pages, and for documenting your activities or those of your chapter, officers, spouse, or club.

“Managing Your Time with a Simple Diary System” – A methodology for prioritizing and scheduling the paperwork in your life. Tips for juggling the paperwork involved in the 12 positions you hold or the 6 organizations you belong to.

Sons of the American Revolution

“Sponsoring a Grave Marking or Monument Dedication” – Simple steps and examples of programs for hosting a dedication for a Revolutionary War soldier or compatriot member.

“Tips for Improving Your Americanism Scoring” – An overview of scoring methods in SAR’s Americanism Contest.

“Everything You Ever Wanted To Know about the SAR But Were Afraid To Ask” – An overview of SAR programs.

“Georgia Society SAR – Q & A Session” – A question and answer session on subjects related to SAR.

“Secrets of the SAR That Every DAR Member Should Know” – (Sorry, I can’t put any of it in writing.)

“Completing an SAR Application” – An overview of completing an SAR application.

“The Georgia Society Web Site and Source Book” – An overview of information located on the web.

Other programs can be provided on almost any subject related to SAR programs.

Children of the American Revolution

“Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About the C.A.R.” – Ideas for sponsoring or managing a local chapter.

Miscellaneous

“Veterans Administration Horror Stories” – Your tax dollars at waste! Hear about the \$2 million box of mice, the \$250,000 scanner too big to fit in the building, the hospital with no elevators in its elevator shafts, and many other interesting, amazing, and humorous stories of the Veterans Administration’s waste of your tax dollars from the files of a 20-year Inspector General program auditor.



Terry is a graduate of Ohio State University and was a radarman for 4 years in the United States Navy. He is a retired Auditor-in-Charge for the Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Inspector General. He and his wife Ginny of 45 years live in Lilburn in Gwinnett County.

His favorite pastimes are genealogy and landscape gardening. He has traced his lineage to 32 Revolutionary War patriots and 183 family surnames and he maintains a half-acre flower garden at his home. He is a descendant of Jamestown lineage and his wife of Mayflower heritage.

Terry is a recipient of DAR's Medal of Honor and Community Service awards and of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution's Stewart Boone McCarty award for education outreach. He served in 2009 as the Georgia Society SAR's State President and as the Atlanta Chapter President from 2012-2015.



Christopher Columbus



Continental Congress Delegate



Uncle Sam