

Patriot Biographies/Records, Annual Report, 2021

This past reporting year, 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 has been a very big one for Patriot Biographies and Records. All Maryland's activities related to the SAR Patriot Research System (PRS), where those biographies reside. There were four separate thrusts in relation to the PRS: Application Data Entry, PRS Biography Expansion to Add the Maryland 400, Expanding the PRS Cemetery List, and the 20 in 2020 in PRS Challenge.

Maryland Application Data Entry (MADE) Project

The PRS has a nation-wide project to enter into the PRS all available, approved SAR applications. As this data will transition into an eventually implemented SAR Genealogical Research System (GRS), this work will give SAR the equivalent capabilities of the DAR GRS. The current phase is to do data entry for all applications approved since 1985. The PRS allots each state society the approved applications for all SAR members whose most recent assignment was that state society; these are further assigned to the chapter where that member was most recently assigned. For the past year, Maryland has been in what I refer to as "Maintenance Mode": every chapter and the state society as a whole were completely entered, with occasional drops from 100% as more approved applications were added to the system. The additions are not only from newly approved applications, but also several sources of older applications: (1) all applications since the introduction of the Accounting Control Numbers (A.C.N.s) that were introduced in the mid-1990s; (2) all applications from 1979 on (when the SAR Headquarters moved from Washington, DC to Louisville, KY); and (3) SAR applications that ancestry.com scanned in a sharing arrangement with SAR for all applications stretching back to the start of the society and up to about 1972. All these have been appearing for further data entry over the course of the year.

These additions are not small, either. At the start of this reporting period we were around 2,300 application lineages completely entered; at the end of the reporting period we were around 2,500. Our team of volunteers were not idle, either. Between keeping us in Maintenance mode and helping out other state societies also get to Maintenance Mode, many logged a large number of volunteer hours. As mentioned in previous reports, with enough hours, one may earn the Lafayette Volunteer Medal. The national PRS team has a formula that allots time to the completion of application data entry, the related summaries of patriots associated with those applications, and with the entry of cemetery information related to the burial sites of patriots. Those who completed 40 hours of equivalent volunteer time received the Lafayette volunteer medal. Every 40 hours above that gets a bronze Oak leaf cluster; a silver replaces every five bronze Oak leaves and gold every two silvers. Those MADE men who earned the medal this year were:

- For 2920 volunteer hours, Mike Allison (MD10): Certificate, 7 gold OLCs, 3 bronze OLCs
- For 1760 volunteer hours, Ray Lazzaro (MD09): Certificate, 4 gold OLCs, 4 bronze OLCs
- For 1280 volunteer hours, John Turner (MD03): Certificate, 3 gold OLCs, 2 bronze OLCs
- For 1120 volunteer hours, Craig Smith (MD11): Certificate, 2 gold OLCs, 1 silver OLC, 3 bronze OLCs
- For 800 volunteer hours, Gary Neal (MD05): Certificate, 2 gold OLCs, 1 silver OLC, 3 bronze OLCs
- For 320 volunteer hours, James Engler (MD13): Certificate, 1 silver OLC, 3 bronze OLCs
- For 160 volunteer hours, Michael Stottle (MD10): Medal, Certificate, 3 bronze OLCs
- For 80 volunteer hours, H Lucas Ginn (MD02): Certificate, 2 bronze OLCs
- For 40 volunteer hours, Christopher Smithson (MD09): Medal, Certificate
- For 40 volunteer hours, Ronald Nielson (MD06): Medal, Certificate
- For 40 volunteer hours, Dan Symonds (MD05): Certificate

Individuals with hours remaining above the number listed above will have them credited toward efforts for this upcoming year.

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I'd like to thank all of our Compatriots for stepping forward to help out, independent of how many they eventually did. I'd encourage all to continue and renew their efforts to help out SAR nationally on this on-going effort. While there are a great number of state societies who haven't started the process yet, I've urged our Maryland volunteers to start with our fellow state societies in the Atlantic Middle States Association (AMSA). Taken as a whole, the state societies of the AMSA represent about one out of every five applications that are in the PRS. Overall, the AMSA to date has entered just over 67% of its total (nationally, about 74% have been entered). When compared to where the system was the previous year, 26% of the AMSA total (nationally, about 24%), it is thanks to the efforts of Maryland Volunteers and compatriots around the country that such tremendous progress has been made, especially considering that over that same period the AMSA had over 2,750 more applications added for processing. As of this report, this is how the larger SAR project stands for the AMSA, composed of the Mid-Atlantic (the state societies of Virginia, District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania) and the North Atlantic (New York [Empire State] and New Jersey) Districts:

Society	Record Copy Available	Complete Lineage	Percent Done
Virginia	7381	4014	54.38%
Pennsylvania	6231	4495	72.14%
Maryland	2511	2499	99.52%
Delaware	1197	1196	99.92%
District of Columbia	1110	1110	100.00%
Empire State (NY)	4668	1653	35.41%
New Jersey	2072	2058	99.32%
TOTALS	25170	17025	67.64%

Biography Expansion

The pace over the past year has been lower than the previous reporting period, when the Maryland 400 (Maryland First Regiment, 1776) was progressing. Total numbers across SAR did increase, as shown below.

Chapter	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 to date	Total
SGT Lawrence Everhart	17	6	1	0	0	0	0	24
GEN William Smallwood	19	4	1	3	0	0	0	27
Christian Ardingner	7	2	4	1	0	1	0	15
COL John Eager Howard	79	1	0	0	0	0	0	80
COL Nicholas Ruxton Moore	28	1	0	0	3	0	0	32
John Paul Jones	10	4	3	0	6	0	0	23
COL Henry Hollingsworth	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
COL Tench Tilghman	8	6	0	0	1	0	0	15
COL Aquila Hall	44	0	10	0	0	1	1	56
Charles Carroll of Carrollton	18	0	0	1	0	1	6	26
John Hanson	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
CAPT John Smoot	22	1	0	1	0	1	1	26
Westminster	24	0	11	2	3	0	0	40
Thomas Stone	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	7
Little Meadows	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
AT-LARGE/Maryland State Societ	2	1	0	8	864	1	0	876
Total MDSSAR	298	26	33	16	878	4	8	1263
Cumulative MDSSAR	298	324	357	373	1251	1255		1263
Total NSSAR	3742	880	1635	2124	5236	2619	280	
Cumulative NSSAR	3742	4622	6257	8381	13617	16236		16516

Cemetery List Expansion

Part of the PRS Patriot Summaries is entering information on any known burial site. In entering the information, PRS also requests a cemetery identifier and is adding cemeteries to its overall list. During the MADE project main phase, I saw a number of cemeteries in Maryland added to the list. There has been some discussion about getting chapters to collect their cemetery information for a batch method of adding them all at once to the PRS. I have gotten in touch with our state chairman on Memorials and Graves, and hope that we may work out a method of making certain that every cemetery or grave site where patriots are buried in Maryland can be added to the PRS. Below is the count of cemeteries recorded in the PRS for Maryland as of the January 2021 Board of Managers Meeting, compared to where we stood on 01 January 2020. Due to the way the report is set up in the PRS, I was unable to obtain the count for this report at the end of the reporting period. I will try to provide an update in the next report to the Board of Managers. A more detailed breakdown can be provided on request.

County	Data As of 01 Jan 2020		Data As of 08 Jan 2021	
	Number of Cemeteries	Number of Patriots Buried	Number of Cemeteries	Number of Patriots Buried
Allegany	7	7	10	11
Anne Arundel	9	9	14	19
Baltimore City	5	17	6	24
Baltimore	13	16	19	26
Calvert	0	0	2	2
Caroline	2	2	2	2
Carroll	16	22	23	44
Cecil	6	8	11	18
Charles	5	7	7	10
Dorchester	8	13	11	21
Frederick	26	38	42	75
Garrett	2	2	5	6
Harford	6	9	7	12
Howard	5	5	6	6
Kent	6	6	8	10
Montgomery	6	8	13	18
Prince George's	5	6	10	11
Queen Anne's	1	1	3	4
Somerset	5	5	6	6
St. Mary's	5	6	6	10
Talbot	2	2	2	2
Washington	15	17	31	46
Wicomico	3	3	3	3
Worcester	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	159	210	248	387

20 in 2020

In early February 2020 I put out a challenge over SAR-OFFICER for every state society to follow the Maryland Model of our MADE Project. I took our chart (see MADE Project section) to the NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting to show the members of the Council of State Presidents to show that it is feasible with a dedicated team of sufficient size to enter 5% of a society's applications each week and attain 100% completion (i.e., Maintenance Mode) in 20 weeks. It turned out 2020 was a great year for data entry, probably because most people were

sheltering in place due to Covid-19. Nationally, with a surge in volunteers, by the end of 2020 the number of states in Maintenance Mode jumped from eight (about 14% of all societies) to 31 (about 54%). At the end of the reporting period, the number had grown to 35 (about 60%), with several SAR districts also attaining Maintenance Mode. In looking at the data, not too many actually did 20 in 2020, but the result was the same: a marked increase in the completion rates across SAR.

Conclusion

Our volunteers are standing by for more applications as they arise in the MADE project, and we'd be glad to get more volunteers, especially as some of ours go off to help other state societies with their efforts. Chapters are still encouraged to make every effort to add more Patriot Biographies to the national PRS and to become involved in the Application transcription project. Volunteers to the latter who do enough entries may qualify for the SAR Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal. The medal requires 40 hours of service; as the average time for data entry is around a half hour, a volunteer would need to enter 80 applications. Maryland can expect to see several thousand more in need of transcription over time. For the present, I serve as the Maryland Point of Contact.

Respectfully,

James F. Engler, Sr.
Patriot Biographies Chair