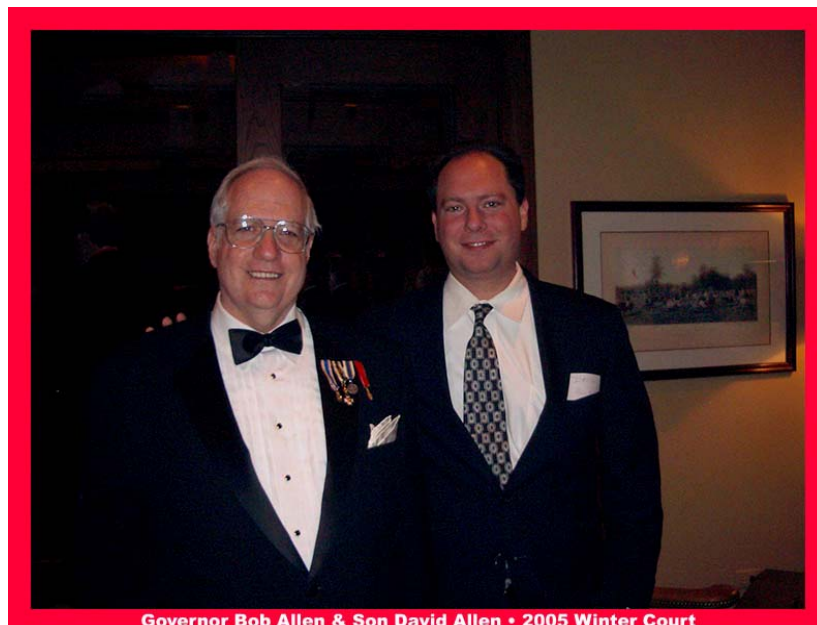


**Volume III, No. 1**  
Spring, 2006

## **REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR**

Welcome to Volume III, No. 1 of *Muskets & Arrows*. Past Governor George Burditt has taken on the task of publishing our newsletter and asked me to report on our activities. I structured my message in terms of the planning time frames the Council and Executive Committee are facing.

- ❖ **Immediate Future:** Executive Committee meeting, noon, February 21, 2005 at the residence of Past Governor George M. Burditt. The Executive Committee would like you to meet with us even if you are not a member of the committee. We welcome you to get involved. We would enjoy having your input about current Society management. Please RSVP at [Gburditt@bellboyd.com](mailto:Gburditt@bellboyd.com). Agenda items include: our charitable giving program, Life Membership, Summer Court, and a proposal from Dr. Timothy Breen, Northwestern University Department of History for the Illinois Society to sponsor an annual lecture on early American history. This last item will be discussed at both our Executive Committee and Summer and Winter Courts. This will entail fund raising on our part if we move forward on this issue. We will need to achieve a consensus on this topic as we approach this issue, hence the long time frame.
- ❖ A combined **General Membership/Council Meeting** is on the drawing boards to be held at Noon at the Union League Club. The date is set for March 14. Look for a separate meeting notice in your mail in the next few weeks.



**Governor Bob Allen & Son David Allen • 2005 Winter Court**

- ❖ **Event Planning:** Past Governor Albert Tippens and I met on December 21, 2005 to discuss the 2006 Summer Court which has been set for Saturday, May 20 at Shoreacres Country Club. We will be moving away from the High Tea format towards a 5:30 PM Court followed by a 6:30 PM dinner with a choice of entrées. Should you have any ideas for our program we are open to suggestions.
- ❖ **Finances:** The outgoing Treasurer has transferred signing authority at our Northern Trust Co. and Fidelity Investment Co. accounts to our incoming Treasurer, Robert Moulton-Ely. Bob put our financial statements on the Internet. While the numbers as well as our membership directory is password protected, the availability of this information to all is a real accomplishment. Bob deserves our kudos for bringing us forward in terms of the communication of information. Bob has also added photographs taken at various meetings and events to the website. Please send Bob an email at [bob-ely@aya.yale.edu](mailto:bob-ely@aya.yale.edu) requesting a password. Our website can be found at: [www.ilscw.org](http://www.ilscw.org).
- ❖ **Membership:** Eight members of the Society attended a two-hour meeting at the Ridgeview Grill, Wilmette on January 21, 2006. Past Governor and current Registrar Philip Jones led us through a discussion of approximately 28 individuals who had contacted the Society in the past. We tried to develop a strategy of who would be the best contact for each prospective member and what questions we should put to them as to why they have not completed their "Long Form". Our goal is to find out what kind of help we could provide to move their membership process closer to completion. One name has already been forwarded to our national office.
- ❖ **Vendors:** I have visited Alumni & Association Services, Inc. twice since being elected Governor. We are very pleased to have them compose, print and mail our newsletters and meeting notices. I also visited The Kenilworth Press to speak with the owner. I thought it would be a good idea that finally we meet one another since we have had many telephone conversations.

Robert E. Allen, Governor  
Illinois Society of Colonial Wars

## GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING

Louis M. Freeman, Chairman of the 100<sup>th</sup> General Council of the General Society reports that as a result of the damage to New Orleans from Hurricane Katrina, the Louisiana Society has moved the venue of the May 11-14, 2006 General Council to the Sawgrass Marriott Resort and Beach Club in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Located 30 minutes from the Jacksonville International Airport, and near historic St. Augustine, FL, the resort offers warriors and their guests many activities including a magnificent spa, three golf courses, a private beach club, tennis, horseback riding, and many others on the 4800 acre campus.

An attractive room rate of \$160 per night is available if you identify yourself as a member of the Society. Call 1-800-457-GOLF to reserve space.

The opening reception on Thursday will be the first official event; business sessions will as usual be on Friday and Saturday mornings. Departure will be after a brunch on Sunday. You can also count on an interesting tour of St. Augustine, as well as adequate time to enjoy your favorite outdoor activities. Full details are in the winter issue of the Gazette, or you may write to Mr. Freeman at 6028 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70118. [freesia@bellsouth.net](mailto:freesia@bellsouth.net).

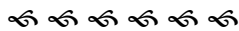
## PROFESSOR TIMOTHY HALL BREEN

Timothy Hall Breen, currently the William Smith Mason Professor of American History at Northwestern University has helped a number of cooperative relationships with the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Illinois. He is particularly appreciative of the generous support of graduate student research in the field of Early American and Revolutionary History. Over the years grants from the Society has allowed several top scholars to visit archives throughout the world. Among those who have employed these funds most successfully are Patrick Griffin of Ohio University, Timothy Shannon of Gettysburg College, Frank Lambert of Purdue University, Timothy Hall of Central Michigan, Christopher Hodson of the University of Pennsylvania, and Stephen Innes of the University of Virginia.

Professor Breen received his B.A. (*cum laude*), M.A. and Ph.D. (with distinction) from Yale University. He later was awarded an honorary M.A. from Oxford University. He has held a number of fellowships, among which are the Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions at Cambridge University (Trinity College), The Alexander von Humboldt Research Prize at the Max Planck Institute for History at Göttingen University, and the Harmsworth Professorship in American History at Oxford University. Breen has received a number of awards for his teaching and writing, including the Society of Colonial Wars prize for the outstanding book on the American Revolution (*The Marketplace of Revolution*, Oxford University Press, 2004). In the acknowledgments, Breen writes:

*I owe a particular debt of gratitude to the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Illinois. Many years ago, Ron Waud, then the Governor of the Society, decided to help underwrite my efforts, and at no time over almost a decade did either he or his generous colleagues ever stop cheering me on.*

Breen has written a number of books and articles on the many different aspects of Early American History. Among the better known titles are *Tobacco Culture: The Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of the American Revolution*, *Imagining the Past*, and *'Myne Owne Ground': Race and Freedom on Virginia's Eastern Shore* (with Stephen Innes). Breen is currently completing a study entitled *American's Insurgency: Popular Political Resistance During the Last Year's of Imperial Rule*.



Tom Knorr, Sean Carroll & Louis Sudler • 2005 Winter Court

## WINTER COURT

The Illinois Society's customary Winter Court was held at Sunset Ridge Country Club on November 17, 2005. Twenty-Six members and guests attended – the exact number by which the Kentucky Society's membership *increased* in 2005! The Illinois Society has added one member, Steve D. Barnhart, and eight provisional members in 2005. Of the 28 current provisional members, ten have been in that category for three years or more.

Sean Carroll, son of Deputy Governor General Barry Carroll, has accepted the responsibility of forming a board of younger members.

Howell Browne moved the election of the following officers:

Bennet Botsford Harvey, Jr.	Deputy Governor General
Robert Earl Allen	Governor
Henry Weber Meers, Jr.	Deputy Governor
M. John Dyrud	Lieutenant Governor
Thomas Hunter Knorr, Jr.	Secretary
William H. Parke	Assistant Secretary
Andrew Jackson Valentine	Chancellor
Robert Moulton-Ely	Treasurer
Philip Newton Jones	Registrar

Mr. Browne also nominated the following gentlemen of the Council to serve until the next Winter Court:

Steven Daniel Barnhart	Thomas Wiley Carr	Arthur Pray Rice
Renton Kirkwood Brodie III	A. Carter Howard	David Sweet
John Adams Bross	William Jenison Larned	Thomas J. Van Heule, Sr.
Robert Lee Burell	Robert Curtis Preble, Jr.	Charles T. Wehland

All of the nominees were elected unanimously.

Thanks to Bob Moulton-Ely and Phil Jones, we have a number of photographs from Winter Court.

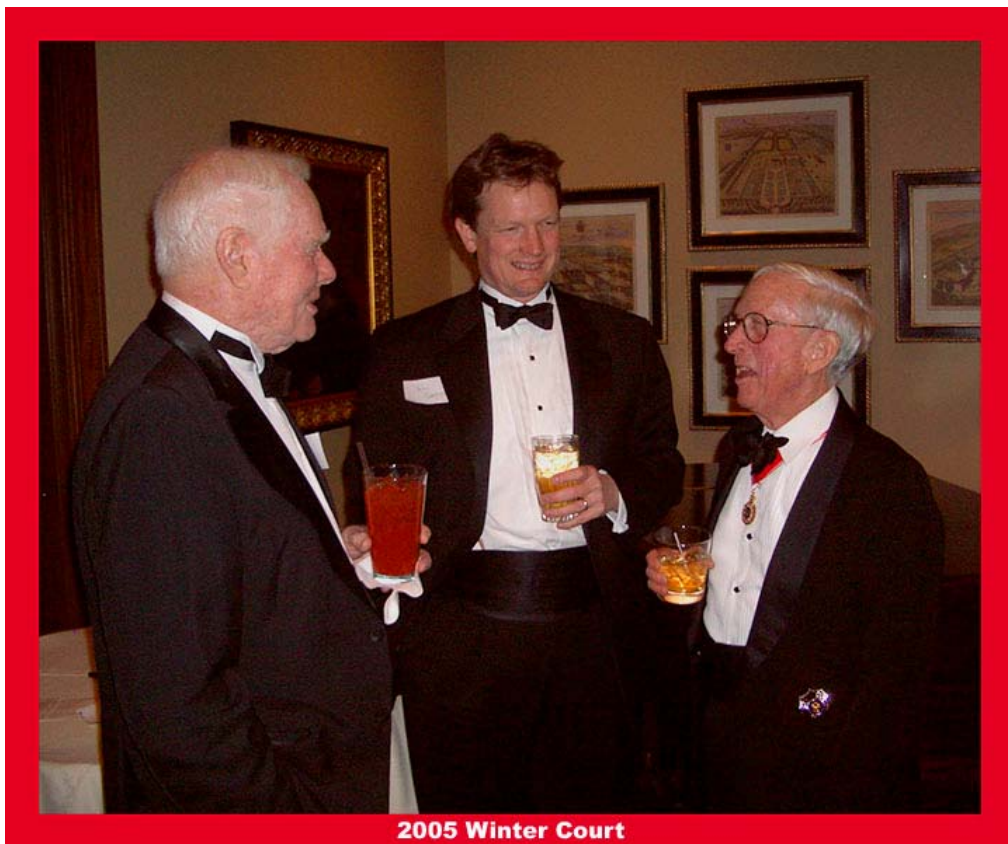


2005 Winter Court



2005 Winter Court

**Tom Carr, John Dyrud & Richard Frey**



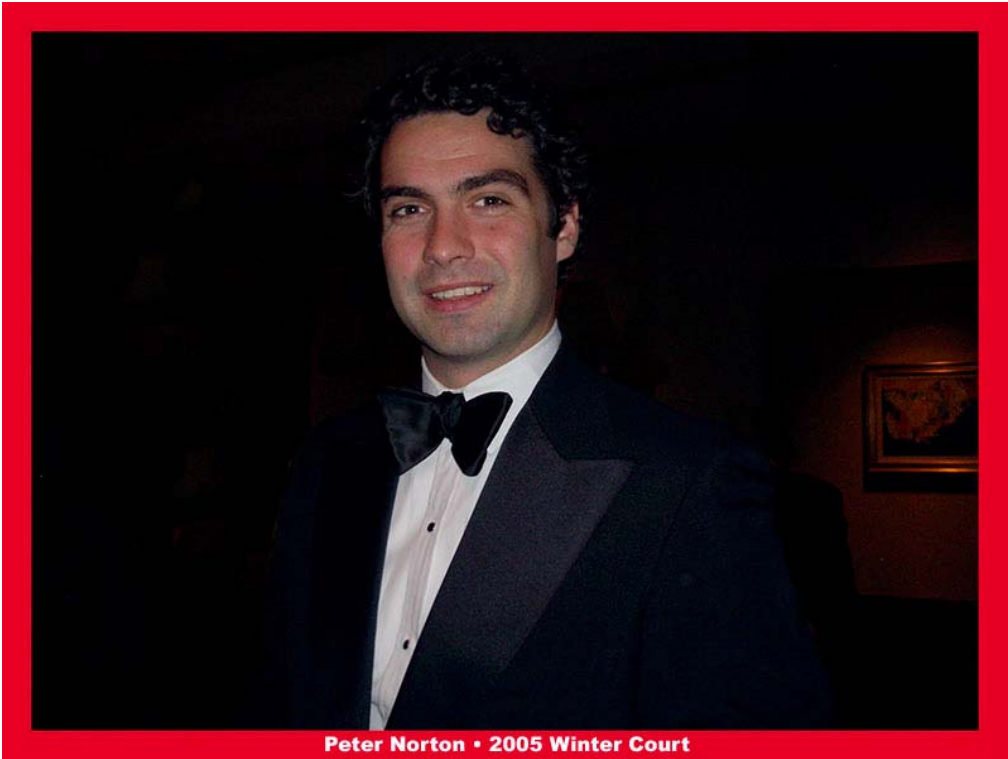
2005 Winter Court

**Bob Coffin, Will Tippens & Al Tippens**



**Governor George Burditt & Governor Elect Bob Allen • 2005 Winter Court**

**Then Governor George Burditt & now Governor Bob Allen**



**Peter Norton • 2005 Winter Court**



(Apologies to Ron Waud for misidentifying him as John Dyrud in the picture in *Muskets & Arrows*, Volume II, No. 2).

## FINANCES

Bob Allen has done an absolutely superb job as Treasurer for the last three years. We now know not only how we stand in all categories, but how our income and expenses compare with last year. Bob Ely is following suit in his report of December's figures.

As *Muskets & Arrows*, Volume III, No. 1 goes to press, we have received dues from 58 of 78 regular members. In addition, the following Warriors made year-end contributions to the Illinois Society:

Robert E. Allen	Curtis James Herrick Jr.
Harrington Bischof	Carter Howard
Charles Clymer Bowen	Thomas Leonard Wemple Johnson
Renton Kirkwood Brodie III	Philip Newton Jones
John Adams Bross	Richard Lewis Joutras
Howell Erminger Browne	David Gilbert Linville
George Miller Burditt Jr.	Henry Weber Meers Jr.
Walter Stanley Carr	Frederick Falley Phillips
Robert Parker Coffin	William Chalmers Prather III
Grafton Hopkins Cook II	Harold DeWitt Rider
James Russell Donnelley	William James Royal
M. John Dyrud	David Byron Smith
Robert Drake Fitzgerald	Harold Byron Smith Jr.
Charles Dunsmore Fox IV	David Arthur Frederick Sweet
Richard K. Frey	Philip W.K. Sweet III
John Drummond Galbraith Jr.	Albert Harris Tippens Jr.
Samuel Garre III	Thomas J. Van Heule Sr.
Dean Hopkins Goossen	Malcolm Morehead Walker
Jonathan Corwith Hamill	Cornelius Byron Waud
Bennet Botsford Harvey Jr.	Lawson Ewing Whitesides Jr

## SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 21, 12 Noon	Executive Committee Meeting	George Burditt's apartment at 179 E. Lake Shore Drive
Tuesday, March 14, 11:30 AM	General Membership/ Council Meeting	Union League Club at 65 W. Jackson Blvd. Speaker: Jon Blessing just returned from a year in Iraq
Thursday, May 11 – Sunday May 14,	100 <sup>th</sup> General Council Meeting of the General Society	Sawgrass Marriott Resort & Beach Club Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
Saturday, May 20	Summer Court	Shoreacres Club, Lake Bluff

## **THE COFFIN FAMILY (PART 2)**

### **By Robert Coffin**

The direct American ancestor had an estate in Bruxton near Plymouth. He appears to have been a royalist. His brother died in the siege of Plymouth Castle by Cromwell. Tristram Coffin with his then family precipitously left England for New England in 1642. Apparently he feared he had no future in England after Cromwell's capture of Plymouth. He settled at the mouth of the Merrimac River between Massachusetts and New Hampshire where he had a license to operate a ferry and an "ordinary" (rooming house). In 1659, with a group of nine other Englishmen, he organized the purchase of the English title to Nantucket Island for thirty pounds and two beaver hats. Tristram Coffin became first magistrate of the island colony. He purchased the use of the island from some 3,000 Indians. While the relationship with the Natives was always friendly, the local Indians dwindled from their acute vulnerability to introduced European diseases.

More settlers were recruited. Among them Starbuck, Macy, Gardner and Folger, the Gardner brothers were "half-share" men and resented the full vote of the proprietors. After a bitter feud, it was settled by the then Governor of New York in favor of "one man-one vote." The feud was healed by the marriage of Jethro Coffin, grandson, to the daughter of Gardner. The two families cooperated to build the now oldest house on the Island. (I have an ancestor born in it.)

Tristram had nine children, his then youngest son died on the voyage over. His wife, Dionis lost the baby she was carrying. Three-month voyages were rough and crowded. Eventually Tristram had 67 grandchildren. His oldest son, Tristram, Jr. continued to spend most of his life in Newburyport where his house is open to the public. He sold lumber to his siblings on treeless Nantucket. He became the ancestor of a large part of the Boston and Maine Coffins. Tristram's son John, the first to be born in the New World, moved to Martha's Vineyard to father another clan of Coffins. He became a lieutenant in the militia (the basis of my claim). His son Samuel returned to Nantucket. Original ship farming gave way to whaling and Nantucket grew to have the world's largest whale fleet. After the Revolutionary War, the whale fleets of the United States, Canada, Great Britain and France were largely officered by Nantucket cousins. The Quaker faith became dominant with branches of the Nantucket meeting in Halifax Milford Haven, Wales and Dunkirk, France.

William Coffin, tired of whaling, moved in 1773 with a group of Nantucket people to Guilford Court House, North Carolina where the battle between Cornwallis and Nathaniel Green took place over the family farm. Becoming very active in the antislavery movement, the family moved to Richmond, Indiana to be in free territory in 1818.

Levi Coffin was given the fictitious title of President of the Underground Railroad. Guiding 3,000 runaway slaves to freedom. Elijah Coffin was First Clerk of the Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends for many years and very active in the Freedman's Bureau after the Civil War. My great-grandfather, Charles Fisher Coffin was also clerk of the Indiana meeting and active in the organization of Earlham College. My grandfather, Charles Henry Coffin was active in Richmond, and my father, Charles Howells Coffin was born there in 1882, and brought as an infant in 1886 to Chicago.