

A Guide to the John Champe Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution Collection, 1999-2001

John Champe Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution Collection 1999-2001
1999-2001

A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library M 063

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Descriptive Summary

Collection number

M 063

Language

English

Abstract

This collection consists of biographical and genealogical information on John Champe, materials regarding the dedication of his gravesite on 21 April 2001, and email correspondence between descendents of Champe and members of the Sons of the American Revolution. Photographs of the gravesite ceremony are also included in this collection.

Creator

Unknown

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open for research.

Use Restrictions

No physical characteristics affect use of this material.

Acquisition Information

Unknown

Processing Information

Emily Hershman, 3 June 2011

Preferred Citation

John Champe Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, 1999-2001 (M 063), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Accruals

2011.0066X

Alternative Form Available

None

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

None

Bibliography

Encyclopedia Britannica

John Champe Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution Collection, 1999-2001 (M 063), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

National Society of Sons of the American Revolution, About Us, <http://www.sar.org/About/Origins>

United States History, Wars and Battles: Henry Clinton, <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1311.html>

Other Finding Aid

None

Technical Requirements

None

Biographical Information

The Sons of the American Revolution was founded on 30 April 1889 in recognition of the hundredth anniversary of George Washington's inauguration. The organization was a fraternal and civic society whose members were lineal descendants of soldiers and statesmen who "wintered at Valley Forge, signed the Declaration of Independence, fought in the battles of the American Revolution, served in the Continental Congress, or otherwise supported the cause of American Independence." The National Society was chartered by an Act of Congress on 9 June 1906.

John Champe (ca. 1752-1798) enlisted as a volunteer in the Continental Army in 1776, was made a corporal in 1777, and had been promoted to sergeant by 1779. In 1780, Benedict Arnold's scheme to surrender the West Point fort to the British was discovered when John Andre (1751-1780), messenger to Sir Henry Clinton (1732-1795), was detained and executed. Washington's advisors then developed a plan to capture Arnold; at the suggestion of Major Richard Henry Lee (1756-1818), Champe was to be sent to the opposing camp to join Arnold's command under the guise of a deserter from the Continental Army. Once there, he was to apprehend Arnold on behalf of the American forces. This plan was foiled when Arnold's troops embarked for Virginia the day Champe arrived at camp, leaving him with no choice but to fight against the American army. He "deserted" again at Petersburg to rejoin Lee's command. Though Champe had been promised "ample rewards" and land grants, he never received compensation for his actions, arguably because he refused to accept Washington's proffered reward. He died in Marion County in present-day West Virginia, and his heirs did not receive a land grant or pension until 1835.

Scope and Content

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Arrangement

Folder

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 1: Materials regarding Dedication of John Champe Gravesite

Folder 2: Research/Biographical Information: John Champe

Folder 3: SAR Email Correspondence, 1999-2000

Folder 4: SAR Email Correspondence, 2001

Folder 5: SAR Photographic Materials