



Clovis H. Brakebill
National Society Sons of the American Revolution
President General 1986-1987

Table of Contents

Texas SAR History Volume 1, Feb. 1980 p. 130	3
Members' Biographies	3
SAR Magazine LXXVIII-NO-4_Spring-1984, pp. 20-22	4
Haym Salomon: Financial Genius of the Revolution	4
SAR Magazine LXXXI-NO-1_Summer-1986, cover	9
SAR Magazine LXXXI-NO-1_Summer-1986, pp. 2-3	10
THE PRESIDENT GENERAL'S MESSAGE	10
SAR Magazine LXXXI-NO-2_Fall 1986, p. 2.....	11
THE PRESIDENT GENERAL'S MESSAGE	11
SAR Magazine LXXXI-NO-2_Fall 1986, pp. 4, 5.....	13
National Newsline	13
Paintings, Other Gifts Unveiled at Headquarters.....	13
PG Brakebill Visits Overseas Societies, Joins Special SAR Tour Group m England	14
SAR Magazine LXXXI-NO-3_Winter 1987, p. 2.....	16
THE PRESIDENT GENERAL'S MESSAGE	16
SAR Magazine LXXXI-NO-3_Winter 1987, p. 4.....	17
National Newsline	17
Bob Hope Receives New Patriot Award	17
PG Brakebill Visits France Society; Ambassador Rodgers Added to SAR Rolls.....	18
SAR Magazine LXXXI-NO-4_Spring 1987, p. 2.....	19
THE PRESIDENT GENERAL'S MESSAGE	19
SAR Magazine LXXXIII-NO-3_Winter-1989, p. 15.....	20
History	20
SAR Magazine XCVI-NO-3_Winter-2002, p. 7	21
IN OUR MEMORY.....	21
Find A Grave Memorial	21
Texas SAR History Volume 2, May 2006 pp. 227-229.....	22
Biographies of Texas Society SAR President Generals	22
Texas SAR History Volume 2, May 2006 pp. 237-239.....	25
Memoirs and Biography of Texas SAR Society State Presidents	25

Compiled by John Greer and John Anderson, July 2020

Texas SAR History Volume 1, Feb. 1980 p. 130

Members' Biographies



NSSAR #105284 TSSAR #2696

He was born on December 15, 1920 in Bonham, Texas and graduated from Texas A & M University and received his B.S. Degree. His military services lasted from 1942 to 1947 being a member of the 542nd Field Artillery Battalion, 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division. In combat, he was a forward observer in Europe. He has been employed in the insurance business since 1948 and is presently employed as a Risk Management Consultant. He is a member of the following: Masonic Fraternity, including York Rite, Scottish Rite and Shrine; National Sojourners and Heroes of 1776; Society of the War of 1812; President of Texas Chapter 1977-1979, descend from Benjamin Martin, Kentucky; Sons of Confederate Veterans, descend from Joseph Henry Cromer, Rutherford County,

Tennessee; Society of Colonial Wars in Texas, descend from Captain David Crawford; Rainbow Division Veterans Association;

President of Texas Chapter 1976-1978,
Sergeant at Arms National Association 1979-1980;

Dallas Chapter, Texas Society SAR, Treasurer 1975, Secretary 1976, 2nd Vice President 1977 and President 1978.

His Revolutionary War Ancestors include Peter Brakebill of Pennsylvania and Maryland, John Cole of Virginia, William Crutcher of Virginia, Sarah Dishman of Virginia, William Dishman of Virginia, Captain Azariah Martin of Virginia and Benjamin Martin of Virginia. He is Vice President, District 6, of the Texas Society SAR 1979-1980 and was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel in 1979. He is a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Haym Salomon: Financial Genius of the Revolution

A Polish immigrant, this remarkable Jewish Patriot loaned large sums of his personal fortune to aid the cause, with none of it ever being repaid by his adopted country.

By Clovis H. Brakebill

Haym Salomon was born in 1740 in Lesno, Poland. His parents had come to Poland from Portugal because the Jews in Spain and Portugal were being persecuted because of their religion. He left home when he was about twenty and traveled extensively in Europe. During his travels, Haym also learned another subject very well: what money was worth and how to trade in the economic currencies of Europe. Each of these facets of his education would be used extensively in a few short years.

After traveling for ten years in Europe, Haym returned to Poland to find his country in conflict with Russia. It is believed that he became involved in this conflict and his survival became a question. This is a similar situation to that of the Polish Jews in 1941 when the German Nazis moved in as conquerors of Poland.

Of all the options available to Haym Salomon, he chose America. Truly, America was a land of opportunity and he wanted to be there. Thus, he left Poland for England and stayed there only long enough to earn money for passage to America, sailing in August, 1772 for New Amsterdam aboard a very small ship by today's standards.

Salomon arrived in New York City (New Amsterdam) in the winter of 1772. It was a thriving community of 14,000 inhabitants and afforded the opportunities which he was seeking. The city was located below present-day Wall Street; most of Manhattan Island was farm land or home of Indians. The Colonists were unhappy in 1772 because of the taxation policies of Mother England.

The Colonies furnished food to England, but when consumer goods were imported from England, they were subject to heavy taxes. Since this did not please the Colonists, because they opposed taxation without representation, a protest group was organized known as the Sons of Liberty. Included were Patrick Henry, Alexander Hamilton, Samuel Adams and many other prominent Americans. Salomon joined shortly after the Battle of Lexington on April 19, 1775. By this time he had established his brokerage business; many of his clients were among the privileged class of citizens who were loyal to the British Crown. This did not greatly concern Haym because he now owed his total allegiance to his new land: America.



An imaginary drawing of Haym Salomon. (Courtesy American Jewish Historical Society, Waltham, Massachusetts.)

Imprisoned by the British

Salomon had his first direct confrontation with the British in September, 1776. On September 15, the British General, Sir William Howe, captured New York City in the name of King George III. Exactly five days later the city was in flames. During the night of September 20, approximately 25 percent of New York City was destroyed by fire.

The British suspected the Sons of Liberty and they were probably correct. Anyone suspected of being a member of the group was arrested and thrown in jail. Before all of the fires had been extinguished, Haym Salomon was in jail.

First, he was taken to what was known as the "Old Sugar House," a very old building built as a warehouse. Its roof leaked, there were few windows and the building was in very poor condition. When the autumn rains fell, the prisoners were soaked and remained in their wet clothing for several days until their natural body heat dried the dampness from their garments. There were no doctors to treat those prisoners who became ill. Neither was there medicine; many died. Haym Salomon became ill with a severe chest cold.



Although the "Sugar House" was bad there was another prison much worse, "The Provost", a maximum security facility that was designed to imprison those who were condemned to death. Although ill, Haym Salomon was moved to "The Provost." His future was not good.

He knew his life there would be a great challenge for survival. The prison was very crowded, the food was very bad, the treatment cruel, and all the time Haym's chest ailment became worse. He realized something must be done quickly or he would

soon die, either from his illness, or from starvation, or from a firing squad.

Salomon noticed that the German (Hessian) guards could not speak English and the British could not speak German. He did not volunteer as an interpreter, but he let it be known to the British that he could speak German. He was soon given a job as interpreter and promptly had better living quarters and better food. His health improved rapidly.

Helps Hessians Desert

Discretely, he caused many of the Hessians to desert to the Americans. He was never connected to their departure. Eventually, he was released from "The Provost" on parole. He had difficulty in reestablishing his brokerage business because of his work with the British. He could not disclose the fact that he had been responsible for over 500 desertions by the Hessians.

New York provided him with new opportunities. He made new friends. He was able to reestablish his business. He was still a loyal American.

On January 2, 1777, shortly after being paroled, Salomon married Rachael Franks. She was 15 at the time and Haym was 36. She was from a family of very loyal American Jews who were also respected merchants.

Before long, Haym became a "sutler" -one who furnished goods and services to the military and others in need. In this business he not only prospered, but also had access to the British and their Hessian mercenaries. He continued to persuade the Germans to desert and there is little doubt but that he gathered intelligence from the British. Through all of these activities, Salomon continued to be an active member of the Sons of Liberty.

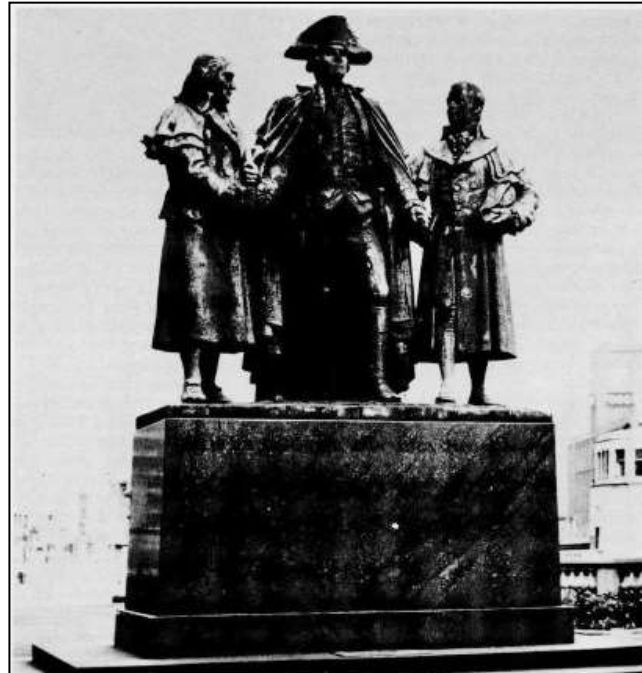
American troops captured Trenton on December 26, 1776, and then spent the winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge. During this period, Salomon was still causing the Germans to desert and was still obtaining important information about the British. In early July, 1778 a son, Ezekiel, was born to Rachael and Haym and one month later, Haym was back in prison at "The Provost." By this time his chest cold had caused tuberculosis. As Haym was taken to prison, he was preceded by a drummer so that all could know that this time he was in deep trouble.

Sentenced to Hang

He was taken to a section of the prison known as "Congress Hall," from which few prisoners were ever released. Most went to the gallows. In less than one week, Salomon was brought to trial. His charges are easily imagined: being a spy, sheltering spies and escaped prisoners, promoting the desertion of Hessian soldiers and many other treasonable acts. There appears one omission in that he was apparently not charged with being a loyal American Patriot. The trial was brief and Haym knew there would be no appeal. He was sentenced "to be hanged by the neck until dead" at sunrise the next day, August 11, 1778. He was then returned to his cell to await his fate.

The British made two tactical errors. They did not execute Haym Salomon immediately and they failed to realize that he was a very clever and enterprising Patriot.

Many months before, Haym had planned for such an eventuality by hiding a few gold coins in his clothing. That night, after being returned to his cell, he bribed the Hessian guard and escaped. Within a few days, he had managed to reach Philadelphia. He had left his wife and baby son in New York and was practically without funds, but he retained all of his financial expertise.



This unique statue, located at the intersection of Wabash and Wacker Drive in Chicago, Illinois, depicts George Washington at the center, George Morris on his right and Haym Salomon on his left. Under the Salomon statue is this inscription: "Haym Salomon — Gentleman, Scholar, Patriot. A banker whose only interest was the interest of his country." (Courtesy Chicago Historical Society.)

Currently Treasurer General, Compatriot Brakebill is a Past President of the Texas Society and Past President of the Dallas Chapter. He also serves as Chairman of the Finance and Congress Planning Committees and holds the Minuteman, Patriot and Silver Good Citizenship Medals. In the business world, he is Vice President and Senior Consultant for Tillinghast, Nelson & Warren, Inc., an international consulting and actuarial firm.

The Continental Congress was now meeting in Philadelphia and was constantly struggling with many problems, including finding enough money with which to buy supplies and arms for the American soldiers.

At this point, Haym Salomon had three objectives: (1) replenish his financial resources, (2) re-unite his family with him, and (3) build a new business career in Philadelphia that would enable him to contribute to his adopted homeland.

First, Haym applied to the Congress for a job. He was not employed. Next, he managed to get his family to Philadelphia. And, he then again began his brokerage business from a coffee house near the waterfront. He worked hard and established a reputation as a knowledgeable broker. Three more children were born to the family.

Because of his specialized knowledge, both in language and foreign money, he was appointed official Paymaster of the French Army and Navy. He also made personal loans to the French Army as well as to the Spanish and French Ambassadors and Dutch officials. They were all suffering from the British blockade.

Loans Aid Patriot Cause

It was not long after Robert Morris became Minister of Finance that he heard of Haym Salomon. Soon Haym was handling transactions for the Continental Government for little or no commission. In this way he was contributing to the patriotic cause. He also made personal loans to many government employees which enabled them to remain in Philadelphia. This money was from Salomon's private funds; most of it was never repaid.

It was in August, 1781 probably the most financially important event in the history of America occurred. The Battle of Yorktown was planned. British forces were in New York City and at Yorktown.

The military strategy developed was to attack Yorktown. Most of America's troops were in the Philadelphia area and General Washington needed \$20,000 to cover the expenses of a campaign to Yorktown and a possible ending of the war.

There was good news and bad news; the bad news - there was not \$20,000 available and no credit; the good news - General Washington knew of Haym Salomon. The General called Robert Morris to his quarters and gave him simple but eloquent orders "Send for Haym Salomon." The rest of the story is history. Haym Salomon obtained the \$20,000 for General Washington and at 2:00 p.m. on October 19, 1781, Great Britain suffered its greatest defeat in history when the British forces surrendered at Yorktown. Freedom had been won.

The fighting was now ended, but the need for Haym Salomon's financial ability continued; he responded with all his strength and ability until his death on January 6, 1785, when he was only 44 years old.

Haym Salomon was a Patriot who neither carried a rifle nor wore a uniform, yet he gave his life and his fortune for the country he loved.

But there is still more about the little Jew Patriot.

When he died, Haym Salomon left a wife and four small children. He also left a substantial debt. He owned approximately \$354,000 of Continental securities, at face value, but as a real value, this princely sum was reduced to \$44,732. Truly, the Continental dollar was hardly worth a "Continental." Against these real assets were real debts of \$45,292. The estate was insolvent. Our Jewish hero and Patriot had died in bankruptcy.

No one came forward to substantially repay the loans they had received from Salomon. Robert Morris paid \$344. It is not known how much Morris had legally borrowed; however, there are records that indicate Haym Salomon advanced to the Superintendent of Finance \$211,678. The unanswered question was whether this money went to Robert Morris or to the government.

The estate was not repaid. For many years the son of Haym Salomon tried to recover the debt. The answer from Congress was always "No."

At one time the heirs agreed to accept \$100,000 from the government but again it was denied.

Again, at one time, a Congressional committee recommended a gold medal. Again, Congress denied it.

In 1925, a bill was introduced in Congress to erect a statue of Haym Salomon in Washington, D.C. Although the bill passed, the statue was not erected.

Deeds Recognized at Last

Finally, in 1926, Congress, for the first time, officially recognized the work of Haym Salomon. Congress passed a resolution to make a public document of the reports of the Senate Committee of the 38th Congress, a biographical sketch of Haym Salomon, and some more material.

There is no monument to Haym Salomon in New York, nor in Philadelphia, but Haym Salomon has not gone unrecognized.

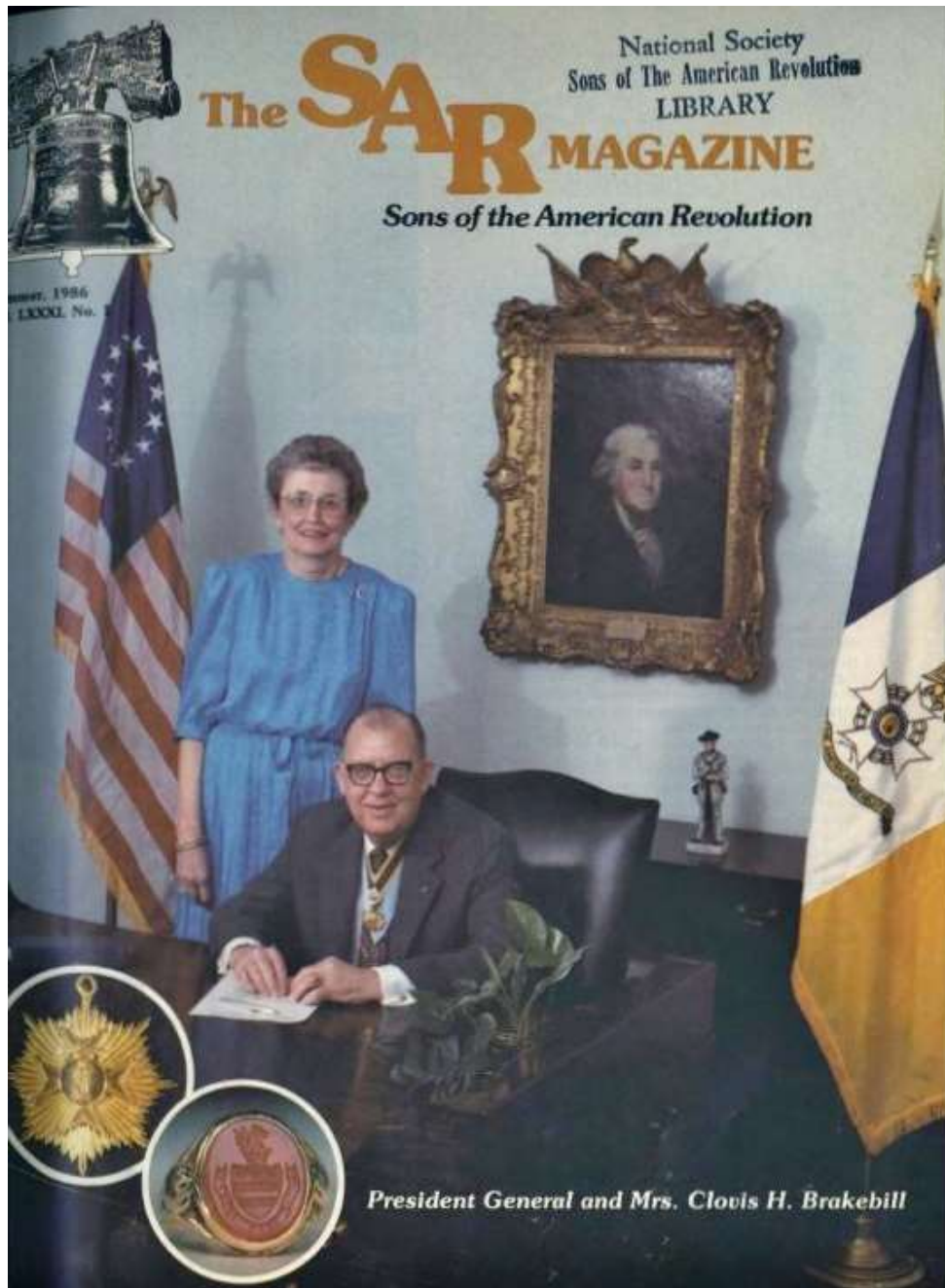
One December 15, 1941, a statue was erected in Chicago (as shown in an accompanying photograph). George Washington is the central figure. While this is in a city that did not exist when Salomon was alive, it is, nonetheless, very significant in that it tells us that America's liberty and freedom were won by a combination of military genius and citizen soldiers from a wide range of ethnic and religious backgrounds.

There is only one other statue of Salomon. This is in McArthur Park in Los Angeles, California - another city that Haym Salomon never knew.

There is still one more graphic recognition of Haym Salomon. On March 25, 1975, the United States issued a commemorative postage stamp which honored him as a Revolutionary War hero. It depicts him seated at his desk. On the front side of the stamp are the words, "Financial Hero." For only the second time in the 128 years of United States stamps, a message appears on the back of this stamp. It reads:

"Businessman and broker Haym Salomon was responsible for raising most of the money needed to finance the American Revolution and later to save the new nation from collapse."

SAR Magazine LXXXI-NO-1_Summer-1986, cover



THE COVER ILLUSTRATION was photographed in the Office of the President General at National Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky. Insets are two symbols of office: The PG's badge and George Washington's Seal Ring.

SAR Magazine LXXXI-NO-1_Summer-1986, pp. 2-3

THE PRESIDENT GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Compatriots, as the new SAR year begins, we reflect just briefly upon the past year as one of the most successful in SAR history.

As I said in my acceptance address in Tampa, 1986-87 is a YEAR OF CHALLENGE. All of us must, individually and in partnership with the Society, perform still better than in the past. I have accepted that challenge! Will you accept the challenge?

I plan to continue the programs of the past administration in seeking more new members, fewer drops for non-payment of dues and more reinstatements. CAR's are very vital to our future. The Chapters must increase their efforts to secure more transfers from this finest organization of young Americans.

The National Society and the State Societies are administrative bodies. The Chapters are our strength. As the Chapters go, so goes the entire Society. I look for improved leadership from many of the Chapters. Many of our Chapters are strong; others should strive to become stronger through the firm leadership of their officers. To those Chapters who do not meet frequently, I ask you to schedule one meeting each month for the remainder of this year. You will have better Chapters if you meet regularly.

I have had personal discussions with many of the State Society Presidents and with all of the Vice-Presidents General. I have talked or corresponded with all of the Committee Chairmen. The programs for 1986-87 are in place. Only the commitment of the members in the Chapters can assure the Society a successful year. I am depending upon you.

We have a Challenge and we must succeed.

This is a very great honor that the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution has bestowed upon me. I thank everyone for their confidence in me. I will faithfully devote the entire year to you and to the Society.

Yours in Patriotism,

Clovis H. Brakebill

Clovis H. Brakebill
President General



THE PRESIDENT GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Our valuable time is rapidly slipping away. There have been many accomplishments, but we must continue to be active in our efforts to grow in a positive manner. Each month I write to every State President and urge him to actively pursue a new member program. I also give him the number of reinstatements in his State Society. I sincerely hope each Compatriot is working to obtain a new member or to reinstate a Compatriot who has been dropped in recent years.

During August and early September, Mrs. Brakebill and I visited the SAR Societies in France, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. We were well received by each Society. While in Paris, the French Society arranged for me to lay an SAR wreath on the grave of General Lafayette. In Geneva, I was interviewed on Radio 70, the largest English-speaking radio station in Switzerland. In London, I carried the SAR message to the Lord Mayor of Westminster and to Lady Bessborough, director of the restoration of the Benjamin Franklin Home in London.



During a September joint SAR-DAR Meeting in Atlanta, the President General (left) was presented a silver wine cooler by Atlanta Chapter President Robert B. Vance.

Among the many highlights of the trip were visits to the American Embassies in Paris and London, as well as a visit to the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva. At every place I was always emphasizing the great patriotism of our wonderful Society - on the radio, in the newspapers and at the meetings of the Societies.

The Trustees Meeting in early October was most successful. For the first time in many years, the reports of most of the Committees and Officers were printed in advance and distributed to those in attendance. I thank all Officers, Trustees and Committee Chairmen for the splendid work they are doing.



The President General's trip in August to France was highlighted by the laying of a wreath at the grave site of General Lafayette in Paris. Participating in the ceremony were (from left): France Society Treasurer B. De Ducla, PG Brakebill, Vice-President General for the Foreign District Robert B. Vance and France Society Executive Secretary Jean du Limbert.

There are changes at your Headquarters. The new IBM System 36 has been installed and is now operational. The accounting program is in place. The membership data base is now being entered into the system. Two new paintings adorn the walls of the Great Hall. A new tile floor has been laid in the Trustees Hall and a new hardwood floor will soon be laid in the President General's office, the Executive Committee meeting room and the Martha Washington room. There is a beautiful arrangement of Revolutionary flags now surrounding the Liberty Bell.

The many contributions from our membership are greatly appreciated. Each of us should consider a gift to the National Society during the current year while the tax laws are favorable.

I thank each State Society and each Chapter for sending me your bulletins. This is one way that you can communicate to me that yours is a very active State Society or Chapter.

With this issue of the SAR Magazine, I say "Thank you" and I also wish each SAR family a MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Yours in Patriotism,

Clovis H. Brakebill

Clovis H. Brakebill
President General

National Newslines



Observing the Washington painting were three representatives of the Massachusetts Society (from left): Past President Paul H. Walker, President Raymond F. Fleck and Past President Harry L. Walen. It measures six feet wide by nine feet tall. Pointing out action taking place in the battle scene was Luther C. Leavitt, who gave the painting along



with his brother. Listening to his remarks were (from left): Museum Board Chairman James A. Williams, President General Clovis H. Brakebill and Thomas Pelham Curtis, who copied the original by Gilbert Stuart. A collateral ancestor of the Leavitts, Major Andrew McClary, is depicted in the painting.

Paintings, Other Gifts Unveiled at Headquarters



Compatriot Robert F. Ritchie (right), Texas Society, presented a pewter reproduction of the pen and ink stand used by the Presidents of the Continental Congress to sign documents, including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The original was made in 1752 by Phillip Syng, a Philadelphia silversmith, for use by the Pennsylvania Assembly meeting in what is now Independence Hall. The stand has been placed in the President General's office.

As has happened so many times in the past, the National Trustees meeting at Headquarters on October 4 witnessed the presentation of a variety of gifts from State Societies, Chapters

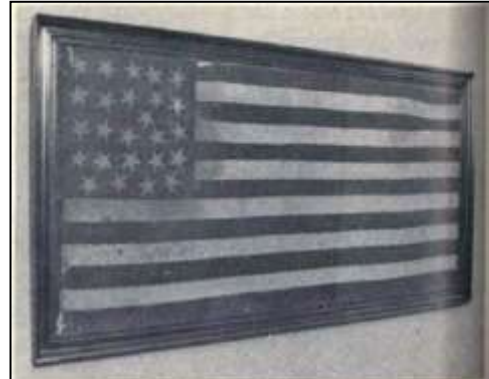


President General Brakebill was pleased to accept for the Society a fragment of the flag that flew at General George Washington's headquarters at Valley Forge in 1777. Offering the gift was H. Lloyd LeCompte, Jr., who received the artifact from his father.

and individual Compatriots to the National Society. Major ones are shown in accompanying photos.

Two of the more spectacular gifts were large, vividly colored paintings. One, entitled "Washington at Dorchester Heights," is a copy of the famous Gilbert Stuart original which hangs at Faniuel Hall in Boston. It was rendered under commission by the Massachusetts Society by the celebrated Gregory Stapko, painter to the State Department in Washington, DC.

The second painting, a copy of "The Battle of Bunker's Hill" created by artist John Trumbull, is the gift of Luther C. Leavitt, a Past President of the Ohio Society, and his brother, Dana, a member of the California Society. Producing the copy was Thomas Pelham Curtis, a member of the Wisconsin Society who comes from a line of dating back to the 18th century, including Peter Pelham. The original is owned by Yale University Art Gallery. The Leavitt's interest in the noted battle stems from the fact that a direct ancestor, Massachusetts Infantry Captain Ephraim Corey, was a company commander at the time in Prescott's Regiment.



This rare 25-star flag is the gift of Jacqueline B. Coffroth in memory of her husband, Dr. Leroy W. Coffroth, a Past Surgeon General. Dated 1836, this unusual artifact is alleged to have been carried in the Mexican War in 1848.

PG Brakebill Visits Overseas Societies, Joins Special SAR Tour Group in England



During a colorful reception at the Hotel de Ville in Paris, Deputy Mayor Madam Magdeleine Anglade presented the Medalion of Paris to President General Clovis H. Brakebill (left) and Robert B. Vance, Vice-President General for the Foreign District.

From August 1 through September 3, President General and Mrs. Clovis H. Brakebill traveled to France, Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom to make official visits to SAR Societies, attend certain functions and partake in enjoyable sightseeing. Joining them for the first two weeks were Robert B. Vance, Vice President General for the Foreign District, and Mrs. Vance.

Included was a visit to historic Nancy, France where the President General met his wife following World War II (she was on duty at a hospital there as a First Lieutenant with the Army Nurse Corps), tours of many of the areas where he saw combat duty, and visits to the home places of his ancestors near Siegen, Germany (settlers of the Germany Colony in Virginia in 1714) and the Emmental region of Switzerland where he met two - distant Brakebill cousins (Brechtbuhl in Switzerland). The Brakebills were exiled in 1714 and subsequently settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1732.

Other highlights of the trip to France were a visit with the U.S. Ambassador, the Hon. Joe Rodgers, and a tour of his residence, the laying of a wreath at the grave of General Lafayette in Paris, and a delightful reception presided over by the Deputy Mayor of Paris (Mayor Chirac had planned to attend, but could not at the last minute). While in Switzerland, with the Vances having returned home, the PG and his wife visited then U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, the Hon. Gerald P. Carmen.



Members and guests (including prospective members) posed outside the home of Switzerland Society Compatriot Dudley Wright (to the right of President General Brakebill) in Geneva prior to the Society dinner honoring the PG and his wife. To the right of Compatriot Wright was President Graham Shanley, while to the left of the PG was Gerald P. Carmen, then United States Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva.

Toward the end of August, the couple traveled to London and met the Vances once more. Memorable events at that time encompassed a reception given by the Lord Mayor of Westminster, visits in London with the Chief of Mission as well as the Lord Chancellor of England, Lord Hailsham (an SAR), and a tour of Temple Church, where one of the President General's ancestors was buried inside after his funeral at Westminster in 1229.

On September 28, a special SAR group arrived in London ready for a five-day tour with President General and Mrs. Brakebill. The tour had been arranged by Charles A. Vencill, a member of the California Society who owns a travel agency. He and Mrs. Vencill were with the contingent of over 20 Compatriots and wives from across the United States. Encompassed were visits to Warwick Castle, Stratford-Upon-Avon, the Norman city of Durham, ancient Lumley Castle for an overnight stay, Washington Old Hall (an ancestral home of George Washington near Durham built in the 1100s), the walled city of York, and Suigrave Manor (another Washington ancestral home at Northamptonshire). On the last day, the group went to the only remaining home of Benjamin Franklin in London, as reported in a separate news story in this issue of the magazine. The concluding activity was a gala banquet held at the Savile Club hosted by the United Kingdom Society. Although the Vances did not take the tour, they were on hand for the activities in London.



Comte Rene de Chambrun (center), France Society President, was the recipient of a Certificate of Distinguished Service and one recognizing 25 years of SAR membership. Making the presentations was President General Brakebill, while France Society Executive Secretary Jean du Limbert observed.

SAR Magazine LXXXI-NO-3_Winter 1987, p. 2

THE PRESIDENT GENERAL'S MESSAGE

We are on the threshold of another great year in our national history for this will be the 200th year since our great Constitution was signed in Philadelphia in 1787. This remarkable document has withstood many severe tests and now is the envy of the entire free world.

Our 97th Annual Congress will be held in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania in June of 87 and the Constitution will be our theme. I urge everyone now to consider attending this great Congress near the birthplace of this great document. The Pennsylvania Society is doing everything to make the 97th Congress a most pleasant experience.

Our membership through December 31, 1986 shows a slight gain of three percent over the same time of December 31, 1985. I urge each member to contact a prospect and encourage him to become associated with one of the greatest patriotic associations of the world, the Sons of the American Revolution. Now is the time for members to think twice before becoming suspended for non-payment of dues. I urge each member to give thoughtful consideration before permitting his name to be removed from the rolls of our fine Society.

Our committees continue to do good work. The Committee projects are being well received and the Committee leadership is enthusiastic. I commend the Committee Chairmen and their Committees for the splendid work that they are doing.

The computers are installed at Headquarters and great progress has been made during the past four months. The accounting, merchandise, and library systems are in place. We are still in the process of entering the total membership data base. This is an exciting time around headquarters with all the activity being generated by the utilization of the new computer. It will be some time before the data base is fully operational, but everyone is enthusiastic about its capabilities.

Since the last issue of The SAR Magazine, your President General has traveled to numerous State Societies, Chapters and Districts for meetings. Mrs. Brakebill and I have been most cordially received, and our visits have been most productive for the National Society.



During the Illinois Society Annual Meeting, PG Brakebill had the honor of presenting a 50-year membership certificate to Former President General Len Young Smith.



PG Brakebill was greeted by President Lowell V. Hammer at the Annual Joint Meeting of the District of Columbia Society and the C.A.R. DC Society.



Ty Robinson, President of the C.A.R. Zebulon Montgomery Pike Society, was pleased to receive a Bronze Good Citizen Medal from PG Brakebill at the New Mexico Society's Veterans Day Dinner. Presiding over the meeting was Society President George N. Sells (behind the pair).

I thank all of our friends who remembered us over the holidays with their beautiful Christmas cards.

Yours in Patriotism,

Clovis H. Brakebill

Clovis H. Brakebill
President General

SAR Magazine LXXXI-NO-3_Winter 1987, p. 4

National Newsline

Bob Hope Receives New Patriot Award



Bob Hope was pleased to receive the Distinguished Patriot Award at his North Hollywood home from PG Brakebill.



President General and Mrs. Brakebill found Bob Hope to be a gracious host.

On December 29 a memorable visit was paid to Bob Hope at his home in North Hollywood, California by President General Clovis H. Brakebill for presentation of the first SAR Distinguished Patriot Award to the famed comedian. Also in the party were Mrs. Brakebill, two daughters and their husbands, and four grandchildren.

This new Award may be presented only once during the tenure of a President General to an American Citizen for outstanding patriotism to his country. In this instance it recognized Mr. Hope's many years of entertaining members of our Armed Forces. The President General also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Delores Hope for her numerous services to our nation.

PG Brakebill Visits France Society; Ambassador Rodgers Added to SAR Rolls



A. Graham Shanley, President of the Switzerland Society, participated in the program at the Automobile Club of France with PG Brakebill.

Presentation of an SAR Membership Certificate to Joseph M. Rodgers, United States Ambassador to France, was a highlight of President General Clovis H. Brakebill's early December trip to attend the Annual Meeting of the France Society.

Held at the Automobile Club of France in Paris, the gathering drew over 130 Compatriots and guests. Compatriot Rodgers, the only Ambassador to France to become an SAR, gave the principal address of the evening, in French. Among those present was A. Graham Shanley, President of the Switzerland Society.

During a visit with Comte Rene de Chambrun, President of the France Society, the PG was advised that the Society will contribute a Louvre reproduction of a portrait of General Lafayette for display at National Headquarters.

Another highlight of the trip for the PG was an invitation from Compatriot and Mrs. Rodgers to spend a night in the Benjamin Franklin Room at the Ambassador's residence in Paris.



PG Brakebill's visit to Paris was marked by presentation of an SAR Membership Certificate to Ambassador Rodgers.



A portion of the Annual Meeting was devoted to a dialog between PG Brakebill and France Society President de Chambrun.



PG Brakebill presented an SAR gift to Jean P. du Lambert, Executive Secretary of the France Society.

SAR Magazine LXXXI-NO-4_Spring 1987, p. 2

THE PRESIDENT GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Compatriots and Patriotic Americans:

After nearly eleven months of intense effort by everyone, I can begin to observe the momentum of growth beginning to take effect. As I have travelled to all sections of our great nation, I observe much positive action in all of the Chapters, State Societies and the Districts. Congratulations to each of you for responding.

Indications are that the year just ended will be successful in many ways. There will also be some disappointments that we all must share. I am most optimistic that the positives will greatly overshadow the deficiencies. We are well into the year of the celebration of the signing of the Constitution in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787. This has been a great document to govern us for 200 years. I hope that our descendants will be able to say in 2187 that they have enjoyed the fruits of four hundred years of a very active and applicable Constitution.

The thirty-nine who signed the Great Document in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787 are well remembered. Let us also remember those three Patriots who were there but for their own reasons did not sign. Then there were 13 other Patriotic Americans who attended the great convention, but did not remain for the final signing.



The Hon. Daniel L. Hermann (left) was the proud recipient of the Gold Good Citizenship Medal during the Delaware Society's Ratification Day Dinner in December. He is a retired Chief Justice of the state's Supreme Court. Making the presentation were President General Clovis H. Brakebill and Society President William M. Brown.

The fifty-five delegates were all Patriotic Americans who desired that America be made a better place in which their children and grandchildren could happily live. We thank God for Americans with such great foresight.

Mrs. Brakebill and I have had a wonderful year and we thank all of you very much for the opportunity to serve you and the Society. We have been to many interesting places and we have enjoyed very much the friendship of so many Patriotic Americans who with their families are members of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The plans are complete for the 97th Annual Congress to be held at Valley Forge next month. All who attend will have a wonderful time. I anticipate the best Congress ever under the sponsorship of the Pennsylvania Society and I look forward to seeing you there.

I thank you all, including the staff at National Headquarters for making this year a great experience in our lives.

God Bless all of you.

Yours in Patriotism,
Clovis H. Brakebill
Clovis H. Brakebill
President General



Attending the New York Chapter's 52nd Annual Colonial Debutante Ball were (from left): Chapter President Edward J. Gynn, Mrs. Clovis H. Brakebill, Mrs. Gynn and President General Brakebill. The elegant January event was held at the Hotel Pierre in New York City.

SAR Magazine LXXXIII-NO-3_Winter-1989, p. 15

History



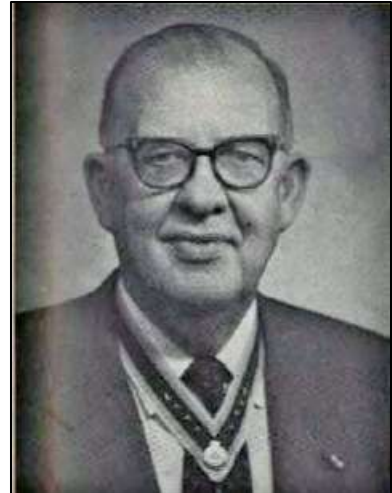
Prior to being elected President General in 1986, Compatriot Brakebill had served at the national level of the SAR as Secretary General, Treasurer General and as either Chairman or a member of several key committees. A member of the SAR since 1973, Compatriot Brakebill was President of the Texas Society in 1982-83 and President of the Dallas Chapter previous to that. He holds the Minuteman, Patriot, Silver Good Citizenship and Meritorious Service Medals, as well as the DAR Medal of Honor.

SAR Magazine XCVI-NO-3_Winter-2002, p. 7

IN OUR MEMORY

Clovis Hunter Brakebill the 83rd President General was called to eternal life on January 21, 2002 in Houston. Texas.

A native of Bonham, Texas he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Texas A & M University. He was a member of the Army Corps of Cadets and served in the United States Army as a combat forward observer in France and Germany for four years during World War II with the 542 Field Artillery Battalion. 42nd (Rainbow) Division. He attained the rank of Captain and earned several decorations. Including the Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster. It is interesting to note that he met his wife, Helen, following World War II while he was on duty at a hospital near Nancy, France as a First Lieutenant with the Army Nurse Corp. The pair later revisited the site while he was President General.



Compatriot Brakebill became a member of the Sons of the American Revolution in 1973 and gained his first exposure at the national level a Host Society Congress Chairman when the 90th Annual Congress was held in Dallas in 1980. He moved through that Society's officer ranks until being elected Pre ident during 1982.

At the Annual Congress held in Atlanta, Georgia in 1983 Compatriot Brakebill was elected Treasurer General. Subsequent years saw him advance to Secretary General - achieving the position of President General in 1986. Throughout this period -and until his death - he was active in the work of numerous National Committees many serving as Chairman. His awards included the Minuteman, Patriot and Florence Kendall Medals.

He was a member of the Military Order of the World Wars and several historical/genealogical organizations. In addition, Clovis was affiliated with a variety of Masonic organizations. Including the Scottish Rite and Shrine: he obtained his 50-year membership award from Cypress Lodge in 2001. He was a member of Cy-Fair Christian Church.

President General Brakebill is survived by his wife. Helen Krippachne Brakebill; daughters Diana Lee Morris and her husband Dennis, and Dr. Jeanne Louise Martin and her husband, J. Gerald; grandchildren; his sister, Betty Jo Smith, and her husband, Allen Richard; as well as a number of relatives and friend.

A Memorial Service was held on January 25th at Cy-Fair Christian Church. His body was donated to the University of Texas-Houston Medical School, with his cremated remains later interred in the Houston National Cemetery.

Find A Grave Memorial

www.findagrave.com/memorial/72743547

Texas SAR History Volume 2, May 2006 pp. 227-229

Biographies of Texas Society SAR President Generals

CLOVIS H. BRAKEBILL
President General
1986 – 1987

CLOVIS H. BRAKEBILL

Patriot Ancestor – Peter Brakebill, Soldier, PA
First Lady, Helen Marie Krippachne

President General **Clovis Hunter Brakebill** is a native Texan who was born on December 15, 1920 near Bonham, Fannin County. He lived there until entering Texas A&M University in 1938. After graduation, he proudly served his country during World War II as a member of the 42nd (*Rainbow*) Infantry Division, as a combat forward observer in France and Germany. After hostilities ceased, he served in the occupation of Austria. At the time of his release from active duty, he held the rank of Captain. He is retired from the United States Army Reserve. In 1986, he retired from Tillinghast, Nelson and Warren, consultants and actuaries.

He was accepted as member of The Sons of the American Revolution in 1973 based upon his descent from Peter Brakebill (1760-1844) who served his young nation from Pennsylvania and Maryland. He has twelve other confirmed ancestors who either served as soldiers or performed patriotic duties during the American Revolution. Compatriot Brakebill is a member of numerous hereditary societies, including the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne in the United States of America, Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin in the Colony of Virginia, Baronial Order of the Magna Charta, Jamestowne Society, Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain and other organizations.

He was President of the Texas Society in 1982 and began his service to the National Society in 1979 when he served on the Registration and Credentials Committee. He was General Chairman of the 90th Congress that convened in Dallas, Texas in July 1980. He was appointed the initial chairman of the National Congress Planning Committee in 1981, a chairmanship he held for several years. He instituted many of the procedures that are still being utilized. He served as Treasurer General in 1983-85 and was elected Secretary General in 1985. He served as President General in 1986-87. In his keynote speech to the Congress in Tampa, Florida as President General, he called his year in office a "*Year of Challenge*". He emphasized communications, membership and the administration of the Society. In the year of his presidency, communication with compatriots was very good and membership increased. The administration of the Society and excellent leadership were provided by elected officers and committee chairmen. Early in the administration, an IBM System 36 (main frame) computer system was installed. The switch from manual record keeping to electronic data processing was tedious but very successful. The National Headquarters, thanks to the Information Technology Committee, continues to employ the latest in computer technology.

The Society's income for the 1986-87 was \$425,701 and assets on March 31, 1987 were \$3,132,567. Today, the National Society continues its expansion, both in resources and in patriotic programs. Compatriot Brakebill was pleased to present a fifty-year membership recognition pin to Former President General Len Young Smith. It was a momentous and very pleasing occasion. In August, he

visited the French, Switzerland and United Kingdom Societies. The visit with the French Society in Paris was most beneficial, which was highlighted by a visit to Picpus Cemetery where a wreath was laid on the grave of the great patriot, the Marquis de Lafayette. A gracious and memorable reception was given by the Mayor and Prime Minister of France Jacques Chirac, who presented the Compatriot Brakebill with the *La Médaille de la Ville de Paris*. President General and Mrs. Brakebill were entertained at the American Embassy, and they were also received at the American Ambassador's residence. At a meeting with the French Society, several twenty-five year awards were presented to French Compatriots.

In Geneva, Switzerland, President General and Mrs. Brakebill were entertained by the Switzerland Society in a tenth-century chateau on Lake Geneva. Also in attendance at the dinner was the Honorable Gerald P. Cernan, United States Ambassador to the United Nations. In England, he led a tour of Compatriots on a visit to Washington Old Hall, near Durham in northeast England and to Sulgrave Manor. Washington Old Hall was the home of the originator of the Washington family name in about 1180. Sulgrave Manor was the home of Lawrence Washington, the direct ancestor of George Washington, our first president. In London, it was his privilege to visit the only existing home of Benjamin Franklin in London. The home is located on Craven Street and is preserved as an historical home. President General Brakebill delivered a check from the National Society as a contribution to its restoration. Also in London, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, the city in which Buckingham Palace is located, received the compatriots and their ladies.

Compatriot Brakebill visited with former Compatriot and Lord Chancellor of England, Lord Hailsam, whose office was in the Parliament building. The compatriots met with the United Kingdom Society while in London. The President General promised the American Ambassador to France, Joseph M. Rogers, that if he completed his papers, that Compatriot Brakebill would fly to Paris to present him his membership certificate. Mr. Rogers became a member and President General Brakebill flew to Paris for the certificate presentation which occurred at the annual meeting of the French Society in Paris. Also, he accepted Compatriot Ambassador Rogers' invitation to be his guest in the ambassador's residence. He spent the night in the Benjamin Franklin suite, which afforded an outstanding view of the Eiffel Tower.

On another occasion, December 29, 1987, it was the distinct privilege of President General Brakebill to present to that great patriotic American entertainer, Bob Hope, the first NSSAR Distinguished Patriot Award. He was most gracious and appreciative of the award.

Compatriot Brakebill presented the NSSAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal to Anne D. Fleck, NSDAR President General, on the opening night of their Congress in Washington, DC in April 1987. He also presented the Gold Good Citizenship Medal to Secretary of the Army, John O. Marsh, Jr., in a ceremony at the Jefferson Memorial on April 13, 1987. The occasion was the celebration of the 244th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson. During a visit to Delaware, he also presented a Gold Good Citizenship Medal to Daniel L. Hermann, retired Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court. His term in office was successfully concluded with the 97th Annual Congress held at historical Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The following telegram from the President of the United States was received at the opening of the Congress:

"Mr. Clovis H. Brakebill, President General, The National Society Sons of the American Revolution: Warmest greetings to the members of The National Society Sons of the American Revolution as you gather in Valley Forge for your 97th Annual Congress."

This year of the Bicentennial of our Constitution is an especially appropriate time to recognize the work you do in preserving the heritage of liberty left us by our founders. All Americans should remember the vision and sacrifice that won us our independence. By keeping this proud history alive, you enrich your countrymen - today's and tomorrow's. You have my best wishes for a most successful Congress. God Bless you, God Bless America. Ronald Reagan"

President General Brakebill received the Minuteman Award in 1981, the Gold Good Citizenship Medal in 1987 and the Patriot Medal in 1980. He has also earned the Florence Kendall Award in 1984 and 1986 for securing the most new members for the National Society. In 1993, he compiled and published the Revolutionary War Graves Register containing the names of more than 54,000 soldiers of the American Revolution and the location of the graves in which these great patriots lie buried. In 1998, he authored "*American Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Texas.*" He received the Minnesota Society Stephen Taylor Award for this publication. In October 1999, he published a Brakebill genealogy containing the names of more than six thousand descendants of his Patriot Ancestor, Peter Brakebill.

President General Clovis H. and Helen Brakebill were married on January 26, 1947, and they live in Dallas, Texas. They are the parents of two daughters and have four grandchildren. Compatriot Brakebill continues to be very active in the National Society.

Source: Co-Editors: Robert Franklin Jackson, Historian General and Garrett Franklin Jackson, Commander NSSAR Color Guard, *The Sons of the American Revolution, NSSAR History, Volume III, 1983-1999, An Historical Anthology, Pages 73-76.*

Texas SAR History Volume 2, May 2006 pp. 237-239

Memoirs and Biography of Texas SAR Society State Presidents

Clovis Hunter Brakebill TXSSAR President 1982 – 1983

Clovis Hunter Brakebill was born in Bonham, Texas, 15 December 1920. His parents were Roy Hunter Brakebill and Leura Edna Blalock (Brakebill). Upon graduation from Texas A & M University, where he earned a B.S. Degree in Accounting, he entered the United States Army.

Clovis served for four years during World War II with the 542nd Field Artillery Battalion, 42nd (Rainbow) Division. He trained at Camp Gruber in Eastern Oklahoma before receiving his assignment as a combat forward in France. Following his combat service, he was stationed in Austria with the United States Occupation Forces. Among his many military decorations, he earned a Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the American Defense Medal, and the European Africa Campaign Medal with two campaign stars.

While stationed in France, he met his wife, First Lieutenant Helen Marie Krippaehne, a member of the United States Army Nurse Corps. They were married January 26, 1947 at Fort Lewis, Washington.

The Brakebills resided in Dallas, Texas, from 1959 until moving to Houston, in 2000. He retired from Tower Perrin in February, 1986, after over 30 years of Actuarial Consulting.

Among his many credits, Clovis authored a Revolutionary War Patriots Grave Registry, and was in fact writing a second volume to this registry at the time of his death. In this book he documented the location of hundreds of Patriots' Grave sites.

Compatriot Brakebill was a member of over 25 hereditary, patriotic, and fraternal organizations including:

- National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
- The General Society of the War of 1812
- The General Society of the Colonial Wars
- The Sons of the Confederate Veterans
- The Baronial Order of Magna Charta
- Order of Americans of Amorial Ancestry
- Order of Three Crusades
- Order of the Crown of Charlemagne
- The Jamestowne Society
- The Military Order of the Crusades
- The Huguenot Society
- The Continental Society Sons of Indian Wars
- The National Gavel Society
- Masonic orders (Freemason, Knight's Templar, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Legion of Honor)
- National Sojourners
- Military Order of the World Wars

Clovis held many offices with these organizations, including:

- President General of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution 1986-87
- Treasurer General NSSAR 1983-85
- Secretary General NSSAR 1985-86
- President of the Texas Society of the SAR 1982-83
- Senior Vice President TXSSAR 1981-82
- District Vice President TXSSAR 1979-81
- President of the Dallas Chapter of the TXSSAR 1977-78
- Deputy Governor of the General Society of Colonial Wars 1993-96
- Governor of the Texas Society of the Colonial Wars 1992-93
- Commander of Region VIII, military Order of the World Wars 1985-86
- Commander of the Dallas Chapter of the MOWW 1982-83

In addition to the offices held, Compatriot Brakebill served on no less than 21 Committees for the NSSAR, some of which were: National Executive Committee (1980-92), he served as Chairman of the 90th National SAR Congress (1980), Insurance Committee (1980-83), National Congress Planning Committee (1981-84), National Finance Committee (1983-85), Life and Youth Membership Committee (1985-86), Douglass C. High Trust Fund Committee (1987-88), Permanent Fund (1989-90), National Nominating (1987-88), SAR Graves Registration (1992-95), Ethics (1993-95) and MANY others.

Former President General NSSAR and Mrs. Brakebill have permanently endowed the National Oration Medal presented to the top three contestants of the Joseph Rumbaugh Historical Oration Contest. They have also permanently endowed four scholarships for Texas A & M University as well as the Genealogy and Early American History fund there.

He received numerous honors and awards, several include:

National Society Sons of the American Revolution -

Minuteman Award, Patriot Medal,
Gold Good Citizenship Medal,
Silver Good Citizenship Medal (2),
Meritorious Service Medal,
Florence Kendall Award (2).

National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution -
Medal of Honor.

The Military Order of the World Wars -

Patrick Henry Medallion, National Citation.

City of Paris, France -

La Medaille de La Ville de Paris by Jacques Chime, Mayor of Paris.

Compatriot Brakebill had twelve documented American Revolutionary War Ancestors from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Clovis has two daughters: Diana Brakebill Morris and Jeanne Brakebill Martin, Ph.D., RD., and four grandchildren: Scott Hunter Morris (SAR), Christina Marie Morris, Julie Katherine Martin, and James Gerald Martin, III.

Very active in his church, he was a Member and Elder of Midway Hills Christian Church in Dallas, Texas, serving as Chairman of the Board from 1964 - 65.

Source: information received from Allan Henshaw