



Rotary Club of Centennial Colorado



Centennial, Colorado

May 30, 2017



Jan Housley of the Longs Peak Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution presented on Baron von Steuben. Von Steuben was born in 1730 in Magdeburg fortress where his father was an engineer lieutenant. He was schooled in Breslau by Jesuits. He was a Prussian officer at the age of 17. He was a member of an infantry unit and a staff officer in the Seven Years War (called the French and Indian War in the US). To try and reverse his financial condition, he found Benjamin Franklin was in Paris and sought him out to see if he could be of service to the Continental Army. Von Steuben was introduced to General Washington through a letter of introduction from Benjamin Franklin.

Baron von Steuben met the Continental Army at Valley Forge, PA in February 1778. Von Steuben could not speak English, but could speak enough French so some of the American officers could communicate with him. Alexander Hamilton and Nathanael Greene assisted von Steuben in drafting a training program for the soldiers, which was approved by General Washington. Von Steuben started training small banks of militia who successively worked outward into each brigade. Captain Benjamin Walker was a translator for von Steuben, even cussing at the troops in English the way von Steuben did in German and French. One of the things von Steuben did was to train the American soldiers how to fire their guns so they would be effective in close combat.

In the Winter of 1779-80 von Steuben traveled with General Greene to the Southern campaign. Von Steuben helped

Develop the battle plan for the Battle of Cows Pens. He came up with the plan to have the militia withdraw after a few rounds. This plan drew the British into a trap which led to a significant victory for the Continentals.

The picture is of an actual musket from 1777. This musket still works.

Von Steuben died in America in 1794. His estate was left to William North and Benjamin Walker. He had an estate of approximately 16,000 acres in New York. The United States government granted him an annual pension of \$2,500.

CLUB BUSINESS



John McCarty becomes a Paul Harris Fellow +4

John Peterson said they are still in need of 4 volunteers for this Saturday's (today's) beer event at Centennial Park.

Samantha Johnston said volunteers are needed for the 9-10 slot for the food drive on June 17.

John Weksler said volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels

Volunteers are also needed for the golf tournament. Sign up through the Chamber web site.

2015-2016 Club Officers

President—Randy Earnest
President Elect—John Berry
Secretary—Mary Alice Jackson
Treasurer—Barbara Medina
Sergeant at Arms—Paul Horiuchi/
John Weksler
Past President—Randy Pye

Directors

Club Administration—Roxy Hahn
Community & Club Innovation—
Andrea Tagtow/Elle Vatterott
Local & International Service—
Mike Tagtow
Technology Innovations—John
Peterson
Membership Growth & Enrich-
ment—Trip Butler
Rotary Foundation—John

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 6—MICHELLE RAHM,
CHANGING CHILDREN'S LIVES
IN MADAGASCAR
JUNE 7—CLUB BOARD MEET-
ING
JUNE 13—ANTONIO HERNAN-
DEZ, IDENTITY THEFT
JUNE 17—FOOD DRIVE, KING
SOOPERS, PARKER RD AND
ARAPAHOE
JUNE 20—SARA BRATTON,
GIVING RE-ENTRANCE INTO
SOCIETY FOR LOCALLY SEX-
TRAFFICKED GIRLS
JUNE 24—CHANGING OF THE
GUARD
JUNE 27—MARK JACKSON, RIS-
INGN ABOVE INSURMONTABLE
ODDS FOLLOWING INCARCERA-
TION
JULY—CLUB IS DARK

TRAVEL GIFTS

John Peterson brought a spatula from the Gifford House. They are noted for their pies.

John Berry brought a book from Area 51 that he got at the Dayton Air Museum.