

Sons of the American Revolution — Harris Ferry Chapter News

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First Quarter 2019



President's Message

Andrew Lick

Harris Ferry President

Dear Compatriots,

The article "What Do Americans Know About Our Founding?" in the latest edition of SAR Magazine reveals the dismal state of American history education in our nation's schools. A year ago, the Washington Post cited a survey conducted by the Annenberg Public Policy Center that found that only one in four people can name all three branches of government and one in three could not name any branch of government at all. A poll commissioned by the Oklahoma Council

of Public Affairs found that 77 percent of students in public high schools could not even name George Washington as our first president. The NSSAR Education Committee has created The America's Founding Documents Curriculum Project to reach millions of children in public, private and home schools. This is a great nationwide initiative. However, it is up to us as Compatriots at the local level to reach our fellow citizens in our own community. As an

educational society, we can reach our young people through the Americanism Poster Contest, Knight Essay Contest, Rumbaugh Oration Contest, JROTC Essay Contest, Eagle Scout Awards and supporting our many teachers and speakers who still value our heritage. The Board of Management is looking forward to a full schedule of events in 2019 that continue to carry out this important work. On April 19, we will celebrate our 2nd Annual Veterans (continued on Page 2)

Upcoming Events

Veteran's Awards Luncheon
Fri, Apr 19 @ Hampden 6:00

Wing Madness Event
Thu, May 19 @ Hampden 6:00

Board of Management Meeting
Sat, May 11 @ H-town 9:00

Harris Ferry Awards Luncheon
Sun, May 19 @ Col CC 1:00

Flag Day Luncheon
Sat, Jun 15 @ Masonic Vill 11:00

Board of Management Meeting
Sat, July 13 @ H-town 9:00

Constitution Day Luncheon
Sun, Sept 22 @ Col CC 1:00

*All Compatriots are invited
DAR invited to all Luncheons*

ANNUAL HARRIS FERRY AWARDS LUNCHEON

All compatriots and DAR members are invited to join us at our Annual Harris Ferry Awards Luncheon which will be held on Sunday, 18 May at the Colonial Country Club in Linglestown. Social begins at 1:00 with the luncheon program beginning at 1:30.

Our speaker will be our own Compatriot Lawrence Knorr presenting "Finding the Founders—Traveling the Colonies in Search of Patriot Graves". Lawrence has authored or co-authored over 20 books, mostly on history or biography. He is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), the Sons of the American Revolution, and numerous other historical organizations. He enjoys most writing about the formerly famous and his beloved Pennsylvania Dutch culture.

Over the last three years, Lawrence and two co-authors, Joe Farrell and Joe Farley, have been traveling up and down the east coast in search of the graves of all 200+ Founders of the USA. While most have been found in sleepy old cemeteries, others have been found under parking lots, in bean fields, under church pews, and some are completely lost. These gentlemen have been chased by dogs, threatened with guns, and risked traversing alligator-infested areas to visit these graves and catalog their condition. The three are writing a series of books called Graves of Our Founders containing biographies and grave information. Volume 1 is out and Volume 2 is being written. The three men have also been tracking the condition of these graves on their website adoptapatriot.com.

Meal choices are chicken marsala with mashed potatoes and green beans or a vegetarian selection. Cost of the event is \$25. Social will begin at 1:00 and the program will be at 1:30. Look for your invitation in the mail or contact Denny Bobb at 717-566-5195.

2018 Officers Elected



President Andrew Lick, First VP Forrest Myers, Second VP Gary Coburn, Treasurer Denny Bobb, Secretary Curtis Aumiller

The Harris Ferry 78th Annual Meeting was held at the Harrisburg Country Club on Sunday, 02 December, 2018. The speaker at the event was Thad Weaver who presented a very interesting documentary entitled "The German regiment of Washington's Army". Weaver explained less common knowledge of Hessian soldiers and shared stories and insights into the German-American soldiers who fought

for our freedom.

Following Weaver's presentation, the following officers were elected for 2019: President: Andrew Lick, First Vice President: Forrest Myers, Second Vice President: Gary Coburn, Secretary: Curtis Aumiller, Treasurer: Dennis Bobb, Registrar: Robert Bakelaar.

President Lick has appointed the following committee chairmen:

Chancellor—Charles Stone Esq

Chaplain—Ronald Coleman
JROTC—Keith Huntzinger
Eagle Scouts—Forrest Myers
Americanism—John Pringle
Flag Committee Co-Chairmen—
Forrest Myers and Ed Miller
Medals & Certs—Forrest Myers

Separately, Andrew Lick will continue to serve in his role as Third Vice President of PASSAR and Dick Wenner will continue his role as the PASSAR District #4 District Deputy.

*** Town Crier ***



Opportunity for Scouts

Know of any Eagle Scouts or Boy Scouts (including troops) that are looking for projects to achieve merit badges or awards? We are always in need of volunteers and donations to help us accomplish our civic goals.

If you have any lead on an individual or organization that may be interested in helping us out, please contact any board member and we will reach out to the individual or organization.

If the organization prefers, they can contact Andrew Lick for more information at president@harrisferry.org.

President's Message

(cont'd from page 1)

Awards Ceremony at the Hampden Township Veterans Park. On May 19, PASSAR Patriot Records Chairman and "Graves of our Founders" Author Lawrence Knorr will speak at our Annual Harris Ferry Awards Luncheon at Colonial Golf Club. Please join us throughout the year as we do our part to preserve American history and honor those citizens who exemplify the highest principles of our nation's founding.

In Patriotic Service,

Andrew L Lick
President

Revolutionary War Roundtable

We are currently in the early development of our Revolutionary War Roundtable. You may have seen articles in our newsletter previously about the RWR and now we are setting the wheels in motion.

Unfortunately, our initial developing engineer, Past President Bill Jackson, will be unable to take the lead on this. Bill created our area's versions of the Civil War Roundtable and WWII Roundtable. However, Bill will be lending his expertise to get us off the ground.

Our RWR will be held monthly at a local church or retirement facility. The meetings will be informal and open to public, publicized in local newspapers, and of course appear in our chapter newsletter. There will be no charge for the events and donations will be graciously accepted at each event. We are currently working on locking down a facility and securing speakers.

We are hoping to have our kickoff session sometime in the fourth quarter of this year, possibly November. If anyone would be interested in leading or assisting in this endeavor, please contact Denny Bobb at treasurer@harrisferrysar.org with a title "RWR".

SAR Sea Cadet and Eagle Scout Award Presentations

March begins awards season at Harris Ferry and we recently presented the annual awards for Sea Cadets and Eagle Scouts.

On March 18, HF President Andrew Lick presented our 2019 Eagle Scout Award to Devin DePamphilis at the Troop 77's Court of Honor Ceremony at the Tree of Life



Devin DePamphilis proudly displays his Eagle Scout Certificate

Lutheran Church in Linglestown. Devin took first place



Harris Ferry President Andrew Lick presents the Chapter's Annual Eagle Scout Award to Devin DePamphilis

in the annual Harris Ferry Eagle Scout Essay Contest with his essay titled "Battle of Princeton—A Moral Victory".

Devin is a student at the Harrisburg Academy. His essay went

on to place third at the PASSAR level.

We look forward to Devin reading his essay at our upcoming Awards Luncheon in May.

On March 9, Vice President

Forrest Myers presented our Sea Cadets Award to Chief Petty Office Paul Vesek. The award, the Bronze Good Citizenship Award, was presented to CPO Vesek at the annual Constellation Division Sea Cadet Commanders Ball of



Vice President Forrest Myers and CFO Paul Vesek

the United States Navy in New Cumberland.

Flag Program Being Revitalized

Our flag memorial program is being revitalized under the direction of Flag Committee Chairman Ed Miller, the input of the BOM, and the volunteerism of Compatriots Kip Shaw and his son Nathan. The program involves honoring veterans of all wars in select area cemeteries by placing Betsy Ross flags at their graves for the summer beginning with the Memorial Day weekend.

The program has been in somewhat of a state of flux since the passing of former chairman Ron Wix back in



2016. Ed has been very active in getting the BOM to identify target cemeteries which will be the foundation of our continuing efforts for future years. We

will be adding more cemeteries to our efforts in future years.

In our revitalized program, we will be honoring the veterans at the following cemeteries (at a mini-

mum): Paxton Presbyterian Church, Hummel Cemetery, Enola Cemetery and there are several others under consideration for this year.

The number of cemeteries we select will be determined by the number of compatriots who are willing to help in this endeavor. The more help we get, the more cemeteries we will be able to cover and the more veterans will be honored. If interested in assisting, please contact any board member via his email address located on the chapter website.

Harris Ferry Participates in Wreaths Across America

by *Curtis Aumiller*

On December 15th, volunteers from the Harris Ferry Chapter laid wreaths at the graves of veterans in the Paxton Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Harrisburg. Harris Ferry had decided earlier to “adopt” this cemetery since there are many Revolutionary War Patriots buried in this cemetery and the historical significance of the church in the founding of Harrisburg as well as Pennsylvania. It was decided to not have any type of ceremony this year during the wreath laying so that a dry run could be performed. It is planned to start having an actual ceremony during the wreath laying beginning in 2019. We were able to lay 36 wreaths at the cemetery including 7 ceremonial wreaths for each branch of the service. On December 16th, Curtis Aumiller was contacted by the WAA members from the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. They had extra wreaths, so Curtis was able to procure 70 more wreaths to lay at PPCC. This gives us an idea of how many wreaths we can sponsor and cover all veterans at the cemetery.

If you would like to sponsor a wreath for 2019, please watch for information coming in our fall newsletter.



The Harris Ferry Chapter of the SAR and Wreaths Across America

By *Norman Daniels*

Have you noticed the beautiful wreaths in our Churchyard laid at the beginning of the Christmas Season? They appeared through the generosity and work of the Harris Ferry Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. They partnered with Wreaths Across America to help bring awareness and honor to those who served so bravely for our Country. The Harris Ferry Chapter chose to adopt our Churchyard as their primary site for laying wreaths because the church and cemetery had such a historical impact with patriots in the Harrisburg area.

Paxton Church is very appreciative of the work of the Harris Ferry Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, Wreaths across America, SAR President Andrew Lick, and SAR Secretary Curtis Aumiller. It is hoped to be the beginning step of a closer relationship between Paxton and the Harris Ferry Chapter.

*Reprinted from Paxton Presbyterian Church Bulletin
December 2018*



Editor's Note:

The Chapter would like to express our gratitude to Fundraising Chairman Curtis Aumiller for his efforts in getting us involved in this national program and representing our Chapter in this effort.