

### **Annual Meeting**

Pennsylvania State President J. Fenwick Shugrue installed Harris Ferry's officers for 2005 at the annual meeting Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. President Lunsford succeeded himself so we can look forward to another year of his superb leadership. There were about thirty in attendance who enjoyed another fine buffet at the Mechanicsburg Officer's Club. President Shugrue in his remarks delineated the process for new and supplemental applications. It is now possible to track a new application as it moves through the process (providing you have the password) on a computer. Compatriots from Continental Congress and Fort Halifax were in attendance to show support. At President Lunsford's request toys were brought for the Toys for Tots Program and we were able to turn over quite an assortment to the Marines.

### **"Thompson Battalion" Books Available**

Col. William Thompson, buried in Carlisle, was Commander of the famed "Thompson's Rifle Battalion," the First Continental Regiment who, with nine companies from Pennsylvania, marched to the relief of the City of Boston in 1775. Thompson was captured during the battle of Quebec and held aboard a prison ship in New York Harbor for four years and was eventually released in exchange for Baron Von Riedsel. His health was broken and he died at the age of 45 at his home, Soldiers' Rest in Carlisle.

Harris Ferry Chapter's own Oscar Stroh, past president and historian, was the author. We now have a number of Oscar's books available for sale. They may be purchased at any chapter luncheon for \$10.00 or by mail (+\$2.00 sh) by contacting Secretary Ed Miller at 717-944-7364.

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### **JROTC Program**

Chairman John Pringle says that the JROTC Program has expanded. Harris Ferry Chapter originally recognized one school for a number of years. Today we have contact not only with Harrisburg High School's Naval Junior ROTC program under the command of Comdr. Robert H. Kanewske, but are now working with Cedar Cliff's Army JROTC, instructed by Col. Frank R. Hancock, and Red Land's Army JROTC led by Col. Edward G. Murdock. All three schools have expressed the desire to continue with the Chapter's competition for the Outstanding Cadet of the Year. A cadet is recognized as leading cadet in each school by being presented with a certificate and a medal based on certain criteria and an essay. In fact it was Joseph Innerst of Red Land who won Harris Ferry Chapter's competition this past spring and went on to place as first runner-up in the State Society. Harris Ferry has had some success with this in the past. In 2002 our Chapter winner, K'asha Franklin, went on to win on the state level. If you have any interest in becoming involved with such a program I'm sure John Pringle would be interested in talking with you.

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### **A Few Good Men**

Yes there are some good men out there. As a result of this article in the last newsletter we would like to welcome our newest Board member Michael A. Milliken. But we continue to look for someone else to step forward as we desperately need a vice-president. The only responsibility this year would be to attend four Board meetings, observe the process, and be willing to accept the presidency next year (2006). BE ALL YOU CAN BE! Step forward.

## Chapter Officers 2005

Chapter President

William T. Lunsford, JR. 737-5231

Vice President

Secretary

Edwin R. Miller 944-7364

Treasurer

William S. Marshall III 939-1792

Registrar / Genealogist

John E. Peifer 774-3944

Chancellor

Charles H. Stone, Esq. 774-3035

Chaplain

Richard N. Rice 534-1939

Directors

Herbert H. Braden 964-1802

George P. Beck III 774-6780

Eric C. Bugaile 566-0898

Mark O. Hagenbuch 432-8911

Steven H. King 533-2753

Michael A. Milliken 657-7082

Michael A. Milliron 652-0882

John A. Pringle 795-8526

Frederick A. Umholtz 258-4764

## Significant Quotes

Be courteous to all, but intimate with few; and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence. True friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation. Let your heart feel for the affections and distresses of every one, and let your hand give in proportion to your purse, remembering always the estimation of the widow's mite, that it is not every one that asketh that deserveth charity; all, however, are worthy of the inquiry, or the deserving may suffer.

--- George Washington

## Harris Ferry to Host PASSAR Winter Session

On February 4-5, 2005 Harris Ferry Chapter will once again have the honor to host the Winter Session of the Pennsylvania Society, Sons of the American Revolution. As the sessions travel geographically from East to West across our state we here in central PA usually have the opportunity to volunteer at this time. The session will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Camp Hill. This makes it convenient from the turnpike, major highways, and the airport. It is a great opportunity for Harris Ferry to become known throughout the state and to provide some little known history of the area. If you have never attended one of the PASSAR sessions you now have an excellent opportunity to do so. Meet you state officers and you might even find a cousin or two of which you were not aware, I did. Hope to see you there.

## The Song Remains the Same

Would "America the Beautiful" be as stirring if its opening line was "O beautiful for halcyon skies"? Or if the purple mountain majesties rose above the "enameled plain"? No way, says Lynn Sherr, correspondent for ABC's "20/20", and author of *America the Beautiful: The Stirring True Story Behind Our Nation's Favorite Song*.

In fact, "America" began as a poem, written by Wellesley professor Katharine Lee Bates in 1893. It became a national favorite, but setting it to music proved tough. More than 1000 melodies were paired with an 1882 hymn by Samuel Augustus Ward, an organist from Newark, NJ. They fit perfectly.

Bates accepted no royalties for the song. "She said the poem almost wrote itself, and she didn't feel she owned it any more than she owned the spacious skies or the fruited plain", says Sherr.