

\$ PROCRASTINATORS BEWARE \$

If you, like I often do, wait until the last minute to do something, we want to make you aware that it might cost you money. PASSAR has changed its dues structure to permit a \$10.00 filing fee for reinstatements. In other words do not be late with your dues. Budget now for the payment of dues before mid December. Also be reminded that PASSAR has increased the dues by \$5.00. Harris Ferry Chapter has NOT increased its dues. You should have received your statement in November. Return ASAP.



Constitution Day Luncheon

J. Bruce Walter, Esq. And Cameron Texter, President of York City Council, made joint presentations on the Patriot Act that was very informative. It was at the suggestion of Herb Braden, HFC Board member, that we have such a presentation. He introduced the topic by giving some background and reviewed some of the questions that concern us today. Both men spoke on the subject from their point of view. There was a question period following.

Welcome...Welcome...Welcome

Edwin Miller, Secretary, leads the induction ceremony for Harris Ferry Chapter's newest members. James K. Long and Ronald C. Coleman wait to respond appropriately and to receive the legendary SAR Rosette. Congratulate them at the Annual Meeting in December.

Congratulations

Americanism Chairman John Pringle has presented three SAR Flag Certificates for flying the flag in accordance with SAR guidelines. They were:

Edward & Joyce Crossley
Camp Hill

Richard & Diane McBride
Camp Hill

Stephen & Myra Gons
Camp Hill

If you see a flag looking good, lets us know.



President Bill Lunsford, Cameron Texter, J. Bruce Water, and Herb Braden.

Volunteers Needed

HFC is in serious need of volunteers to assume the positions of Vice-Presidents. There is no particular obligations other than attending four Board meetings a year and eventually assuming the Presidency where

they chair the meeting and host the luncheons. Interested? Need more information? Call President Lunsford (737-5231) or Secretary Miller (944-7364). Respond ASAP!!

THE STORY BEHIND THE SAR BADGE

Most Compatriots are familiar with the Membership Badge of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Few perhaps are familiar with the history and significance which underscore it. The badge is not only one of the most beautiful of American hereditary societies, it is also the most steeped with history and replete with significance.

The badge was designed in the very early days of the Society by Major Goldsmith Bernard West, Vice-President of the Alabama Society. The badge consists of a cross of eight points suspended by an eagle. The cross is of white enamel and has four arms and eight points, each point being decorated with a gold bead. Its source is the cross of the ancient Order of St. Louis, founded by Louis XIV in 1693.

WHY THE ORDER OF ST. LOUIS

The royal and military order of St. Louis was part of a package of war veterans' benefits decreed by the Sun King at the time. Louis founded the Hotel des Invalides, which is known around the world, today, as the final resting place of Napoleon.

To reward officers for distinguished service Louis established the Order of St. Louis. The Order was named after his nickname and patron, Louis IX, saint, crusader and King of France. The cross of the Order of St. Louis is identical to the SAR cross except in three details. The central medallion of the SAR badge bears the image of Washington rather than that of St. Louis; the medallion is surrounded by the SAR's motto "*Libertas et Patria*" (Liberty and Country) rather than the military order's motto "*Bellicae Virtutis Praemium*" (The Reward for Vitruue in War); and the angles between the arms of the cross lack the French fleurs de lis. Instead, the SAR surrounds the cross with the laurel wreath of republican victory.

French Aid Influential

Several reasons made the St. Louis cross an appropriate pattern for the SAR badge. The Grand Master of the Order of St. Louis, Louis XVI, lent the American rebels material and diplomatic aid which was indispensable for the defeat of the British. Moreover, a great many

of the French officers who fought for the Patriot cause were chevaliers of the Order. Beyond that the Order of St. Louis had had a significant presence in North America. During the French Colonial period something like 300 chevaliers of St. Louis saw service in North America. Hence, it was in recognition of the decisive aid of France and the significant presence of the Order in North America that the SAR chose the St. Louis cross as a pattern for its own.

Legion of Honor Influence

The laurel wreath is significant, for it is derived from another French Order, the Legion of Honour. Instituted by Napoleon shortly after his advent to power, the Legion of Honour was intended to fill the vacuum left by the disappearance of the old royal orders during the French Revolution. Napoleon, like Louis XIV before him, recognized the importance of rewarding faithful public service and recognizing merit. Hence, he instituted the Legion of Honour, which to this day remains one of the most prestigious orders of merit in the world. Napoleon's order, however, differed from the old royal orders. Those either presupposed or conferred nobility. They were inextricably linked to the caste system. But with the Legion of Honour came a new basis for reward - - personal merit rather than birth. Thus it will not be surprising that the SAR badge is consciously modeled on that of the Legion of Honour. Unlike the Legion of Honour, which has five arms, the SAR cross has but four.

Eagle Denotes Patriotism

Distinctly American also is the eagle which suspends the cross. Badges of European orders have used trophies (a war helmet), a wreath, or a gold loop. These symbolize their chivalrous purpose. But the purpose of the SAR is not chivalry, but patriotism. Hence, the SAR appropriately adopted the eagle which the Society of Cincinnati had previously selected for their badge. The choice produced a uniquely American Badge.

By: Compatriot Duane L. C. M. Galles
Minnesota Society, SAR

