

**NEWSLETTER**  
**SPRING-SUMMER NEWSLETTER**

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**  
**HARRIS FERRY CHAPTER**

This year of 2009 started with the Harris Ferry Chapter board of management meeting. It was held at the Lutheran Church in Highspire at 9 AM Saturday February 14, 2009. The most significant act by the board was to approve the motion to continue and finalize the Colonel Burd Cemetery gravestones' project at Middletown Cemetery. More on that later.

We ended the meeting with encouragement to all to attend the George Washington's Birthday celebration to be held at the West Shore Country Club on February 22nd, 2009. The Harrisburg Chapter of DAR sponsored the program and Regent Deborah White Hershey introduced Mr. Mike Perry, Executive Director, Army Heritage Center Foundation, who spoke on The Preparation of the Militia Soldier to Take up Arms Against the King in the Year Prior to the War. His was an excellent presentation and we all enjoyed the program.

My wife and I, along with District Deputy John Pringle, attended PASSAR's Annual Meeting in King of Prussia, PA. The meeting was sponsored by the Philadelphia Continental Chapter. We saw the new **PASSAR President A. Duane Miller installed** along with the other PASSAR Officers.

Harris Ferry's outstanding JROTC Cadet, Elizabeth Olcese was chosen as the winner at the State level, and was able to read her winning **essay**. We are extremely happy that for two years running, Harris Ferry Chapter's winning cadet, has also won at the State level. We all wish Elizabeth well in the National SAR competition. A most enjoyable weekend was had by all. Accolades to Compatriot Pringle for his ongoing efforts in this area.

Prior to the May 9th Harris Ferry Board of Management meeting a special meeting was held in order for the Board to meet with three groups who are very interested in participating in the dedication ceremony of Colonel and Mrs. Burd's new gravestone. The groups are Donegal Township Riflemen, represented by Larry Gorecki, and the Greater Middletown Economic Development Group represented by John Ziats and Maxine Dimeler. Also Stephan Klosowski, Exec. Director of the group attended. .

Another meeting is planned for the end of July to settle all the details, and plan the dedication ceremony, the sending of invitations, inviting various government officials, media people, PASSAR principals, other chapters of SAR, and of course Harris Ferry Chapter members.

On May 17, 2009 Harris Ferry Chapter presented its ninth annual Awards Luncheon at the Officer's Club at the Naval Depot in Mechanicsburg PA.

President Kunkle officially installed new member Robert Bakelaar and presented him with a Rosette, and then turned the meeting over to the host for the awards luncheon, First Vice President William Jackson.

Bill presented a Rosette to Mrs. David F. Lenker for her husband who died shortly after being approved and accepted into SAR. Mrs. Lenker attended the luncheon with new member applicant David Strohm.

The first award was presented by John Pringle to the outstanding JROTC Cadet, Elizabeth Olcese. Elizabeth's commanding officer, Lt. Col Schimandle was on hand as Cadet Olcese received her award. Ms. Olcese then read her winning essay while her proud parents looked on.

The SAR outstanding citizen medal and Certificate were the next awards given in recognition of Matt McDonald and Corey Persson for their outstanding accomplishment of saving the life of a neighbor who was shoveling snow and collapsed.

The young men performed CPR and called 911. As a result of their actions the man is alive today. The high school students were accompanied by their Mothers.

The third award was in honor of Jason Harrington who had been awarded the Silver Star Medal, Our Nation's third highest combat medal for bravery. Jason, a Specialist in the PA National Guard, was on tour in Iraq when the blast hit his Humvee in Ramadi. The U.S. Army said when presenting the award, "Specialist Harrington's calm under fire and tremendous confidence were directly responsible for saving the lives of soldiers on a day when many more lives could have been lost." Jason resides in Lancaster PA with his wife and two children.

Note: see pictures on last page of flyer.

On July 25th a special Board Meeting was held to finalize the dedication ceremony for a new tombstone and enhancement of their current stones, for Col. Burd and his wife Sarah. The ceremony will be held at the Middletown Cemetery on Sunday, October 4th, 2009 at 1:00 PM. in Middletown, PA.

Organizations participating in the ceremony will be The Scottish Society, The Fort Halifax Chapter's SAR Colorguard, The Augusta Regiment (Burd's Company), The Susquehanna Rangers, and The Donnegan Riflemen. PASSAR Officers past and present have been invited along with DAR Chapters from Harrisburg and Cumberland County. Several Historical Societies also have been asked to attend and state and local dignitaries have been invited.

There will be invitations to you and a program in the announcement you receive for the Constitution Day Program on September 20, 2009. It really will be a fine affair. We hope you all can attend.

Many thanks to PASSAR and NSSAR, Lanny Patten and James Garthewaite respectively, both PASSAR Past Presidents, for their efforts in obtaining contributions so Harris Ferry Chapter could proceed with this endeavor.

Hats off to Secretary Jim Long, Past President Ed Miller, 1st VP Wm. Jackson, and the rest of the Board for their efforts in planning this dedication ceremony. I thank you.

PASSAR President Duane Miller will be our quest speaker at the Annual Meeting on December 13th, 2009. Compatriot Miller will speak briefly about his tenure as President of PASSAR and swear in our slate of officers for the coming year.

If you want to contribute to your chapter, come to the meetings, agree to serve as an officer and become a board member. There is much to do and many more projects that can be taken on and carried out. Please talk with your fellow compatriots and make the decision to serve as well as help in recruiting new members to keep your chapter viable.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you. Contact us.

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PICTURES FROM AWARDS LUNCHEON  
MAY 17, 2009



First VP William Jackson shown with Nancy Lenker widow of David Lenker



John Pringle presenting an award to Elizabeth Olcese, the outstanding JROTC Cadet chosen for 2009



Jason Harrington awarded the nation's Silver Star Medal, receives a miniature Liberty Bell Award from Harris Ferry



Matt McDonald and Corey Persson receive congratulations from President Kunkle with Bill Jackson Looking on.