



HARRIS FERRY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Pennsylvania Society Sons of The American Revolution

Chapter Officers 2025-2026

President

Jacob R. Lemon
(717) 507-5364
jlemon93@hotmail.com

1st Vice-President

Daniel G. Lute
(717) 756-7252
dglute@verizon.net

2nd Vice-President

John R. Boyarski
(717) 761-2558
jmboyar@comcast.net

Secretary

Gary L. Coburn
(717) 802-0718
glcmech@gmail.com

Registrar and Genealogist

Curtis Aumiller
(717) 612-1575
curtis.aumiller@gmail.com

Treasurer

Dennis E. Bobb Jr.
(717) 566-5195
debobb@comcast.net

Chaplain

Ronald C. Coleman
(717) 732-9734
no email

Harris Ferry Chapter SAR
harrisferrysar.org

Pennsylvania Society SAR
passar.org

National Society SAR
sar.org

Winter 2025

President's Report

Hello Fellow Compatriots! I would like to formally introduce myself to you all as your new President of the Harris Ferry Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. It is a genuine honor to be given this opportunity, and I hope to represent our chapter proudly during our meetings and events, as well as those of the state and national societies.

To give you a summary of myself: I am originally from Annville, PA and currently reside in Etters, PA. I graduated from the Pennsylvania State University with a BA in History, Minor in American Studies, and AA in Letters, Arts, & Sciences. I am married with two children, both of which I plan to enroll into the Children of the American Revolution soon enough. My family history is by far one of the most important aspects of my life; it is something that has in some way, shape, or form woven itself into my everyday routine. My patriot ancestor I have connected to the Sons of the American Revolution fought for the Lancaster Militia as a private alongside his brothers and father. With future applications and research, I hope to link as many as twelve patriot ancestors to the record.

As far as some goals and intentions while Chapter President: I am a huge proponent of cemetery work. This involves not only grave marking and wreath presenting, but cleanup, repairing, and resetting. I would also like to get the chapter involved in other community activities such as Veteran aid, educating the youth, and promoting patriotism via flag certificates or conducting flag retirement ceremonies.

I also intend to organize recent and upcoming events, meetings, and communications in this newsletter, on the Harris Ferry website, and on Facebook page. This will include our chapter activities, as well as those of the state and national societies. I will try to call out opportunities that contribute toward earning medals, color guard, and more. So please make sure these do not get filtered into the spam folder of your email.

One final goal of mine is to try to put more activities on the calendar for us all to contribute to and attend. There are other chapters of the SAR and societies like ours that have similar goals and ambitions in neighboring areas, and I truly think if we can come together and align on some goals that we can expand our memberships and accomplishments.

Once again I would like to thank you all for this opportunity and the polite welcoming I have already been met with. I look forward to meeting you all and proudly serving as the President of the Harris Ferry Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Respectfully Yours,

Jacob R. Lemon, President, Harris Ferry Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution

Harriton House Tour and Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony for Charles Thomson – October 12, 2024

As part of the 250th Anniversary of America celebrations being held by the Sons of the American Revolution, one man of prominence that was honored for his patriotism was Charles Thomson. Often considered a Forgotten Founder of America, Thomson is best known for being secretary to the Continental Congress.

His story is one of rags to riches, having come to America alone after his family passed away, taking an unenthusiastic apprenticeship as a blacksmith, and receiving a crowd funded education from the local town. Thomson's abilities soared; he was an avid reader, learned multiple languages, translated the Bible from Greek, and used his new political position to maintain peaceful relations with local native tribes. The Lenape welcomed him and his honest intentions and gave him the name "The-man-who-speaks-the-truth."



Portrait of Charles Thomson, by Joseph Wright



The Harriton House

He served as secretary to almost all the major meetings during the founding of America, signing all the important documents, and his last political agenda was to ride to Virginia to inform George Washington that he had won the election for President of the United States. In his retirement at the Harriton House, he invested in some business avenues and agricultural sciences.

The tour of the Harriton House as well as the Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony were hosted by the Pennsylvania Society SAR and the Philadelphia Continental Chapter SAR. Members of the state societies from the original thirteen colonies were in attendance. The presentation of wreaths, the ceremony, and Color Guard performance all took place during beautiful weather.



Grave of Charles Thomson, Laurel Hill Cemetery East



SAR Patriot Grave Marker

Compatriot Jacob Lemon attended both the tour and grave marking ceremony and has said they were very enjoyable and honorable experiences. The number of SAR Colorguardsmen in attendance at the cemetery was limited, so the Color Guard Commander offered Jacob the opportunity to present the Pennsylvania flag during the ceremony.

A special thank you to the Pennsylvania Society SAR and the Philadelphia Continental Chapter SAR for their incredible organization and planning of these activities. An additional thank you goes to Steven, who guided us on the tour of the Harriton House and provided a rich history of Patriot Thomson, and to the staff at the Laurel Hill Cemetery East

*Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (1) Jacob Lemon
Medal Opportunities: 250th Anniversary Medal, Patriot Grave Marking Medal, SAR Color Guard*

250th Anniversary of the First Continental Congress – October 12, 2024

Following the Patriot Grave Marking ceremony of Charles Thomson, the 250th Anniversary celebration officially kicked off in historic Philadelphia at Carpenters' Hall, the meeting location of the First Continental Congress in 1774. At this meeting, patriots like Patrick Henry, John Jay, Charles Thomson, George Washington, and John and Samuel Adams, among others, from all thirteen colonies except Georgia met in secret to establish the Articles of Association. They refuted the Intolerable Acts, called for a boycott of British goods, and set in plan an embargo of exports. These men, while committing high treason with such a meeting, were laying further groundwork of a revolution.

The tour of Carpenter's Hall was well attended; the staff and local Park officials informed visitors of many intricate details to aspects of the building, the meeting of the rebels, as well as why they chose to meet there. The 250th Anniversary ceremony was hosted by the Pennsylvania Society SAR and the Philadelphia Continental Chapter SAR. Members of the state societies from the original thirteen colonies, including Georgia this time, were in attendance. The beautiful weather from earlier in the day continued throughout the presentation of wreaths, the ceremony, and Color Guard performance. The event was open to the public and attended by several bystanders.



Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia

A special thank you to the Pennsylvania Society SAR and the Philadelphia Continental Chapter SAR for their incredible organization and planning of these activities. An additional thank you goes to Michael Norris, Executive Director of the Carpenters' Company, who guided us on the tour of Carpenters' Hall and provided a rich history of the structure and history of the First Continental Congress

*Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (1) Jacob Lemon
Medal Opportunities: 250th Anniversary Medal, SAR Color Guard*

Harris Ferry SAR to Aid Harrisburg DAR with Prowell's Cemetery Maintenance – November 15, 2024

The Harrisburg Chapter, NSDAR adopted Prowell's Cemetery in Newberrytown, York County in October 2022. Buried within that cemetery is Captain William Prowell, a Revolutionary War Patriot who is the ancestor to almost a dozen of the DAR chapter's members.

Continual maintenance and cleanup of the cemetery takes scheduling with the landowners as well as the firsthand work required to keep it looking well-kept. Two years later in 2024, Harrisburg DAR Regent reached out to Harris Ferry compatriot Jacob R. Lemon, who lives nearby Prowell's Cemetery, for his assistance. Compatriot Lemon specializes in cemetery and tombstone preservation, restoration, and maintenance as a hobby and passion.

After an afternoon of intense weed-whacking and cutting, Prowell's Cemetery looked itself once more. Two more veterans were identified alongside Revolutionary War Patriot William Prowell: John S. Singer (War of 1812) and Hiram Hants (Civil War). All three veterans received flags and holiday wreaths (a side project Compatriot Lemon does for local veterans at small and abandoned cemeteries in the area).



Prowell's Cemetery Before (top) After (bottom)

The Harrisburg Chapter, NSDAR extended its deepest appreciation, and President Lemon has said he is willing to continue to maintain Prowell's Cemetery year-round going forward as a sign of historic partnership between the SAR and DAR Chapters.

Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (1) Jacob Lemon

Wreaths Across America 2024 – December 14, 2024

On a beautiful yet chilly December morning, the Harris Ferry Chapter SAR organized and held the Wreaths Across America ceremony and event at Paxton Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Harrisburg, PA. All 115 veterans buried at the cemetery received wreaths and flags, including 50 Revolutionary War Patriots. The 250th Anniversary Flag was present to honor the service of those Patriots specifically. The ceremony was performed by Harris Ferry Registrar and Genealogist Curtis Aumiller, with ceremonial wreaths presented during, color guard kept the flags flying, and attendance of the current and next generations was abundant. President-elect Jacob R. Lemon placed the SAR veteran wreath in colonial garb. The wreaths were funded through contributions from Compatriots, sponsors that came forward via Facebook posts, and a very generous contribution of \$250 from the Harrisburg Hunters' and Anglers' Association. A very genuine thank you goes out to all donors that contributed toward this year's Wreaths Across America campaign.



HFSAR President Jacob R. Lemon

To show the Chapter's appreciation for the thoughtful donation, a Certificate of Appreciation to the Harrisburg Hunters' and Anglers' Association will be presented at a later date.



Ceremonial wreaths presented in front of the colors and a large crowd of volunteers and onlookers.

Fun fact: John Harris II is among the buried and is the founder of Harrisburg!



Paxton Presbyterian Church Cemetery



Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (7) Curtis Aumiller, Dan Lute, John Boyarski, Gary Coburn, Jacob Lemon, Ronald Coleman, Andrew Lick
Medal Opportunities: 250th Anniversary Medal

Harris Ferry Chapter SAR 2025 Annual Meeting – January 18, 2025

January 18, 2025 marked the 85th Annual Meeting of the Harris Ferry Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution! The meeting was held at Wertzville Diner in Enola, PA and was well received. Agenda included a recap of Wreaths Across America 2024, a Genealogy Resources presentation from Pennsylvania State Genealogy Librarian Amy Woytovich, and a Cemetery Preservation & Restoration presentation from Chapter President Lemon.

There was quite a bit of interest from various Compatriots of cemeteries nearby in need of attention. The Chapter will try to compile a list of cemeteries that are in need of attention and analyze if assisting in restoration efforts are feasible. Mr. Leppard of neighboring Washingtonburg Chapter was particularly interested by these cemetery initiatives and expressed his Chapter's willingness to participate and assist in Patriot Grave Marking. 2025 officers were sworn in by PASSAR 2nd Vice President Dale J. J. Leppard.

Harrisburg Chapter, NSDAR representative Dominish Miller was also present, serving as the Escort for the Officer Ceremony. She also did a phenomenal job photographing the event.

President Lemon is extremely excited for this new position and would like to extend his deepest appreciation to everyone in attendance and to the Chapter at large.

Thank you to all Compatriots and guests that attended. Also, a special thank you to the staff at the Wertzville Diner; the brunch was excellently prepared, staff very polite, and we felt extremely welcomed.



2025 Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Officers w/ Dale Leppard

Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (10) Curtis Aumiller, Denny Bobb, John Boyarski, Gary Coburn, Ronald Coleman, Jacob R. Lemon, Dan Lute, Ron Rife, Larry Snyder, Alan Wiest



Join the Harris Ferry Chapter SAR!

Do you know someone that may be interested in joining the SAR? Do they have a passion for history and desire to preserve our nation's history? If they have a Revolutionary War Patriot ancestor, they may be able to join the Harris Ferry Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution!

Please contact Harris Ferry Chapter President Jacob R. Lemon and Registrar & Genealogist Curtis Aumiller via email and you will be contacted promptly. There are multiple membership options to choose from depending on age and who all in your family may be interested in joining.

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SAR Pledge

We, descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

SAR Recessional

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.

Interested in honoring a local patriot with a marker?

By placing a Sons of the American Revolution grave marker at the resting place of a patriot ancestor, you are not only distinguishing that grave amongst the rest in the cemetery, but you are also keeping that patriot's memory and service to the United States of America alive and remembered.

There are two types of bronze markers available: lug style (\$185.00) and stake style (\$225.00). The marker can be funded privately or via an organized fundraiser with the chapter. Please contact Harris Ferry Chapter President Jacob R. Lemon via email and you will be contacted promptly. Financial contribution and participation in the planning of this event can contribute toward earning the Patriot Grave Marking Medal.



Calendar of Events

Active Membership
48 Compatriots

Harris Ferry Newsletter

Winter (Nov, Dec, Jan) – Feb 15

Spring (Feb, Mar, Apr) – May 15

Summer (May, Jun, Jul) – Aug 15

Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct) – Nov 15

Latest PASSAR Newsletter

[4th Quarter 2024](#)

Website Member Access

is now active! An email was sent to compatriots with the keyword required for account creation. If you need any assistance or have comments, please email President Lemon.

Atlantic Middle States Association SAR

amssar.org

Harrisburg Chapter NSDAR

harrisburgdar.org

Pennsylvania Society DAR

pssdar.org

National Society DAR

dar.org

Pennsylvania Society CAR

pennscar.org

National Society CAR

nscar.org

SAR Store

store.sar.org

HFSAR Newsletter, Website & Facebook Editor

President Jacob R. Lemon

Issued February 15, 2025

SPRING 2025

Feb 27-Mar 1 – Spring Leadership Meeting at The Galt House (Kentucky)

- National Society SAR event

Mar 15 – Marker Dedication at Wenrich’s Cemetery w/ Harrisburg Chapter, NSDAR

- Harrisburg DAR event. 9 PA Revolutionary War Patriots being honored with DAR markers. 2:00 PM start time, Wenrich’s Cemetery, 6490 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg

Mar 28 – Cemetery Cleanup at Stroh’s Cemetery w/ Harrisburg Chapter, NSDAR

- Harrisburg DAR event. Please bring yard tools like rakes, weed eaters, containers of gasoline, gloves, eye and ear protection, etc. TBD start time, Stroh’s Cemetery, 401 Fishing Creek Valley Rd, Harrisburg

Apr 12 – Marker Dedication at Stroh’s Cemetery w/ Harrisburg Chapter, NSDAR

- Harrisburg DAR event. 2 PA Revolutionary War Patriots being honored with DAR markers. 2:00 PM start time, Stroh’s Cemetery, 401 Fishing Creek Valley Rd, Harrisburg

Past HFSAR President Oscar H. Stroh is buried at Stroh’s Cemetery. It will be presented at an upcoming BOM meeting to raise funds for a Compatriot Grave Marker to honor Mr. Stroh and all his hard work compiling research on Dauphin County Revolutionary War Patriots over the years.

Apr 18-21 – 250th Celebration of the Battles of Lexington and Concord (Massachusetts)

- National Society SAR event, 250th event, special hotel rate and more information available online. President Lemon plans to attend; feel free to ask questions. Visit <https://massar.org/250th/> for more details

Apr 26 – Marker Dedication at Buck Cemetery w/ Harrisburg Hunters’ and Anglers’ Association

- Harris Ferry Chapter SAR event, 250th event, more details to come, please keep an eye out for an email or mail invitation. There will be a small cleanup event prior this date if necessary

SUMMER 2025

May 2-3 – PASSAR 2025 Spring BOM Meeting at Washington, PA

- Pennsylvania Society SAR event, hosted by George Washington Chapter SAR, registration available online

May 26 – Memorial Day Celebration

- Harris Ferry Chapter SAR event, more details to come, date tentative

Jun 14 – Flag Day Celebration w/ Harrisburg Chapter, NSDAR

- Harris Ferry Chapter SAR event, more details to come, date tentative, Flag Retirement Ceremony with local VFW tentative

Events involving any sort of cemetery work will primarily be scheduled during late spring to mid fall to account for the warmer weather. More cemetery events will probably be added to the schedule, so be sure to check the website and emails.

There are more events recognized by the National Society SAR that are not listed that would fulfil Color Guard and other award requirements but are outside Pennsylvania. Check chapter websites for more info. 250th Anniversary events will always be listed regardless of the state they are being held in.