



HARRIS FERRY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Pennsylvania Society Sons of The American Revolution

Chapter Officers 2025-2026

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Harris Ferry Chapter SAR

harrisferrysar.org

Pennsylvania Society SAR

passar.org

National Society SAR

sar.org

Spring 2025

President's Report

Hello Fellow Compatriots! I hope the chilly weather has not been a bother to you all. While I am not the biggest fan of the cold, I am always hopeful for it to end so I can immediately start working outside. As I type this, I look out the window and see clear skies, which is certainly exciting and energizing.

Since becoming Chapter President, I have been hard at work trying to get involved with as much the SAR and our partner organizations have to offer, being compliant with my work and family schedule of course. The Harrisburg DAR held two grave marking dedication ceremonies, our chapter held two ceremonies at Stroh's Cemetery and Buck Cemetery, and I just returned from Boston celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Our chapter has also presented several awards and certificates in the recent months, some of which have been mailed out to those who live a bit farther away. The Facebook and website are being consistently updated, including an Archives on the website that has digital uploads of all known copies of past chapter newsletters.

To return to the discussion of weather, as it warms up I hope to engage as many of you as possible in some cemetery activities. This may include ceremonies, cleaning and restoration projects, or historic tours. The SAR is committed to many things, two of which are education and historical preservation. Working in an old dirty cemetery provides many opportunities to enrich our neighborhoods, teach members and youth values and diligence, and of course it restores a piece of history to its former glory. Shortly after receiving this newsletter, I hope to have an update on some cemetery activism in which you could participate. To comment on this, participation can be as simple as attending and watching, maintaining the grounds with a weed eater or mower, cleaning and repairing stones, or helping to fund supplies.

Finally, I would like to close out this message with some very exciting news. The Harrisburg Chapter, NSDAR has spearheaded the foundation of a new Children of the American Revolution society to cover the Harrisburg area! The chapter will be called the John Harris Jr. Society. As we all can agree, the youth are our future, and getting as many of our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren involved in what we do is a great accomplishment. Applications can be expedited if they reference existing applications and documentation. My own two children are already on the fast track to being charter members. I will be the Vice President of the new CAR society, as Harris Ferry will have significant involvement in the society's future.

I wish you all a safe and pleasant upcoming season. I hope to see more of you at upcoming events!

Respectfully Yours,

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

PASSAR 2025 Winter BOM Meeting – February 1, 2025

Washingtonburg Chapter held the first PASSAR BOM Meeting of 2025 at the Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center in Camp Hill. One highlight included a look at ongoing Lafayette 200 events, where Ernie Sutton confirmed attendance at these events count toward the SAR 250th Anniversary Medal. PASSAR Color Guard Commander Fred Fonseca encouraged members to attend the PASSAR meetings in colonial garb to assist with the Color Guard requirements.

There was a lengthy discussion revolving around online payments for dues collection. The move forward to attract younger members as well as provide ease of transaction for the members and the dues collector is to consider using Zelle, an online transaction provider. No fee would come to the member and only a small charge is on PASSAR's end. This would free up a significant amount of time for the Treasurer to avoid sending notices, reminders, calculating amounts individually, among other reasons, and the costs associated with these issues. Setup is being finalized. The meeting concluded with lunch and a presentation on Forbes Road and the Coulon de Villiers Family.

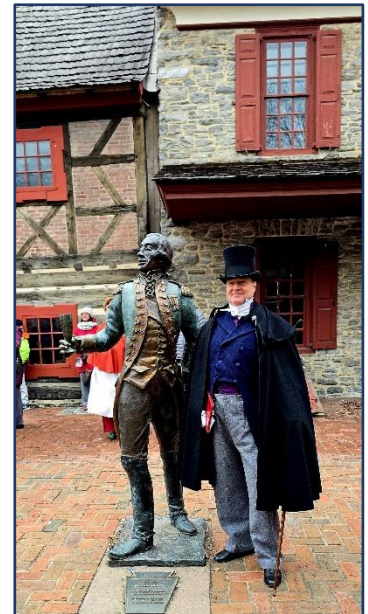
*Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (2) Jacob R. Lemon, Daniel G. Lute
Medal Opportunities: Color Guard*

Lafayette 200 Returns to York – February 2, 2025

The Marquis de Lafayette has returned! In a recreation of his American tour two hundred years ago, Lafayette actors are traveling the United States and stopping in each location he originally visited. His first stop in Pennsylvania was in the evening, where he was the special guest for dinner at the Governor Schulze Mansion on Front Street. The next morning, he visited the Capitol in Harrisburg. Lafayette was viewed as a rockstar back in the day, and his love for America and its people worked well with his popularity.

Later in the day, Lafayette travelled to York, where he made a speech at Continental Square. He was escorted to his own statue outside the bar, where he originally helped quell a rebellion against General Washington. When the crowd was getting rambunctious, Lafayette famously hoisted his glass as a toast to Washington, to which the rest of the bar felt compelled to comply. After that moment, the men stayed loyal to the cause and General Washington.

The procession by fife and drum by the Central York Middle School Fife and Drums continued to the York County History Center, where a crowd listened to Lafayette's wisdom. On display were artifacts of the time period, as well as information on his tour.



Lafayette at the York Colonial Complex



The Central York Middle School Fife and Drums

*Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (1) Jacob R. Lemon
Medal Opportunities: 250th Anniversary Medal*

DAR Hosts Washington's Birthday Luncheon – February 15, 2025

The Harrisburg Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution hosted the annual celebration of George Washington's Birthday this year with the Harris Ferry Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. This is a tradition that was started in 1941, a year after the SAR chapter was started, and the chapters trade off every year hosting the event.

Hosted at the Red Lion Hotel, an exceptional luncheon was attended by many Daughters and a few of Harris Ferry's own. Regent Teri Fagley conducted the ceremony. There were cards on each table; one describing a patriot ancestor, another explaining what was occurring in America during the Revolution, and another with a famous presidential quote from each president.

A small yet important element to this meeting is the "Passing of the Fork." This is a fun display of affection between the two parties that involves handing over a small desert fork to the chapter that will be hosting the event the following year. Regent Teri Fagley handed the fork over to President Jacob R. Lemon to host in 2026.

The main focus of the evening was a presentation by Beth Zucker on the Marquis de Lafayette, his time spent here in the United States, and his relationship with General Washington. She delivered a humorous yet captivating description of the fascination that is the French General.



"The Passing of the Fork"



Guest Speaker Beth Zucker, Harrisburg DAR Dominish Miller, HFSAR President Jacob R. Lemon, Harrisburg DAR Regent Teri Fagley, and David Morrison of the Dauphin County Historic Society

Secretary Gary Coburn and 1st Vice President Dan Lute Chatting with DAR Regent Teri Fagley



*Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (3) Jacob R. Lemon, Daniel G. Lute, Gary L. Coburn
Medal Opportunities: 250th Anniversary Medal*

DAR Honors Nine Patriots at Wenrich's Cemetery – March 15, 2025

Harrisburg Chapter, NSDAR held a marker ceremony for nine PA Revolutionary War Patriots that are buried at Wenrich's Cemetery in Linglestown. Extensive research was conducted by the DAR to ensure each of these Patriots qualify for this honor and to have their names on the bronze plaque. Many descendants of most of the honored veterans were in attendance, which makes any ceremony all the more important and exciting. Pennsylvania Senator Patti Kim presented an honorary citation. Following the rituals and ceremony, guests were treated to light refreshments and cookies.



New DAR Patriot Grave Marker at Wenrich's Cemetery



*Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (3) Jacob R. Lemon, Daniel G. Lute, Gary L. Coburn
Medal Opportunities: 250th Anniversary Medal*

Flag Certificate Presented to Township of Derry – March 25, 2025



President Lemon Present Flag Certificate to Township of Derry

Harris Ferry Chapter SAR presented the Township of Derry a Flag Certificate for outstanding patriotism and flag etiquette for the display of the Colors at the Court of Honor at Chocolatetown Park in Hershey. The American Flag, POW flag, and all military branch flags are on display and flown daily on the square in Hershey in front of The Hershey Co., Hershey Fire Company, and the Hershey Theater.

HFSAR President Lemon attended a board meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 to present the award to the board. On the board is Natalie Nutt, who is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and was extremely excited to be presented the award.

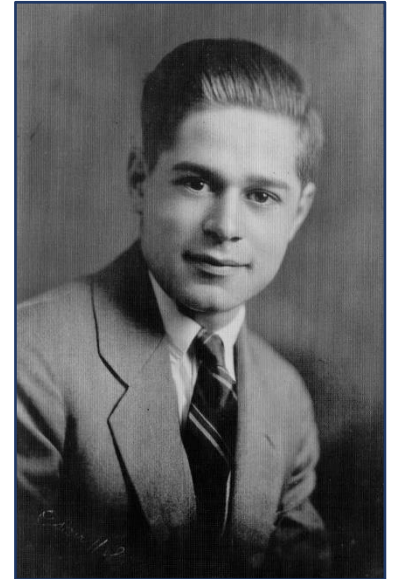
Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (1) Jacob R. Lemon

Two Patriots and Harris Ferry Compatriot Honored at Stroh's Cemetery – April 12, 2025

Harrisburg Chapter, NSDAR as well as Harris Ferry Chapter SAR, held a successful ceremony at Stroh's Cemetery honoring two Revolutionary War Patriots George Stroh and Christian Stucky. The land, once owned by George Stroh and his descendants, is now property of the Commonwealth of PA. To conduct the ceremony, the cemetery was in a bit of disarray. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources stepped in and had a team reset and repair a multitude of stones, with more to come.

Following the DAR's ceremony and large marker unveiling, Harris Ferry held its own condensed ceremony where President Lemon and Secretary Coburn presented the two Patriots with SAR Patriot Grave Markers. A key moment of this ceremony was also to honor Compatriot Oscar H. Stroh, a key past member of Harris Ferry and important figure in Dauphin County history. Oscar held numerous positions over his time with Harris Ferry, published several resources on Patriots and tombstone inscriptions, was a veteran of WWII and Korea, and was even awarded the SAR Patriot Medal (the highest award the state society can award). His grave was honored with an SAR Compatriot Grave Marker.

In an incredible turnout, Oscar's two children, grandchildren, and grandchild were all in attendance! The Memorial Certificate was presented to his son Jon Stroh.



Oscar H. Stroh



The Stroh Family along with Harris Ferry Chapter pose for a photo in the family cemetery.

The hope is the DCNR continues the restoration efforts at the cemetery to allow for future family burials.



*Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (2) Jacob R. Lemon, Gary L. Coburn
Medal Opportunities: 250th Anniversary Medal*

250th Anniversary of the Battles of Lexington & Concord – April 18-20, 2025



Captain John Parker statue at Lexington Green, sculpted by Henry Hudson Kitson

In celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the National and Massachusetts Societies hosted a large multi-day event that was an absolute success and well-attended by many.

April 18th kicked off the celebrations with a visit to Boston, where a local fife & drums group performed. Following this was a reenactment play called *Revolution's Edge*, which tells the story of internal conflict and strife between locals who wished for independence but were wary of British retaliation. The cast included Rev. Dr. Mather Byles Jr., a Loyalist of the Old North Church in Boston, Captain John Pulling Jr., a Patriot who worked alongside Paul Revere, and Cato, an African enslaved man to the Reverend who was then separated from his family when the Reverend wanted to move away before conflict erupted.

The play was followed by a few brief announcements from local officials (such as the mayor) regarding Boston250. The Boston Freemasons were also present, who helped sponsor the night. The two lanterns were then lit in the church ceremoniously to signify to Revere that the British were arriving by sea. (Remember, one lantern if by land, two if by sea.) Paul Revere then rode by on horseback to the river where he rowed across. A drone show took place to show various key moments of the time period.

April 19th was a very big day for the SAR. The morning opened up with a musket volley at the Old Hill Burial Ground in Concord, followed by the Concord Patriots Day Parade. Traditionally there are two groups in the parade, the main three local chapters or societies, followed by the second extremely large group of all parade sponsors. The Massachusetts SAR is normally halfway in the second group. This year, MASSAR was **FIRST** in the entire procession of the second group, and argued to have the DAR and CAR follow as well, which they did. During the ceremony at the bridge, the SAR was the backdrop behind the monument for the entire length of the ceremony. Thirty-four state societies were represented during this event, including California SAR and Florida SAR. Harris Ferry Chapter President Lemon attended, and during the parade distributed SAR250 pins to the crowd during the march. Neighboring Gov. Joseph Heister Chapter President and newly elected PASSAR President Reinhart also made the trip.



Paul Revere statue in front of Old North Church, sculpted by Cyrus E. Dallin



Concord 2025 Patriots' Day Parade SAR Attendees

The evening concluded with a delicious meal and banquet held at the Burlington Marriott. Two guest speakers, Christian DiSpigna and Brooke Barbier held a joyous debate as to who was more influential: Dr. Joseph Warren or John Hancock. CAR President Reese Holmes and her father MASSAR President James Holmes conducted the conversation. Upcoming MASSAR President Chris Tourtellot led the evening.

President General Addington was the recipient on behalf of the SAR of various items and donations: a stained-glass window of a minuteman that was finally restored, as well as four past SAR Congress Badges presented by Harris Ferry President Lemon.

April 20th was the final day of the 250th celebration, which included historic tours of Lexington, Concord, Revere's capture site, and the Hartwell Tavern all led by MASSAR as tour guides.

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

Bronze ROTC Award Presented to Traejan Goyette – April 23, 2025

Cadet Traejan Goyette of Red Land High School received the SAR Bronze ROTC Award from Harris Ferry Chapter SAR on April 23, 2025. His instructor is LTC Frank Schimandle. Red Land has a very prominent JROTC program, and Traejan was among several others that received awards from various other patriotic organizations like the DAR and SUVCW.

The award was presented by Daniel G. Lute, HFSAR 1st Vice President and Eagle Scout/JROTC/Sea Cadets Committee Chairman. HFSAR President Lemon was also in attendance.

Fittingly, the mascot for Red Land is the Patriots!



1VP Lute Presenting Cadet Goyette with the Award

Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (2) Jacob R. Lemon, Daniel G. Lute

Patriot Grave Marked with Two Dozen Descendants Present – April 26, 2025



Patriot Johannes Bock

Harris Ferry Chapter SAR had an incredibly successful grave marking ceremony for Patriot Johannes Bock (also known as John Buck). Buck Cemetery, located on property once owned by Patriot Bock and now owned by the Harrisburg Hunters' and Anglers' Association, has been maintained respectfully by the club since being rediscovered in 1963. At that time, club President Frank Hoffer contacted Harris Ferry to dedicate the cemetery, to which HFSAR President Robert Savage, descendant Luther Buck, the DAR, and several others came out to place a wreath and hold a ceremony.

In 2025, President Lemon, 1st Vice President Lute, 2nd Vice President John Boyarski, and Secretary Coburn met with HHAA President Jerry Dougherty, a large number of club members, and about two dozen descendants of Patriot Buck to place an SAR Patriot Grave Marker as well as a Revolutionary War marker. The ceremony went exceptionally well, with the Buck Family having expressed much satisfaction and joy in knowing their ancestor was honored in such a patriotic and respectful manner. The HHAA was presented with two awards: a Certificate of Appreciation for being a large donor to HFSAR's 2024 Wreaths Across America Campaign and an SAR 250 plaque for the preservation of Buck Cemetery. Eagle Scout Jaden Morgans was presented with the SAR Bronze Eagle Scout Award for constructing the new white vinyl fence that now surrounds and protects the cemetery. This fall a roadside marker is being donated by the Pomeroy Foundation.

President Lemon served as the Master of Ceremonies (and filled in for Chaplain Coleman).



HFSAR dedicating the grave of Patriot Buck in 1963.



Descendants of Patriot Johannes Bock



Lemon, Dougherty, Morgans, Coburn, Lute

Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (5) Jacob R. Lemon, Daniel G. Lute, John R. Boyarski, Gary L. Coburn, Eric N. Milliron Sr.
Medal Opportunities: 250th Anniversary Medal



A new CAR society is being formed!

The Harrisburg and Lower Dauphin areas have been without a CAR society for too long; but worry no more! The Harrisburg Chapter, NSDAR and the Harris Ferry Chapter SAR have laid the foundation for a new youth organization: the John Harris Jr. Society of the Children of the American Revolution. Do you have children or grandchildren? If so, they would be able to use YOU as primary reference to expedite the applications to become **Charter Members!**

Please contact Harris Ferry Chapter President Jacob R. Lemon via email and you will be contacted promptly. Compatriot Lemon will be serving as the CAR Society's Vice President.

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.

Do you have your official SAR Member's Badge set?

The set contains both the full size and miniature medals, with your national number engraved on the back of the full-size medal!

Price is \$115.00 <https://store.sar.org/combo-set-p2.aspx>



Calendar of Events

Active Membership
50 Compatriots

Welcome New Members
Jeffrey A. Herb
Robert K. Herb

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
[1st Quarter 2025](#)

Website Archives Page
is now a feature to our chapter website! Currently scanned and uploaded are past chapter newsletters since 1977 to now. Check out what the chapter was doing back in the day!
harrisferrysar.org/archives/

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

Media Editor (Website, Facebook, & Newsletter)
President Jacob R. Lemon

Issued May 15, 2025

SUMMER 2025

May 26 – Memorial Day

- While there is no actual event, it is encouraged to visit a cemetery and place a few flags. If you do place flags, please report to President Lemon where and how many flags you placed.

Jun 8 – C.A.R. Open House w/ Harrisburg Chapter, NSDAR

- A small social gathering to discuss the new John Harris Jr. Society of the Children of the American Revolution. 1pm start time, Henderson House, 17 E Main St, Hummelstown, PA.

Jun 14 – Flag Day w/ Harrisburg Chapter, NSDAR

- TBD start time, Henderson House, 17 E Main St, Hummelstown, PA.

Jun 14 – 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Army w/ National & Virginia Society

- Various free/paid activities. 9am-12pm at Mount Vernon (*free*), 10am 250th Anniversary Ceremony (*free*), 11am Grave Marking Ceremony (*free*), 12pm Luncheon at Mount Vernon Inn (*paid*), 2-5pm U.S. Army Museum Tour (*free*), 6-9pm Gala Dinner hosted by George Washington (*paid*). Please visit website for further details.

Jul 4 – Independence Day

- While there is no actual event, it is encouraged to participate in America's celebration of its independence! Take photos and share your stories at our next BOM Meeting.

Jul 5 – Carlisle Summerfair w/ Washingtonburg Chapter

- Various activities for all ages, as well as demonstrations by SAR, qualifies as an SAR 250 event. 11am-1pm, U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center's Heritage Trail, 950 Soldiers Dr, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Jul 12, 13, 19, 20 – Cemetery Preservation Project Hosted by Harris Ferry Chapter

- Date is tentative due to having to work around weather. Please look for emails, Facebook posts, and website updates regarding exact date and time. Depending on progress, a follow up event will likely be scheduled. Proposed cemetery is Old Hanover Presbyterian Churchyard, 1461 Ridge Road, Grantville, PA 17028.

Jul 27-28 – Lafayette200 Returns to Lancaster at Lancaster, PA

- Multiple events over two days, free and paid, multiple locations in Lancaster. Lafayette 200 events qualify toward SAR 250 events. Please visit website for further details.

FALL 2025

Aug 1-2 – PASSAR 2025 Summer BOM Meeting w/ Pennsylvania Society & Frontier Patriots Chapter at Altoona, PA

- Fri Aug 1 Evening Social: registration 3-6pm, social 7-9pm. Sat Aug 2 BOM Meeting: registration 8-9am, meeting 9am-12pm, lunch presentation 12-2pm. Please visit website for further details.

Aug 15-16 – AMSSAR 2025 Conference at York, PA

- TBD details and start times. The Wyndham Garden York, 2000 Loucks Road, York, PA 17408.

Sep 17 – Constitution Day 2025 Hosted by Harris Ferry Chapter, w/ Harrisburg Chapter DAR

- TBD details including date and start time.

Oct 11-12 – 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Navy & Marines w/ National & Pennsylvania Society at Philadelphia, PA

- TBD details and start time.

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. America 250 events will always be listed regardless of the state they are being held in.