



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

Summer 2025

President's Report

Hello Fellow Compatriots!

It has been wonderful connecting with some new faces lately, whether that is via email or in person! I feel this summer has been productive and busy, although I look at the list of what the Chapter has done and I always feel like I could have put more on the schedule. However, maybe that is just me having an overachieving mindset. I have to keep in mind we all have jobs, families, daycare schedules, or visits from the grandkids to account for. I, personally, fall into that category of having quite the busy life outside of the SAR, so hopefully I have provided enough activities and chances to participate that everyone feels comfortable with.

I would argue the greatest accomplishment our Chapter achieved this quarter was the cemetery preservation project at Old Hanover Presbyterian Churchyard in Grantville. We were fortunate to have about a dozen volunteers, several of which were members I had rarely heard from and they made their presence known. That type of participation and involvement is a great way for us all to get to know one another as well as make a difference in our community and the SAR. We were also blessed with several monetary contributions from a few compatriots that were unable to attend that project but wanted to assist regardless. That genuinely meant the world to me as someone who does cemetery work as a hobby outside of our organization. To all of you that assisted with that project, **thank you!** I am hopeful to get at least one more project just like that one put on the calendar in September, and that is planned to be held at Paxton Presbyterian Churchyard in Harrisburg.

The SAR as a whole is starting to show some signs of new life, as membership society-wide was getting a little stagnant. I think our Chapter is doing a great job at getting out there and making people aware of our existence. As every President and official always discusses, membership is important. I will not bore you with the speech, but I will say if you have any children, grandchildren, or brothers that you think would be a great addition to our Chapter, please do not hesitate to reach out to them and also loop myself in. A dream of mine would be to show up to one of our Annual Meetings with a packed house of members!

Keep an eye on the calendar and your email, as I will have some more updates to dates, times, and locations for a few of the last minute adds to the event list. Thank you all and enjoy your summer!

Respectfully Yours,

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

Bronze ROTC Awards Presented to Jack Allen and Landon Haines – May 8 and May 21, 2025

Cadet Jack Allen of Cedar Cliff High School and Cadet Landon Haines of Lower Dauphin High School received SAR Bronze ROTC Awards from Harris Ferry Chapter SAR on May 8 and May 21, 2025, respectively. These included certificates, medals, and checks for \$200.

Cadet Allen’s instructor is Michael F. Sullivan, who undertook the entire program this year. Cedar Cliff has an impressive JROTC program. Cadet Allen was unable to attend the initial ceremony due to a schedule conflict, but he was able to stop in last minute to receive his award directly. Cadet Haines’s instructor is Master Sergeant Nick R. Brady. Lower Dauphin’s JROTC program is relatively new, with this being its second year. Other patriotic organizations also presented awards to recognize the valiant efforts of these young cadets.

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



VP Dan Lute with Cadet Allen



VP Dan Lute with Cadet Haines



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

Compatriots Place Betsy Ross Flags for Memorial Day – May 26, 2025

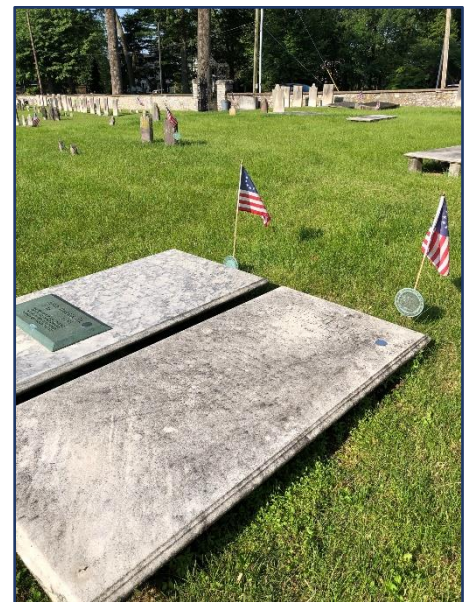


SAR Patriot Grave Marker

A tradition Harris Ferry has done for several years now is place Betsy Ross flags at the graves of our Patriot ancestors. Registrar and Genealogist Curtis Aumiller placed 44 flags at Paxton Presbyterian Churchyard in Harrisburg, and Treasurer Denny Bobb placed 27 flags at Hummelstown Cemetery in Hummelstown.

The Chapter left the Betsy Ross flags out until Flag Day, which were then replaced with 50 Star flags.

A notable burial at Paxton Presbyterian is John Harris Jr., Revolutionary War Patriot and whom our chapter is named after!



Grave of John Harris Jr. and James Harris

Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (2) Curtis Aumiller, Dennis E. Bobb Jr.

Open House for Upcoming C.A.R. Society – June 8, 2025



An open house for the upcoming John Harris Jr. Society of the Children of the American Revolution was held at the Henderson House in Hummelstown with the Harrisburg Chapter NSDAR. President Lemon and his two children attended; he will be the society's Senior Vice President and his children will be charter members. Attendees were treated to snacks, activity and coloring pages, gift bags, and flags.



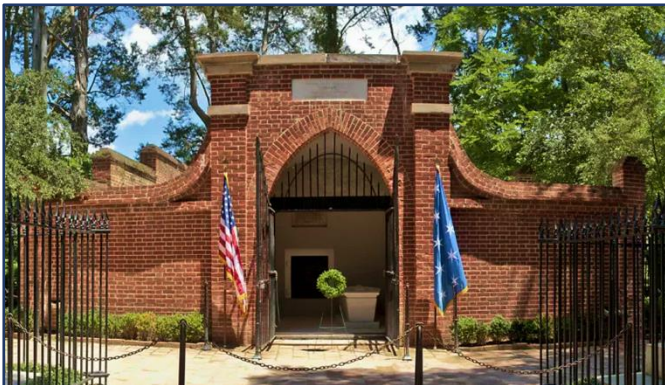
The National Theme and Project of the C.A.R. is "Revolutionary Valor," which celebrates the courage, sacrifice, and dedication of America's early patriots.

The Pennsylvania State Theme and Project of the C.A.R. is "Digging History," which is the preservation awareness of Camp Security in York, PA, the only undeveloped POW camp from the Revolutionary War.

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

Flag Day & 250th Celebration of the US Army – June 14, 2025

Harrisburg Chapter, NSDAR hosted Flag Day as is yearly tradition at the historic Henderson House in Hummelstown this weekend. Many DAR members were in attendance, as well as Harris Ferry Secretary Gary Coburn and his son. The DAR held a nice ceremony, followed by lunch. The chapter retired its flag on site and replaced it with a new one.



The Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon

In National SAR news, President Lemon traveled to George Washington's Mount Vernon to participate in the national celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Army, where the SAR presented a wreath. The dedication ceremony was followed by a grave marking ceremony for both George and Martha Washington. Being that George Washington's tomb does not allow for permanent items, the SAR presented a stone marker in front of the SAR wreath. Compatriots were permitted to place a carnation at the SAR wreath, which counted as a chapter wreath presentation. President Lemon presented a carnation on behalf of the Harris Ferry Chapter.



Since George Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon is a public site, the SAR was not able to permanently mark the graves of George and Martha Washington. Instead, during the ceremony, a wreath, carnations, and a temporary stone marker like the one pictured here were placed at the gate entrance.

*Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (2) Gary L. Coburn [Flag Day], Jacob R. Lemon [250th U.S. Army]
Medal Opportunities: 250th Anniversary Medal, Color Guard [both for 250th U.S. Army]*

Flag Certificate Presented to Middletown Cemetery Association – July 2, 2025

Harris Ferry President Lemon presented the Middletown Cemetery Association with a Flag Certificate for the incredible and patriotic display of the colors at that Middletown Cemetery. The American Flag hangs over the military display at the cemetery, where a multitude of Civil War veterans are interred. This same display is accompanied by two pieces of artillery, an older style cannonball cannon and a later style flak gun. Three patriotic wreaths are placed in front of the large monument for these and all veterans buried at the cemetery.

Pictured here is President Lemon in Continental Army uniform along with Andy Gingrich of Gingrich Memorials, as well as the grounds crew John, Ed, and Steve that work tirelessly at this cemetery year-round, maintaining respectful condition of the cemetery and of course the U.S. Flag. Photographed by Deb, she runs the office and has organized historical records for the cemetery for years. Middletown Cemetery is also the resting place to several American Revolutionary War Patriots.



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

Camaraderie at the Carlisle Summerfair – July 5, 2025



The Carlisle Summerfair was held in Carlisle, with a timeslot reserved by Washingtonburg Chapter and volunteers. Organized by Compatriot Mowery of Washingtonburg, a living history event took place with thirteen stations of various activities where visitors could earn awards at the end of the entire event. President Lemon volunteered at Station CT: Revolutionary War Flags. He provided historical information alongside Washingtonburg Compatriot Greg O'Brien.

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

Have you attended any 250th Anniversary events?

If so, you can total up points to earn the SAR 250th Anniversary Medal!

The **Bronze Medal** is awarded by the Chapter after 25 points are earned.

The **Silver Medal** is awarded by the State Society after 60 points are earned.

The **Gold Medal** is awarded by the NSSAR 250th Anniversary Committee after 150 points are earned.

Please contact President Lemon for the scoresheet, further information, and if you believe you have qualified for one of the medals!



50 Tombstones Cleaned at Historic Graveyard – July 12, 2025



*John Hampton
SAR Patriot #: P-174255
Private in Capt. Wylie's Co. as an artillery
artificer at New London, VA, dated Nov 1 1782*

Harris Ferry Chapter SAR returned to Old Hanover Presbyterian Churchyard in Grantville. The chapter has a long history with the cemetery, dating back to restoration efforts in the 1940s and assistance with the wall and bronze markers at the gate in the 1990s.

Ten people volunteered to clean and another four stopped out to talk, hear about the process, and share history on the cemetery. About fifty stones of veterans and Patriots buried here were cleaned; this included a few from the French & Indian War, over forty-four from the Revolutionary War, and a few from the Civil War.

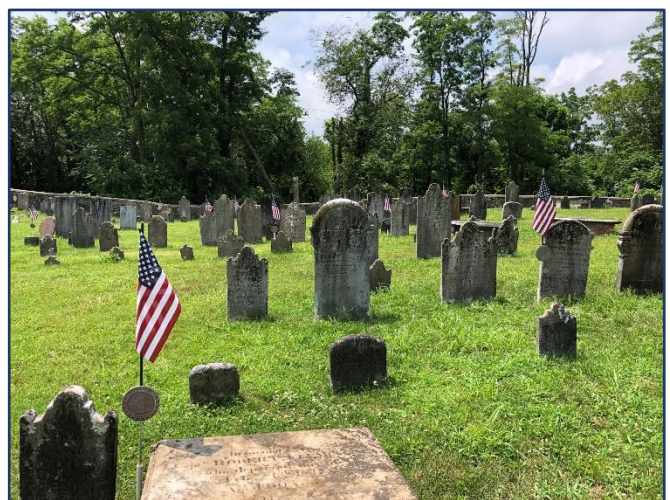
Harris Ferry Chapter is committed to keeping the stones of the veterans and patriots maintained. Over time and as more volunteers come forward, hopefully every stone in the entire cemetery will be cleaned.

Future projects include adding a new metal informative sign outside with a QR code that will contain additional information, and potentially another plaque regarding slave and native burials in the area. We are also researching burials of veterans and patriots that still need marked and have their stones cleaned.

Note: we cleaned a few stones accidentally marked as patriots. It was hard to read the stones prior to cleaning. But that's okay! We'll go back, move the flag marker, and still clean the patriots' graves. If we cleaned the tombstone of a child of a patriot, that is one less stone needing cleaned AND they are what the SAR calls "Patriot Sons and Daughters."

Several Harris Ferry Chapter Compatriots have ancestors buried in this cemetery, including Daniel G. Lute and Zachary and Chester Cunha! Dan expressed great appreciation being able to clean the tombstone of his Patriot, Thomas Bell Jr.

Thank you to all that came out to help and financially contributed! This includes Harris Ferry Chapter compatriots, those from Washingtonburg Chapter, and the Historical Society of East Hanover Township Dauphin County.



In an effort to continue the preservation of Old Hanover Presbyterian Churchyard, President Lemon has agreed to become an authorized trustee on the board for this cemetery. It will be his and other trustees' mission to ensure the grounds are maintained and the stones are protected for as long as possible.

Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees & Contributors: (9) Jacob R. Lemon, Daniel G. Lute, Gary L. Coburn, Curtis Aumiller, Thomas L. Hendrix, Jodie N. Meglio, Alden M. Cunningham, Vincent B. Rudisill, and Zachary A. Cunha

Potential upcoming segment for the newsletter and chapter participation that I could use YOUR help and opinion on!

An idea I had to get some members involved with the chapter would be to visit the grave of one of YOUR Patriot ancestors. We could clean the grounds up, clean the stone, repair any breaks, and add one more preserved tombstone to the list. For the newsletter, a photo of the tombstone would be added as well as information about that Patriot and his service to the country. You could even bring your family and make it a small family event! We could then work on updating the Patriot Biography in the SAR Patriot Research System. The possibility of doing a Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony would be a few more steps!



If this is something you would like to participate in and be featured in one of the newsletters, please do not hesitate to reach out to me! I think it would be a great addition to our quarterly newsletters. You may contact me via my email, thank you! jlemon93@hotmail.com

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.

Active Membership

54 Compatriots

Welcome New Members

Greg E. Coburn
Scott E. Coburn

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

SAR Newsletter and Magazine Archives

[Harris Ferry Newsletter](#) ↗
[PASSAR Minutemen](#) ↗
[SAR Magazine](#) ↗

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 August 15, 2025

Calendar of Events

FALL 2025

Sep 20 – Constitution Day 2025 and Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony for Patriot Timothy Green

- 10:30-11:30 Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony at Dauphin Cemetery (100 Floral Ln, Dauphin, PA 17018)
- 12:00-12:30 Lunch at Dauphin-Middle Paxton Community Park (700 Claster Blvd, Dauphin, PA 17018)
- 12:30-1:00 Presentation by Jonathan Miller, "The Hometown Historian"

Sep 27 – Cemetery Preservation Project

- 10:00-12:00 Paxton Presbyterian Churchyard (3500 Sharon St, Harrisburg, PA 17111).

Oct 11-13 – 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Navy & Marines w/ National & Pennsylvania Society at Philadelphia, PA

- Sat Oct 11 – 250th Ceremony at Independence Square, Two Patriot Grave Markings, Independence Hall Tour
- Sun Oct 12 – Battle of Germantown Commemoration, Five-Patriot Grave Marking at Upper Burial Ground
- Mon Oct 13 – Navy-Marines Homecoming 250 Parade, Museum of the American Revolution Tour
- Registration will be posted at <https://harrisferrysar.org/event/250th-anniversary-of-the-us-navy-and-marines/> once available.

Oct 18 – Middletown Cemetery Tour

- 10:30-12:00 Private walking tour highlighting the graves of Patriots, veterans, and famous persons interred at Middletown Cemetery (675 N Spring St, Middletown, PA 17057)

Oct TBD – Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony for Patriot Christian Nafzger

- TBD date, time, and location.

WINTER 2025

Nov 1 – Harris Ferry BOM Meeting

- TBD time and location. This meeting will involve voting on final decisions for the Annual Meeting as well as any new officer selections. The current number of remaining wreaths needed for Wreaths Across America will also be reviewed. The location is being determined to meet somewhere in Dauphin County.

Nov 7-8 – PASSAR 2025 Fall BOM Meeting w/ Pennsylvania Society & Continental Chapter at Gettysburg, PA

- Fri Nov 7 – Evening Social. Sat Nov 8 – BOM Meeting. Times TBD. 1863 Inn of Gettysburg (516 Baltimore St, Gettysburg, PA 17325). Registration will be posted at <https://harrisferrysar.org/event/passar-2025-fall-bom-meeting/> once available.

Nov 15 – Veterans Day 2025 and Compatriot Grave Marking Ceremony for Compatriot John Mcl. Smith

- 10:30-11:30 Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony at Saint John's UMC Cemetery (165 Firehouse Rd, Grantville, PA 17028)
- 12:00-12:30 Lunch on site at the church
- 12:30-1:00 Presentation and collection of donations (clothing, magazines, books, CDs, DVDs, soap, shampoo, cards, etc.)

Dec 13 – Wreaths Across America 2025

- 9:00-10:30 Paxton Presbyterian Churchyard (3500 Sharon St, Harrisburg, PA 17111). Dress warmly and bring family! Consider donating at <https://www.wreathsassamerica.org/pages/158644/overview/?relatedId=0>

Dec TBD – Harris Ferry Chapter SAR 2025/2026 Annual Meeting

- TBD date, time, & location. We will enjoy a nice meal, present awards, and swear in the officers for 2026. A look at the upcoming year's calendar will be briefly reviewed, as well as a presentation. More details will be communicated once the Board meets on Nov 1.

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, 250th Anniversary, and other award requirements but are outside Pennsylvania. Check chapter and state websites for more info.