



HARRIS FERRY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Pennsylvania Society Sons of The American Revolution

Chapter Officers 2025

Fall 2025

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Harris Ferry Chapter SAR

harrisferrysar.org

Pennsylvania Society SAR

passar.org

National Society SAR

sar.org

President's Report

Hello Fellow Compatriots!

I hope you are all healthy and well; the weather is certainly striking quite the chill already so please stay warm this upcoming holiday season. This past quarter I feel our chapter was able to once again make quite the impression on the society as a whole. We accomplished the Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony for Timothy Green, and I was able to get around to attend some neighboring events to get our name heard. While our calendar itself was not too overly packed, it was certainly a busy time for me. Behind the scenes, I have been preparing quite a number of activities and events that should make next year rather eventful.

What do we have to look forward to in 2026? Well, it is the 250th Anniversary of the United States after all! Different organizations, states, societies, you name it are all celebrating and hosting events 250th-themed all year long. The SAR, as most of us know, is celebrating the Decade of America with ten years' worth of highlights since the Revolution was more than just a single year of activity.

The Pennsylvania Society SAR partnered with the Pomeroy Foundation, which is the same organization that funded the marker our chapter placed at Buck Cemetery. That is what Pomeroy does: fund historical markers. With some guidelines and homework, these signs are an incredible opportunity to partner with other groups and chapters, as well as host public events and promote our chapter. That being said, I have submitted **four** applications to PASSAR for approval. If all goes well, 2026 will include ceremonies for all the markers. These are going to be highly organized and hopefully well-attended events; I request as many of you come out as well. Our chapter used to be rather mobilized, and I would truly like to see as many compatriots attend the events of next year.

On a National SAR topic, in Philadelphia is the 250th celebration of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence. The hotel registration is currently live, and soon the event registration will be as well. I myself will be attending those celebrations. We have been asked to host parallel events either on or around the same dates as National, so I'm sure we will get something on the calendar in July to commemorate the date our nation was made official.

If there is anything at all I can do or host to have some of you come out again to meetings or events, please let me know. I have managed to meet with a few people in person and introduce myself, which was great! I would thoroughly enjoy having this opportunity with each and every one of you.

Respectfully Yours,

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

Atlantic Middle States Association SAR 2025 Conference – August 15 & 16, 2025

This weekend was full of information, camaraderie, and progressive insight for the future for the SAR as an entire organization. The Atlantic Middle States Association Conference for 2025 was hosted in York, PA by the Pennsylvania Society. This society is made of up seven societies that meet once a year to discuss each state society's recent events and outlooks, vote on National leaders, and make everyone in attendance aware of the opportunities that exist with the SAR.

The first meeting on Friday consisted of introductions as well as the already mentioned voting of National leaders. There was good debate and discussion, with a key highlight that the current and preceding two President Generals are aligned with similar goals and paths for the SAR. In Harris Ferry Chapter news specifically, President Lemon was in attendance in continental attire, participated in Color Guard, provided the flags outside the registration desk for the entirety of the conference, assisted in setting up the Lafayette banners, and helped with registration of members.

The morning meeting on Saturday involved the state societies discussing their accomplishments and pitfalls in the previous year to present. An overall consensus, relayed also by National, was that the retention of existing members is proving to be an issue. New membership seems to be steady, better for some and worse for others, but making the SAR attractive to continue membership is something that needs addressed. HF President Lemon also attended this meeting.

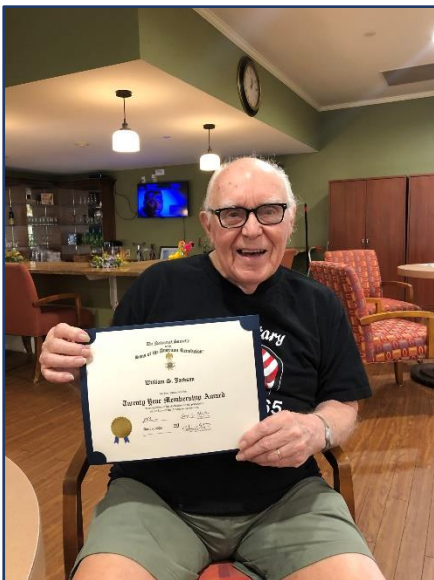
The final meeting on Saturday night was the conference dinner, with York City Mayor Michael Helfrich guest speaking and portraying as Thomas Paine. The topic was Paine's stay in York, PA during the time of the Revolution, helping to relay and communicate updates in a hectic time and area for the colonists. Following his presentation was one by author and Harris Ferry compatriot Lawrence Knorr, who discussed his own book *The Congress at York*. The book describes and provides biographies of the various attendees from the Continental Congress that stayed in York, PA. Lemon assisted Color Guard.



Attendees from the Pennsylvania Society

*Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (2) Jacob R. Lemon, Lawrence K. Knorr
Medal Opportunities: Color Guard, AMSA Medal*

Bill Jackson Still Hard at Work! – September 3, 2025



William S. Jackson

Most people enjoy retirement by relaxing and tuning into the Price Is Right in the mornings, at least that's my plan. However, Past President of Harris Ferry Chapter Bill Jackson I don't think knows what retirement is. This is a man who still writes for *The Sun*, does public talks on historical topics, and is working on an autobiography.

I stopped by to talk to Compatriot Jackson and award him his 20-Year Service Certificate to the SAR. This was my first encounter with Bill, with my only prior knowledge being some of the past chapter newsletters I've read and scanned into the computer. What was meant to be a relatively brief meeting ended up being an almost two-hour chat on any topic you could imagine. From old school racing Pre-WWII cars with Carroll Shelby overseas, to paling around with Dick Winters in Hershey. Bill has stories for days, if it would stop at that. Every word, every story, every finite detail that's stored away in his memory is captivating.

Happy 91st Birthday Compatriot Jackson, congratulations on your 20-year Service Award from the Sons of the American Revolution, and thank you for everything you've done for the SAR, our country, and our community!

Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (2) Jacob R. Lemon, William S. Jackson

Patriot Grave Marking for Timothy Green and Constitution Day Celebration – September 20, 2025



Flag of Hanover Associators 1775

On September 20th, 2025, Compatriots from Harris Ferry as well as Washingtonburg gathered at Dauphin Cemetery to honor the legacy of Patriot Timothy Green. With phenomenal weather to accompany the day, a dozen men gathered together on land with many Patriots interred nearby. Harris Ferry Chapter President Lemon organized the event, led the Color Guard, and provided the day's prayers. Washingtonburg members also assisted with the Color Guard for the ceremony. Alongside Col. Green's tombstone is his original Revolutionary War Grave Marker and now his new SAR Patriot Grave Marker. This marker was funded by a grant from Pennsylvania Skill.

The ceremony was followed by lunch at the nearby Dauphin-Middle Paxton Community Park. Jonathan Miller, "The Hometown Historian," was the guest speaker and presented on the life of Timothy Green. In the past, Jon has presented on the Hanover Resolves, which were headed by Green and expressed Hanover Township's grievances prior the Revolution in 1774.

In honor of the 250th Anniversary of America, it was made clear that with the 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence next year, Timothy Green had advocated for these same rights before pen met paper in Philadelphia. His ideas and fame were that important that he was on a subcommittee in 1776 to represent Hanover Township regarding the Declaration. This gathering was also for the celebration of Constitution Day, which was an original idea of the SAR around the turn of the century.



Harris Ferry and Washingtonburg Chapters at the grave of Colonel Timothy Green



*Timothy Green
SAR Patriot #: P-169999
Colonel, veteran of the Pontiac War and the
American Revolution. Organizer of the Hanover
Resolves and commander of the Hanover
Associators and Hanover Rifle Battalion.*

Timothy Green first appears in historical records during the Pontiac War, already holding the rank of Captain. Stationed in Hanover Township, he was ordered by Governor Hamilton to reinforce Fort Augusta against Native hostilities along the Susquehanna. In the summer of 1763, Captain Green commanded the Provincial Forces at Fort Hunter.

During the decade preceding the Revolution, Green emerged as one of the leading patriots in Pennsylvania. On 4 June 1774, he presided over the adoption of the Hanover Resolves, a declaration condemning British oppression and asserting the rights of free men. He and other local leaders soon met in Lancaster to coordinate handbills in support of the Continental Congress. In 1775, Green organized the Hanover Rifle Battalion, one of the earliest militia formations to rally for the patriot cause. John Harris once remarked that "all the men of Paxtang and Hanover Townships were off to war [with Green]."

After the Revolution, Green retired to his farm on Manada Creek. He later served as Senior Justice for Dauphin County, appearing frequently in county records and continuing his leadership role in civic life. He is buried in Dauphin Cemetery.

*Harris Ferry Chapter SAR Attendees: (5) Jacob R. Lemon, John R. Boyarski, Gary L. Coburn, Curtis Aumiller, Alan Weist.
Medal Opportunities: 250th Anniversary Medal, Color Guard, Patriot Grave Marking Medal*

Perry County Liberty Tree Dedications and Grave Markings – September 24, 2025



*Benjamin Bonsall
SAR Patriot #: P-349671
Private, served in Cpt. Delaney's Co
1776-1777 and Cpt. Horner's Co.
1777. Fought at Trenton and
Princeton and survived the winter at
Valley Forge with Gen. Washington.*

Harris Ferry Chapter was invited to attend Washingtonburg Chapter's celebrations on Perry County this weekend. President Lemon was able to attend the events and participate in the Color Guard.

The first event included a Liberty Tree Dedication, as well as various plaques on large stones and a new flagpole at the Millerstown Area Community Park that flew the Liberty Flag.

Following this was a Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony for Benjamin Bonsall and Ephraim Williams. The actual burial locations were at a somewhat difficult location in the cemetery, so the ceremony was held at the neighboring Millerstown Riverview Cemetery.

The final event included another Liberty Tree Dedication at the Greenwood Elementary School.

These events were a great representation of the SAR's commitment to historical preservation and the importance of the 250th Anniversary of the country.



*Ephraim Williams
SAR Patriot #: P-349672
Private, served in 2nd Battalion
Cumberland County Militia.*

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



Liberty Tree Dedication at Hampden Township Veterans Park – October 5, 2025

Harris Ferry was invited to the Captain Leon Lock Veterans Memorial at the Hampden Township Veterans Park this weekend. Harris Ferry Secretary Coburn is a member of the HTVRC and requested a Color Guard for the dedication of an America250PA Liberty Tree. President Lemon commanded the Color Guard with Washingtonburg Compatriots carrying the colors. Several guest speakers, including Lemon, spoke on the ideals encompassed by Liberty Trees and their history in America.



SAR Color Guard presented and retired the Colors at the memorial, and then the entire crowd headed over to the official America 250 Liberty Tree. Colors here we presented by the York Camp of Heroes of '76, Harrisburg Chapter of National Sojourners. The America250PA Committee presented the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania the Certificate of Authenticity.



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



The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution honored the 250th Anniversary of the United States Navy and Marines this weekend, with the Pennsylvania Society and the Philadelphia Continental Chapter hosting.

The events began on October 11th with the Grave Marking Ceremony for Patriot Samuel Nicholas, Commandant of the U.S. Marines. Nicholas was a born leader and was tasked with recruiting the country's first Marines. At one point, he offered to take a different position in the military, but the government insisted he stay in Philadelphia to recruit as he was that effective at the task. Color Guard performed at the Arch Street Friends Meeting House where Nicholas is buried. He is one of the only burials on the grounds with a marker.

Next was the 250th Celebration at Independence Square in front of the John Barry statue. There was quite the crowd of onlookers and photo opportunities with tourists, which gave the SAR good exposure.

President Lemon of Harris Ferry and Dale Leppard of Washingtonburg and PASSAR had lunch together at PJ Clarke's at the Curtis. The food was quite good and the service exceptional. Lemon would like to thank Leppard wholeheartedly for the dining experience and hospitality.

The final event was the Grave Marking Ceremony for Patriot John Barry, Commodore of the U.S. Navy. Barry was wise in his tactics and relationships, and pursued numerous attacks on enemy ships with little to no resistance due to his strategies. One battle in particular resulted with Barry himself commandeering three enemy and merchant ships. He was close friends with John Paul Jones, a very stubborn man who typically did not have many close acquaintances. He rests at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

President Lemon carried the Betsy Ross Flag and presented a carnation in place of a wreath at each ceremony.



Samuel Nicholas
SAR Patriot #: P-256119
Commandant of the U.S. Marines



John Barry
SAR Patriot #: P-109878
Commodore of the U.S. Navy



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

John Harris Jr. Society of the C.A.R. Official Organizing Meeting – October 12, 2025

The John Harris Jr. Society of the Children of the American Revolution held its official organizing meeting at the Henderson House with the installation of officers and senior officers. President Lemon attended with his two children. Lemon is the Society's Senior Vice President and his children are charter members. His daughter is the Society's Treasurer. Harris Ferry Chapter SAR and Harrisburg Chapter NSDAR are the parent organizers to the Society.



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.

Official Gavel of the Society



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



Grave Marking for Declaration Signer's Wife – October 26, 2025



Official Seal of the DSDI

The Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence requested the SAR provide colors at the Grave Marking Ceremony for Ann Marshall Dill Witherspoon Walker, the second wife of signer John Witherspoon. Washingtonburg Color Guard with Harris Ferry President Lemon attended and presented the colors at her grave at Silver Spring Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Mechanicsburg.



Grave Marker (left); Presentation of Colors (above)

The ceremony was well attended, with a majority of the church congregation attending from the morning's service. Ceremonies like this, where the SAR was not the host society, are vital to our growth. As we partner with other organizations, we strengthen our community and ability to reach more people and potential members that see our compatriots in attendance as well as those in uniform.



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



'Tis the Season to be Jolly!

Donate here to help us put a wreath on every single veteran grave at Paxton Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Harrisburg, PA for Wreaths Across America! There is a plethora of Revolutionary War veterans buried here; help us honor their and others' memories this holiday season!

Visit the following link to donate on our sponsored page:

<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/158644/Overview/?relatedId=19520>

Paxton Presbyterian Church Cemetery
3500 Sharon Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111
Saturday, December 13, 2025 – 9:00 am



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

58 Compatriots

Welcome Back Members

Franklin W. Hess
David M. Moffett

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 November 15, 2025

Calendar of Events

WINTER 2025/2026

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.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/158644/overview/?relatedId=0>

Jan 10 – Harris Ferry Chapter SAR 2026 Annual Meeting

- TBD 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 to come as well as registration, which will be emailed and sent via mail soon.

Feb 21 – Washington's Birthday w/ Harrisburg DAR

- TBD time & location. Harris Ferry is host. We will enjoy a nice meal and presentation. More details to come.

2026 OUTLOOK

While a lot of the dates for 2026 are to be determined, a lot is already being planned! Be ready to mark your calendars!

Grave Markings – Harris Ferry is planning several Patriot Grave Marking Ceremonies, some with Pomeroy Foundation marker dedications. The unveiling of the Pomeroy markers will also be accompanied with individual SAR markers or bronze plaques commemorating those interred. All will be 250th events.

- **Union Deposit Cemetery**, 100 W Hershey Rd., Hummelstown, PA 17036. Three Patriots. This will be in cooperation with the South Hanover Historical Society.
- **Spring Creek Cemetery**, 335 East Areba Avenue, Hershey, PA 17033. Nine Patriots.
- **David's Church Cemetery**, 1072 State Route 25, Millersburg, PA 17061. Eight Patriots. This will be in cooperation with David's Community Church and the Fort Halifax Chapter SAR.
- **Shoop's Cemetery**, 4332 Lexington Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109. Nine Patriots. This will commemorate a mass grave of veterans from various wars.
- **Nafzger Family Cemetery**, 2 Naftzinger Rd, Annville, PA 17003. Three Patriots. One Patriot is confirmed buried here, but a plaque will be proposed for him and his two brothers.

Cemetery Projects – Harris Ferry is planning at least two Cemetery Preservation Projects at various cemeteries in and around Dauphin County. Some of the *proposed* cemeteries include:

- **Paxton Presbyterian Churchyard**, 3500 Sharon Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111.
- **Silver Spring Presbyterian Church Cemetery**, 444 Silver Spring Rd, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050. This would be a partnered project with Washingtonburg Chapter.

250th Anniversary Events – Harris Ferry is planning to host and promote a series of 250th Anniversary events involving the SAR and its partners. Some of the upcoming and *potential* events include:

- **Signing of the Declaration of Independence**, July 2-6 in Philadelphia. This is the National SAR event. Harris Ferry will likely plan a local celebration in conjunction around this date.
- **America250PA**, Hampden Township Veterans Park. This is being discussed and is TBD.

Events involving any sort of cemetery work will primarily be scheduled during late spring to mid fall to account for the warmer weather. Now that winter is here, there will be no cemetery projects until the weather warms up.

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.