



HARRIS FERRY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Pennsylvania Society Sons of The American Revolution

Chapter Officers 2026

Summer 2026

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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 all have been well and enjoying the summer heat! I can honestly say I have been extremely busy, from the 250th in Philly, family and work, and then trying to get SAR things organized and scheduled across the chapter and state. I thoroughly enjoy all of it, but I do feel I need to make sure you all are informed and updated promptly and regularly. If you are ever feeling "I wish we did more" or "I have not heard from him in a while," please be sure to reach out. Apologies on the week delay in this newsletter as well; I was away for a family vacation and the date slipped my mind.

I wanted to mention once last time the events in Philadelphia in July. This was an outstanding experience, truly something I am so thrilled and honored to have participated in. Having the responsibilities that I did were also relatively new tasks for me, and I feel I not only learned a lot from them but also got the exposure I need to [at some point in the future] work my way up the SAR ladder. However, I reiterated to many when they mentioned about my future with the SAR that "Harris Ferry is my top priority." I love this chapter and want to see it grow to be one of the best, and I feel we are making tremendous progress on that front.

Now some serious news: 2027 dues are coming. Being the PASSAR Treasurer, I will be overseeing and coordinating this for the Society. However, I, Russell Mills, and Peter Reinhart (all of PASSAR) are going to make this a team effort and ensure the 2027 dues process is efficient and accurate. You will be receiving a notice from me in the mail sometime in September.

More serious news: our chapter website went through a bit of a meltdown, and I have had to rebuild it from the ground up. Which is fine, now it looks very modern and updated, and we ept the same address harrisferrysar.org. Please bear with me as I continue to get future events and news added, as well as reintroduce past content that needs manually recreated.

For some more exciting news: we managed to bring in **FIVE** new members in this quarter! **FIVE!** This is outstanding, and I want to thank and welcome all our new members as they enter the society (paperwork still pending for some). You will get out of the SAR what you put into it; if you are active and participating frequently, you will have a great (albeit sometimes stressful) time! The camaraderie we have as compatriots is fun, and our mission for patriotism, education, and historical preservation is one that is rivaled only by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Thank You All!

Patriotically Yours,

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

Tombstone Preservation Workshop at Dillsburg Cemetery – May 23, 2026



William Mitchell
1741 – 29 Oct 1797
SAR Patriot #: P-250599

President Lemon organized a cemetery preservation workshop at Dillsburg Cemetery in conjunction with Northern York County Historical and Preservation Society (NYCHAPS). The event opened with Mr. Richard Conley describing the history of the cemetery and how Dillsburg had a very active presence in the American Revolution. His and the mission of NYCHAPS is to promote the patriotism and local history in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America.

Lemon, who does tombstone and cemetery preservation as a hobby, instructed the workshop to a group of several dozen people. Residents, neighbors SAR chapter compatriots, and students from Cumberland Valley High School all came to learn the process for future personal endeavors as well as aid the community in restoring the cemetery one stone at a time.

Several Patriots of the Revolution had their stones restored during this time, two of which were William Mitchell and Edward O'Hail. Mitchell's stone had recently broken on a harsh angle lower to the ground, and O'Hail's had been laying flat in the ground for many years. Lemon preformed the repair and restoration on both markers.

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

Mass Grave of Patriots Memorialized by Harrisburg DAR – May 30, 2026

The Harrisburg Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution poured hours and hours of research into confirming the names of at least eighteen Patriots that what reinterred at Shoop's Cemetery in Harrisburg. The original cemetery, Shoop's Church Cemetery, was in line of the construction of the highway during the 1950s. The graves were carefully exhumed, documented, and remains reinterred in large section at Shoop's Cemetery across the highway. A large marker was placed, but no names or mentioning of military service were included.

A longer-term goal of Harris Ferry Chapter SAR is to add a brass marker to the opposite side of the monument, but include the names of all veterans of all wars in this mass grave, including Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War. A Patriot Burials Marker from the Wiliam G. Pomeroy Foundation and Pennsylvania State Society SAR was approved and is ready for installation along the roadside. Photos of this will be included in the next chapter newsletter.

President Lemon attended in uniform with his two children.

The original monument placed for the reinterment of graves with the new DAR brass marker.



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

Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony at Union Deposit Cemetery – June 13, 2026

On Saturday, we celebrated the legacy of three Dauphin County Patriots buried at Union Deposit Cemetery: Patriot Andreas Hornner, Patriot Jacob Landis, and Patriot Georg Bauer. Harris Ferry Chapter SAR, South Hanover Township, and the South Hanover Township Historical Society successfully held this public ceremony in honor of these three Patriots and the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America.

A special thank you to everyone that helped pull this off and coordinate everything, particularly Dick and Lynn for their love of the cemetery and our local history. Thank you to Sen. Patty Kim and PA State Rep. Tom Mehaffie for their words and patriotism. And a special thank you our color guardsmen from various Chapters of the Pennsylvania State Society SAR.

Over a dozen descendants of Patriot Hornner were present, with several Harris Ferry compatriots who are also descendants having sent remarks but could not attend. One of Harris Ferry's Charter Members from 1940, Mr. Roger LeVan Landis, was a descendant of Patriot Landis.



(Left 1)

Color Guard included:
Jacob R. Lemon
(Commander, Harris Ferry),
John McQuain and
Ed Kopsick (Continental
Congress), and Greg
Forsburg (Tiadaghton).

(Left 2)

Descendants of Andrew
Hornner.



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

Middletown 51st Annual Arts & Crafts Fair – June 13, 2026

Following the Grave Marking Ceremony at Union Deposit Cemetery, President Lemon set up a table at the Middletown 51st Annual Arts & Crafts Fair, hosted by the Middletown Area Historical Society (MAHS). The MAHS graciously allowed Harris Ferry space at the fair for free at Hoffer Park in Middletown, to which the chapter instead donated funds to the fair program and received some ad space. That advertisement, as well as the presence at the fair, generated great visibility to local residents about what the SAR is and its mission. The publicity Harris Ferry received seemed to pay off as shortly after several applications came in for membership.

Opportunities like this are coming in the future to help promote the society and the chapter, so if you have an interest in helping and talking to the public about what we do for Dauphin County, please reach out to President Lemon. The next public event like this will be at Hoffer Park in Middletown on Saturday, September 12, 2026.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Middletown Area Historical Society of Dauphin County or making a donation, please visit the following website:
<https://middletownareahistoricalociety.org>



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

250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence

July 2-5, 2026



*Official SAR Independence 250 Logo
Designed by Jacob R. Lemon*

Arguably one of the biggest events of the entire year, decade, or next fifty years is the 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence, the literal official formation of these United States of America. Over a year of planning went into this commemoration. The mission: celebrate America's milestone, promote the Sons of the American Revolution, and be a part of a historical once in a lifetime experience. The magnitude of this commemoration was like no other.

Three days of excitement were scheduled by the National Society, with our very own Pennsylvania Society being the obvious host society. On July 2nd, a public reading of the Declaration of Independence took place at Independence Square. Compatriots and bystanders got to relive a moment in history and hear the words that founded our nation 250 years ago. Compatriots gathered at Victory Brewing that night to kick things off.

On July 3rd, what was planned to be an incredible march throughout the city of Philadelphia was curbed by scorching temperatures that reached over 100 degrees. City officials cancelled the parade, however the SAR did not turn down an opportunity to still march. Compatriots with flags in hand marched from Independence Square to Independence Hall. TV coverage interviewed a few compatriots for C-SPAN and a photo was on the cover of the New York Times.

That evening, compatriots and guests enjoyed a gala dinner at the Hotel Marriot. The guest speaker that night was none other than Benjamin Franklin himself! Many remarks were given by President General Michael Elston and Historian General Jeff Thomas, who helped organize the entire celebration. Harris Ferry Chapter President Lemon was on the Planning Committee for this celebration, and for his efforts as Committee Secretary and Merchandise Vice Chairman, he was awarded the SAR Gold Roger Sherman Medal. Lemon also received the Independence 250 Fundraising Medal.



*(Left 1)
Color Guardsmen line
up for weapon
inspection.*

*(Left 2)
Two young boys were
front and center of the
New York Times.*



As mentioned previously, the 250th Anniversary Medal can be earned by attending and participating in any 250th events. Each level, bronze, silver, and gold, have point values and are awarded by chapter, state, and national, respectively. To earn the gold award, one must achieve 150 points. President Lemon made it a mission to earn 250 points, and at the dinner was the only recipient of the Gold 250th Anniversary Medal. His certificate is one-of-one, having "July 4th, 2026" printed on the dateline of the certificate. Lemon has stated this may be his most cherished award.

*(Left) The official USPS Postal Stamp Commemorating the 250th
Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration. The SAR provided
Colors at this ceremony in Philadelphia.*



250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence

July 2-5, 2026



PASSAR Color Guard Commander Fred Fonseca can be seen instructing new recruits in how to properly load a musket. The imitation muskets were engraved locally with the SAR logo and 250th Independence logo on the stocks.

On July 4th, the SAR held a massive Showcase on Independence Mall, with various tents that the public could participate in and visit. Activities included signing a copy of the Declaration, having youth join a mock militia and learn regimental orders, learn about SAR contests, membership, and opportunities, and speak with several renown authors who have written books on the Revolution and Declaration. Hundreds of people are estimated to have visited the showcase!

Following the showcase event, the SAR held a 250th Bench Dedication at Washington Square at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Philadelphia. The tomb, as well as the surrounding area, is actually built on top of a cemetery of Washington's Army that was lost over time. The SAR wreath was presented with Color Guard, and the bench was unveiled.



On July 5th, the SAR gathered at Christ Church Burial Grounds to honor the lives of five Singers of the Declaration of Independence: Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Rush, Francis Hopkinson, George Ross, and Joseph Hewes. President Lemon was given the opportunity to read the biography of Patriot Ross. The event concluded with a Farewell Dinner at Glory Beer Bar & Kitchen with guest speaker Chris Coelho, who wrote the book *Matlack's Declaration*.

President Lemon would like to take the opportunity to thank the Harris Ferry compatriots that helped financially support this massive endeavor. Lemon was in charge of designing the logo, almost all of the merchandise, and fulfillment of that merchandise prior, during, and continuing after the celebration. Seeing his ideas and the items that represent those ideas come to life and go into the hands of his fellow compatriots is something many cannot say they get to experience. Lemon is also extremely appreciative of the SAR, Jeff Thomas, and Committee for the opportunities he was given and awards he received for this incredible moment in American and SAR history.



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

Medal Opportunities: 250th Anniversary Medal, Color Guard Medal, Grave Marking Medal, Independence 250 Fundraising Medal

Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony for John Kelly – July 25, 2026

Washingtonburg Chapter hosted a Grave Marking Ceremony for Patriot John Kelly, buried at Lewisburg Cemetery. Kelly was instrumental in helping George Washington at the battle of Princeton by destroying the Stony Brook Bridge that prevented the British Army from crossing the river advancing toward Washington and his troops.

Steve Troutman of Washingtonburg had requested President Lemon's assistance in repairing Kelly's monument at Lewisburg Cemetery. The monument had shifted over time, was in danger of collapsing, needed a few cracks repaired, and the top of the monument had remnants of a previously failed repair. Lemon and his father made the trip to repair the monument prior the ceremony. For this repair and dedication to preservation, Washingtonburg Chapter awarded Lemon the Bronze Henry Knox Medal.

Lemon also participated in Color Guard as rifleman, stood as sentry at the gravesite during the ceremony, and read the biography of Colonel Kelly to the crowd.



John Kelly
11 Feb 1744 – 8 Feb 1832
SAR Patriot #: P-258317

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

JOHN HARRIS JR SOCIETY OF THE CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Members of the John Harris Jr Society CAR attended the Naturalization of new US Citizens in Harrisburg on Friday. Ceremonies like this help encourage patriotism and pride in incoming citizens to our great nation!

The CAR Society also took part in the Pennsylvania State Society CAR's summer workshop held in Philadelphia at the Betsy Ross House. Above are two of our younger members enjoying one of the exhibits.

If you have children or grandchildren under the age of 22, be sure to reach out to President Lemon about having them join the CAR!



Updates from the Society

This section of the Harris Ferry Chapter Newsletter is to provide updates from the Pennsylvania Society or the National Society. This would include any changes that may affect compatriots, upcoming events from the state or neighboring chapters, or just general correspondence that compatriots may have missed.

New PASSAR Committee: Cemetery Preservation Committee

A new committee focused on the preservation and restoration of cemeteries and tombstones was officially formed at the Summer 2026 PASSAR BOM Meeting. The committee chairman will be Jacob R. Lemon, however multiple compatriots of various chapters are set to be members of the committee to help educate and move forward with the mission of historical preservation.

This committee will work on designing a state medal that can be earned via participation. Also being considered is a type of personal ranking system based on donations. A similar committee like this exists within the Virginia State Society, so Pennsylvania is interested in pursuing something similar. The goals of this would be to help fund chapter activities that are centered around cemetery preservation and restoration.

2027 Dues Notices Are Coming Soon!

President Lemon is also the PASSAR Treasurer. You will be receiving 2027 dues notices in the mail. You will also receive email updates from Harris Ferry Treasurer Curtis Aumiller as the weeks go by checking in to see if you have paid. Full instructions on how to pay your 2027 dues will be available on the notice.

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

62 Compatriots

Welcome FIVE New

Compatriots!

Matthew Thomas

Paul Thomas

Andy Doherty

John Curran

Greg Rothman

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 21, 2026

Calendar of Events

FALL 2026

Aug 22 – Grave Marking Ceremony at Salem Stone Church w/ Washingtonburg Chapter

- 1:30 pm, Salem Stone UCC, 514 Stone Church Road, Carlisle, PA 17013.

Sep 3 – Newside Cemetery Rededication Ceremony w/ Lower Paxton Township Historical Commission

- 6:00 pm, Lower Paxton Township Municipal Building (Room 171), 425 Prince St #105, Harrisburg, PA 17109.

Sep 12 – Middletown Borough Volunteer Fire Fighters Fair

- 9:00 am, Hoffer Park, 325 Mill St, Middletown, PA 17057.

Sep 19 – Cemetery Preservation Project at Old Hanover Churchyard and Constitution Day 2026

- 9:00 am, Old Hanover Presbyterian Churchyard, 1461 Ridge Road, Grantville, PA 17028.

Sep 19 – Pennsylvania Constitution Ball 2026 Hosted by Pennsylvania State Society CAR

- 6:00 pm, Doubletree Alloy Hotel Valley Forge, 301 West Dekalb Pike, King of Prussia, PA 19406. [Registration](#)

Sep TBD – HFSAR BOM Meeting

- TBD.

Oct TBD – Cemetery Preservation Project at Paxton Presbyterian Churchyard

- TBD, 3500 Sharon St, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

WINTER 2026

Nov 7 – PASSAR 2026 Fall BOM Meeting Hosted by Gov. Joseph Hiester Chapter

- 8:00 am, Holiday Inn Morgantown, 6170 Morgantown Rd, Morgantown, 19543. [Registration](#)

Nov 11 – Grave Marking Ceremony for George Lemon and Veterans Day 2026

- 10:30 am, Halifax United Methodist Church Cemetery, 231 Rise St, Halifax, PA 17032.

Nov TBD – HFSAR BOM Meeting

- TBD.

Dec 11-13 – 250th Anniversary of Washington's Crossing and Ten Crucial Days

- TBD. National Society SAR Event. [Details](#)

Dec 19 – Wreaths Across America 2026

- 9:00 am, 3500 Sharon St, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

2026 OUTLOOK

Grave Markings – The following do not have scheduled dates, but should be scheduled very soon:

- **David's Community Bible Church** w/ Fort Halifax Chapter SAR TBD time, David's Church Cemetery, 1072 State Route 25, Millersburg, PA 17061. This was rescheduled from May 3 to a date to be determined.
- **Spring Creek Cemetery**, 335 East Areba Avenue, Hershey, PA 17033. Nine Patriots.

Visit harrisferrysar.org for all event details and updates!

Events involving any sort of cemetery work will primarily be scheduled during late spring to mid fall.

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.