



# FORT HARRISON SENTINEL

Fort Harrison Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution



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Compatriots, the Fort Harrison Chapter begins again another year. Our first meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January which was held at the Holiday Inn on US 33 (the old Sheraton) was very well attended. Though we usually meet at Spotswood Country Club, it would appear that it will be necessary to hold our January meetings at other sites because of a scheduling conflict with the Country Club. Our guest speaker for the January meeting was VASSAR 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Henry P. ("Phil") Williams, PhD who gave a very interesting presentation on a little known topic of the Revolutionary War, the Convention Army in Virginia which consisted of those captured at Saratoga and confined near Charlottesville for most of the duration of the remaining portion of the war. This not only included troops but also their family members and others who had accompanied the British forces as they advanced into New York State from the north. Phil also installed the new officers for our Chapter and gave the oath of membership to four new Compatriots. Those installed as Chapter Officers were Compatriot John Cloud as President; Compatriot Hank Almond as President-elect; Compatriot Peyton Yancey as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Compatriot Tom Pettit as Recording Secretary; Compatriot Jim Nelson as Treasurer; Compatriot Hugh Hutchens as Registrar and Compatriot Kirk Sheap as Chaplain. As I mentioned in the December 2010 newsletter, Compatriot Randy Heneberger has stepped down as Corresponding Secretary. He performed an outstanding job and will be sorely missed. Now to find a replacement. Several Compatriots have volunteered to shoulder some of the numerous tasks Randy handled so well but we hope that someone will "step up to the plate" and take on this very important position.

At the January meeting, as mentioned above, four new Compatriots were welcomed into membership in our Chapter. These were Timothy Knight, Stephen Knight, Benjamin Knight and William Robinson, Jr. Please take the opportunity to introduce yourself and greet them at future meetings. In December, we lost one of the founding members of our Chapter with the passing of Compatriot Dr. Noland M. ("Mac") Canter. We also lost another wonderful Compatriot with the passing of Compatriot Fred Scott in early January. We will miss both greatly.

One month of this New Year has passed but our Chapter has already accomplished quite a lot. We participated in the Naturalization Ceremony held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January. A number of other such ceremonies are on the horizon during the remainder of the year. I hope you will consider attending one. It is a wonderful experience and is a vivid reminder of the qualities which made this country great and still attract many to its shores and to seek citizenship. We have also approved a Flag Certificate and will present it to the Town of Dayton during their Council Meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>. This is in recognition of their manner of displaying the Flag in front of the new Municipal Building. Preparations are being made for the recognition of a ROTC Cadet at James Madison University and a JROTC Cadet at Harrisonburg High School.

I also want to thank Compatriot and Chapter President-elect Hank Almond for his superb effort on behalf of our Chapter in recognizing local Eagle Scouts. Last year, through his efforts, our Chapter presented 21 Eagle Scout Certificates of Recognition. At our March meeting we will be recognizing Eagle Scout Christopher Pyle who represented our Chapter in the VASSAR Eagle Scout Scholarship Competition. At our meeting he will receive a medal and a patch. I have known Chris for many years and his Eagle Scout Project was the designing and construction of a Memory Garden which now borders our church, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, here in Harrisonburg.

At our February meeting, we received two “streamers” in recognition for our Chapter’s participation in VASSAR’s Flag Program in 2010 and for our Chapter’s participation in the Leland-Madison Commemorative Program which was held by VASSAR in Orange County this past September to commemorate the meeting between Elder John Leland and James Madison which resulted in that portion of the First Amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing freedom of religion. The Flag Program is one in which the Chapters recognize a person, business or public institution for the proper display of our Nation’s Flag. I would ask that if any of you know of a potential recipient, please let me know. We have another streamer to be hung on our Chapter Flag. It is in recognition of our Chapter’s financial support for the Center for the advancement of America’s Heritage at our National Headquarters in Louisville.

At our February meeting we had an extremely interesting presentation by Rev. Eugene Buie on “Liberty, Virtue and the Revolutionary War Generation”. In March, we will welcome Dan Morgan who will speak to us as John Adams. In April, Bill Blair is scheduled to tentatively speak on the “Early Settlements of the Shenandoah Valley and the Early Churches”.

Also, our Chapter was well represented by Compatriots Peyton Yancey, Gene Holsinger John Sipe, Phillip Stone and Hank Almond at the annual Lincoln Day ceremony held on February 12<sup>th</sup>. All of us owe a great thanks to Phil for this annual ceremony in honor of the connection of Rockingham County to our President.

I would also remind each of you of the upcoming 2011 Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society, SAR which will be held in Richmond at the Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center in Richmond on February 25-27. If you can make it down for one of the sessions, you may well find them very informative. More information can be found at the VASSAR website (<http://www.sar.org/vassar>). Here also you can find back and current issues of the “Virginia Bulletin” which is the VASSAR Newsletter and is quite informative and will keep you up to date on the activities of a number of Virginia Society Chapters and of VASSAR.

Finally, in closing I would ask that you not only attend our meetings but become truly an active member of our Chapter. Our success, and indeed our survival as a Chapter, depends on the participation of our membership. I look forward to seeing you at one of our future meetings. We continue to meet on the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, January through May and September through December, for breakfast at 8:30 with the meeting beginning at 9:00. Unless otherwise notified, these meeting will be held at the Spotswood Country Club on Country Club Road in Harrisonburg. I would also ask that if any of you are receiving this Newsletter via postal service and can receive e-mail, please inform me of your of your e-mail address if you would like to receive it that way. It does save the Chapter a bit of postage. Also, if you are currently receiving it by e-mail and plan to change your e-mail address, please let me know so that we can make certain you continue to receive it. As for those of you who were receiving the Newsletter by e-mail in the past and then ceased to do so and now receive this one by postal mail, this has happened because we found the e-mail address you had given us to no longer be valid and you failed to let us know of your current e-mail address. Please take a moment and let me know of that current address so we can continue to provide this newsletter to you by e-mail.

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