



## FORT HARRISON SENTINEL

Fort Harrison Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution



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Compatriots, here it is in April and it finally looks as if our long winter may be over, though here in the Valley, we may still experience a “good frost” for several more weeks. Since my last newsletter, our Chapter has lost two of our Compatriots. Compatriot Bill Wampler died on March 14<sup>th</sup> and Compatriot Vic Diehl died on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Both will be greatly missed and will be remembered not only for their fellowship but also for their many contributions to our Chapter. Vic was in line to be our Chapter President until his illness and, in fact, he played a major role in the planning of our Chapter’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and his efforts contributed greatly to its success. He remained active in VASSAR and Chapter activities until shortly before his death.

If you missed our March and April meetings, you missed two excellent presentations. In March, Richard Martin spoke on 18<sup>th</sup> Century architecture and in April, Carole Nash spoke on the Archeology of the French and Indian War here in the Valley. Also, at our April meeting, Compatriot and Past Chapter President, Hank Almond, recognized two Eagle Scouts and presented them Eagle Scout Awards. Michael David Knapp represented our Chapter in the VASSAR Eagle Scout Scholarship Competition Program and Harrison Slater Naftel was the runner up. Also, Kemper Ashby Dadisman, BSA Massanutten District Advancement Chairman was presented our Chapter’s Veteran’s Service Recognition Certificate by Chapter President Lamar Sale. At the March meeting, Chapter President Col. Lamar Sale presented Rachel Hammer of the Harrisonburg Police Department the VASSAR Award for Law Enforcement in recognition of her service to our community. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, Chapter President Sale along with Compatriots Hank Almond, Rev. Roy Martin and myself attended the 7 Chapter meeting held at Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, Virginia. Roy was actually in Revolutionary War uniform (that of a Continental Cavalryman) and was part of the VASSAR Color Guard at this event. We were accompanied by Col. Sale’s wife, Fran, and my wife, Norma. This annual event, which began in 1987 as a function of the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter, was expanded in 1997 to a joint meeting of 3 Chapters with the addition of the Thomas Jefferson and Fort Harrison Chapters and has since grown over the years to its current 7 Chapters all of which are from this general area. It provides an opportunity to meet the Officers of other Chapters and to not only exchange information on upcoming events but also share ideas for increasing Chapter meeting attendance and other Chapter activities. The guest speaker this year was VASSAR President Bill Broadus whose presentation was on Patriot William Grayson of Prince William County whose activities during and after the Revolution are little known today. Over the years, the host Chapter has been the Culpeper Minutemen but, beginning next year, while they will retain all host responsibilities, the Master of Ceremony duties will be rotated among the 7 Chapters and our Chapter President will be the Master of Ceremony in 2015. Of interest, announcements were made concerning upcoming grave marking ceremonies to be held on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Dumfries, VA (a joint VASSAR/Society of the War of 1812 event and a VASSAR Presidential Initiative) and on June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Old Stone Church on US 11 in Augusta County. I do not, as of yet, have the “particulars” on the event in Augusta County with the exception that 3 graves will be marked. The event in Dumfries on the 14 will be at 2:00 PM at the historic Dumfries Cemetery in Prince William County. The host Chapter will be the Colonel William Grayson Chapter and not only will the Society of the War of 1812 be represented but the Virginia Society United States Daughter 1812 and the Prince William Resolves Chapter DAR will also be joining in this endeavor. This event will be preceded by a luncheon beginning at

11:00 AM at the Globe and Laurel Restaurant on US 1 which is located at 3987 Jefferson Davis Highway (US 1) ½ mile south of the Prince William/Stafford County line in Stafford County. This luncheon will be a chapter meeting for the Col. William Grayson Chapter and will have a guest speaker. Ladies and guests are invited to attend. The cemetery is located at 17821 Mine Road in/near Dumfries. Further information can be obtained by contacting Keith Rouleau (Col. William Grayson Chapter Secretary) at 13849 Springstone Drive, Clifton, VA 20124 or at [rouleaukeith@aol.com](mailto:rouleaukeith@aol.com) but if you would like to attend the luncheon, they need to know by May 15<sup>th</sup>. I will forward a copy of the Registration form to our Chapter's Corresponding Secretary, Compatriot David Dean, to share with all who would like to attend. Complete directions to both the restaurant and the cemetery are on it.

Our Chapter continues to participate in the Naturalization Ceremonies held in the Federal District Court in Harrisonburg. Upcoming ceremonies will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup>. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Compatriot Hank Almond will represent our Chapter at the JMU ROTC Awards Ceremony and on May 9<sup>th</sup>, Chapter President Lamar Sale will represent our Chapter at the Harrisonburg High School JROTC Awards Ceremony. At these events, they will present a medal and certificate, on behalf of our Chapter, to a senior cadet from each, as chosen by the unit, in recognition of their achievements. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Compatriot David Hatmaker will read the Declaration of Independence from the steps of the Rockingham Court House in Harrisonburg at noon. I hope that as many of you as possible, with your family and friends, will attend the annual event. Also on the horizon are the VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting to be held at Bull Run in Fairfax County on September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and the Yorktown Commemoration Event to be held on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. I would also like to mention that 2015 marks the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VASSAR and that VASSAR "is in the running" to host the 2020 Annual Congress of NSSAR.

For those of you who have not visited the VASSAR website, Compatriot Roy Martin is now VASSAR Assistant Chaplain. He also has agreed to serve as our Chapter's Chaplain beginning in 2015. At the end of this year, I will step down as Chapter Chaplain after 14 years in that position. Now that we have an ordained minister as a Compatriot, I felt it only fitting that he should, if he agreed, be our Chapter's Chaplain. An ordained minister certainly "outranks" a Eucharistic lay minister.

I certainly hope to see as many of you as possible at our May meeting which will be held on the morning of **May 17<sup>th</sup>** at the Bethesda Theater at Sunnyside Retirement Community. The meeting for May has been changed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday because of a conflict with another event scheduled at Sunnyside on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Our guest speaker will be Charles Chenault, Vice-Mayor of Harrisonburg, who returns to speak on the History of Woodbine Cemetery in Harrisonburg. Remember that though we are an active Chapter, there is much more that we could do if only we had Compatriots willing to "step up to the plate" and help with them. As I have stated before, we need active members to not only expand our efforts but, more importantly, to maintain what we now do. Also, membership is the "lifblood" of any organization. If you know someone who might well qualify for membership in the SAR, invite him to attend our meetings. Perhaps this might well be the needed stimulus to get him to submit an application. I look forward to seeing you on **May 17<sup>th</sup>**. Breakfast begins at 8:30 and the meeting at 9:00.

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