



FORT HARRISON SENTINEL

Fort Harrison Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution



Vol. 15, No. 3

August 2015

Compatriots, I hope that you have had a very pleasant summer. Our Chapter has continued to be quite active even though there has been a summer hiatus from formal meetings. On June 20th, Past Chapter President Hank Almond represented our Chapter and presented our Chapter Wreath at the Major Gabriel Long Memorial Dedication held in Culpeper, VA by the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter. On July 3rd, Compatriots Tim Knight, Bill Robertson and Gene Holsinger along with former Compatriot Hugh Hutchens marked the grave of Patriot Peter Crim in Rader Lutheran Church Cemetery near Timberville. Even though he is no longer a member of our Chapter, Hugh continues to provide valuable assistance with our grave markings and this is greatly appreciated. On the 12th of July, Chapter President Tom Pettit represented our Chapter at a Sunday ceremony honoring the veterans who have been members of the congregation of Rader Church since its organization on May 20th, 1765 in what was then Augusta County. Tom gave a presentation on the SAR at that ceremony. At noon on July 4th, Compatriot David Hatmaker again read the Declaration of Independence from the steps of the Rockingham County Court House in Harrisonburg. A good crowd was present for this, the 20th consecutive year David has done this. The introduction was given by Past Chapter President Hank Almond and he provided a handout to those who attended dealing with the subsequent fate of a number of those who signed that document. Also present, in appropriate Colonial attire, were members of the Beaver Creek Long Knives who saluted the Declaration with a volley from their rifles as they have done for years. As mentioned above, this was the 20th year of David's reading of the Declaration and he feels that it is now time for a younger individual to replace him. His son, Paul, who is a Compatriot of our Chapter, has agreed to do so. All of us owe David our sincere thanks and deepest appreciation for all these years of outstanding service to our Chapter and our Community and look forward to having Paul assume his father's role. On July 25th, a Plaque Dedication Ceremony Honoring Revolutionary War Patriots and War of 1812 Veterans was held at Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Ft. Defiance. Our Chapter was represented by VASSAR Chaplain Roy Martin and myself. Our Chapter's Wreath was presented. As this was a VASSAR Presidential Initiative, we should be awarded a streamer for our flag for this participation.

Our Chapter has continued to be active in several local efforts as well. Past President Almond has awarded seven Eagle Scout Certificates on behalf of our Chapter and more are planned for this year. We continue to be active in the local Naturalization Ceremonies. I want to thank those of our Chapter who have represented us and urge those of you who have not attended such a ceremony to do so. The next one will be on September 15th and will be held at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton. This will be followed by one on October 29th in the Federal District Court in Harrisonburg. Again, please consider attending and helping to represent our Chapter.

On the VASSAR level, I have already mentioned the Plaque Dedication at Ft. Defiance on July 25th. Upcoming is the Semi-Annual Meeting to be held in Roanoke at the Hilton Garden Inn on the 18th and 19th of September. This will be followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony to be held at the Preston Memorial in Daleville, Botetourt County at 3PM on the 19th. This also is a VASSAR Presidential Initiative.

On the NSSAR level, the 125th Annual Congress was held in Louisville from June 27th through July 1st where VASSAR received a number of recognitions including its 14th consecutive

Admiral William R. Furlong Award for its participation in the Flag Display Program. The particular awards will be announced at the Semi-Annual Meeting in Roanoke. I was able to attend along with my wife, Norma. One thing that did come out of this Congress was a \$5.00 dues increase. This will go into effect for 2016. Our Chapter and VASSAR dues remain the same. There were no other fee increases enacted. Norma and I were also able to attend the Atlantic Middle States SAR meeting held in Bridgewater, NJ on August 7th through the 9th. This meeting allows those who attend to hear from many of the candidates running for the various NSSAR offices in 2016. The one thing I noted was an expanding emphasis placed on our educational programs for youth. This will incorporate, as envisioned, a number of computer programs that will be made available from NSSAR for use in our schools.

Coming up in the near future will be a Wreath Laying Ceremony on October 7th marking the 235th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain. This will be held at the Kings Mountain National Military Park in Blacksburg, SC. On October 4th, the 241st Anniversary Memorial Service marking the Battle of Point Pleasant will be held at Point Pleasant, WV with "Battle Days" being held at Point Pleasant from October 2nd through October 4th. On October 19th, the annual Commemoration of the Battle of Yorktown will be held. The Compatriots of our Chapter have also been invited by the Colonel Thomas Haghart Chapter of the NSDAR to attend the Grave Marking and Wreath-Laying Ceremony of Colonel Thomas Haghart to be held at 1 PM on the 26th of September at the Rocky Spring Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Deerfield, VA.

I hope to see you at our fall meetings. **Please remember that we will no longer meet at Sunnyside Presbyterian Community. Beginning in September, will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at Pano's Restaurant on South Main Street in Harrisonburg. The meeting will be a dinner meeting beginning at 6 PM and we will order from the menu.** The speaker for our September meeting will be Rob Lynch who will speak on the ongoing improvements, upgrades and conservation program at Sentara-RMH Medical Center. In October, Compatriot Jim Nelson will present our Chapter's Law Enforcement Award recipient. In November, our speaker tentatively will be Mark Teuting of the Social Studies Department of Harrisonburg High School. Mark has talked to us on several occasions in the past and his presentations have been excellent. In closing, I want to extend, on behalf of our Chapter, congratulations to Compatriot Phillip Stone on becoming President of Sweet Briar College.

Again, I hope to see you at our fall meetings but I also hope that you will become active in our Chapter. It is only through your active support that our Chapter can continue to exist.

Kirk Sheap