



# FORT HARRISON SENTINEL

Fort Harrison Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution



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Compatriots, another year has ended and a new one has begun for our Chapter. I apologize for being a “bit late” in getting this newsletter out but I did not count on having to receive a new aortic valve. In fact, I was not the only one in the Chapter undergoing this procedure. Past Chapter President Barkley Rosser underwent the same procedure about two weeks before I did. Our Chapter Treasurer, Jim Nelson, has recently undergone a hip replacement.

At our January meeting, our speaker was then VASSAR President Reverdy Wright who gave an excellent presentation on our colonial ancestors’ quest for religious tolerance and freedom and its evolution into the basic freedom we enjoy in this country today. He then gave a brief synopsis of our nation’s development since then and emphasized the need to maintain a clear vision of what we want our nation to be. Reverdy also installed our Chapter’s officers for 2016 who are: Thomas Pettit, Chapter President; Dr. Kirk Sheap, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Randy Heneberger, Recording Secretary; David Dean, Jr., Corresponding Secretary; Jim Nelson, Treasurer; Rev. Roy Martin, Chaplain; Tim Knight, Registrar; Peyton Yancey, Historian and Stephen Knight, Webmaster. Those not present were installed in absentia. Also at this meeting, Compatriots Hank Almond and David Hatmaker were each awarded the Virginia Society Chapter Service Medal in appreciation of their significant efforts on behalf of our Chapter. At our February meeting, our guest speaker was Harrisonburg Mayor Chris Jones who spoke on a number of topics dealing with the city.

During the months of January and February, our Chapter was active. On January 6<sup>th</sup>, two Flag Certificates were presented by Compatriot Kirk Sheap and his wife, Norma. The first presentation was to Mt. Olivet Cemetery in McGaheysville and among those present to receive the Certificate was Past Chapter President Hank Almond who is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Cemetery. Later, Kirk and Norma presented a certificate to Friendship Industries in Harrisonburg. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February our Chapter took part in the Naturalization Ceremony held at the U.S. Federal District Court Building in Harrisonburg and on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February, a number of our Compatriots attended the annual Lincoln Day Ceremony held at the Lincoln Family Cemetery north of Harrisonburg. Compatriot Philip Stone, as he has done for over 40 consecutive years, made an excellent presentation on an aspect of the life of Abraham Lincoln. Compatriots John Sipe, Peyton Yancey and Hank Almond were in attendance. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of February, Compatriot Hank Almond represented our Chapter at the annual Crossing of the Dan Commemoration held in South Boston, VA. Hank informed me that the speaker, Janet Uhlar, gave an outstanding presentation on Nathaniel Greene. Unfortunately, much of the outdoor portion had to be curtailed because of muddy conditions in the park along the banks of the Dan River. On the weekend of February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> the VASSAR Annual Meeting was held in Richmond. From our Chapter those who attended were Chaplain Roy Martin, President Tom Pettit and his wife, Daille, and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Kirk Sheap and his wife, Norma. At that meeting the Fort Harrison Chapter received 4 streamers. These were for Chapter Excellence, participation in the Flag Program in 2015, participation in the Preston Memorial Ground Breaking Ceremony in Botetourt County in October 2015 and participation in the Joint SAR and War of 1812 Plaque Dedication Ceremony at the old cemetery at the Stone Church in Fort Defiance in July 2015. We also received 4 stars for our Forgotten Patriots Streamer thanks to the efforts of Compatriot Tim Knight. The 2020 NSSAR Annual Congress will be held in

Richmond. In order to help cover the cost of hosting this event, our dues to VASSAR will increase by \$6.00 for the next four years and then this surcharge will end. This is very similar to what was done prior to the Annual Congress held in Williamsburg in 2007. Hosting such an event is a great honor for a State Society but one that also can be expensive. Also, because of a significant increase in postage, the \$6.00 annual state application fee for memberships will be increased to \$7.00 beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. At this meeting, Rev. Roy Martin was re-elected to the office of VASSAR Chaplain and Dr. Kirk Sheap was elected to the office of VASSAR Surgeon.

As for upcoming events and activities, let's begin with our Chapter Meeting Schedule. Our March meeting will be held at Pano's Restaurant with our speaker being Past Chapter President Barkley Rosser whose topic will be "Historical Background on Syria". **Our April meeting will be a joint meeting with the General Daniel Morgan Chapter and will be held at the Hometown Grill and Buffet, 30 Sangers Lane on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.** The Hometown Grill and Buffet is the old Shoney's Restaurant on US 250 in Staunton. Sangers Lane is the first left on US 250 as you head east from I-81 and is just off of US 250. We will not be meeting at Pano's in April but we will return in May. Our May meeting will be at our usual time on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday (May 17<sup>th</sup>). Our speaker will be Fort Harrison Chapter Compatriot Randy Atkins whose topic will be "How We Memorialized and Honored our Fallen Soldiers from WWI". Other upcoming events include the dedication of a monument honoring those Revolutionary War and War of 1812 veterans buried in the Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg, VA on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM. This is a VASSAR Presidential Initiative. On April 23<sup>rd</sup> the annual Graves Mountain Multi-Chapter Meeting will be held at Graves Mountain Lodge at Syria in Madison County, VA from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM with the meeting itself beginning at 11:45 AM. The speaker will be VASSAR President Ed Truslow. It is open to not only Compatriots but their significant others as well and to their friends. The cost is \$18.00 per person and reservations can be made by sending your check to the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter, VASSAR c/o Bill Mutziger, Treasurer, 119 Rolling Green Lane, Brightwood, VA 22715. Checks need to be received by April 15<sup>th</sup>. There will also be Naturalization Ceremonies held on March 24<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup>, July 6<sup>th</sup>, August 17<sup>th</sup>, September 8<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup>. They will be in the U.S. Federal District Court Building in Harrisonburg with the exception of September 8<sup>th</sup> which is a tentative date for the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton. Both the Graves Mountain Meeting and the Naturalization Ceremonies are well worth attending.

Our Chapter will be presenting two Eagle Scout Certificates in March thanks again to the efforts of Compatriots Hank Almond and Randy Atkins. We will also be honoring a ROTC Cadet at James Madison University on April 27<sup>th</sup> and a JROTC Cadet at Harrisonburg High School at, as of yet, an undetermined date this spring.

Finally, I wish to mention the passing on January 27<sup>th</sup> of former Compatriot Carlson F. "Jack" Booth who for many years was a member of our Chapter until his resignation due to poor health. Norma and I had the distinct honor and pleasure of sharing many a basketball and football game at UVA with him. I have also been recently informed of the passing of Lydia Wright, the wife of immediate Past VASSAR President Reverdy Wright, on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

In closing, I would state again as I have done so many times in the past, that the future of our Chapter is in the hands of our Compatriots. For our Chapter to survive, we need your active participation. We now have all too few Compatriots being active and this cannot continue. The beginning of this newsletter pointed to the fact that illness can quickly make an active Compatriot an inactive one and we need others to be willing to "step up to the plate" and be able and willing to pitch in when and where needed. I hope to see you at our future meetings but more importantly, I hope that each of you will consider becoming an active member.

Christopher N. ("Kirk") Sheap M.D.

**Again, please note that in April, we will be meeting at 6 PM on the 20<sup>th</sup> at the Hometown Grill and Buffet in Staunton. This is a joint meeting with the General Daniel Morgan Chapter.**