



# FORT HARRISON SENTINEL

Fort Harrison Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution



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December 2016

I begin this last newsletter of the year with the sincere wish for a wonderful and joyous Holiday Season for all our Compatriots and their families. As we gather together at our December meeting, may we pause to give thanks for our blessings and also may we pause to remember three Compatriots of our Chapter who passed during the fall: Forrest Tayloe Tolson, Arthur Lynn Shipe and Joseph B. Yount, III. We also welcome five new Compatriots: Eddie Rudolph Knight, Matthew Todd Lackovitch, Gregory Lynn Owen, Stephen Darnell Owen and Christian James Owen. Eddie is the uncle of our Registrar, Tim Knight, and many of us may recall the excellent program given to our Chapter by Greg Owen on the WWII Prisoner of War Camps in and around Rockingham County. Greg is the brother of Stephen and uncle of James.

Our Chapter remains very active with participation in local, State and National Society events. Our participation in the Naturalization Ceremonies continues and there are thirteen ceremonies planned for 2017. Compatriots Hank Almond and Randy Atkins have done an outstanding job with the Eagle Scout Recognition program. Fifteen Certificates of Recognition have been presented and another five or six are planned before the end of the year. The VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting was held in Williamsburg on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of September. Compatriot Rev. Roy Martin, Jr. and I, along with my wife, Norma, were in attendance. On the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of September, Norma and I attended the NSSAR Fall Leadership Conference in Louisville, KY and on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October we attended the Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Kings Mountain in South Carolina where I presented our Chapter Wreath. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, our Chapter President, Tom Pettit, with his wife, Daille, represented our Chapter at the Annual Commemoration of the British surrender at Yorktown and again our Chapter Wreath was presented. Compatriot Rev. Roy Martin, Norma and I attended the Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge in Chesapeake, VA on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December where our Chapter Wreath was presented. Other upcoming State and National Society events include the VASSAR Annual Meeting which will be held at the Omni Hotel in Richmond on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of February, the annual commemoration of the Crossing of the Dan to be held in South Boston, VA on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of February and the Spring Leadership Conference of the National Society which will be held at the Brown Hotel in Louisville, KY on March 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>.

Our Chapter meetings have featured several excellent programs. In October, Compatriot Randy Atkins spoke on "How We Memorialized and honored Our Fallen Soldiers of WWI". In November, Mark Tueting, who teaches Social Studies at Harrisonburg High School and who has spoken to us on several occasions in the past, spoke on "John Peter Zenger and the Origins of the American Free Press". Also at our October meeting, Chapter President Tom Pettit and Compatriot Steven Owen received Certificates and Lapel Pins in recognition of their attaining the rank of Sergeant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Regiment as a result their contributions to the VASSAR Knight/Patty Fund. Through their donations and those of many other VASSAR Compatriots and a number of our Chapters and which were matched by the Fund, VASSAR was able to contribute \$25,000 to the new Museum and Visitor's Center at the Yorktown battlefield.

**Please remember that this month's meeting will be held on December 20th at the Bethesda Theater at the Sunnyside Retirement Community, not at the Wood Grill and Buffet.** It will begin at 6PM followed by a buffet dinner beginning at 6:30PM. The cost will be \$15 a person and wine will be available for purchase. To get to the Bethesda Theater, enter Sunnyside using the entrance closest to the Massanetta Springs Conference Center (the first entrance to Sunnyside you encounter driving from US 33). Once you turn into Sunnyside, turn onto the first road to the left and go up the hill and then park behind the residential care unit there. Even though the parking places may be numbered, they are not reserved. We hope that you will attend with your wife or guest.

**In January we will return to the Wood Grill and Buffet on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg.** With us will be our VASSAR President, Edward W. Truslow, who will be our guest speaker and will also install our Chapter Officers for 2017 whose nominations were presented and approved at our November meeting. Christopher Newkirk Sheap M.D. will serve as Chapter President, Randolph Galen Atkins as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Joseph Lee Price as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Rev. Roy Abbott Martin, Jr. as Chaplain, Randolph Grymes Heneberger as Recording Secretary, James Thurman Nelson, Jr. as Treasurer, David Ray Dean, Jr. as Corresponding Secretary, Clayton Timothy Knight as Registrar, Daniel Peyton Yancey as Historian and Stephen Louis Knight as Webmaster. Please remember that our meetings at the Wood Grill begin with a buffet dinner at 5:30PM followed by our business meeting and program which begin at 6:15PM. After the program, there will be time for a dessert social. Compatriots are welcome to bring their wives and guests.

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.

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