

THE SENTINEL

The FORT HARRISON CHAPTER of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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Zealous in the CAUSE of *Virtue* and *Liberty*

December 2017

DIRECTIVE FROM GEN. WASHINGTON: *THE GENERAL, with the utmost sincerity and affection, thanks the Officers and soldiers for their spirited and gallant behavior at Trenton yesterday. It is with inexpressible pleasure that he can declare, that he did not see a single instance of bad behavior in either officers or privates; and that if any fault can be found, it proceeded from a too great eagerness to push forward upon the Enemy. Much! Very much indeed, is to be lamented that when Men are brought to play the part of Soldiers thus well, that any of them, for the sake of a little temporary ease, should think of abandoning the cause of Liberty and their Country at so important a crisis. —As a reward to the officers and soldiers for their spirited behavior in such inclement weather, the General will (in behalf of the Continent) have all the Field pieces, the Arms, Accoutrements, Horses and everything else which was taken yesterday, valued and a proportionate distribution of the Amount made among the Officers (if they choose to partake) and the Men who crossed the River. The Col's and Commanding Officers of each Regiment are, without delay, to have the Plunder of every kind (taken by his Reg't) collected and given in to the Quar. Master Gen'l that the men may receive the value of it. The Commissary is strictly ordered to provide Rum for the Troops that it may be served as Occasion shall require.*

--General Orders, December 27, 1776

Muffled Drums

As we close out this year in the life of our Chapter, we again pause to remember those current or former Fort Harrison Compatriots who passed from our midst in 2017:

Boyd Lantz (Rocky) Swisher, March 28
Thomas Sweeney, USMC (Retired) July
Samuel J. Flook, September 18

and Edward W. Truslow, Past Virginia SAR President, June 1

New Recruits

We heartily welcome the following new members to the ranks of our Ft. Harrison Chapter in November 2017:

John Stenton Budd, 21, Harrisonburg; William Payne, Patriot Ancestor
Matthew Taylor Atkins, 20, Harrisonburg; Abraham Diehl, Patriot Ancestor
Logan Reed Phelps, 21, Harrisonburg; William Baird, Patriot Ancestor
Brian Baird Phelps, 51, Harrisonburg; William Baird, Patriot Ancestor

December Events

December 21: Our Chapter's Christmas dinner meeting was held at Sunnyside Retirement Community's Bethesda Theater. Compatriots voted to approve the slate of nominated 2018 officers, who will be installed at our regular monthly meeting on January 16, 2018 at the Wood Grill Buffet.

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

The minutes of each Chapter meeting are read aloud, in their entirety, during the first following Chapter meeting by Recording Secretary Randy Heneberger, after which attending members approve the minutes either as read or with amendments thereto. The approved minutes then are distributed by Corresponding Secretary David Dean to each Chapter member either by email or snail mail. Henceforth, always refer to the minutes distributed to you to review all past and upcoming Chapter events and important dates. Except for certain selected meeting highlights, The Sentinel newsletter no longer will reprint meeting minutes that already have been distributed to members.

This is Your Newsletter

Please share with editor Greg Owen any ideas or suggestions to make The Sentinel newsletter a more effective and informative Chapter communications resource. One suggestion is to invite interested members to submit a brief biography of their Patriot Ancestor(s), with one presented in each quarterly newsletter.

Reminders

Do you have relatives or friends who, by their ancestors' loyalty to the Cause and their participation in the American Revolution qualify them to become SAR members? If so, please honor them with an invitation to an upcoming Fort Harrison Chapter meeting.

Whenever a Compatriot attends a scheduled local, statewide, regional or national SAR event, he represents his Chapter well, as his participation acknowledges our continued vitality and strong sense of purpose.

Little-Known Facts About the American Revolution:

- 80,000 Militia and Continental Army soldiers served at the height of the war
- 56,000 British soldiers fought at the height of the war
- 30,000 German mercenaries (Hessians) fought for Britain during the war
- 55,000 Americans served as privateers (pirates) during the war
- 25,000 Revolutionary Soldiers died during the war
- 8,000 Revolutionary Soldiers died from wounds received during battle
- 17,000 Revolutionary Soldiers died from disease during the war
- 25,000 Revolutionary Soldiers are estimated to have been wounded or maimed
- 1 in 20 able bodied white free males living in America died during the war
- 24,000 British Soldiers were killed during the war
- 100,000 Loyalists fled to Canada, the Bahamas and England during the war
- 45% of colonists fully supported the war
- 20% of colonists were outright loyal to Britain
- 3 million is the estimated population of America in 1776
- 1 million is the estimated population of London alone during the same period
- \$8 is the monthly salary of a teenage drummer in the Continental Army
- 5 feet, and 10 pounds, is the length and weight of the standard Continental Army Flintlock Musket
- 1oz is the weight of a standard musket ball
- 1,547 known military engagements occurred during the Revolutionary War
- 10 was the age of the youngest member of the Continental Army
- 57 was the age of the oldest member of the Continental Army
- 6.5% is the population participation rate during the war, higher than any American war since WWII
- \$151 million was the total American cost of the war
- \$600 was roughly how much the war cost each American in 1990 dollars
- \$0 was the amount George Washington was paid for his military service

Source: Tyler Rogoway, a defense journalist and photographer who maintains the website Foxtrot Alpha for Jalopnik.com