
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*

March 2018

DIRECTIVE FROM GEN. WASHINGTON: *The Commander in chief, in the most pointed and explicit terms, forbids ALL officers and soldiers, playing at cards, dice—or at any games, except those of EXERCISE.*

--General Orders, May 8, 1777

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Reminder: 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.

Calls for Compatriot Volunteers!

The **Culpeper Minutemen** Chapter of the VASSAR has issued an invitation to its Annual Graves Mountain Lodge Multi-Chapter Meeting in Syria, Virginia on **Saturday, May 5, 2018**; from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM. A family-style lunch will be served at Noon, with VASSAR President Pat Kelly attending as the distinguished guest. A sign-up form was provided to you as an attachment to the January 2018 Meeting Minutes you have received, and must be submitted by April 27, 2018. Consult the form for driving directions.

The **John Sevier** Chapter of the TNSSAR has issued an invitation to a Grave Marking Ceremony to honor the Revolutionary War service of farmer Robert Vicars at the Old Vicars Cemetery in Russell County, Virginia on **Saturday, April 7, 2018**, at 2:00 PM. Afterward, participants may proceed to the Historic Old Russell County Courthouse near Castlewood, Virginia for a reception and refreshments. A folding chair and comfortable footwear are recommended for the Cemetery visit, which is located on a grassy knoll. Members of the Tennessee and Virginia SAR and DAR will attend the Ceremony, some in period attire. A sign-up form was provided to you as an attachment to the January 2018 Meeting Minutes you have received, and must be submitted by March 14, 2018. Consult the form for driving directions.

The **James Monroe Memorial Foundation** has issued an invitation to its April 2018 activities to celebrate President James Monroe's 260 birthday. A copy of the letter of invitation was provided to you as an attachment to the January 2018 Meeting Minutes you have received. All Compatriots are urged to attend the formal ceremony at President Monroe's birthplace in Westmorland County, Virginia on **Saturday, April 21, 2018** at 10:00 AM, and at the President's gravesite in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery on **Saturday, April 28** at 11:00 AM.

SAR President Michael J. Elston on January 25, 2018 sent a formal letter to the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates on behalf of VASSAR to express the "strongest opposition to a series of bills that have been introduced in the General Assembly that would eliminate or substantially weaken the legal protection that monuments and memorials relating to the Revolutionary War currently enjoy." Each VASSAR Compatriot has received a copy of the letter, and President Elston has urged all Compatriots to contact their local State Senator and Delegate to add their voices of support for his letter.

Little-Known Facts About the American Revolution:

Supply issues became one of (Gen.) Washington's greatest challenges. One of the oldest of military adages is that amateurs study tactics while professional warriors study logistics. As with all military campaigns, providing for the vast material needs of an army in the field requires a focus on organization and effective supply management. Unfortunately for Washington and the Continental Army, a poor supply chain became a chronic issue that negatively impacted combat effectiveness.

Biographer Ron Chernow states that “[s]eldom in history has a general been handicapped by such constantly crippling conditions...He repeatedly had to exhort Congress and the thirteen states to remedy desperate shortages of men, shoes, shirts, blankets, and gunpowder. This meant dealing with selfish, apathetic states and bureaucratic incompetence in Congress. He labored under a terrible strain that would have destroyed a lesser man.”



Washington reviewing his troops at Valley Forge by William Trego (Museum of the American Revolution)

Nowhere were supply troubles more evident and onerous than during the Valley Forge winter encampment of 1777-1778. Rather than snow and frigid temperatures, it was actually the rainy, temperate weather at Valley Forge that turned the surrounding roads to mud, further hindering an already tenuous supply network.

Local farmers were more likely to send their foodstuffs and supplies to the nearby British who had hard currency to offer in return. The Continental Army by comparison could only offer payment in greatly devalued paper currency or through IOUs. Washington became so concerned over the poor state of supply that he appointed Gen. Nathanael Greene as his new quartermaster. Greene, who was initially concerned about taking this thankless job, overhauled the inefficient supply system and greatly improved the state of the Continental Army through his efforts.

From **George Washington's Mount Vernon** (Website)

Revolutionary War Slang

Yankee Peas – A British Army term for American buckshot, which militia members in particular sometimes loaded into their muskets along with the standard musket ball to inflict greater casualties at close range.