

# THE SENTINEL

## The FORT HARRISON CHAPTER of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

“The reflection upon my Situation, & that of this Army, produces many an uneasy hour when all around me are wrapped in Sleep. Few People know the Predicament we are in...If I shall be able to rise superior to these, and many other difficulties, which might be innumrated, I shall most religiously believe that the finger of Providence is in it.”

--George Washington, letter to Lt. Col. Joseph Reed, 14 January 1776

### 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. Therefore, 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.

### Muffled Drums

We pause to reflect upon those who recently have departed this life; who greatly influential the lives of many, both within and beyond the Fort Harrison Chapter:

**Dorothy “Dot” Hatmaker**, wife of Compatriot David Hatmaker and mother of Compatriot Paul Hatmaker.

**Eleanor Canter**, widow of late Compatriot Noland Canter, MD. Dr. Canter was an early member of the Fort Harrison Chapter.

### New to the Ranks

The following individuals have answered the call of comradeship as Compatriots of the Fort Harrison Chapter, and were duly sworn into the organization during the September 2018 meeting:

**Andrew David Kilcup**  
**Richard Steven Landes**  
**James Ramsdell McIntyre, Jr.**  
**Christopher Charles Rush**  
**William Parker Vance**

### Calls for Compatriot Volunteers!

Compatriots are being sought to volunteer to represent the Fort Harrison Chapter in the **Naturalization Ceremonies** at the **United States District Courthouse in Harrisonburg at 11:00 on Tuesday, 16 October 2018 and Thursday, 8 November 2018.** Please contact Compatriots Randy Atkins or Tom Pettit to volunteer for this important event.

The next regular meeting of the Fort Harrison Chapter will be held at the Wood Grill Buffet in Harrisonburg on **Tuesday, 16 October 2018.** Note that the following day a second SAR meeting will convene.

Compatriots are encouraged to attend a very special SAR meeting at the Wood Grill Buffet in Harrisonburg on **Wednesday, 17 October 2018**, sponsored by the Daniel Morgan Chapter SAR of Staunton. **VASSAR State President Pat Kelly will serve as the featured speaker.**

### **Little-Known Facts About the American Revolution:**

#### **The French Infantry Musket, M1728**

It is well known that support from France helped secure the American victory against the British during the Revolutionary War. The import of weapons, to include thousands of French muskets, proved crucial in solidifying France's commitment to American independence. It also filled a shortage of arms in the colonies due to Britain's gun control program that included a 1774 import ban and later confiscation of firearms and gunpowder. Along with the Intolerable Acts, American patriots saw the confiscation of arms as a major offense that contributed to the outbreak of war in April 1775. In 1776, the Continental Congress formed a secret committee to purchase weapons from France. By 1778, when France openly entered the war, they were shipping muskets directly to America.



The .69 caliber M1728 musket first found its way to America during the French and Indian Wars in 1754. The weapon was manufactured in three French arsenals: Charleville, Mauberge, and St. Etienne. As most of the weapons were produced by the latter manufacturer, the musket was popularly known as the "St. Etienne." A Charleville-produced variant, M1763, later served as a model for the first American-built Springfield musket, which was produced in 1795.

A total of 375,000 M1728 muskets and variants thereof were produced in France, but the actual number of those shipped to North America is not known. The musket is recognized as an essential weapon for American soldiers of the Revolution and a fitting symbol of France's unwavering fight against British colonial rule.

**--Adapted from *French Infantry Musket M1728 "Charleville,"* by Paul Morando, Chief of Exhibits, National Museum of the United States Army. CALL TO DUTY, Vol 13, Issue 2, June 2018**

### **Revolutionary War Slang**

**Cagg:** A term used by enlisted soldiers as a vow or resolution not to get drunk for a certain period of time; thus, not to drink to excess before one's cagg is completed. "Excuse me this time, Sir, and I will cagg myself for the next year."

