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# 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*

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“We are either a United people, or we are not. If the former, let us, in all matters of general concern act as a nation, which have national objects to promote, and a national character to support. If we are not, let us no longer act a farce by pretending to it.”

~George Washington, to James Madison, 11/30/1785

## 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 Anderw Kilcup, 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.

## Database of Virginia Military Dead

The Library of Virginia in Richmond has compiled a remarkable online record of Virginia’s war dead, from the French and Indian War beginning in 1754 to the current War On Terrorism that was launched in 2000. The database pulls together a wide variety of 1,120 sources to provide an essentially complete accounting of approximately 54,628 Virginia men and women who died during military service. In total, 53 Database sources record the deaths of 1,709 Virginia soldiers and sailors during the years of the Revolution, 1775-1783. Online access to the Database is as follows:

<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/vmd/vmdintro.htm>

and provides a wealth of information for researchers that includes, wherever possible:

- Name with Prefix and/or Suffix
- Rank, Unit (Company, Regiment, Ship, Squadron, etc.)
- Branch of Service (Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, Merchant Marine, etc.)
- Conflict
- Race, Sex
- Date, Place, and Cause of Death
- Residence (Town/City/County)
- Source(s) of Data
- Notes/Additional Information (e.g., burial location, conflicting information, etc.)
- Links to other databases

Users visit and query the online database through the URL:

[http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/vmd/vmd\\_Search.asp](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/vmd/vmd_Search.asp)

and searches may be conducted by name, by conflict, by location, or by branch of service. The database retains contemporary terminology and usage. Obvious errors have been corrected. Inevitably, some sources conflict with others. Likewise, the absence of data from any field of the database conveys no meaning except that that information was not included in the cited source(s). All sources cited are from the collections of the Library of Virginia, except where noted. Interestingly—perhaps tellingly—as of December 2014, updates are no longer being made to the database.

Fort Harrison Patriots are encouraged to refer to the following 53 LVA sources while conducting research for valuable information concerning our Virginia Revolutionary War ancestors, several of which involve soldiers and militia members from Rockingham and Augusta Counties.

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