



The Haversack

The Newsletter of the Sergeant Lawrence Everhart Chapter
Maryland Society of the Sons of the American Revolution



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Holiday greetings to Compatriots one and all at this joyous time of year. Our new calendar year will lead off with an updated website, our 15 January 2015 Executive Committee meeting, development of the budget for our Chapter year 2015/16, an evaluation of our very successful Spring Awards Ceremony, and the appointment of a Nominating Committee for our 2015/2016 slate of officers to be voted on at our Annual Meeting in April of 2015.

This past month has been generous to our very active Chapter; highlights of which include the appointment of Compatriot Richard Foot as the Chairman of our Public Relations Committee, the publication of an outstanding Repudiation Act article by Compatriot Ryan Bass, and the release in Frederick - on the 249th anniversary of the Repudiation Act - of a period style cask brew boasting the taxing moniker STAMP ACT.

I encourage you set aside a bit of time to read the following timely note on General Lafayette and our Chapter Patriot, the compelling profile of new Compatriot Sam Blair, the very interesting profile of Pat Barron's Patriot, and the cogent thoughts of our immediate past Public Relations Chairman, a man who for many years has served our Chapter in a most outstanding manner; a man who has been much more than a committee, Compatriot Sheldon Shealer.

George Lewis

Compatriot and President



On the 249th anniversary of Frederick County's repudiation of the Stamp Act, November 23, 2014, Chapter President Lewis (left) accepts from Gavin Schaden the first cask draw of Brewer's Alley's Stamp Act stout; the first of several releases planned to facilitate celebration of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the Repudiation Act.

Sergeant Lawrence Everhart Greets Lafayette At Monocacy River in Frederick

Submitted by Compatriot Richard Foot

One hundred and ninety years ago this month, the namesake of our Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was part of a delegation greeting General Lafayette as he arrived in Frederick on an 1824-25 tour of the 24 states that then composed the United States.



On December 29, 1824 General Lafayette was met by Sergeant Lawrence Everhart and a welcoming ceremony of citizens. A plaque commemorating the triumphal occasion erected on September 12, 1926 by the Sergeant Lawrence Everhart Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution is located near the Jug Bridge Monument near Route 70 West and Bowman Farm Road in Frederick.

Lafayette's final farewell to the government and people of the United States was, in the words of John Quincy Adams, "a year of uninterrupted festivity and enjoyment, inspired by your presence". Significantly, Lafayette's farewell tour was 48 years after the penning of the Declaration of Independence and 32 years after the election of George Washington as the nation's first President.

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MEET OUR MEMBERS

SAM BLAIR

Submitted by Compatriot Sam Blair

I first became interested in SAR twenty years ago when my older sister Anita was talking about joining DAR. She didn't follow through because of wrong information about the qualifications. Time went by, and about two years ago, I started digging into my family on the computer. I always knew I had a great grandfather in the Civil War, so I started to look further back. Lo and behold, my great-great grandfather, Samuel Brittain Blair, was in the War of 1812 in Virginia. I dug deeper and found out that my patriot ancestor, great-great-great grandfather William Blair (1750-1790) was born in Money-more, Derry Ireland:



As a resident of York Co, PA, during the Revolutionary War, William Blair was a private in Capt Samuel Hay's Company No.1 in Col William Irvine's Regiment of 6th Battalion, enlisting on 28 Feb 1776. He was captured by the British troops under Gen Frazier on 8 June 1776 at Trois Rivers, Quebec about 45 miles down the St. Laurence River from the mouth of the Sorel River. Gen Thompson and about 200 men were captured here and about 25 slain by the enemy. He was paroled 6 Aug 1776. (PA Archives 5th Series 11-206 and 6th Series 11-551 Haddonfield, N.J.)

I've been a musician/truck driver/welder most of my life, with music being my love. I still play a few gigs a month. I have awards for trucking skills, 2nd place in WASH D.C. National Truck Rodeo (1991), and many safety awards, including Driver of the Month. Musically, I have played with local and national acts, both famous and not so famous. It really brings you down to reality playing to 15,000 with Michael McDonald and Nils Lofgren one day, then playing for 6 people the next night with a local band.

I grew up in District Heights/Forestville area of Prince Georges Co. Maryland, then lived most of my life in Charles County, Maryland.

Besides music, my hobbies and interests are motorcycles, battlefields, building guitars and basses, taking pictures of historic places, and the Civil War. There were seven Blair brothers who fought with Virginia in the Civil War. One of them was my great grandfather, Luther Rice Blair, an artillery man with Capt. Samuel T. Wright's Battery in Halifax, Va. My Mom's side was Union with five brothers (2nd Minnesota).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Our Annual Meeting will be held on **April 16, 2015**. Details forthcoming.

Executive Committee Meetings:

- Jan 15, 2015
- Feb 19, 2015
- Mar 19, 2015

Please note, all Chapter members are welcome to attend and participate in our Executive (EC) committee meetings. The meetings are held at 19 East Church Street in the 1st Floor Conference Room. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, commencing promptly at 6pm and ending at 7:30pm. Help us grow and improve the organization by being part of the process and deliberations.

MEDAL OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Pat Barron

Awards Committee Chairman

The SAR Color Guard Medal was authorized in 1998 and may be awarded for service to the Society at the National, District, State and Chapter levels. The Bronze Color Guard Medal is for service at the State and Chapter Levels. The Silver Color Guard Medal is for service at the District and National Levels. The Gold Color Guard Medal may only be worn by the National Color Guard Commander and his Deputy. It may also be worn by the NSSAR Color Guardsman of the Year.



Recipients may only receive the award once. Oak leaf clusters are not allowed.

This medal is for three years of service at the appropriate level. It may be broken, not continuous service, and award of this medal may be retroactive, so that any living compatriot may receive it, even if he cannot march anymore.

The Chapter, State Society, District, or National, Color Guard Commander will be the final person who shall have the awarding authority of the medal at the appropriate level. The Chapter, State Society President, the Vice President General, and the President General will award the appropriate medal at the appropriate level.

For Chapter and State Society level (Bronze medal), to have a satisfactory year, the participant must attend 50% of the scheduled activities of the Chapter or State Color Guard concerned.

PATRIOT PROFILE

THOMAS DEVANE, JR.

(15-Jul-1762 – 27-Jan-1831)

Patriot Ancestor of Pat Barron

Submitted by Compatriot Pat Barron

Thomas Devane, Jr. was the only son of Thomas Devane, Sr. of New Hanover Co., North Carolina. At the time he was born he was the third of that name, his grandfather still being alive.

Thomas's father had been active in the New Hanover County Committee of Safety and served as lieutenant in his brother's Minuteman Company that participated in the victorious fight against the Loyalists at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge on 27-Feb-1776.

In 1778, at the age of sixteen, Thomas Devane, Jr. received a commission as an ensign (coronet) and was assigned to the Wilmington District militia joining a company of six months militiamen under the command of his uncle, Captain William Jones. This unit was assigned to the NC State Militia under General John Ashe who was being sent south to help defend Georgia from ongoing British operations. They marched through South Carolina and into Georgia where they were engaged by about 1,500 British regulars and loyalists at Brier Creek.

The Battle of Brier Creek was fought on 03-Mar-1779. The Patriot forces, totaling about 1,700 men, were comprised primarily of North Carolina militia (the New Bern, Halifax, Edenton and Wilmington battalions) and 200 light horse. One hundred Georgia Continental troops under the command of Colonel Samuel Elbert had joined them.

The militia forces had been divided into different details in the days prior to the engagement, so it is unknown if Thomas Devane, Jr. actually participated in the fighting. However, the order of battle indicates that the Wilmington battalion (Thomas's unit) was placed to the rear of the New Bern and Edenton units and therefore was on the battlefield.

The British were able to carry out an encircling maneuver on Ashe's forces, essentially trapping them against the Savannah River and Brier Creek. Unable to withstand the British fire power and bayonets, the militia broke and ran, some to their deaths in the nearby swamps or the Savannah River.

Colonel Elbert's Continental regulars, who bravely stood their ground, were totally overwhelmed and all survivors were taken prisoner.

Thomas Devane, Jr. was able to avoid capture and was among those militiamen who made their way back to

North Carolina. His cousin, James Devane, stated in a supporting document that he met Thomas upon his return, though no date is provided other than the year 1779.

In 1781, Thomas volunteered as a private in a militia cavalry unit commanded by Captain William Wright and served for about one month. This unit operated primarily in New Hanover County near the town of Wilmington, which was occupied by British regulars at that time. The British later evacuated the area when Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.

Later in life, Thomas Devane would serve in the new state's legislature, both in the House and Senate.

PUBLIC RELATIONS IS MORE THAN A COMMITTEE

Submitted by Compatriot Sheldon Shealer

As I step down as the chairman of the Public Relations (PR) committee, I wanted to comment about the SAR and the importance of public relations. PR is not just an individual or a committee. It's more than articles and pictures in the newspaper, a web site, a newsletter, or a Fife and Drum Corps. While these are all important parts of PR, don't overlook the importance of every one of our 130+ members being an ambassador of the Chapter and the work we do in the community. Every time you wear your rosette, your medals and ribbons, or your colonial uniforms, you are performing a public relations function. Every time you strike up a conversation with someone in your family, at work, at church, or an acquaintance you see on the street or in the mall, you are representing the SAR and the Sergeant Lawrence Chapter to the public. For much of the public, this is the only way they will ever be exposed to our goals and the community work that we do. Hopefully during those conversations, you point out not just the genealogical requirements that are required to join the SAR, but hopefully you will also enthusiastically discuss the chapter's role in historic education and preservation.

Be knowledgeable about the SAR, and specifically what our Chapter does through the work of our committees to recognize our U.S. Flag and the people who proudly and properly display it; recognizing and rewarding 5th grade and now middle school students for their essays on designated historical topics; marking the graves of our patriots so that they will be recognized for their sacrifices in support of our independence; supporting our partners in patriotism (American Legion Post 11 and the 40 & 8); recognition of high school Outstanding Citizen in front of their peers and teachers; recognition of Frederick County ROTC Officers and JROTC cadets; recognition of exceptional Eagle Scouts; and the list goes on and on. *(Cont. on page 4)*

(Cont. from page 3) I ask you to review the committees that the Chapter has and see if there is one that you can contribute a couple of hours to a month. New committees can be formed if the need and support is there. So, if you have an idea for a new committee, run your idea past the leadership at an Executive meeting (anyone can attend) or just send an email to the officers to test the waters and get their feedback. Getting involved with the recognition of people in the community for their historic work and patriotism is a great service to the community and it builds pride in our membership that we are doing something worthwhile and not just attending the semi-annual and annual meetings. If you don't have time to contribute to a committee, consider financial support of our Chapter. Out of the total annual dues paid, the Chapter only gets to keep \$30.00 of that. All of our fund raising efforts are important, but just writing a check for \$10 or \$20 dollars during the year for the Chapter to put in the treasury helps buy the medals, certificates, etc. to keep the programs going.

I want to thank the membership for their support during my time as PR chairman and I look forward to finding other ways that I can support the Chapter.



THE TREATY OF PARIS CENTER

Reprinted courtesy of Mark Croatti
Director, The Treaty of Paris Center

Did anything important happen between the revolution and the constitution? Yes! And most of it happened right here in Annapolis!

Annapolis has never had an interpretive center dedicated to the Treaty of Paris Period (1783-87), the time between the Revolution and the Constitution, when Annapolis hosted the unicameral Congress (including delegates Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe); when

George Washington resigned from the Army; when arguably the most important document in American history—the Treaty of Paris—was ratified by Proclamation; when Thomas Jefferson was appointed to represent the United States in France; and when Mann's Tavern convened the national conference that led to the Constitutional Convention. We've been able to visit the State House and attend celebrations commemorating these individual events, but we've never had a place where staff members in colonial attire educate visitors about this time period using films, lectures, interactive computer screens, event-specific walking tours, and exhibits of documents signed by the leaders of this era, along with the availability of souvenirs, replicas and teaching materials that bring the Treaty of Paris Period to life...until now.

Please join us on Saturday, January 3 in the Maryland Inn's Crab and Crown Room between 11:00am and 3:00pm for the premiere of the Treaty of Paris Center, right down the hall from the Treaty of Paris Restaurant.

Films that day will include "George Washington's Resignation," "The Presidents Before George Washington" and the Annapolis City TV-produced "Treaty of Paris Period." The midday lecture will be on "The Story of Mann's Tavern" (the site of the 1786 Annapolis Convention) and several walking tours will focus on all of these events.

Replicas of the Treaty of Paris, the Treaty of Paris Proclamation (which ratified the Treaty of Paris), the 1785 Mount Vernon Compact and the 1786 Annapolis Convention's official report, written by Alexander Hamilton, will be available and visitors will be able to take an audio tour of the "America's 14 Forgotten Presidents Before George Washington" exhibit.

Isn't it time you rediscovered the Treaty of Paris Period? Please join us on Saturday, January 3! Admission is free, including the films, the exhibit and the lecture. A complete itinerary can be found at: WWW.TREATYOFPARISCENTER.ORG

Information Web Links

NSSAR Web Site:

www.sar.org

MDSSAR Web Site:

www.marylandsar.org

Sergeant Lawrence Everhart Chapter Web Page:

<http://lawrence-everhart.marylandsar.org/index.html>