

# FIFE AND DRUM

Volume 3 Issue 1 Apr 2022

Newsletter Editor

Bob Hill

Graphics Layout

Thomas Hankins

President

Thomas Hankins

Vice President

Bob Hill

Secretary

Bob Hill

Treasurer

Jeff Walt

Registrar

Chuck Bundy

Color Guard Commander

Bob Hill

Color Guard Adjutant

Al Gummere

Genealogist

Tim Mills

## Editor's Message:

Dear Compatriots,

It has been nearly a year since our last newsletter, so you will find many pages in this edition trying to catch things up. My thanks to President Tom Hankins in getting the newsletter republished and for his contributions as a newly appointed Commissioner for Ohio in the US Semiquincentennial Committee that directly relates to our effort in rebuilding Fort Laurens. You will find much on Fort Laurens in this issue. This looks to be another busy year with the Color Guard, Patriot Grave Markings, Liberty Camp, and projects tied to the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I welcome our compatriots who've become more actively recently, and I ask again for our less active members to come and join us when you can. It doesn't have to be an all or nothing proposition. We need your help when you can give it. The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our nation's independence is approaching and we have many worthwhile projects planned. Aren't the sacrifices of your ancestors who won that independence worth honoring through your efforts?

God's blessings to you and our United States of America,

Bob Hill

Editor

## President's Corner:

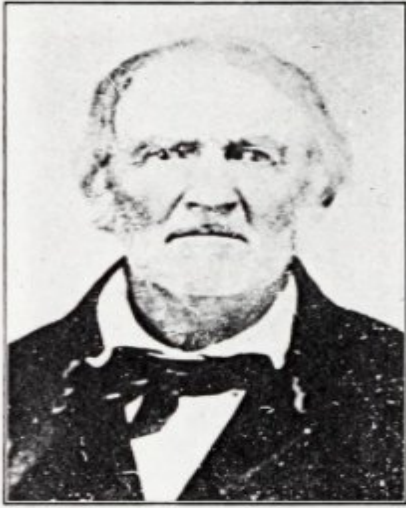
Greetings to all the members of our chapter. First I want to say what an honor it is to be President of this great chapter and the support I have been given so far has been amazing. Those who have presided before me have left great legacies and I hope I can do the same when I pass the gavel to the next President. Between now and 2033 we have a lot of work ahead of us and I look forward to working with you.

Patriotically,

Tom Hankins

President

## William Gavit 1766 - 1854



WM. GAVIT

William Gavit was born April 2, 1766 in Westerly, Washington County, Rhode Island. In 1781 during the American Revolution when he was just 15 years of age, he enlisted at New London, Connecticut and served as a seaman on the Brig "Favorite", Sloop "Randolph", Brig "Martin" and on the schooner "Degrasse". According to his pension request, after about 3 weeks aboard the Degrasse, it was captured by the British and he was "clasped in irons."

He was then transferred to Blackburn Island in the East River. Gavit and other prisoners decided that this was their chance to escape. "We were then in our combined strength in this plan three men and two boys". They would escape by boat to Long Island, "in the midst of terror" he recalled. Two of his accomplices were recaptured that night and would die on a prison ship. When daylight came they found they had landed within the enemies' camp, so the three hid themselves until nightfall. That evening they started walking past a "crowd of people of various grades and asked no questions or answered any." On a dark road they encountered a lone rider who ordered them to halt. One man obeyed, but Gavit and another fled.

After "many days and nights" they found themselves near a village where Gavit had a friend. Making his way into town he found the home, but was advised to leave immediately because "of the British spies," however they did recommend he contact a Mr. Veal. The "old lady at the house asked me if I was crazy," William recounted, which gave him an idea, " and I effected to be crazy and passed through the streets until I found Mr. Veal's house."

William married Sarah Babcock, Oct. 9, 1785. Then later he married Anne Deveraux. In the spring of 1788 he became a resident of Granville, Massachusetts. He emigrated to Granville, Ohio in 1805.

Minnie Hite Moody wrote about William in the Oct. 28, 1970 issue of the Advocate. "William Gavit had an inn, near or on the present site of the First Baptist Church in Granville." There was a Captain Butler in town that was a drunk and a public nuisance. William decided to take the captain to a Methodist revival in Zanesville, hoping that "the man would get religion." When they attended the meeting he carefully maneuvered Butler to the front at the mourner's bench. But Gavit became "so busy in the repentance of his own sins, he completely forgot about Captain Butler." The fate of Captain Butler remains unknown.

Gavit returned home with his new religion and is considered the father of Methodism in Granville. He was 87 years old when he died Jan. 6, 1854 and is buried in Section 2, Row 6 and Grave Number 247 in the Old Colony Burying Ground in Granville, Ohio.

## 2022 Chapter Officers



Pictured above are the 2022 Hocking Valley Chapter Officers. L-R:

Thomas Hankins: President, Historian

Matt Hardman: Chaplain

Bob Hill: Vice President, Secretary, Color Guard Commander

Chuck Bundy: Registrar

Tim Mills: Genealogist

Not Pictured, Jeff Walt: Treasurer

## The Story Behind the SAR Insignia



Most SAR members are familiar with the insignia found on the membership badge of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Few perhaps are familiar with its underlying history and significance. The insignia is not only one of the most beautiful of American hereditary societies; it is also one of the most steeped with history and replete with significance. The insignia was designed in the very early days of the Society by Major Goldsmith Bernard West, Vice-President of the Alabama SAR. The insignia consists of a cross of eight points suspended by an eagle. The cross is of white enamel and has four arms and eight points, each point being decorated with a gold head. Its source is the cross of the ancient chivalric Order of St. Louis, founded by Luis XIV in 1693.

### Why the Order of St. Louis?

The cross of the Order of St. Louis is identical to the SAR cross except in three details. The central medallion of the SAR symbol bears the image of Washington rather than that of St. Louis; the medallion is surrounded by the SAR Latin motto “*Libertas et Patria*” or “Liberty and Country,” rather than the military order’s motto “*Bellicae Virtutis Praemium*” or “The Reward for Virtue is War;” and the angles between the arms of the cross lack the French fleur de lis. Instead, the SAR surrounds the cross with the laurel wreath of republican victory.

### French Aid Influential

Several reasons made the St. Louis cross an appropriate pattern for the SAR insignia. The Grand Master of the Order of St. Louis, Louis XVI, lent the American rebels material and diplomatic aid which was indispensable for the defeat of the British. Moreover, a great many of the French officers who fought for the American patriot cause were chevaliers of the Order. Beyond that, the Order of St. Louis had had a significant presence in North America. During the French Colonial period, somewhere around three hundred chevaliers of St. Louis saw service in on the North American continent. Hence, it was in recognition of France’s decisive aid and the Order’s significant presence in North America that the SAR chose the St. Louis cross as a model for its own.

But the adoption of the cross of St. Louis was appropriate for other reasons as well. The Order of St. Louis was the first order of military merit. Earlier orders, like the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and the Order of the Garter were crusading or chivalric orders.

They were open to members of the nobility ready to undertake deeds of religion or chivalry. But those deeds were international in scope: all Christendom was to be the beneficiary of the knight's good deeds. By contrast, the Order of St. Louis was established to reward military service to one's own country and it was the first to do so. Since the SAR has as its purpose the remembrance and recognition of the military service of their Revolutionary War ancestors to their country, the adoption of the St. Louis cross seemed most apropos.

### **Legion of Honor Influence**

The laurel wreath is significant, for it is derived from another French order, the Legion of Honor. Instituted by Napoleon shortly after his advent to power, the Legion of Honor (Ordre National De La Legion D' Honneur) was intended to fill a vacuum left by the disappearance of the old royal orders during the Revolution. Napoleon, like Louis XIV before him, recognized the importance of rewarding faithful public service and recognizing merit.

Hence, he instituted the Legion of Honor, which to this day remains one of the most prestigious orders of merit in the world. Napoleon's order however differed from the old royal orders. Those either presupposed or conferred nobility. They were inextricably linked to the caste system. But with the Legion of Honor came a new basis for reward: personal merit rather than birth. Thus, it will not be surprising that the SAR insignia is also consciously modeled on the Legion of Honor badge. The laurel wreath is borrowed from the Legion of Honor.

Even the size of the SAR badge is designed to be exactly the same as the Legion of Honor's badge. But the SAR refused to follow the Legion of Honor in all respects. Unlike the five-armed Legion of Honor cross, the SAR cross resolutely retains the four arms of the cross of Christ. This is as if to declare that the excesses of deism and atheism of the French Revolution are to be eschewed by an American patriotic society; America is a nation under God.

### **The Eagle Denotes Patriotism**

Also distinctly American is the eagle which suspends from the cross. Badges and insignias of European orders had used a trophy (a war helmet), a wreath, or a gold loop to symbolize their chivalric purposes. But the purpose of the SAR was not chivalry, but patriotism.

Hence, the SAR appropriately adopted the eagle which the Society of the Cincinnati had previously selected for their insignia. The SAR was conceived to mirror the Society of the Cincinnati, though open to all sons of Revolutionary sires without regard to primogeniture. All of these choices and historical influences produced a uniquely American symbol.

### **Bibliography**

Fauteux, A. (1940). *Les chevaliers de Saint-Louis en Canada*. Montreal, Canada: Les Éditions des Dix Publishers.

Gourdon de Genouillac, H. (1891). *Nouveau dictionnaire des ordres de chevalerie*. Paris, France: E. Dentu Publishers.

Hanson, L. (1803). *Accurate historical account of all the orders of knighthood at present existing in Europe*. London, United Kingdom. Hieronymussen, P. O. (1967). *Orders and decorations of Europe*. New York: MacMillan Publishing Company.



The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. (1890). Historical notes of the organization of societies of Sons of the American Revolution. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons Publishers. Pp. 39-40.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. (1991). Centennial history of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, 1889-1989. Paducah, Kentucky: Turner Publishing Company. Page 110.

Source: <https://www.sar.org/the-story-behind-the-sar-insignia>.



### Ohio Semiquincentennial Commission update

After being appointed a member of the Ohio Commission, on March 16th I had a personal meeting with Todd Kleismit, who is the Executive Director of the Ohio Commission. He is also the Communications Director for the Ohio History Connection. Todd is meeting personally with each commission member so we can get acquainted.

Currently, there are 7 positions on the commission that have yet to be appointed. The next commission meeting is planned for sometime in June at Adena State Memorial in Chillicothe, Ohio.

During the meeting we had a great discussion in regards to the direction each of us saw the commission going in order to best highlight Ohio during the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration. Even though the commission will be dissolved in early 2027, we both hoped the work that is done will continue through 2033.



For a few terrifying minutes the air was filled with the sound of gunshots, war-whoops and the screams of the dying. It was over quickly. Within plain sight of Fort Laurens, but beyond musket range, 19 members of a work party were ambushed and overwhelmed by Indians and British. Seventeen were killed outright, their scalped bodies lay clearly visible to the fort's defenders.<sup>[1]</sup>

Fort Laurens was named after the President of the Continental Congress Henry Laurens, and located on the west bank of the Tuscarawas River one mile south of present day Bolivar, Ohio. It was built in the late fall of 1778. Originally the plan was to march through present day Ohio, attack the Indian villages along the Sandusky River, and continue to attack the British at Detroit. After numerous delays and the mission scaled down, the Patriot forces left their base on the Ohio River and proceeded as far as the site of Fort Laurens where they intended to stay the winter then move on to the Sandusky River 90 miles to the northwest in the spring of 1779.

Almost immediately, supplies were short of everything from food, clothing and even nails. The 152 men and 20 officers faced a cold, bleak winter of short rations. Rumor had reached Colonel Gibson, the Fort Laurens commander that hostile Indians from the Sandusky region were planning on attacking the fort. However, on the morning of February 23<sup>rd</sup> he had no idea that his fort was surrounded by 180 British and Indians. The work party walked into the ambush on an open plain just south of the fort. The seventeen men killed lay where they fell; the two men captured were taken away. One was released after the war. The fate of the other is unknown.

The attackers were not powerful enough to directly assault the fort. However, they laid siege and tried to starve the garrison into surrender. They almost succeeded. The men were reduced to literally eating their roasted moccasins and belts.

After a few weeks the Indians began to tire of the siege and drift away. They had less incentive to take the fort than the men inside had to hold out. A relief force arrived on March 23 and the siege was lifted.

The bodies of the ambush victims, now decayed and gnawed by wolves, were collected and buried in a mass grave in a rough cemetery 200 feet west of the the fort near others who had died of various causes. There, the bodies would remain for two centuries.

In the 1970's during archaeological work the fort cemetery was discovered and along with it the remains of the ambush victims. A thorough skeletal analysis "examining the variety and pattern of lesions [\[2\]](#) found on the victims of the ambush" was published in 2003.[\[3\]](#) The opportunity to examine the remains of Revolutionary War casualties is very rare.

In the skeletal analysis it was determined that one grave contained 15 individuals. Of these 15, 13 were buried in a group. The 13 buried together are believed to be victims of the ambush of February 23, 1779. Only 12 of the 13 skulls were complete enough to study.

Some of the individual remains included small bones of the hands and feet and others only had large bones present. The missing bones may be due to decay or the scavenging of animals. It should be remembered that the ambush victims were unburied for over four weeks.

All bones were examined for evidence of gunshot wounds. Despite being examined by x-ray no evidence of gunshot wounds was found on any of the bones. Neither lead fragments nor lead wipe were found. Of course, it is quite possible that a victim was shot and the lead bullet failed to contact any bone. In addition, it is possible that traces indicating gunshot wounds may have been on the bones that are missing.

The bones were also examined for evidence of blunt force trauma which would be caused by a “relatively low-velocity impact over a relatively large surface area.” The brutality of the attacks was unmistakable. Five of the twelve skulls had a least one blunt force lesion. All such wounds were either on the right side or on the midline of the skull. Four of the six blunt force fractures were circular with approximate diameters of 30 mm (1 3/8 inches). Sharp force trauma can be divided into two groups: coarse and fine lesions. Coarse lesions can be caused by a heavy bladed weapon chopping or stabbing. These weapons leave a broad bevel to the cuts on the bones. Fine lesions are those made by sharp bladed weapons used for cutting, leaving a narrow, shallow bevel in the bone.

All but one of the skulls showed evidence of coarse lesions. There were a total of 28 coarse lesions on the 12 skulls. The blows can be broken down as 4 on the front of the skull, 9 on the right side, 11 on the left side and 4 on the back of the skull. 23 of the 28 were delivered perpendicular to the surface of the skull. Five blows were determined to be glancing.

All 12 skulls had fine lesions, those caused by thin, sharp weapons used to scalp the victim. It is interesting to note that only one fine lesion was across the front of one skull. All other fine lesions were on the sides and rear of the skull. There are various forms or techniques involved in scalping. [4] These cuts indicate that the head was held by the attacker’s left hand while the right cut around the head with a knife thus enabling the left hand to rip off the scalp.

One individual received a blow to the lower rear of the skull with such force that the blade passed through the brain and damaged the interior of the right side of the skull. This same individual had 3 other coarse lesions on the underside of the skull. This individual also received 3 blunt force lesions for a total of seven severe blows to the head.

Nine of the 12 skulls had more than one coarse lesion. Five had three or more. One individual received five such blows, all of which penetrated the bone. Five of the 12 skulls had “at least one blunt wound and one coarse wound.”

Clearly, the attacks on these men were extremely violent. In every case one or two blows from the hatchet or war club would kill. One may speculate that the excessive force, amounting to mutilation, was thought to be a terror tactic to intimidate those who would find the bodies, or in this case, those remaining inside Fort Laurens. For the modern researcher, however, the bones of the victims provide an insight into the violence of frontier combat during the American Revolutionary War.

After the siege was raised by the relief force the fort was garrisoned until August 1779 when it was abandoned. The Indian villages along the Sandusky River were never attacked, nor Detroit. The venture into the Ohio country was a complete failure.

Today a museum stands on the site of Fort Laurens. The outline of the fort is cut into the ground and filled with mulch to enable the visitor to see the size and shape of the fort. The original east wall of the fort was near the Tuscarawas River. However, in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century the Ohio canal was dug between the river and the site of the fort destroying the location of the fort’s east wall. In the 1960’s, Interstate 77 was constructed requiring the Tuscarawas River to be permanently diverted to the east. Today the section of I-77 that passes east of the fort occupies the area that was the Tuscarawas River in 1779. The Museum is open May 1 – October 31 from 10-5 Wednesday to Saturday. On Sundays and holidays it is open 12-5.



The remains of one unidentified man from the old fort cemetery is permanently sealed within a Tomb of the Unknown Patriot of the American Revolution near the original burial site. The remains of the others, including the victims of the ambush, were placed in a crypt within the museum in 1992.

[1] The history of Fort Laurens can be found in Thomas I. Pieper, and James B. Gidney, *Fort Laurens 1778-1779, the Revolutionary War in Ohio*, (Kent, OH, Kent State University Press, 1976).

[2] A “lesion” may be defined as any localized, abnormal structural change in the body

[3] Unless otherwise noted all discussion of the remains is from: Mathew A. Williamson, Cheryl A. Johnston, Steven A. Symes, and John J. Schultz, “Interpersonal Violence between 18th Century Native Americans and Europeans in Ohio,” *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 122 (2003): 113–122.

[4] A grimly fascinating analysis of scalping can be found in: Gabriel Nadeau, “Indian Scalping, Technique in Different Tribes,” *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 10 (1941): 178-194. For a discussion of treating living scalping victims see: Hugh T. Harrington, “How to Treat a Scalped Head,” *Journal of the American Revolution* [allthingsliberty.com], May 14, 2013.

Tags from the story

[1779](#), [Fort Laurens](#), [Ohio](#) Copied from The Journal of the American Revolution

## Ft. Laurens Update

As most of you know, the two and a half years work on the Fort Laurens Rebuild Exploratory Committee and the rebuild proposal submitted to OHC, that included site plan blueprints and a very comprehensive business plan, was rejected by the Ohio History Connection last December, 2021. The one bright spot in December was the appointment of our own Chapter President Tom Hankins on the Ohio Commission for the US 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration/Semiquincentennial. Tom’s appointment gives the SAR a real voice in event planning for the upcoming celebration in Ohio and our effort to rebuild Fort Laurens.

Immediately after OHC’s rejection, Tom, and Darrell Markijohn, the Chairman of the Fort Laurens Rebuild Exploratory Committee, began contacting politicians who could help us in the rebuilding effort. While OHC is funded and works on behalf of the state, OHC is not a State Agency. The strategy moving forward is to gain support from those who hold the purse strings and have the political power to convince OHC to reconsider the benefits of rebuilding Fort Laurens, Ohio’s only Revolutionary War fort and battle site.

Thanks to the personal friendship of our Chapter Chaplain Matt Hardman has with Governor Mike DeWine, a nicely bound packet containing the committee's rebuild proposal and blueprints was sent directly to the Governor's Cedarville home in mid-January. The Governor did respond, in handwriting, and promised to look into it but urged us to contact local State Representatives and State Senators to gain legislative support for Fort Laurens in a Capital Bill this year. The office of Representative Brian Stewart of House District 78 has shown great interest, as well as Representative Al Landis in House District 98 who is running to replace Senator Jay Hottinger of Senate District 31 where Fort Laurens is located.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup> the Rebuild Committee held a Zoom meeting and representatives of the SAR were Hocking Valley Compatriots Tom Hankins, Bob Hill, and Tom Moe. The following day a meeting was held in Zoar between Chairman Darrell Markijohn, Marty and Marci Zawacki of Friends of Fort Laurens, and OHC representatives Megan Wood and Jennifer Aultman. Again, OHC's focus was how to move forward emphasizing archeology, enhanced education, museum updates, and "reflection" without a rebuild.

But on March 8<sup>th</sup>, Tammi Shrum, Historic Sites Director for Zoar Village and Fort Laurens Museum emailed an updated OHC power point presentation and timeline to the Rebuild Committee at the request of OHC. In an apparent compromise on the last page showing a timeline, a "Partial Reconstruction" of Fort Laurens is shown as a goal by OHC for 2026 on America's 250 Anniversary. Tom Hankins sent an inquiry to Megan Wood, Director of Cultural Resources at OHC, asking what was meant by a "partial reconstruction."

On March 21<sup>st</sup> he received her reply, verbatim: "That is a little up in the air, but we would imagine potentially a wall and at least a bastion. It may be more, it all really depends on being able to do some more in depth archeology." This is the first time in 30 years OHC has conceded to ANY rebuild at Fort Laurens. We will move forward with cautious optimism, reminding OHC, and Ohio politicians of the 1915 Legislation that was passed under House Bill 252, authorizing to "properly restore said fort and works."

Tom has created form letters that can be sent to local representatives and senators to garner their support in the rebuild effort. These have already been sent out to various SAR and DAR chapters for their members. If you received one of these, please fill out the names appropriate for your location and send them to your local representatives and senators. Contact Tom if you haven't received these form letters at: [thankinsjr@roadrunner.com](mailto:thankinsjr@roadrunner.com)

## Upcoming Color Guard Events

April 30, Sat. Spring BOM Awards Banquet, The Lodge at Geneva-On-The-Lake 7:00 PM. State event

May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 Newark JROTC Award Presentation, 5:30 PM. Chapter Event

May 11<sup>th</sup> Mt. Vernon JROTC Cadet Award Presentation, 6:00 PM. Chapter Event

May 26, Thu: Memorial Service for Patriots of the Northwest Territory, Marietta. 10:00 AM. State Event

May 28, Sat: Patriot Grave Marking, Northeast Ohio. Details TBA. State Event.

May 30, Mon: Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies, Granville, Ohio at 10:45 AM. National Event

June 4, Sat: Patriot Grave Marking, Pickaway County. Details TBA. State Event

June 14 Tue: Flag Day Ceremony at Shamrock Club, Columbus, 5:00 PM. Chapter Event

June 25, Sat: Stars & Stripes Parade, Sugar Grove, 11:00 AM. Chapter Event

July 4, Mon: Parade, Lancaster and Granville, Ohio, TBA. National Event

July 4 : Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Logan, 7:00 PM.

July 10-15: National Congress in Savannah Georgia. National Event

July 22, Fri: Guard Duty at Tomb of the Unknown at Ft. Laurens 9 AM-3 PM. State Event

July 23, Sat: Ft. Laurens SAR Wreath Laying Ceremony, Ft. Laurens in Bolivar, 10:30 AM. National event

Aug 6 Sat: Patriot Grave Marking at OCBG in Granville, 2:00 PM. State Event

Sept 25, Sat: Gathering at Sycamore Shoals, Tennessee. National Event

Oct 9, Sun: Point Pleasant Battle Days Memorial Service, WV, TBA. National Event

Oct 19, Wed: Yorktown Days Ceremony & Parade, VA, TBA. National Event

Nov 7, Mon: Veterans Day Program, Licking Heights South Elementary School, Pataskala, TBA. Chapter Event

Nov 13, Sun: Veterans Day Parade, Logan. TBA, National Event.

Dec 3, Sat: Small Town Christmas Parade, Somerset. TBA. Chapter Event

Dec 17, Sat: Wreaths Across America Granville, Ohio, 12:00 Noon. National Event

# HVC COLOR GUARD ACTIVITIES



Hocking Valley Chapter compatriots marched in a combined color guard with the American Legion Post in Granville for Memorial Day.



Compatriot Paul Irwin presents a wreath on behalf of Hocking Valley Chapter at the DAR hosted Patriot Grave Marking in Mansfield on May 6<sup>th</sup>.





Compatriot Bob Davis speaks with kids at the SAR Patriot Grave Marking in Ashtabula County on May 29<sup>th</sup>.





At the June 19<sup>th</sup> Patriot Grave Marking on Gahanna, compatriots Tom Hankins, Chuck Bundy, and Al Gummere, participated in the musket salute with plural member Don Miller and other compatriots under Color Guard Commander Bob Hill.



Compatriots do the "Meaning of the 13 Folds" flag ceremony for the kids at the Liberty Camp in Logan on July 22, 2021.



After the August 1<sup>st</sup> Patriot Grave Marking ceremony in Tarlton, Ohio, compatriot Paul Irwin received the National Von Steuben Color Guard medal from OHSSAR President Troy Bailey. Paul is the first recipient from the Hocking Valley Chapter.



President/Chaplain Matt Hardman and Vice President Tom Hankins preside over the SAR Patriot Grave Marking hosted by the Hocking Valley Chapter in Granville, Ohio on September 4<sup>th</sup> in the Old Colony Burying Ground cemetery.





A group photo of the combined Ohio Society SAR Color Guard at the Granville Patriot Grave Marking on September 4, 2021.



The Colors are on the march at Point Pleasant Battle Days Memorial Service, West Virginia on October 3, 2021. The Color Guard Commander for this National SAR Event was Bob Hill.





The musket salute at Point Pleasant included Hocking Valley compatriots Jeff Walt, Al Gummere, and Bob Hill.



On October 9<sup>th</sup>, compatriot Bob Hill marched with dual member John Neth and members of the Tennessee Society SAR in raising the colors for the Heritage Day Festival in Rogersville, Tennessee.





The OHSSAR Color Guard gets final instructions before posting colors at a Patriot Grave Marking in Meigs County on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.



Hocking Valley compatriots “Present the Colors” as they are being filmed by school teacher Brian Wilkenson of Pataskala’s Licking Heights South Middle School. The compatriots gathered at Al Gummere’s residence outside Lancaster on November 7<sup>th</sup> for the second year in a row to provide a video for a Veterans Day presentation. L-R: Bob Hill, Bob Davis, Paul Irwin, Al Gummere.





Compatriots march in the Somerset Small Town Christmas Parade on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 L-R: Bob Hill, Al Gummere, Chuck Bundy. The compatriots then joined others for a traditional supper at the Clay Haus historic restaurant.



Group photo with DAR Wreaths Across America in Granville on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Compatriots attending were Tom Hankins, Ryan Cooper, Al Gummere, and Bob Hill.



## FORT LAURENS GUARD DUTY

For decades the Ohio Society SAR has conducted a Wreath-laying ceremony at the Fort Laurens Tomb of the Unknown Patriot, a National SAR Color Guard event usually on the fourth weekend in July in Bolivar, Ohio. In 2018 the Hocking Valley Chapter conducted the first ever Tomb Guard of the Unknown Patriot at Fort Laurens, mimicking the Arlington National Cemetery Honor Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The brainchild of compatriot Tom Hankins, the event has continued at different dates in three of the last four years (2020 was cancelled due to Covid restrictions). Efforts are now underway to make the Tomb Guard of the Unknown Patriot at Fort Laurens a National SAR event, coinciding the same weekend with the Annual Wreath-laying Ceremony. This year the Tomb Guard will be conducted on Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, between 9:00am and 3:00pm, the day before the Annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony July 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is also the same weekend as the OHSSAR Summer BOM meeting. It is hoped this will encourage more participation. It is a solemn and honorable ritual. All participants receive a nice certificate and their chapter receives a streamer. As was done last year, a huge tent will be located between the tomb and museum for the SAR BOM Meeting and luncheon. We hope you will consider joining us this year.





