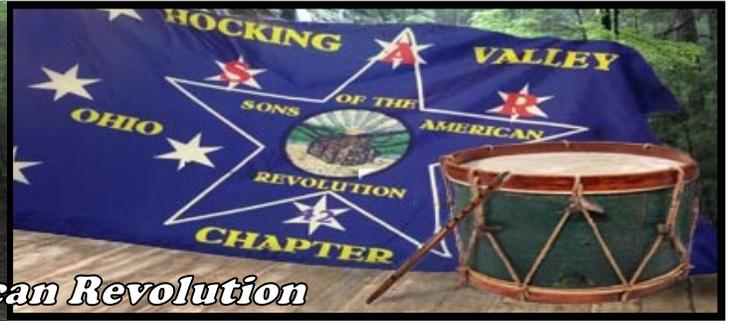


Hocking Valley Chapter



Ohio Society Sons of the American Revolution



2020 Quarterly Vol. 2.

Fife & Drum Newsletter

Issue 2

In September 2016, a well-attended Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony was hosted by the Hocking Valley Chapter at the isolated and wooded Carpenter Koontz Pioneer Cemetery in Lancaster, Ohio. It concluded a year and a half of dedicated labor by Chapter members, led by then-President David Nessley, to repair many vandalized gravestones and clear the cemetery of much overgrowth. The five veterans buried there, including three Revolutionary War patriots, also received a Memorial Stone with the SAR symbol and respectful wording that included their names, ranks, and respective wars of service. Unfortunately, the stone had many noticeable repairs upon close inspection, where chipping had occurred when engraved and then reglued.

A new stone was cut, and after nearly two years in storage it was finally picked up in February (2020) and taken to the cemetery by compatriots Brian and Paul Irwin. It was laid on a pallet to await placement. Delayed by the Covid-19 concerns, placement finally happened on a warm but beautiful Tuesday morning, June 2nd, when six compatriots travelled up to the cemetery and met the landowner, Steve Moore, and placed the new stone. They also felled a dead tree and did some trimming and clean-up work. There are plans to go up again this year and do more repair work on restoring broken tombstones.



On the tractor: landowner Steve Moore.



In the group shot after completion of work: First row kneeling, L to R: Don Miller, Bob Hill. Second Row standing, L to R: Chuck Bundy, David Nessley, Al Gummere, Joe McCrady.



The Covid-19 pandemic caused school closures in the Spring, and delayed the annual SAR Youth Awards, normally completed by May. But it was just a delay, and on June 6th, five deserving students from Gorsuch West Elementary School in Lancaster received their Outstanding Citizenship Awards in the school parking lot to maintain social distancing. Students are chosen by their teachers and principal based on leadership, community service, and qualities consistent with high character and citizenship. Each student received a certificate, OCA lapel pin, and \$50 in cash.

STUDENT WINNERS



Nevaeh Ross



Devonte Carlisle

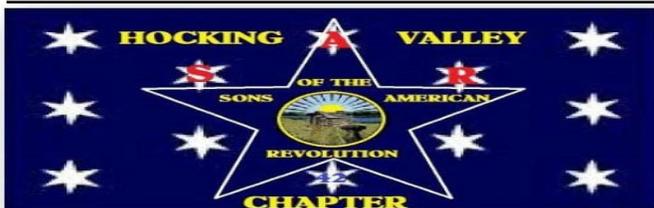


Adriana Hernandez



Brooklyn Thompson

Student Five, not pictured: Katie Cade... All pictures courtesy of retired Principal, Terri Garrett.



Chapter Meeting

Activities

The first Chapter business meeting since February was held Saturday, June 20th. The recently reopened American Legion Post was reconfigured to allow meetings with social distancing Covid-19 guidelines. The turnout was good, and most members wore masks. Special guests included OHSSAR President Lee Wilkerson and OHSSAR Second Vice President Jack Bredenfoerder who drove up from Cincinnati.



At the July 18th business meeting of the Hocking Valley Chapter SAR, Jakin Bass received her First Place Certificate and cash prize of \$75 for winning the Chapter's Annual Middle School SAR Brochure Contest in April. Jakin also won Third Place in the State Society SAR Brochure Contest in May and received a Certificate and cash prize of \$75 for that as well. Handing out the awards was delayed due to the stay-at-home quarantine and building closures caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Jakin attends Elk Academy in Albany, Ohio. In the photo, Jakin receives her awards, L to R: Jakin's guardian Robert Sifford, contest winner Jakin Bass, Chapter President Matt Hardman, Awards Chairman Bob Davis.



Another special guest was First Place Chapter Poster Contest winner, Carson Call, and his father, who are pictured with SAR Youth Contest Chairman Bob Davis, OHSSAR President Lee Wilkerson, and Chapter President Matt Hardman. Carson also placed Second in the State Society Poster Contest.



During this June business meeting, compatriots voted to rename the Outstanding Citizenship Awards The Thomas Darnell Memorial Outstanding Citizenship Award, in honor of Compatriot Tom Darnell who presented this award for many years at Gorsuch West Elementary School. Tom's son, Mark, now Chairs this Award. This year, Mark generously donated the \$250 needed for the award.

Bob Hill received his third Supplemental Ancestor Certificate, approved in January, for Samuel Prather who served as a private in the 1776 Maryland Militia and the Public Service Committee of Observation in Frederick County, MD.



Later and pictured, OHSSAR President Lee Wilkerson administered the Oath of Office to Joe McCrady as the Chapter's new Vice President, and to Matt Hardman as Chapter Chaplain.

Battle of Ramsour's Mill



Compatriot John Neth, a member of the Kings Mountain Chapter in Johnson City, TN and a dual member of the Hocking Valley Chapter, presented a wreath on behalf of our Chapter at the 240th Commemoration of the Battle of Ramsour's Mill, North Carolina, on June 20th via a zoom presentation due to Covid-19 restrictions. John was the only representative from Ohio, although there were many participants mostly from the south who were present, including National Society SAR President General Jack Manning. The Commemoration was hosted by the Catawba Valley Chapter and North Carolina Society SAR.



Chapter President/Chaplain Matt Hardman was officially ordained as a Minister of Christ as recognized by the State of Ohio on Saturday, June 27th, at the Grace United Methodist Church in Jackson, Ohio. Officiating the ceremony was Ohio Society SAR Chaplain Ed Bonniwell, also the Senior Pastor at Hillside Bible Church in Cincinnati. Ed drove up for the occasion with his church pianist Carmen Hood. Matt's wife, Sharon, sang a solo "Take My Life and Let It Be." Several Hocking Valley Chapter members took part in the procession and ceremony, including Tom Moe, Bob Hill, Mark Hardman, Noah Hardman, and Jeffrey Hardman. Chaplain Ed Bonniwell's Ordination Admonitions were heartfelt and eloquent, keeping everyone's attention with his booming voice. Matt will also assist Ed as an Associate Chaplain of the Ohio Society SAR.



HOCKING HILLS
LIBERTY CAMP *2nd Annual*
READING of the DECLARATION of INDEPENDENCE



The Hocking Valley Chapter SAR Color Guard participated in the 2nd Annual Reading of the Declaration of Independence on Saturday, July 4th in Logan, Ohio. Pictured are Chapter members, L to R: Matt Hardman, prospective member Jim Hiles, Bob Hill, Bob Davis, and Al Gummere. The event was sponsored by the Hocking Hills Liberty Camp for Kids and organized by Director Denise Whalen. Prayer was given by Chaplain Matt Hardman. The HVC posted and retrieved the National Colors and fired a three-volley musket salute. Members also assisted in the program. Bob Hill and Jim Hiles each read a third of the Declaration of Independence, with the assistance of Ed Zell. Jim and Bob also read the names of all the signers and their respective states. Matt's wife, Sharon, sang the National Anthem and God Bless America. The program also included a short documentary on the creation of the National Anthem, audience recital of the Pledge of Allegiance, a ringing of the Liberty Bell, and a fine reading on the fate of the signers by Liberty Camp Board member Brian Mason, who suffered injuries in a car accident earlier in the week. It was a very hot day, but when the ceremony began at 7:00 PM, the heat began to dissipate. The audience was very appreciative of the program presented.

While the Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on this year's schedule of events, including the annual SAR Wreath-laying at Fort Laurens, a few compatriots managed to flank the virus and attend the ***Brigade of the American Revolution's annual reenactment at Ohio's only Revolutionary War fort site on July 18th - 19th.***

The days were quite hot in the 90's, but in the shade and with a steady breeze provided by Mother Nature, the heat was bearable, almost pleasant.

A few compatriots who are SAR members from different chapters are comrades in the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment of the BAR. This event included Brad Jarard of the Cincinnati Chapter, Bob Hill of the Hocking Valley Chapter, and Dan Boyer, formerly of the George Rogers Clark Chapter.

Covid-19 mandates were observed as various demonstration sites were set up outdoors around the Fort Laurens Museum to help with social distancing of participants and the public.

At each site the compatriots were asked to maintain a 6 foot distance from the public and not allow anyone to touch equipment. When marching in formation, compatriots also marched a full body distance apart, something not normally done. If going indoors, facemasks were required.

Demonstration sites were set up like separate campsites, each explaining different aspects of the American Revolution. The "main camp" explained uniforms, equipment, camp tools, cooking, and Native American roles in the Fort Laurens story. Compatriot Jarard spent his time here. Another site explained drum calls, British and German soldiers in the Revolution.

Other sites explained artillery and firing demonstrations, medicine, surgery, and women's roles, and soldier's games. Compatriots Hill and Boyer demonstrated musket and rifle use with another 8th Pennsylvania member.

At 1:15 PM each day, the BAR compatriots marched in formation to the Tomb of the Unknown Patriot and fired a 3 volley musket salute. On Saturday afternoon at 4:00 PM, a demonstration was given to the public on linear battle formation where several musket volleys and cannon were fired. This demonstration was finished with a bayonet charge. Huzzah!



Continental Uniform



A little history regarding a proposed plan in clothing Washington’s Continental army just months after leaving Valley Forge in June 1779. The creator of this plan was Washington’s new inspector general Friedrich Wilhelm Von Steuben, but unfortunately his plan was never fully adopted by the United States, and these shortages continued to be chronic throughout this war. Steuben’s plan, came in the form of a letter that was addressed to Congress which gave a clear vision for the types of clothing which these Continental troops could expect to receive, and what those ideal clothing for these soldiers should consisted of. From the article by [author Alex Burn Dec. 6, 2016 Kabinettskriege Era](#)

[Also special thanks to plural member Paul Schenck for bringing this Von Steuben’s letter to our attention.](#)

Newburgh, August 14th, 1779

Gentlemen,

The distribution of clothing should be made with more regularity. As long as [one] regiment receives shirts, whilst another receives shoes and their stockings, or what is still worse, when a regiment receives 20 hats, another 200, and another none at all, we must not think of having our Army clothes.

The distribution of clothing should be made at certain fixed periods in the year.

Whatever the soldier is to receive should be determined. Every article of the clothing should be valued at a certain rate, he who receives more than his allowed should refund the price of the surplus and he who receives less should have an adequate compensation made to him.

The annexed plan of such an arrangement will make it clear and more sensible to you, and although at first sight it may appear so much an expenditure, yet I dare assert it will prove advantageous and economical to the United States.

In addition to this Von Steuben’s letter of clothing recommendations included these specifications:

The soldiers' necessaries always belong to the states, and when a soldier leaves the service he must be accountable for them to the Regimental paymaster.

The Uniform belongs to the soldier after sixteen months service and when a soldier dies or quits the Regiment before the expiration of that time his uniform must be must be delivered to the paymaster who will keep it in his store to distribute its to the soldiers who will arrive in the course of the year.

The small mounting belong to the soldier after four months service, in case of Death or Discharge, but as long as he remains with the Regiment he must account at each review for certain articles:

A copy of a 1780 inventory Will provided by our plural member William Lyman of his patriot ancestor Pvt. Reuben Allen who served in the 2nd Virginia Continental regiment from 1776 until his death in 1779 supports one of Von Steuben’s uniform recommendations such as a uniform belonging to a soldier after serving in the Continental army 16 months or more, which proves either it had been adopted or at least it was in practice during that time. In addition Reuben Allen is also listed on the 1778-9 Valley Forge Muster Rolls as fit for service.

Above Inventory of all the Personal Estate of Mr. Reuben Allen Deceased Appraised by Mr. Elisha Jones Mr. Thom^o Hinton & Mr. John Sheen this 14th day of February 1780

To his Wearing Apparel	2	9.00	" "
To 1 Saddle	at	7.00	" "
To 1 Bay horse	at	6.00	" "
To 1 Bay Mare	at	5.00	" "
To 1 Saddle Mare	at	7.00	" "
To 1 Old Saddle Mare	at	1.50	" "
To 1 Grey horse	at	5.00	" "
To 1 Black horse	at	12.5	" "
To 1 Black white face & bow	at	8.00	" "
To 1 Red Cow	at	60	" "
To 1 Red Cow	at	60	" "
To 1 Red Cow	at	60	" "



238th Anniversary of the **BATTLE OF BLUE LICKS**

Saturday, August 15th, members of the Hocking Valley Chapter Color Guard participated as a group in their first viral (ZOOM) ceremony commemorating the 238th Anniversary of the Battle of Blue Licks (KY). Previously, on June 20th dual member John Neth, a member of the Kings Mountain Chapter in Johnson City, Tennessee presented a wreath singularly on behalf of the chapter for the Battle of Ramsour's Mill Ceremony via ZOOM. The compatriots met at the American Legion Post 11 in Lancaster an hour and a half before their normal monthly meeting at 11:00 AM. The ceremony started at 10:00 AM. Everything was done by a smartphone held by Sharon Hardman, wife of Hocking Valley Chapter President Matt Hardman, as they joined the ZOOM event with compatriots from around the nation and as far away as Hawaii. Some Kentucky Society SAR members were on site at the actual Blue Licks Battlefield Monument, guiding the actual and viral segments of the ceremony. The compatriots came to Present Arms at the beginning of the ceremony and during the Pledge of Allegiance, and again, when the Chapter wreath was presented by President Matt Hardman. Making matters more unusual, Matt presented the wreath from his Lancaster hospital room, where he was admitted the night before to deal with a dangerous drop in his potassium levels (he was released on late Monday afternoon). The screen on the smartphone would shift from scene to scene as various people spoke or presented wreaths. Towards the end of the ceremony there was fife music, singing, and a musket salute. It was an interesting way to conduct a ceremony, still showing respect for patriot ancestors but also dealing with the Covid-19 restrictions in a very modern way.



In the photo, L to R: Bob Hill, Al Gummere, Paul Irwin, Bob Davis. Not shown: Matt Hardman.

Hocking Valley Chapter frontline first responders:

Without a doubt, 2020 has been a strange year. The pandemic has disrupted our lives like nothing in recent memory, with economic and school shutdowns, wearing of masks and social distancing, stay-at-home orders, market shelves emptied of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, cleansers, and the cancellation of so many events and gatherings this year! Some restrictions are to the point of cruelty, like no -- or very limited -- visitations at rest homes, hospitals, and funerals. But health matters, and two of our compatriots have been impacted directly by Covid-19.



Mark Darnell is a Charter (2009) member of the Hocking Valley Chapter but has been in the SAR since 2002. A medical doctor since 1992, Mark is currently the Medical Director of the Emergency Department at Fairfield Medical Center in Lancaster. Mark said when Covid-19 became a local concern, an area had been annexed in the hospital to deal with an expected rise in Covid cases. And initially, no tests were immediately available to determine who did or did not have the virus. By mid-April, a strange thing was noticed. Victims of heart attacks and strokes had come down 40 percent from previous months... people were staying away from the hospital! Thankfully, however, the expected rise in Covid patients has not overwhelmed the hospital's ability to handle cases. According to the Fairfield County Department of Health, between March 8th and August 24th, there have been 1588 Covid-19 cases in the county, 315 of which required hospitalization, 29 in ICU, and 41 Covid-related deaths.

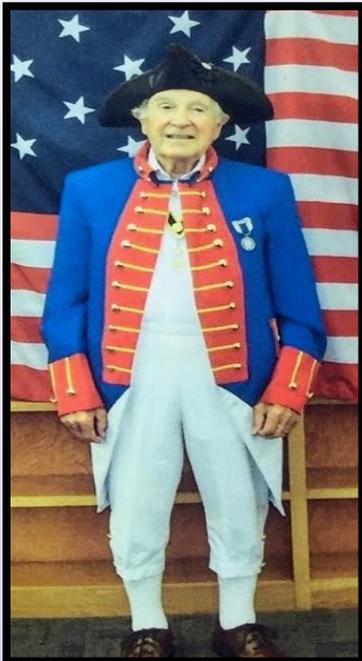
As seen in Mark's "spaceman" photo, the hospital personnel are well-protected against possible infection when dealing with patients.



One of our newer compatriots, Brian Irwin, caught the virus and was hospitalized. Brian became a member of our Chapter in February. He is a Firefighter/Paramedic with Whitehall in Columbus, and lives in Breman. Brian may have had a compromised immune system caused by his diabetes, further complicated by a cough he started noticing a few months before being diagnosed with Covid-19, and which was later discovered to be pneumonia. Brian had transported some known cases of Covid patients, but the paramedics always wore high grade surgical masks when dealing with any patients. Two days before being tested, Brian's cough became constant, his fatigue was severe, and he had a 102° fever. He tested positive on May 13th. So did his wife. His children were negative. Two weeks later Brian was admitted into Fairfield Medical Center when his oxygen level fell below 89 percent. He was placed in the Cardiac

Observation Unit for 6 days and given oxygen but didn't need a ventilator. Plasma therapy and antibiotics improved his condition, and he was sent home, although he had to use oxygen tanks, wearing a nasal clip for an additional 5 weeks. Brian has since returned to work. Thankfully, no one else in his Fire Department has caught the virus.

We wish continued good health and safety to all our compatriots and their families.



A recent photo of Patrick N. Kelly, courtesy of The Morrow County Sentinel newspaper.



Compatriots at the Awards Presentation, L to R: Al Gummere, Ed Bonniwell, Bob Hill, Paul Irwin.



Chaplain Ed Bonniwell with Compatriot Patrick Kelly immediately after the awards



Hocking Valley Chaplain and Ohio Society Associate Chaplain Matt Hardman during last week's visit with Patrick, and his wife, Shirley

Three Hocking Valley Chapter compatriots, Bob Hill (Ohio Society Color Guard Commander), Al Gummere, and Paul Irwin traveled to Woodside Village Care Center in Mount Gilead, Ohio on Friday, August 28th. There they met Cincinnati Chapter compatriot and Ohio Society Chaplain Ed Bonniwell to present awards to a dying compatriot, Patrick Kelly, age 86. Earlier last week, Chaplain Ed visited Patrick, and a few days later, Matt Hardman (President and Chaplain of the Hocking Valley Chapter) and Bob Hill visited as well. All enjoyed meeting Patrick, his wife Shirley, and his loving daughter, Karen. Patrick suffered a bad fall a few months ago and his injuries have not healed properly. He and his family know time is running out and he is growing weaker, though he perked up during visits from his compatriots. Bob was quite surprised when at the end of their visit, they all joined hands in prayer and Bob expected Matt to lead, but it was Patrick who immediately led in prayer, and a good one! Patrick once served as the Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in North Woodbury, and 8 other churches in his career. He joined the SAR under his patriot ancestor, Reuben Frisbee of Connecticut...yes, the same family line that invented the frisbee! He was an active member and Chaplain for nearly 30 years in the Centennial Chapter (as well as a past President), and the former Henry Knox Chapter. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by the Ohio Society in 2007, a Distinguished Service Certificate, the Roger Sherman Medal, Silver Color Guard Medal, and a 20-year Tenure Pin. The facility caring for Patrick is very strict on the number of visitors allowed inside. So, Ed went inside to do the presentation, and Patrick's daughter, Karen was there. Bob, Al, and Paul formed a small Color Guard outside Patrick's window where he could see them. Patrick's son, Dave, stood outside with them. Although rain was threatening, the Lord held it back for the ceremony. All involved knew it was an important gesture for Patrick and family to do this ceremony for him. Bob was not expecting to get misty-eyed, but tears welled-up when he saw Patrick through the window, laying on his bed wearing his Continental Army jacket and tricorne hat, and he gave the Color Guard a salute. The Color Guard came to Present Arms as Pastor Ed, with his booming voice and eloquence, awarded Patrick the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal, and the Army Colonel's Chaplain Insignia. When the time comes, Patrick has requested an SAR vigil at his viewing and a graveside ceremony. It will be an honor to fulfill his wishes.

EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Compatriots

The last several months have been unusual to say the least. With most events cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have had less to cover for our newsletter. So, there will just be three issues this year, the next coming out before New Year's. Hopefully, this pandemic will be behind us by then. We hope to begin mentoring our new members into being active members by next year. I have fears that if new members are not drawn into the Color Guard and Chapter Officer positions, and soon, the Chapter will begin a slow decline and fade away in a few years. Let us not allow that to happen. Our country needs us to keep alive the history of our Founding Fathers, the sacrifice of our ancestors, and the spirit of Patriotism. We MUST pass it on to the next generation.

List of Upcoming Events are subject to change by cancellation, modification (such as becoming a ZOOM event), or new events may be added. Please keep posted by reading your emails!

September 12th, Saturday: A State Event, Multiple Patriot Grave Marking Ceremonies beginning at Shannon Cemetery, off East Jefferson Street (Rt 103) in Bluffton, Ohio 45817. Muster at 9:15 AM. Ceremony begins at 10:00 AM. We will also be visiting Logan Cemetery. We are honoring patriots William Rodgers, Joseph DeFord, and Simon Cochran. Questions can be directed to the Event Organizer, David Lupiend

at: lupiendl58@gmail.com. Musket salute detail needed. This event can count to either Color Guard Medals or the Patriot Grave Marking Medal.

October 17th, Saturday: Fall Ohio Society BOM Meeting, Deer Ridge Golf Club, 900 Comfort Plaza Drive, Bellville, Ohio 44813. Box Lunch begins 11:45 AM - 12:30 PM. Meeting begins 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM.

November Awards Luncheon to be held at the American Legion Post 11.

Tentative, Subject to Call: Compatriot Patrick Kelley, age 86, a career pastor / and SAR Chaplain, formerly of the Henry Knox Chapter and SAR member for over 30 years, has requested a uniformed SAR vigil at his viewing and a musket salute / Color Guard at his funeral which it will be held in Mount Gilead, Ohio 43338. Patrick is currently in Hospice Care, but of course it is not known when the Color Guard will be needed.

* A request by William "Tony" Robinson for a presentation to Trail Life Scouts camping near Stoutsville, Ohio on the evening of Friday, October 16th. A presentation that focuses on Divine Providence and the American Revolution. It is hoped Chaplains Ed Bonniwell and Matt Hardman can be the main presenters. But a few others may be needed to share a bit on the life of a militiaman and Continental soldier.

*School Assemblies and Classroom Visits: Probably in November, for Ross County Christian School and our usual Veterans Day visit to Licking Heights South Elementary School in Pataskala. Dates and times to be announced

Regular Business Meetings, American Legion Post 11, 279 Canal Street, Lancaster, OH 43130. Every third Saturday at 11:00 AM. September 19th, October 17th, November 21st, December 19th.



Sharon Hardman, wife of Chapter President and Chaplain Matt

Hardman, took a bad fall down the stairs of their home in Logan, Ohio on Thursday, August 27th. The fall occurred in the morning at around 10:30 AM. An ambulance was called and Sharon transported to Lancaster's Fairfield Medical Center. Sharon suffered a severe concussion, fractured her upper left arm and broke the bones in her left wrist. She was released later in the day, but is recovering slowly at home. Please include her in your prayers for a complete and speedy recovery. Sharon has been an instrumental supporter of her husband and our Chapter activities.

