

The Ordnance

Washingtonburg Chapter

Pennsylvania Society

Sons of the American Revolution



Fall 2024 Edition



*Washingtonburg Compatriots Jeff La
Marca, Dale Leppard, & Raymond Mowery
IV at grave marking ceremony*

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 - Wreaths Across America: Dec. 14
 - Holiday Dinner: Dec. 15
 - BOM Meeting: Jan. 31 – Feb. 1

2025 SAR Dues

Next year's SAR dues need to be received by PASSAR Treasurer Michael Seibert by Saturday December 14, 2024. His address is 105 Bellows Drive, Carlisle, PA, 17015. Please contact Washingtonburg Secretary Ray Mowery with questions: raymondmowery@hotmail.com or 717-830-1888.

Carlisle's Declaration of Independence 250th Anniversary



The First Presbyterian Church of Carlisle and Historic Carlisle, Incorporated, invited Washingtonburg Chapter to join them on July 1, 2024, to recreate the historic Carlisle Declaration of Independence. Under the leadership of luminaries such as James Wilson (signer of the Declaration of Independence) and Ephraim Blaine (later Commissary General of the Continental Army), the citizens of Carlisle gathered on July 12th, 1774, to renounce the actions of the British in Boston and New England and to show their support. The reenactment, 250 years later, underscored the significance of the event and included key historical figures represented by members of the present congregation as well as members of Historic Carlisle, Incorporated, who with Washingtonburg Chapter, also provided local extras in 18th century attire.

Awards were presented to Historic Carlisle and the First Presbyterian Church by Washingtonburg Chapter in recognition of this important and extraordinary effort, and a wreath was placed in the Church in honor of the courageous patriots who blazed a trail to independence in 1774.

Photo above: Washingtonburg President Dale Leppard presents awards to Historic Carlisle, Inc. and Carlisle Presbyterian Church. Photo right: Washingtonburg members Jeff La Marca, Dale Leppard, Ray Mowery, Rebecca Jordan, & Doug Cubbison present a wreath to honor the patriots of Carlisle who signed the Carlisle Declaration of Independence.



Grave-Marking Ceremony

On Saturday June 15, 2024, over two dozen members of Washingtonburg Chapter attended a grave-marking ceremony at the historic Big Spring Presbyterian Church in Newville, PA. The Patriots who received the SAR Grave Markers include the following: Capt. Thomas Buchanan, Major William McFarlane, Sgt. William Denning, Artificer William Ferguson, and Pvt. Peter Tritt. Washingtonburg President Dale Leppard led the ceremony, and Washingtonburg treasurer/secretary Steve Burd was the guest speaker for the event. Associate Member Raymond Mowery IV, Washingtonburg Chapter, PASSAR and Jeffry La Marca, President Jockey Hollow Chapter, NJSSAR presented a wreath honor all the Revolutionary War Patriots buried at the Big Spring Presbyterian Church Cemetery (including Patriots whose graves have not yet been marked). The ceremony was followed by a chapter meeting and luncheon at Colonel Denning State Park. Steve Burd and Steve Messner receive the Bronze Henry Knox Medal for outstanding service to Washingtonburg Chapter. President Leppard presented a lesson on the Intolerable Acts in conjunction with the 250th anniversary cycle.



Photo left: Washingtonburg secretary/treasurer Steve Burd receives Bronze Henry Know Award. Photo right: Washingtonburg member Steve Messner receives Bronze Henry Know Award. Photo top right: Washingtonburg President Leppard leads the grave-marking ceremony.

Mount Vernon Trip

Washingtonburg Chapter had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity on Monday September 2, 2024, with a trip to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Fifteen members and family attended a busy day with many highlights. Our chapter had the honors of starting our morning by raising our chapter flag at Mount Vernon. Then the group placed ceremonial wreaths at Washington's tomb and the Slave Memorial. The group also toured the grounds and the mansion of Mount Vernon. After our ceremonies, we dined together at the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant to celebrate.

The day before, we met for a tour of George Washington's restored distillery and gristmill.

Following the tour, we met for dinner at River Bend Bistro and Wine Bar at 6:00pm. This was a weekend to remember.



*Photo right:
Washingtonburg
members at Mount
Vernon*

US Army Expo

On Saturday September 14 and Sunday September 15, compatriots Past President Dale Leppard (left) and President Jeff La Marca (right) represented Washingtonburg Chapter at the United States Army Expo '24 at the United States Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle to recruit new members.



Constitution Night

On Monday September 23, 2024, Washingtonburg Chapter hosted “Constitution Night with Sons of the American Revolution” at Coy Public Library in Shippensburg, PA. This event was catered to children with several interactive, educational activities: a read-aloud of *We the People* by Peter Spier, BINGO with prizes, art, games, and even signing a copy of the Constitution with a quill ink pen. Four youngsters earned the “Good Citizen Certificate” and were gifted a free pocket Constitution at this event. Washingtonburg members Raymond Mowery IV, President Dale Leppard, and 1st Vice-President Jeff La Marca represented our chapter. We also donated a book, *Constitution Translated for Kids* by Cathy Travis, to Coy Library. This was our first of a planned series of free educational events at Cumberland County libraries.

Patriot Spotlight



This Patriot Spotlight is Raymond Mowery IV and Raymond Mowery V's patriot: Barnabas Doyle, an Irish-Catholic whose family immigrated to Path Valley in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania in the early 1700s. As the Doyle family expanded, they founded the town of Doylesburg, which is in present-day Franklin County. Barnabas was born circa 1750. During the American Revolution, he served as a private in the 6th battalion of the Cumberland County militia under Captain Thomas Askey's company under the leadership of Colonel James Dunlop. Barnabas died on November 23, 1797, in Fannett Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. He is buried at St. Mary's Catholic Church (now called Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Mission) in Doylesburg, Pennsylvania, on land his family once owned. In our quarterly newsletter, we

would like to spotlight our compatriots' ancestors. If you would like to share your compatriot's story, please email Ray Mowery, raymondmowery@hotmail.com.

Photo: the new gravestone for Barnabas Doyle.

Liberty Tree Program

The Sons of the American Revolution has a Liberty Tree program. For those not familiar with the term and origin, there existed in Boston prior to the American Revolution a tree at which early proponents of freedom gathered. Eventually, it was cut down by Tories. In true American spirit, our forefathers simply designated and planted new "Liberty Trees" all throughout the colonies. As we cycle through the 250th anniversary of the events which secured our freedom and independence, the concept of planting new Liberty Trees has once again taken root.



Compatriot Steven Messner has taken the lead in our participation in the Liberty Tree program. Steve has planted seven Liberty Trees for Washingtonburg Chapter for Perry County 250 in Pennsylvania, six in four school districts in Perry County and one on his property. You can purchase a sanctioned SAR tree from for about \$150 with warranty from fastgrowingtrees.com. When you plant the tree, contact national SAR Liberty Tree Program national chair Ron Redner and include a photo: ronredner@rednerad.com. The national SAR goal is to plant 250 Liberty Trees. Please contact Steven Messner with questions: drstevem1@gmail.com. Pictured above: Steven Messner with his grandson Calvin Lerch (both lifetime SAR members) planting a Princeton American sanction elm on their Perry County property.

Membership Update

As we near the end of 2024, Washingtonburg Chapter currently has 56 members, with 6 applications processing, and 2 applications pended. Our chapter had only 6 members two years ago. This incredible growth was made under the leadership of Past President Dale Leppard. As we grow our numbers, we would like to grow our programs as well. If you have an interest in serving as an officer or on a committee, please reach out to President Jeff La Marca. Our chapter is only as good as the effort we put into it. And we are making great strides in increasing our programs. Keep up the great work, and please share your ideas.

Washingtonburg's Challenge Coin

This fall, our chapter designed our first-ever challenge coin. Compatriot Ray Mowery worked with Lone Star Challenge Coins, a Texas company comprised of many veterans, to create our coin. Our coins are \$15 each. The design, shown below, is both beautiful and practical because it has the SAR 250th Anniversary logo, which can be used for several years during our nation's 250th Anniversary cycle.



Upcoming Events

Wreaths Across America

On Saturday December 14, Washingtonburg will host its inaugural Wreaths Across America ceremony at Middle Spring Presbyterian Church in Shippensburg, PA. The ceremony, which starts at 10:00 am, will honor veterans from all branches and all era, in peacetime and wartime. Several local veterans, including veterans from our chapter, will be participating in the ceremony. Two guest speakers will share their thoughts on this year's theme: "Live with Purpose." Following the indoor ceremony, the public will be invited

to place wreaths on veterans' graves in the church's cemetery.



WAA at Arlington National Cemetery

Washingtonburg Web Site

Please visit our web site for more details about our chapter:
<https://washingtonburgsar.org>

Colonial Holiday Dinner

On Sunday December 15, Washingtonburg will host its annual Colonial Holiday Dinner and Award Presentation at the historic Two Mile House in Carlisle, PA, at 5:30 pm. The event will include horse-drawn carriage rides, a bagpiper, colonial music from Forbes Road Frolic, a professional photographer, an 18-century fixed plate menu, an optional toast of George Washington's rye whiskey (made in his fully restored distillery at Mount Vernon), replica oaths of allegiance for compatriots to sign, a militia roster with quill and ink for attendance, unveiling our first-ever challenge coin, and over 40 awards to be presented.



Dale and Susan Leppard, Dec. '23

February BOM Meeting

It's our turn to shine! Washingtonburg will host the next Pennsylvania BOM meeting, the weekend of Jan. 31- Feb. 1, 2025, at the Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center in Camp Hill, PA. The event kicks off with a Friday evening social at the hotel. Saturday's events include the BOM Meeting, a lunch buffet, and presentations by our own Sam Russell and Doug Cubbison. We hope for a strong turnout to support our compatriots and our chapter. Registration details are on our website: washingtonburgsar.org.

Washingtonburg Officers

President.....Jeff La Marca
1st Vice-President.....William Sloane
2nd Vice-President.....Dutch DeVries
3rd Vice-President.....Steve Messner
Secretary.....Raymond Mowery IV
Treasurer.....Steve Burd
Registrar.....Dale Leppard
Chaplain.....William Sloane
Chancellor.....James Oerding
Historian.....Doug Cubbison
Genealogist.....Dale Leppard
Sargeant-at-Arms.....Doug Cubbison
Past President.....Dale Leppard