



*FORT Harrison Chapter  
Virginia Society, Sons of the  
American Revolution  
Harrisonburg, VA*



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Compatriots.

This is the inaugural edition of the Fort Harrison Newsletter. As the editor I will cover the activities of the chapter and its members. This will be a tool for the chapter to make the public aware of what we are doing to further the goals and missions of the Son of the American Revolution. It will also be a tool to make other chapters aware of what we are doing in our geographic area..

Please feel free to address comments, concerns and suggestions to the Editor:

Wm. David Carpenter  
Fort Harrison Chapter  
wdcarp@live.com

# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

*Finishing 2022 STRONG!*

Being just a few months into my term, I'm clearly still trying to figure things out... That said, I'm incredibly thankful for each of you who have been so willing to point me in the right direction (and even pull me out of a ditch when necessary). While there's a tremendous amount I need to learn about the National and State Societies of the Sons of the American Revolution, I'm extremely proud of the things I see the Fort Harrison chapter doing so well!

So far this year as a chapter, we've presented five Veterans Recognition Certificates, one Flag Recognition Certificate, two Flag Retirement Certificates, and seven Eagle Scout Certificates. We recently presented awards to ROTC and JROTC members, and we held the chapter's first ever middle school brochure contest! Chapter members have also spoken for more than half a dozen civic groups year-to-date. We also have three exciting events we'll be hosting or participating in over the next few months on Patriotic holidays: Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day. And I won't even get started on how excited I am about the upcoming Public Service Award Ceremony that will be tied in with our September meeting...

Here's the thing, I'm convinced that only a small segment of our great community even knows we exist! Although I don't know as many details about the American Revolution as so many of you do, I do know how to make some noise – but I could use some help from every single one of you... Over the last few months, we've launched a Fort Harrison Facebook Page and a Fort Harrison LinkedIn page. If you use social media at all, follow the pages and invite your friends to as well. These are in no way exclusive to chapter members; we want to celebrate our history to as many people as we can possibly reach! Additionally, help us invite guests to the public events our chapter participates in, or even to chapter meetings. (I plan to invite as many people as will listen to the September meeting!)

I'm not asking any of you to pick up additional tasks, many of us are already very engaged and have plenty else to do. However, I don't think it will take any extra effort to help spread the word about all the great things this chapter already does. And if you have any questions about how you can be a part of anything listed here, reach out to me anytime at [wesleydove@gmail.com](mailto:wesleydove@gmail.com) or on my cell at (540) 810-7903.

# UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

17 MAY FORT HARRISON CHAPTER MEETING  
5:30 PM WOODFIRE GRILL HARRISONBURG, VA

30 MAY 2022 MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION  
JMU Park 10:00 AM

14 JUNE 2022 UNITED STATES FLAG DAY. CHAPTER  
CELEBRATION In Partnership with A.G. Stacker, Inc. 30 Packaging  
Drive, Weyers Cave, VA 24486 11:30 AM

4 JULY 2022 READING OF THE DECLARATION OF  
INDEPENDENCE, ROCKINGHAM COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE. NOON

20 SEPTEMBER FORT HARRISON CHAPTER MEETING 5:30 PM  
WOODFIRE GRILL HARRISONBURG, VA

18 OCTOBER FORT HARRISON CHAPTER MEETING 5:30 PM  
WOODFIRE GRILL HARRISONBURG, VA

15 NOVEMBER FORT HARRISON CHAPTER MEETING  
5:30 PM WOODFIRE GRILL HARRISONBURG, VA

20 DECEMBER FORT HARRISON HOLIDAY DINNER, TIME  
AND PLACE TBD.

# CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

## NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED INTO THE CHAPTER INTO THE CHAPTER

Matthew Phillippi	Harrisonburg
Gregory Speck	Harrisonburg.
Chad Wood,	Harrisonburg.
Danny Perry	Rockingham
Bryan Buck	Stephens City.

## MEMBERS TRANSFERRED INTO CHAPTER

Wm. David Carpenter	Edinburg
Colo. James Wood II Chapter	

## VETERANS CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION AWARDED

Christopher N. Walker	25 February 2022
Alexander Sellner	22 March 2022
David T Silcox	22 March 2022
John W. Jacobs, Jr.	2 April 2022
Raymond Lee Custer	7 May 2022

# VASSAR 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

The Fort Harrison Chapter had four of the five state Public Safety Award winners. This is the first time in the history of the Public Safety awards that a chapter has had these many recipients at a state level. In addition, this was the third year in a row the Fort Harrison Chapter has had nominations for all five public safety award categories. Fort Harrison was awarded the inaugural John Blair Public Service Streamer. The four winners from Fort Harrison:



Heroism Commendation – Patrick Tate, Sergeant, Rockingham County Sheriff’s Office and Part-Time Broadway Police Department.

Officer Patrick Tate began his career in Law Enforcement 9 years ago with the Rockingham County Sheriff’s Office. In 2017, Officer Tate was hired on part-time with the Broadway Police Department, in addition to his full-time duties with the Rockingham County Sheriff’s Office. During his time with the Rockingham



Law Enforcement Commendation – Shawn Morris, Corporal, Rockingham County

Sheriff’s Office. Cpl. Morris began his law enforcement career in 1999, and for the last 22 years has served this community with a standard of service, devotion, and dedication that is second to none.



# VASSAR 2022 ANNUAL MEETING



Fire Safety/Prevention – Tyler Jessup, Lieutenant, Rockingham County Fire and Rescue. Lt. Jessup began his journey in emergency services as a volunteer firefighter at the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department in the mid-1990's. He then became a paid, career firefighter in 1997 where he has served the community with Rockingham County Department of Fire and Rescue for most of his career.

Emergency Services Commendation – Greg Cassis, Harrisonburg Rescue Squad and Flight Medic Pegasus. Greg is a Member of the Harrisonburg Rescue Squad, serves in the role of Chief Officer Support, oversees the Agency's Training Officer and Medical Provider Release process answering directly to our Medical Director, Operational Communications Officer, Medical Equipment and Supply Officer, Uniform Officer, and the buildings and grounds committee.

Greg's dedication to the health and well-



being of his community does not stop at the rescue squad, as he works full time at UVA Pegasus as a Flight Paramedic, Operations Supervisor, and Training Officer.

# GRAVES MOUNTAIN

On 22 April 1995 the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter invited the Fort Harrison and Thomas Jefferson Chapters to join them in a joint meeting at Graves Mountain Lodge to enjoy lunch and Springtime in the mountains. This has become a tradition every year, except only for 2020, and this Saturday the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter hosted seven other chapters to Graves Mountain Lodge where Virginia SAR President Bruce Meyer was the featured speaker. In all there were attendees from eleven Virginia SAR Chapters, the DAR, the C.A.R. and the Order of Founders and Patriots, for a total of sixty-two attendees.

The Culpeper Minutemen Chapter has organized this meeting every year, but, beginning in 2015 the master of ceremonies role has rotated through the chapters. This year it was the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter's turn to provide the master of ceremonies and Chapter President Tom Hamill performed that role.

In continuance of a tradition, those gathered at Graves Mountain this weekend conducted a ceremony to collect and bless the Soil of Virginia to be carried by the Virginia SAR President to the 242nd Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Waxhaws, near Lancaster, SC. There President Meyer will spread the soil on the mass grave of Virginians buried there.



Color Guard post colors while dirt is gathered



Chaplain Rev. Jim Simmons Prays for the blessing of dirt



# GRAVES MOUNTAIN



Lunch was served "Family-Style" and, as always, provided plenty of good food. The main courses this year were meatloaf and chicken & dumplings.

After lunch, Virginia SAR President Bruce Meyer briefed attendees on the plans for the State Society for 2022. At the end of his talk he was informed that his honorarium of \$300 would be sent, as he directed, to the Virginia SAR First Virginia Regiment for the Flathers/May Fund supporting communications.



From Left to Right: Randy Atkins, Gregory Speck, Wes Dove, David Carpenter, Kirk Sheap



# Battle of Waxhaws



## BATTLE OF THE WAXHAXS

. It was there that Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton with his army a force of roughly 230 men, consisting of 130 Legion dragoons, 100 Mounted British Legion infantry, ran to ground Col. Abraham Buford. He was the Commander of the Third Virginia Detachment, with two companies of the 2nd Virginia Regiment and 40 Virginia Light Dragoons. Those 380 Virginians were coming as reinforcements, to support the city of Charlestown but began to return to Virginia after learning of the surrender of Charlestown. . At Waxhaws the British attacked the Patriots, with no quarter being shown, The British dragoons, using sabers and bayonets, ,slashed at anyone and everyone, including men who were kneeling with their hands up in surrender The slaughter lasted a little more than fifteen minutes. The British won an overwhelming victory killing/wounding 300 Americans at the cost of just 20 British killed/wounded. The result was 113 Continentals killed and 203 captured. There were only five killed and twelve wounded on the enemy's side.



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## *Biographical Sketch* *Christopher Newkirk ("Kirk")* *Sheap MD*

I am a Virginian, born in Richmond and having attended schools in Henrico County, South Boston, Williamsburg, Charlottesville and Richmond. My father was employed by what was then Virginia Electric and Power Company and was transferred on a number of occasions. The only time I have lived elsewhere was occasioned by my two year service in the U.S. Army when my family and I lived in Hesse in what was then West Germany.

I am an avid lover of history and majored in that when I attended the University of Virginia with a major emphasis on Russian and Greco-Roman

History. I then attended the Medical

College of Virginia and was in the same class as Patch Adams. If you ever saw the movie with Robin Williams, it didn't happen that way. Medical School and Internship, also at MCV, were followed by a Residency in Dermatology at the University of Virginia and then my two year Army Service in West Germany.

I met my wife, Norma, as a "blind date" for a Johnny Mathis Concert at UVA and we



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

whom are in the DAR or SAR as are several of our grandchildren. This also includes the Virginia State Society C.A.R. and to which Norma and I contribute yearly.

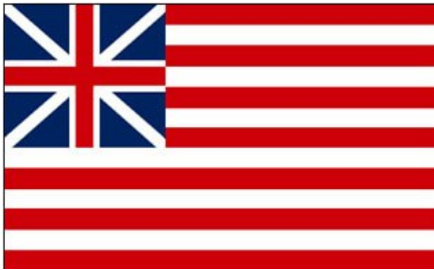
When Norma and I moved to Harrisonburg in 1977, a local physician, the late Dr. Jean Wine, noted my middle name of Newkirk which also was the maiden surname of his mother. As turned out, we proved to be 8<sup>th</sup> cousins sharing common ancestry with the Newkirk family (a Dutch family) of Ulster County, New York. Jean was a Compatriot of our Chapter and he provided the stimulus for my research which discovered my Patriot Ancestor, Captain Cornelius Newkirk of the Ulster County, New York Militia. I became a Compatriot in the SAR and our Chapter in early February, 1994.

Over the years, I have been active on a local, state and national level. I have served our Chapter as President, Treasurer, Chaplain, Chairman of the Flag Recognition Program and Chairman of the ROTC-JROTC Cadet Recognition Program. On the state level, I have served as Chairman of the Flag Program and am currently VASSAR Surgeon. I have also been honored to serve as a judge for the state Orations Contest. On the national level, I have been recognized for “making the circuit of the Atlantic Middle State Conferences”, having attended them all. I also serve on the NSSAR Medical Committee and as a Vice Chairman of the NSSAR Flag Committee. I have been recognized by NSSAR for attending both the Spring and Fall NSSAR Leadership Conferences for over 5 consecutive years with the Gold Roger Sherman Medal. I have served on the Committee of the Knight-Patty Fund of VASSAR since 2013 and as Chairman since September, 2016. I have been a General in the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia Regiment, VASSAR since 2014 and first contributed to one of its Funds actually before the 1<sup>st</sup> Virginia was created. I was awarded the VA Society Medal in 2006, VASSAR Presidential Award in 2007, Silver Good Citizenship Medal (VASSAR and Chapter) in 2008), Madison Medal (VASSAR Service Medal) in 2009, Distinguished Service Award (VASSAR) 2011, Lamp Lighter AWARD from NSSAR in September, 2012 for support of the Center for Advancing American Heritage at the NSSAR Headquarters in Louisville, in 2013 the Thomas Jefferson Medal from NSSAR for support of the Knight Essay Contest in , in 2014 the Joseph Warren Medal from NSSAR for support of the Rumbaugh Oration Contest and in that year, the Chapter Service Medal. Regarding the Knight Essay Contest, I am very proud of the fact that when I was Chapter President, we received an entry from a home-schooled student. It was submitted to VASSAR and won there, being the first such entry to do so. At NASSAR, it placed second, losing by less than 1 point, if I

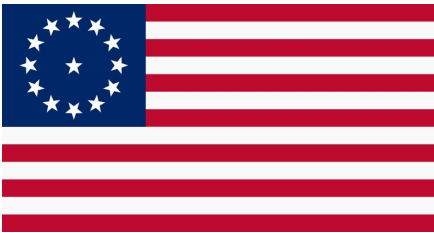


# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

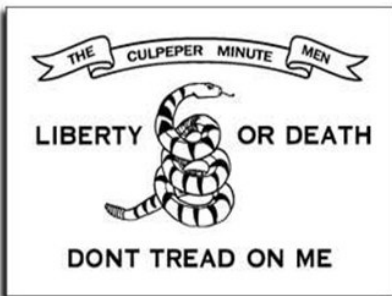
remember correctly. This “opened the door” for the participation of home-schooled students in our State Contest.



FIRST FLAG OF THE NEW NATION



COWPEN'S FLAG



CULPEPER MINUTE MEN



BETSY ROSS FLAG



## SGT. MOSES ADAMS MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL BROCHURE CONTEST

The Fort Harrison Chapter awarded KARINA NYEMCHENKO a Certificate of Achievement and a check for fifty dollars as winner of the SGT. MOSES ADAMS MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL BROCHURE CONTEST. Karina is a student at Thomas Harrison Middle School in Harrisonburg, VA. The subject of the winning Brochure was the Declaration of Independence. The contest is open to all middle school students. This was the first year that Fort Harrison Chapter has sponsored Brochure contest.



Wm David Carpenter, Chapter Youth Programs Chairman, Awards Karina Certificate and a check for fifty Dollars as winner of the Brochure contest for Thomas Harrison Middle School



Wm David Carpenter, Karina, Wes Dove, Chapter President

**BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN  
CARRIGAN  
PATRIOT ANCESTOR OF  
DAVID CARPENTER  
JOHN CARRIGAN**

John Carrigan came to America with his parents, William, and Elizabeth Mebane Carrigan and two or possibly three brothers, Edward, James, and some accounts say William 11. John was the second son. They came with interrelated families -- Mabanes, Samples, Davidsons. In 1766 they departed from Newry, near Londonderry, North Ireland, arriving at the port of Philadelphia. They remained a brief time in Pennsylvania before migrating to Orange County, North Carolina, prior to 1769.

John Carrigan, immigrant from Ireland and Revolutionary War soldier, born March 20, 1756, in Londonderry Ireland, died April 26, 1826. He was closely related to those men who took part in the North Carolina Regulator movement and those who drafted the Mecklenburg Declaration.

During the Revolution, John served as Commissary and as a member of the regulators for the North Carolina Continental Army (Note: North Carolina "Index to Revolutionary Accounts, Misc." - Vol. 1, Accounts of the U.S., with N. C. War of the Revolution, Book, C, pg. 94,

The Carrigan's were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. John was educated to be a Presbyterian minister, but also was a surveyor, and he taught school. John married Kathrine (Catey) Sample on Aug. 16, 1783, and this marriage resulted in eleven children.

Children:

William Edward b. July 30, 1785

James Brown b. Feb. 17, 1787

Mary (Polly) Mabin b.1789

Elizabeth b. Nov. 9, 1791 (*She was my GGGGrandmother*), (*Her son is my GGGranfather and her daughter is my GGGrandmother. My GGrandparents on this side were first cousins.*)

Philip b. Feb. 15, 1794

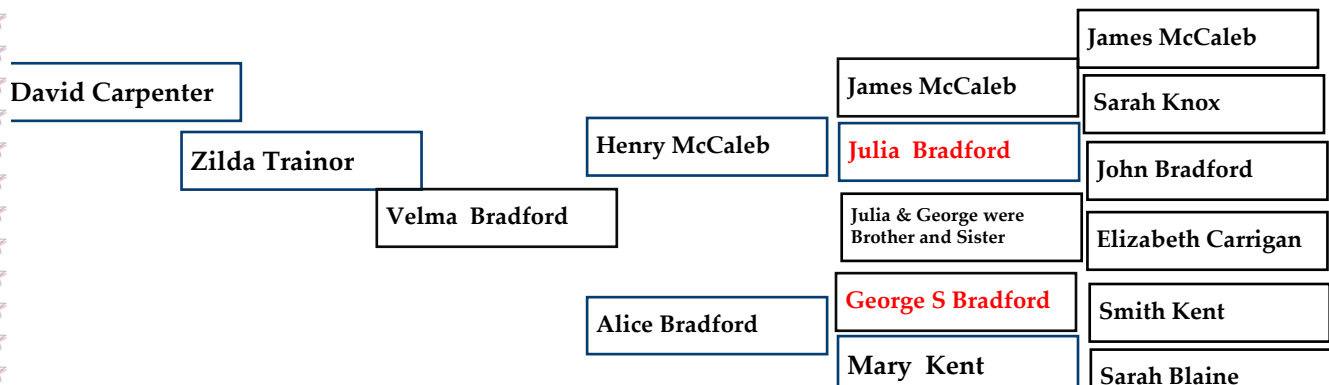


# *BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN CARRIGAN PATRIOT ANCESTOR OF DAVID CARPENTER JOHN CARRIGAN*

John Sample b. July 30, 1797

Julia Ann b. Dec. 14, 1811

John took his family Jackson County, near Jefferson City, Georgia, where he taught school for several years. In 1817, with his family and several negroes, he migrated to unsettled land in Washington County (now Clinton County) in the Illinois territory before Illinois was a state and settled along Crooked Creek. He was named Justice of the Peace for Washington County in June 1818. He was appointed a Trustee for Township 1, Range 2 on March 8, 1825, for establishing the common school system in the county. He served trustee for school lands and held other county offices in the new state of Illinois in 1818 and until his death in 1826. HE took and intelligent and active part in organizing the new state and county government. He was the first sheriff of Clinton County, from 1825-1829. HE represented the county in the state legislature from 1828 to 1834. He was one of the trustees of the school lands in the congressional townships of his county He was buried in McKeever Cemetery [now known as Wadsworth] in Clinton County, where a monument was erected in his honor.



## GRAVE MARKING FOR ADAM SMITH



Fort Harrison Compatriot Randy Atkins, past-President and a descendant, laid a wreath at the Grave Marker Dedications for Hannah Smith, wife of Revolutionary War Patriot Adam Smith and Revolutionary War Patriot Michael Crouse. The ceremony was sponsored by the Narrow Passage Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Also attending from Fort Harrison was 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Ros Poplar. Attending from the Massanutton Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was Regent Penny Cummiskey.





# JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY ROTC AWARD



The Fort Harrison Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution participated in the James Madison University Annual Army ROTC awards ceremony held on May 4 at Memorial Hall.

First Vice President CAPT Ros Poplar USN (ret) presented the Silver R.O.T.C. Medal to Cadet Cameron Todd Rigney. The Award is presented in recognition of outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing, and excellence, which exemplify the high ideals and principles which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors. Also in attendance was Compatriot Randy Atkins, Past President of the Fort Harrison Chapter.

Cadet Rigney will be graduating from JMU with a Kinesiology degree with an exercise science concentration. His military career began when he enlisted into the Virginia National Guard in March 2020 and attended basic combat training at Fort Jackson, SC. He desires to pursue a career in physical therapy and be stationed with the famed 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Bragg NC. Prior to this, he will be attending the Army's Basic Officers Leadership Course and Fort Lee with follow on training at Fort Benning GA where he hopes to earn his jump wings.





# HARRISONBURG HIGH SCHOOL JROTC AWARD

The Fort Harrison Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution participated in the annual Harrisonburg High School Army JROTC awards ceremony held on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

First Vice President CAPT Ros Poplar USN (ret) presented the Bronze J.R.O.T.C. Medal to Cadet Major Alondra Guifarro. Cadet

Major Alondra Guifarro is a junior at Harrisonburg High School as a 3rd year Cadet in the Junior

Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) The Award is presented in recognition of outstanding leadership qualities, military bearing, and excellence, which exemplify the high ideals and principles which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors. Other guests included Compatriot Kirk Sheap past President of the Fort Harrison Chapter and Massanutten Chapter, NSDAR Regent Penny Cummiskey.

Cadet Major Guifarro is a role model and respected representative of Harrisonburg High School. She displays sense of balance regarding academia, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Her character and high level of achievement are reflected in her grade point average, a three-time recipient of the High School Excellence Award, and her accomplishments in JROTC.



Fort Harrison 1st vice president awards medal to Cadet major Alondra Guifarro

4+Ms. Guifarro is the leader of the Color Guard, Drill Teams, and Raider Teams.



