



## News & Events

### George Washington Chapter

Chartered June 5, 1924



## Pennsylvania Society ~ Sons of the American Revolution

Vol. 93, No. 4

Washington, Pennsylvania

July / August 2016

### **AUGUST CHAPTER PICNIC**

**Saturday, August 20, 2016**  
**Arrival & Greetings @ 3:30 PM**  
**Meal @ 4:30 PM**  
**Cross Creek Park**  
**Off Route 50 near Rea, PA**

DAR / SAR Members and guests are welcome.  
Bring your children and grandchildren!

**Directions:** From Washington take your best route to PA Route 18 until it intersects with Route 50. Turn left onto Route 50 West and go approximately 4 miles. Take a left onto Country Park Road. The picnic area is about a mile down the road.

**Facilities:** Cross Creek has electricity, water, and restrooms. Adjacent to the picnic area is a playground. There is also a boat launch over the hill in the case you'd like to bring your boat (if you have one, of course!) Come for fellowship!

**Menu:** Hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, salads, deserts, and drinks.

**NOTE: *Looking for volunteers to bring beverages and deserts. Contact Larry Ridgway (724) 938-2197***

**Price:** \$14.00 per person

**Reservations MUST arrive by  
Monday, August 13, 2016**

Make checks to: George Washington Chapter-SAR

**Send to:** Larry Ridgway – Treasurer  
Box 355 - 113 Railroad Street  
Stockdale, PA 15483-0355  
Phone: (724) 938-2197

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*“Life’s tragedy is that we get old to soon and wise too late”* Benjamin Franklin

### **Minutes ~ Saturday, June 18, 2016**

**Call to Order:** Following lunch, President Larry Ridgway called the meeting to order at Meadowcroft Museum of Rural Life, Avella, PA at 1:10 PM. President Ridgway welcomed all in attendance.

**Attendance:** Twenty-one (21) people, guests (7) **Compatriots (14) Daniel M. Biddle;** Kevin Burns; **Charles D. Curry; Dr. Scott M. Helfrich; James Linn; Ronald E Miller; Eugene G. Painter; E. Ward Reighard; Larry L. Ridgway;** Clea Roe & **Rev. Dr. Nathaniel C. Roe;** Marie & **Edward W. Schreiber;** Ruth & **John C. Schreiber;** Sue & James Struck; **Gary W. Timmons; Willard C. White;** Cindy & **Kurt J. Winters.**

The Pledge of Allegiance followed by the pledge to the SAR was recited and Rev. Dr. Nat Roe gave an Invocation.



*Above: Chapter Betsy Ross Flag flies over Washington County Court House on Flag Day*

**Presidents Report:** President Ridgway made opening remarks and requested a motion to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2016 Chapter meeting be approved. Motion was made, seconded and approved.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Ridgway reported

the Chapter balance as of April 15, 2016 \$2,911.19. Ridgway also mentioned receiving a donation from the McGrew family.

**Secretaries Report:** Secretary Timmons reported that the Chapter has 4 additional applications currently at National and a fifth in the works.

**Old Business:** Compatriot Scott Helfrich was presented with the Silver Roger Sherman medal and certificate. (see article)

**New Business:** Thinking of you card passed around for George Livingston.

**Committee Reports:** The Chapter will have an SAR information table set up again this year at the Whiskey Rebellion in downtown Washington on Saturday July 9. Looking for volunteers.

**Program:** See pictures and article to follow.

**Good of the Order** Compatriot Gene Painter was in attendance at age 101. Also visiting from Wisconsin was Nat Roe's granddaughter Clea and from the Pittsburgh Chapter James Linn.

**Adjournment:** Rev. Dr. Nat Roe gave the Benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

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**Welcome Aboard**

The George Washington Chapter is honored and delighted to extend the warm hand of friendship to our newest member, Daniel Mathew Biddle. Daniel serves as a Director of Technology and his Patriot ancestor is John Leasure who was a Frontier Ranger from Westmoreland County.

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**Moving On**

Scott Helfrich joined the Chapter in 2009 and right away he wanted to know what he could do? We had a job for him! Scott designed the Chapter website and has published the Chapter newsletter since that time. Unfortunately for us, Scott is embarking on a new endeavor and will be leaving the area for a new job at Millersville University in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. At Meadowcroft, President Larry Ridgway presented Scott with the Chapters first Silver

Roger Sherman medal for his outstanding service to the Chapter. The George Washington Chapter thanks him for his dedication and wishes Scott and his family great success in this new chapter in their lives.



*Above: Scott receives award from President Ridgway as Gary Timmons looks on.*

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**Chapter Program – "Heirlooms & Artifacts"**

Three Chapter Compatriots shared items with those in attendance at the June meeting. Among items, Ed Schreiber brought a Washington County Civil War Muster list from 1862.



Ron Miller shared a Waltham pocket watch that

was made in 1881 and owned by a former slave.



Nat Roe showed a beautiful Walnut cabinet he made. This replica of an antique spice chest has 9 drawers visible when the door is open and has 4 more drawers hidden for a total of 13 drawers. Do you know where the other 4 drawers are?



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**In Memory:**

The Chapter is saddened at the loss by death of fellow Compatriot John Marshall White, Sr. who died on July 4, 2016. Compatriot White was an Korean War veteran having served in the U. S. Army and a respected businessman. He was active in several civic organizations as well as the SAR. The members of the George Washington Chapter want to express their thoughts and prayers to fellow compatriots, son Jamie, and brothers Wil and Richard as well as the rest of their families.

The chapter also wants to extend condolences to two

of our compatriots on the loss of a parent. Dennis Ardinger's father, Albert, passed away on July 3 at age 93 and chapter President Larry Ridgway's mother, Martha, age 94 passed away on July 12. The thoughts and prayers of the chapter go out to these two families.

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**Wreaths Across America**

It is once again time to start thinking about the 2016 Wreaths Across America campaign. This will be our ninth year to participate. As in the past, as part of the annual Chapter picnic we will be stuffing envelopes to send out to previous sponsors seeking their support again this year. Our George Washington Chapter consistently is one of, if not the largest, gatherer of wreaths that are laid at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies. Last year, the Chapter got sponsorships for 1,765 of the 7,200 wreaths that were placed and with graves that were already decorated by families, for the first time in the short history of this cemetery, every grave was marked. This is a far cry from the 45 wreaths our George Washington Chapter got sponsors for our first year. As the cemetery grows every year, this may never happen again but it would be wonderful to try. Again this year we will be doing the 3 for 2 option. What this means is that for every two wreaths sponsored a third is donated at no charge. Also, "Save the date" December 17, 2016 at noon, rain or snow, to meet at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies to help place wreaths.



### In Memorial

As we go press we have learned of the passing of Compatriot George E. Livingston on July 23, 2016 at age 81. George and his wife Beverly were frequent attendees at George Washington Chapter meetings as well as active in the Color Guard taking part in many parades and over 60 grave dedications over the years as well as attending National and State events. George was a charter member and instrumental in the formation of the Ebenezer Zane Chapter (OHSSAR). Of which he served as past Chapter President. George was very active in the George Washington Chapter's Wreaths Across America campaign serving as co-chairman of our local

efforts and writing newspaper articles on Wreaths Across America that have been published in papers in the Weirton, West Virginia and Steubenville, Ohio areas and always attended the wreath laying ceremony at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies every year since the chapter started taking part. George was a veteran having served in the U. S. Army Security Agency from 1954 – 1962 (3 years active & 5 years in the Army Reserves) and was retired from Continental Can. George was passionate about doing his own family research as well as helping others with their genealogy and true to the mission of the SAR, worked to document and preserve the memory of Revolutionary War veterans. In 2011, George spearheaded the design and funding of a marker in Weirton's Veteran's Memorial Park to honor all Revolutionary War veterans. He was honored at the State Capital in the class of 2012 as a West Virginia History Hero for his work. George is survived by his wife, two daughters, son and several grandchildren. The Chapter extends its sincere sympathy to the family.

### Dates to Remember

- Jul 30 Annual wreath laying at the Tomb of Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier at Fort Laurens near Bolivar, Ohio
- Aug 6 PASSAR Summer BOM meeting Pittsburgh
- Aug 20 Chapter picnic at Cross Creek Park
- Sep 3&4 Fort Henry Days – Oglebay Park - free event with re-enactments and entertainment both days.
- Oct 8&9 Battle Days – Point Pleasant, W. Va.
- Oct 15 Chapter meeting (TBA)
- Nov 5 PASSAR Fall BOM meeting (TBA)
- Dec 10 Chapter Christmas Party (TBA)
- Dec 17 Wreaths Across America – National Cemetery of the Alleghenies - noon





George Washington Chapter  
Sons of the American Revolution  
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