

**Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter**  
**Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution**

Fredericksburg Country Club

11103 Tidewater Trail, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Regular Meeting, March 11, 2017, 12:00 P.M.

12:04 p.m. – President Skip Nolan called the meeting to order.

Invocation – Conway Richardson

Posting of Colors – In place

Pledge of Allegiance – Bob Swartwood

SAR Pledge – Jim Wachter

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** - President Skip Nolan welcomed everyone and



introduced today's guests, Sheriff Charles Jett (retired), James Laux and his father, guest speaker Ranger/Historian Peter Maugle, and prospective SAR member Eddie Null.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Treasurer Wayne Rouse announced that he had “SAR” lapel pins for sale for \$10 each. The “SAR” lapel pin may be more recognizable to non-SAR members than the rosettes and could possibly bring more interest to the SAR. The SAR Foundation is now showcasing pins of appreciation to all donors giving at the \$10 pledge level or above and will help point out the donor's ongoing commitment to the SAR's mission through his or her charitable giving. So that members who purchase the SAR lapel pin may receive credit for their \$10 pledge, Treasurer Rouse will also provide the form needed for submission to the SAR Foundation.



Treasurer Rouse also announced that various SAR items such as shirts, ball caps, etc., were placed on the back table for sale.

Rudy Lane announced that he has a new part-time job as a disk jockey at 95.9, WGRQ Radio. WGRQ offers a free public announcement calendar should the Chapter wish to announce future events.

12:09 p.m. – Break for luncheon.

12:48 p.m. – President Nolan called the meeting back to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Secretary Richard Bradner reported that the minutes of the January 21, 2017 meeting had been distributed to the membership by email. He moved and it was seconded that the luncheon meeting minutes for January 21, 2017 be approved. The motion passed.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** – Treasurer Wayne Rouse reviewed the Treasurer’s Report of March 7, 2017.

Balance as of January 10, 2017	\$6,153.42
Income	865.21
Disbursements	1,202.84
Balance as of March 7, 2017	\$5,815.79

Treasurer Rouse moved and it was seconded that the report be approved. The motion passed.

**GUEST SPEAKER** – Vice President Conway Richardson introduced the guest speaker, Ranger/Historian Peter Maugle of the National Park Service. Ranger Maugle provided a presentation on “Valley Forge: A Crucial Encampment.”



The Continental Army arrived at Valley Forge in December 1777. Eleven of the thirteen states were represented. It had recently fought and lost battles at Brandywine and Germantown. The men had not been issued uniforms or shoes in some time nor had they been paid recently.

They certainly did not want to lose another battle during the winter. Therefore, the Army wanted a defensive position. Their encampment was approximately twenty miles from Philadelphia, close enough to watch the British in Philadelphia but not so close as to get surprised by the British Army.

General Washington put the Schuylkill River between his army and the British. Defensive fortifications were built first, and then they built their encampment. Approximately 1,000 cabins were built in about one month. There were six to twelve enlisted men per cabin; officers were two to four per cabin. General officers usually stayed in nearby houses.

Sickness and disease were the primary problems at Valley Forge. The cabins were tolerably comfortable but there was a lack of proper food. Several hundred officers resigned their commissions during the Valley Forge encampment. By February, the army was down from approximately 12,000 soldiers to approximately 6,000.

General Washington’s headquarters was in a nearby stone house. One night a Congressional Committee knocked on the door. They were there to evaluate Washington’s performance. General Washington took the Committee on a tour of the camp. They were so surprised at the deplorable conditions that they stopped the assessment and began to help.

Eventually supplies began to improve. Washington approved Maj. General Nathaniel Greene to be Quartermaster General in late winter to early spring of 1778. Greene did not relish his new assignment but Washington convinced him of its importance. Additionally, Maj. General

Friedrich von Steuben showed up to help. Instead of requiring a position based on his rank, Steuben asked Washington to assign him to whatever position Washington needed him to handle. Steuben noticed that each of the regiments had their own way of forming and marching. He introduced the concept of military manuals and created a hands-on training program that helped Washington's Army become proficient, allowing it to become more professional and giving the troops a new sense of purpose.

In May of 1778 news arrived that France had recognized the United States as a sovereign power and was joining the fight against the British. The arrival of the French greatly altered British war plans and caused the British to leave Philadelphia in June. Washington quickly left Valley Forge to engage the British. The two armies met at the Battle of Monmouth, N.J. where the British were forced from the field.

Valley Forge was not the darkest hour of the Revolutionary War. It was a place where an already accomplished group of professionals stood their ground, honed their craft, and thwarted one of the major British offensives of the war.

For his presentation, President Nolan presented Ranger Maugle the book by Myron Lyman titled Genealogical, Burial, and Service Data For Revolutionary War Patriots Buried In Virginia.

**NEW MEMBER INDUCTION** – None.

### **AWARDS**

The following awards were presented by Past President Hamilton and Treasurer Rouse:



**John Abbott** – Bronze Roger Sherman Medal.



**Conway Richardson** – Chapter Distinguished Service Medal.



**David Hazel** – Liberty Medal, Virginia Society Medal, Forgotten Patriots Certificate.



**Rudy Lane** – Certificate of Appreciation.

Bob Swartwood provided background information on the JROTC Program and introduced James Laux, a junior JROTC cadet at Brooke Point High School. Cadet Laux was presented the JROTC Chapter Medal for his second place finish in the Virginia State JROTC contest.



Ron Knight read the citation for Stafford County Sheriff Charles Jett (Retired). Sheriff Jett was presented the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal by President Nolan.

Past President Hamilton and Treasurer Rouse informed the membership that the Chapter had received the following streamers for its 2016 activities to be placed on the Chapter's flag: Yorktown Day Commemoration, Participant 100% Flag Program, History Day Support, Participation Revolutionary War Monument Dedication, Presentation of War/Military Service Medals, Contributor American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, Outreach and Fundraising Initiative Museum at Yorktown, and Chapter Excellence Award. In addition, the Chapter received two stars, one each for the streamers for Graves Registration and Forgotten Patriots.

Raffle drawing – Craig Rains won \$30.00 and then presented the winnings to Cadet James Laux.

SAR Recessional – Wayne Rouse

Benediction – Conway Richardson

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Total Attendance - 34

SAR members - 21

DAR members - 3

CAR members - 0

Guests - 10