



# The Cincinnati Patriot



**New Members!**  
**Welcome to the**  
**Cincinnati**  
**Chapter!**

Q4 2023

Carver, Philip Murphy

We are proud to welcome 23 new adult  
and 5 new Junior members in 2023.



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# AN UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

## Compatriots & Friends of the Cincinnati Chapter SAR,

First let me wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New year! I am honored and privileged to be the 88<sup>th</sup> President of the Cincinnati Chapter.

We are proud of the fact that the Cincinnati Chapter has been recognized as the number one SAR chapter in America. This has been a consistent accomplishment for our chapter. This track record is the result of having a dedicated team of leaders and members who contribute to the goals of our chapter. As a result we have the track record, the statistics, the awards and the credentials to back it up.

So, what should the goals be for the number one chapter in America? It can't be to make us great. It can't be to make us great again or to make us great again, again. We are already currently at a high point in many ways. Despite this, I believe there are several ways that we can improve, address our looming threats and weaknesses, and take better advantage of the opportunities before us. Below are a few that I feel are the most important ones.



**Membership.** We must focus on the three R's (Recruitment, Retention, and Rein-statement) to maintain and grow membership in an increasingly challenging environment. Although our chapter's 2023-year end membership was near an all-time high with 255 members, it was still slightly below the levels of 2019 and 2020, and the trend over the past five years is flat.

**Publicity.** We must increase our public exposure. While our SAR organized ceremonies and events are wonderful, the fact is that many draw very few attendees from the public. I believe we must get out to some major public events organized by others, so that hundreds and thousands of people can see us and learn who we are and what we do. That includes capitalizing on public events related to the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Sustaining Our Excellence.** While the Cincinnati Chapter is fortunate to have established several areas of excellence, sometimes called the "pillars" of the chapter, these are heavily dependent on a few dedicated, passionate individuals. Depth is not a strong point, and recent experience has shown that when a key person steps down, filling those roles has been a challenge. This means that we are not well positioned to sustain our areas of excellence indefinitely into the future. We are seeking members who want to get more actively involved. This is something I hope to start to address.

I look forward to working together. Thanks to everyone for their continued membership and loyalty to the Sons of the American Revolution.

Yours in Patriotism

*Scott Freeman*

*"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it." Thomas Paine*

# **CHAPTER LEADERSHIP—2024**



## **Cincinnati Chapter—SAR – Officers for 2024**

During the recent Gala event on Friday December 8th, the slate of 2024 Officers for the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was installed for the 2024 program year.

Ohio Society President Don Miller and Central District President Steve Hinson were on hand to install this officer team. We are honored to have these fine individuals to continue the outstanding work of our chapter and organization.

**The approved 2024 Officers of the Cincinnati Chapter SAR are:**

- President – Scott Freeman
- 1st VP – Bruce Bennett
- 2nd VP – Clay Crandall
- Secretary – Bob Bowers
- Treasurer – Mike Blum
- Chaplain – Gordon Stokely
- Historian – Larry Collins
- Web Master – Tim Madden
- Registrar – Franz Ott

**Board Members of the Cincinnati Chapter SAR for 2024**

- Jesse Moore
- Dan Schmitz
- Doug Bates
- Nathan Chester
- Mark Fields

# ***NATIONAL SAR 2028 CONGRESS CINCINNATI SELECTED AS HOST***

Consistently, the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution places as the top rated SAR chapter in the country.

Each year, the SAR hosts a National Congress where all the chapters leaders and members are encouraged to participate.

Business of the organization is addressed, decisions are proposed and made and future goals are formalized.

In 2028, the Cincinnati Chapter and Ohio Chapters will be honored with hosting this event in Cincinnati.

Lee Wilkerson is the “2028 National Congress Committee Chairman for “Cincinnati 2028”.

The link to the communications awarding Cincinnati the 2028 Congress is below:

<https://cincinnatisar.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/National-Congress-Proposal-Committee-Report-2-9-25-2023.pdf>

All can agree that this is a tremendous honor as well a significant responsibility and undertaking. There will be a lot of work going forward to make sure this event is a meeting to remember.

First, we will relish in our success of winning the hosting of the event. Then the next phase of work starts. We will be reaching out to get commitments on roles and responsibilities for this upcoming event.

We will share more news as it unfolds.

Congratulations to all the Cincinnati and Ohio SAR leaders and members who worked tirelessly to make this happen!



# EVENTS

## DAR Luncheon— Saturday October 21st

The Cincinnati Chapter of the DAR hosted a 130th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon at the Cincinnati Women's Club.

In the last few years, past President George Stewart of the Cincinnati SAR Chapter has reached out to Cincinnati DAR chapters to foster more joint events.

This effort has been successful and our organizations will continue to reach out and share upcoming events for more active participation and a richer experience for all.

Unfortunately, our Chapter had a competing event with the Myers Cemetery Grave Marking which required our Color Guard. George Stewart represented the Cincinnati Chapter at this event.

Mark your Calendar—2/17/2024—Coming up in February is the joint SAR / DAR event for Presidents' Day. For more information about registration, please go to our Cincinnati SAR calendar. The link to the calendar is:

<https://cincinnatisar.org/meetingsevents/>

DAR does a wonderful job of hosting these events, welcomes SAR members and SAR members are encouraged to participate.



## Veterans Day Luncheon —Mason—Saturday Nov. 4th

On Saturday November 4th we held our annual Veterans Day luncheon at the Manor House in Mason.

This event was attended by the Cincinnati SAR, members of three DAR chapters and members of the CAR (Children of the American Revolution).

Our keynote speaker was 96 year old World War II Veteran Frank Wetenkamp. Frank shared his life and military experiences and told us of his life experiences as Gunnery Specialist aboard the USS Lindewald – LSD 6.

Frank's military service to our country started when he enrolled in the military in 1943 at the adult age of 17. Frank gained early respect as fighter and leader. "Give it to Frank, he can get it done" was his calling card.

Frank acknowledged that his generation is commonly referred to as the "Greatest Generation" due to the timing of World War I, II and Korea. He admitted that after learning more about the history of the American Revolution, the founding fathers signed "death warrants" for their pursuit of rebellion and independence from the powerful British military. Frank noted that the original founding fathers were truly the "Greatest Generation".

To put this in perspective, our patriot ancestors and their leaders were fighting for a then unknown way of life where the "People Ruled" vs a dictator and or royalty. These patriots had no guarantees if their sacrifices were to be rewarded with individual freedoms or death. Frank admitted that all wars after the fight for American independence were fought to preserve freedoms that Americas founders and patriots earned via bloodshed.

We were honored to have Frank W. Wetenkamp speak to us.

To this day, this gentleman is full of energy and passion for helping others as evidenced by his at least once a week visit to the area Veterans Hospitals to visit and support America's military is inspiring.



# EVENTS

## Veterans Day Ceremony—Friday Nov. 10th MARS Hill Academy

On Friday November 10th, the MARS Hills Academy (MHA) had a school assembly where they celebrated Veterans Day. This is an annual event for this institution of Christian guided learning for grades K-12.

The leadership of this school has included recognizing the importance of Veterans of our Country in their curriculum. We applaud that effort!

The Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (CCSAR) was invited again to participate to post colors, to attend the ceremony and after completion performed a three-volley musket salute for a select group of students.

CCSAR Color Guard members who participated were: Bob Bowers, Gary Duffield, George Stewart, Dan Schmitz, Tim Madden, Jack Bredenfoerder, Lee Wilkerson and Ed Bonniwell

We applaud MHA for including this Veterans Day program in their student education experience. We are grateful that our young adults are exposed an understand of the contributions and sacrifices of veterans to our country and the freedoms we enjoy as a result.

Participation in the MHA Veterans Day program is a direct result of the efforts of the Cincinnati Sons of the American Revolution (CCSAR) – Youth Education outreach program led by Bob Bowers and Dr. Ed Bonniwell.

This was an active effort by the students of this school. The choir sung many patriotic songs, a student led the audience in the Star Spangled Banner, two students gave inspiring addresses of the “Give me liberty or Give me Death” and “The Gettysburg Address”

Truly an inspirational event, one we were grateful to participate.

Looking forward to participating in their future events!



# EVENTS

## Pearl Harbor Day / Flag Retirement Day— Sunday 12/3

On a day which will live in infamy .....

On Sunday December 3rd, 2023 the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution participated in Flag Retirement event and a Pearl Harbor Day parade which included a boat ride onto the Ohio River for a Wreath Laying Ceremony.

This Sunday was a solemn damp, overcast, gusty and cold day. Regardless, our spirits were warmed by the knowledge we were recognizing those who sacrificed during the day infamy experienced during the December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941 attacks on the US military in Pearl Harbor.

We started the day with a flag retirement ceremony at the American Legion Post 534. Mike Gunn of the Cincinnati Chapter welcomed the audience. The Color Guard members fired a three round musket salute to conclude the ceremony.

At that point, the participants and transitioned upriver to the Anderson Ferry location on River Road (US 50). The groups paraded down to an awaiting ferry where we loaded onto the Anderson Ferry. From there the barge motored into the current of the Ohio River.

Once away from shore, the barge was skillfully stopped in place and the participants threw bio-degradable wreaths into the waters of the Ohio River.

This ceremony was to emulate the wreath laying efforts which occurred in Pearl Harbor.

There were numerous civic and community groups participating in both these events.

All in all a very somber event where we had heavy hearts thinking about the lives lost at Pearl Harbor and all US military conflicts where lives were lost and lives changed as a result of experiences and the life long scars inflicted on the men, women and children of the US Military.

We will remember .....



# EVENTS

## Holiday Gala—Friday December 8th—Fairfield

On Friday evening December 8th at Receptions Banquet Event in Fairfield we gathered for our annual holiday Gala. This event has multiple purposes including installing the new 2024 slate of Officers, recognizing many for their outstanding contributions and achievements over the course of the year and simply a “thank you” to all who have contributed so much to our mission and cause.

George Stewart handed over the reins of the chapter to incoming President Scott Freeman. George received a wonderful super sized round “Challenge Coin” (see front cover photo) which he championed while Chapter President. An awesome gift in recognition to his faithful service to our chapter.

The awards venue was new and I for one was very impressed. Recently costs of hosting banquets such has this has become costly. We thank the leadership team for finding an alternative. We were not disappointed.

This year a silent auction was held to raise money to offset some of the costs of this event. Over 800 dollars was raised . Some really nice items were available and purchased.

Following the meal was the passing of the torch. George’s final acts were to recognize chapter and member achievements. Many awards were distributed as one would expect for a chapter highly recognized within the National SAR organization.

George shared that the Cincinnati Chapter was recognized as the #1 chapter in the SAR organization. Cincinnati consistently ranks very high and this is a testament to the leadership and dedicated group of men who contribute every day.

Representatives Don Miller (President—Ohio SAR), Steve Hinson (Central District SAR President) and Steve Kaplan (1st VP—Ohio Society SAR) were present. Both these men participated in the swearing in of new officers for the Cincinnati 2024 chapter leadership team. Jesse Moore and his wife also participated.

This was a great event! I am proud to be part of an organization whom has so many dedicated and patriotic members.



# EVENTS

## Wreaths Across America—Saturday Dec. 16

On Saturday December 16th in Spring Grove Cemetery a special event took place called Wreaths Across America (WAA).

Similar events occurred at Greenwood Cemeteries and the Veterans Home of Georgetown.

Within Spring Grove cemetery there is a Civil War section where the remains of almost 1000 union veterans of the Civil War were buried. These graves are laid in a circular pattern within three mounds peaked by a vertical period cannon.

Most of these veterans came from the local Civil War hospital at Camp Dennison on Cincinnati's east side.

On this day, wreaths were laid by volunteers on the simple white granite headstones of those fallen.

The event started 12:00 noon to coincide with the over 4,200 WAA events occurring simultaneously across the country.

Cincinnati Sons of the American Revolution President Scott Freeman greeted the participants with a story of the history of the WAA event as well as the history of the fallen here at Spring Grove Cemetery.

There was a moment of silence, followed by the placing of ceremonial Wreaths representing each branch of military service.

Volunteers distributed the wreaths and placed them on the base of the soldiers grave stones.

Following the closing remarks, the Nolan Carson Color Guard of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution performed a three volley musket salute to honor those who have fallen in service to our country.

Taps was played to close the ceremony.

Thanks to the participants and the members of the community who supported this effort.



# **YOUTH EDUCATION**

## **SAR Youth Education & Awards Committee**

As you may know, the Cincinnati Chapter of SAR has been very busy and successful in identifying, nurturing and bringing forth Youth Awards candidates of distinction.

One of the cornerstones of our chapter outreach is our Youth Education efforts.

This Committee is led by Bob Bowers and Ed Bonniwell. They are supported by a team including Dan Schmidtz, Mike Gunn, Lee Wilkerson, George Stewart, Jack Bredenfoerder, Gregg Ballman, Gary Duffield and Mike Blum.

The commitment invested by Bob Bowers and Ed Bonniwell are tremendous. The success of these efforts is recognized nationally and principally the result of these two men.

We would like to recognize Daniel Schmidtz for his contributions over the years.

Getting access to our public schools and sharing the message of the American Revolution and how it impacts our lives today with our youth is the driving force behind these efforts.

Congratulations and our appreciation to these fine men and their energy and support of our mission.

## **Youth Education—School Presentations—Q4 2023**

In the fourth quarter of 2023, the Youth Education team made presentations and participated in six schools.

Within these six schools, there were 105 presentations made to 857 students ranging from middle school to high schoolers.

The presentations were made to the following schools:

- West Chester Home School
- MARS Hill Academy
- Mason Middle School
- Bridgetown Middle School
- Three Rivers Middle School
- Middletown Middle School



## **Interested in making an impact?**

The Youth Education team is always seeking new members to make school presentations. If you have interest and want to influence our youth, please reach out to Bob Bowers for more information.

# GRAVE MARKING—WASHINGTON PARK—NOV 12TH



On Sunday November 12th, the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution held a Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony in Washington Park (downtown Cincinnati).

We joined to recognize five Revolutionary War Patriots who died in Hamilton County. This ongoing effort will recognize all Revolutionary War Patriots who are known to have been buried in Hamilton County Ohio. These grave marking events will continue to the July 4th 2026 which is the recognized 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Starting the day's activities, Mike Gunn of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (CCSAR) gave a presentation in Memorial Hall to a focused audience. The topic was "Washington's Eyes".

There is a bronze marker in Memorial Hall listing the 250+ Revolutionary War Patriots known to be buried in Hamilton County Ohio.

The Patriots honored today:

- Adam Boss (1762-1833) – served with Maryland Militia
- Nathaniel Clark (1757-1832) – served with Massachusetts and Rhode Island
- Duncan Dunn (1752-1838) – served as Sgt. with NY and Vermont
- Joseph Hall (1761-1818) – served with Morgan's 11th Regiment
- Richard S. Holden (1761-1831) – served with Massachusetts and at Valley Forge

There was also placing of ceremonial wreaths for organizations represented at the ceremony.

A commemorative three volley musket salute was performed by the Nolan Carson Memorial Color Guard, followed by a moment of reflection and mourning of arms display by the Color Guard.

The ceremony was concluded by the playing of taps.

# GRAVE MARKING—MYERS CEMETERY—GOSHEN OCTOBER 21ST



On a drizzly Saturday afternoon on October 21st, 2023 in the Myers Cemetery in Goshen Ohio members of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) hosted a Patriot Grave Marking event.

The event was coordinated around a meeting of the Central District SAR representing the states of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia. Many respective chapter members and dignitaries of these states participated in and were recognized at the event.

We were honored to have the President General John L Dodd of the National SAR participate in the Central District events on Saturday. He addressed and inspected the Color Guard participants at the start of the event.

Mike Gunn of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (CCSAR) was the organizer and emcee for the activities of the day.

Lee Wilkerson of CCSAR and the Central District introduced the crowd to the six Patriots buried in the Myers Cemetery.

In attendance were members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) as well as the Children of the American Revolution (CAR).

The main part of the event was the unveiling of SAR granite markers at the base of each of these patriots graves.

Another significant part of the event was the presentation of ceremonial wreaths from the many SAR, DAR, CAR and local civic groups who participated in this event.

There was a three round musket volley performed by the members of the Color Guard. Upon completion of the volleys, the Color Guard executed the “Mourn Arms” pose to quietly honor those we recognized today and for all others who we have lost.

Taps was played and completed the days events.



# **CINCINNATI CHAPTER COMMITTEES**

## **Citizenship & Naturalization**



During the fourth quarter of 2023, there were nine Naturalization Ceremonies on the Cincinnati Chapter SAR calendar.

Jerry Knight, Jack Bredenfoerder, Mike Gunn and Jesse Moore from the Cincinnati Chapter attended these events and extended well wishes of our chapter to these new US citizens.

At these ceremonies, there were on average 40-50 citizens at each event representing 20-30 countries.

These events are held at a number of locations around the Cincinnati Metro area.

Welcome Home!!



## **Honor Flights**

### **Up, Up, and Away!**

On Tuesday October 17th, approximately seventy-five American Heroes took a well deserved trip to Washington DC to visit their respective war memorial.

Each Veteran was accompanied by a sponsor who proudly took the “trip of a lifetime” with them. The flight left early morning on Tuesday for a full day of activity in DC.

These warriors returned home about 9:30PM on Tuesday to a rowdy and welcoming crowd of well wishers! Very moving event!

The Ohio and Kentucky chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution were there to greet them and served as honorary flag bearers lining the path these veterans took upon their return.



# ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

## **Events for the First Quarter of 2024!**

**See the Cincinnati SAR calendar for more information including location at:**

[www.cincinnatisar.org/meetingsevents/](http://www.cincinnatisar.org/meetingsevents/)

### **Upcoming Board Meetings—Montgomery Inn—Wed PM 2/7, 3/6 and 4/3**

We will be holding our monthly Board of Management meetings at the Montgomery Inn in downtown Montgomery on the first Wednesday of the month. Open to all members, come join us at 5:30-7:00 for a social hour and you may partake in a Montgomery Inn meal prior to the 7:00 PM formal meeting start.

### **Living History Presentation—Harmon Museum – Lebanon – Friday - Jan. 19th**

The Cincinnati SAR has been invited to participate in an event at the Harmon Museum where the “American Revolution Experience” exhibit will be showcased. Members of our Color Guard will be present and will interact with the participants. Exhibits of period items will be on display.

### **Harrison Tomb Parade and Dedication — North Bend—Friday February 9th**

Annually the Cincinnati SAR participates in a parade and a tomb ceremony honoring William Henry Harrison. There will be a parade which our Color Guard participates leading up the hill to the tomb of the late soldier, statesman and former president of the USA. The Color Guard will perform a musket salute to honor the late president from North Bend Ohio.

### **Presidents Day Luncheon – Saturday – February 17th**

We are invited to attend the Cincinnati DAR Chapter event which will feature George Washington and his wife Martha at the Cincinnati Womens Club in west Cincinnati. Cincinnati SAR members are encouraged and welcome this event. The CCSAR Color Guard will participate in this joint event. There is a modest charge for the luncheon. See the CCSAR calendar for more information and the promotional flyer.

### **Naturalizations—see Calendar – various dates**

There are ten Naturalization Ceremonies on the docket for the first quarter of 2023. If you would like to participate either in Color Guard attire or not, please reach out to Jerry Knight to coordinate meeting.

### **Patriots Day – Washington Park – Grave Marking – Sat. April 20th**

There will be a grave marking ceremony downtown Cincinnati in Washington Park honoring five additional American Revolutionary War Patriots. The Nolan Carson Color Guard will be present for the ceremony and we hope to perform a musket salute.

# IN DEEPEST SYMPATHY

With deepest regrets, we recently lost two of our Cincinnati Chapter Compatriots - Richard (Dick) William Alcorn and Prescott Bigelow, III.

## Richard William Alcorn

We were informed by his daughter Rose Alcorn that Richard had passed away in September 2023.

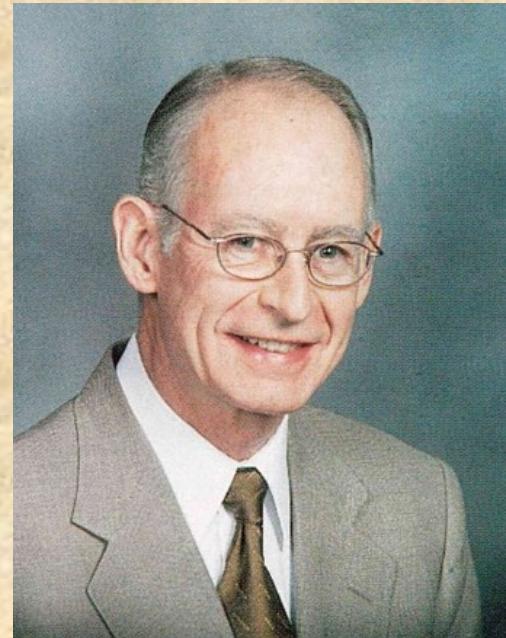
Richard spent his final time in Springfield Illinois and remained a Cincinnati Chapter member.

Richard William Alcorn, 80, of Clinton, IA, passed away on September 3, 2023, in Springfield, IL. Private services were held at Calvary Cemetery.

Richard attended Bradley University and the University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry. He served in the U.S. Navy.

Richard's full obituary can be located at the link below:

<https://www.staabfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Richard-William-Alcorn?obId=29080397>



## Prescott Bigelow, III

We are saddened to learn that Prescott Bigelow, 85, of Naples FL, passed away on December 22nd.

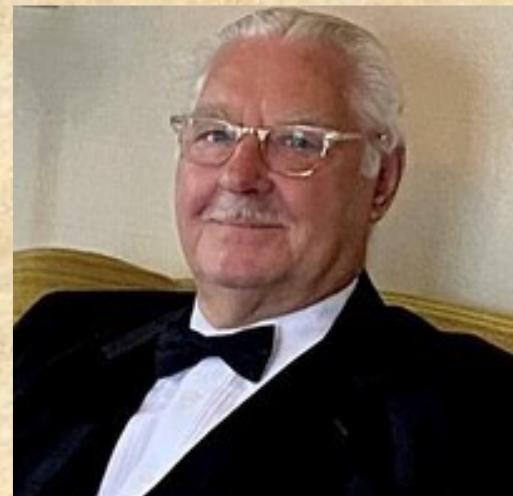
Prescott was born in Argentina and is survived by his wife Juanita "Nita" being married for over 60 years.

His services held locally in Mt. Lookout on January 5th.

He touched the lives of many with his zest for life, warm hugs, grand stories, and effortless way of bringing joy.

Prescott's full obituary can be located at the link below:

<https://www.rohdefuneral.com/obituary/prescott-bigelow-iii>

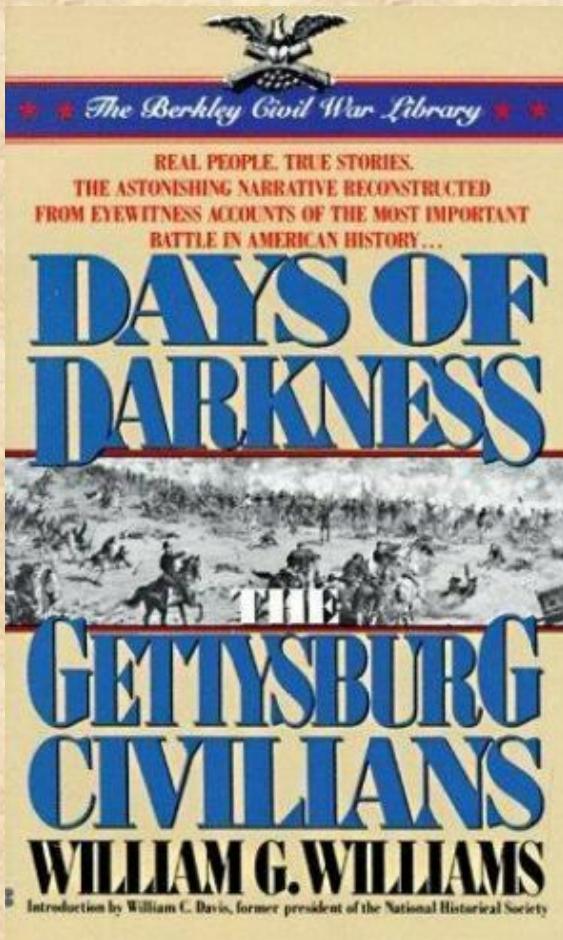
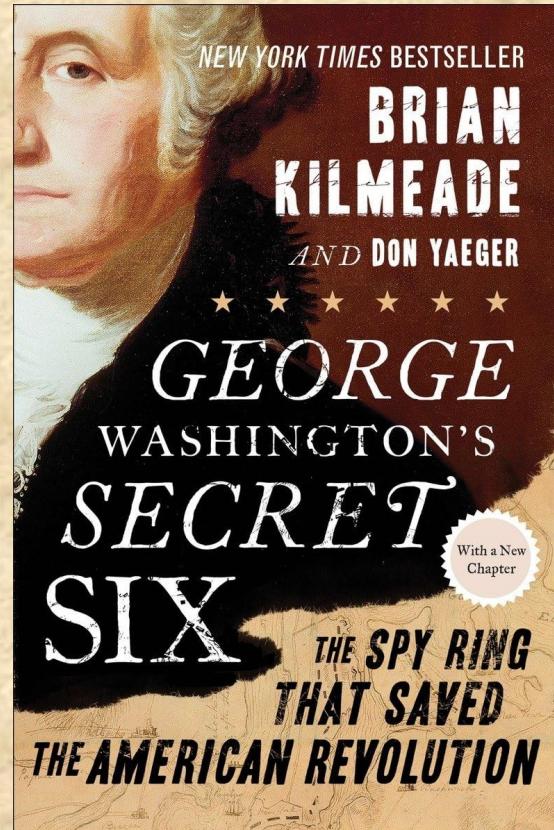


Please keep the Alcorn's and Prescott's in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate this difficult time.

How could the new American colonies stand up and defeat the then most powerful military in the world at the time? This is the story of how George Washington evened the playing field with a secret weapon.

This book explores the creation of the Culper Spy Ring. This secret group of spies were recruited, knowing they were risking their lives if caught, to learn anything that could help gain American victory.

This book offers fascinating portraits of these spies including a Quaker merchant, a tavern keeper, a young longshoreman, a Long Island bachelor, a coffeehouse owner, and a mysterious woman. Finally, these six patriots have been recognized for their contributions.



The Battle of Gettysburg is one of the most well-known battles of the American Civil War.

Most tales of battle in American history focus on the combatants. This book takes a different viewpoint, that of the inhabitants of the small town of Gettysburg which fate dealt a heavy blow.

This book explores the impacts on the civilian population both during and the aftermath of battle. They were forced to hide or vacate during battle, followed by the clean-up and restoration of their lives, a shattered community, the battle carnage and destroyed personal property.

If you read this book, you will have a unique perspective into the little focused on aspect of war, the unlucky victims who simply were in the way of war.

# **NOTES FROM THE EDITOR**

## **What an active quarter it has been!**

**This Newsletter highlights the more significant and newsworthy events of our chapter.**

**There is so much going on within our chapter that capturing all the activities would read like a novel.**

**We are grateful to all those within our chapter who contribute every day to our community, our purpose and each other.**

**If you want to get more involved, just reach out.**

**As members, below are sources of information available to you:**

- 1. This Newsletter**—published quarterly
- 2. Monthly / Periodic emails** from our Chapter Secretary
- 3. Our website** <https://cincinnatisar.org>
- 4. Our Calendar**—our website has the current chapter calendar which can be viewed or downloaded—the link is: <https://cincinnatisar.org/meetingsevents/>
- 5. Our Website Blog**—in addition, our website has a “Blog” where we capture chapter activities, interesting articles and upcoming events. You can access that via the link at: <https://cincinnatisar.org/blog/>
- 6. Our Facebook group** —our chapter has a Facebook page where the “blog” articles are reposted, and in addition, members can add their own experiences, photos and share content with all our members. The link to our Facebook group is: <https://www.facebook.com/cincinnati.sar> Go there, sign up and follow us.

**If you ever have any questions about upcoming activities, wondering how you can get more involved, please reach out to any of the leadership team.**

**Thanks again to all of our team who contribute**

**to making the SAR what it is today!**

**Hope you enjoy!**



**The Official Newsletter  
of the  
Cincinnati Chapter  
of the  
Sons of the American Revolution**

**Editor**

**Tim Madden**

