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The Official Newsletter  
Cincinnati Chapter  
Ohio Society  
Sons of the American Revolution



# The Cincinnati Patriot

World War II Veteran Frank Wetenkamp speaks at our Constitution Day Luncheon about his experiences fighting in the Pacific theatre.



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

We are proud to welcome seven adult members and six junior new members in Q3 2024:

Too many to list here, see following separate page!



# ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

	<b><u>Page #</u></b>
Table of Contents	2
Presidents Message	3-4
New Members	5
In Memory of	6
Events—Fort Laurens	7
Events—Battle of Blue Licks	8
Events—Anthony Wayne Memorial	9
Events—Constitution Day Luncheon	10
Patriot Grave Marking—Washington Park	11
Youth Education	12
Citizenship—Naturalizations	13
Veteran Outreach—Honor Flights	14
Upcoming Events	15-16
Book & Movie Corner	17
Knowledge Exchange	18
Notes from the Editor	19
Conclusion	20

## **Quick Connect**

**BLOG**—for the latest activities and searchable blog articles of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution please go to our website and click on the “Blog” link:

<https://www.cincinnatisar.org/blog/>

**FACEBOOK**—you can subscribe and follow our Facebook page as well:

<https://www.facebook.com/cincinnati.sar>



# ***AN UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT...***

Compatriots & Friends of the Cincinnati Chapter SAR,

As President, I have gotten to know and understand our chapter membership better, through using and studying the roster data, and having reasons to reach out and contact people I had never met, including members who are not currently involved. Unfortunately, I have gotten to know a few members by attending their funerals.



While most of our members are not currently involved in the meetings and activities of the SAR (this is typical throughout the organization), I have learned that there are many good reasons why they are not. These include location, age, occupation, health, the responsibility of caring and providing for others, and using their time and talent to support other noble and worthy causes. Some prefer to travel and spend time with family and friends. That is OK. Some may prefer to fish, hunt, play golf, or watch sports on TV. That is OK too.

I have learned that we have many proud and loyal members that we seldom if ever see for many reasons. Some were involved at an earlier point in their life, some will be involved at a later point in their life, and some never will be involved. That is OK.

You may have never heard this message before, as typically the message is we must figure out how to engage and involve all members. The fact is we never have, we never will, and that is OK. The best we can do is be respectful and appreciative of all members, be welcoming, friendly, and helpful to those who can and want to be involved, and make sure our work is rewarding and fun. If we do that, everything else will take care of itself.



# ***AN UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT...***

## **Compatriots & Friends of the Cincinnati Chapter SAR (Continued)**

*The “active” and loyal members that are not involved are a vital part of this organization.* They provide most of the dues income, which supports the SAR’s mission and programs at all levels. Dues are one of our largest and most stable sources of annual income. In simply paying their annual dues and keeping their membership “active”, they provide much of the fuel that runs the machine. You may not see it, but if it were not there, the moving parts would cease to function, or at least slow down considerably.



I have also learned that there are people who join the SAR who do not understand that continuing to pay the annual dues is a requirement of continued membership. I have met people that told me they were a member of the SAR and the Cincinnati chapter. I looked them up and found they had not paid any dues for years, and they were “dropped” a decade ago. I had to politely explain that while they may still have the certificate on display, their membership was no longer “active”, they no longer appear on any active membership roster, and they are not counted among the society’s current members.

In conclusion, whether you are able and choose to be involved or not, you probably joined the SAR because you support its mission and objectives and are proud of your patriot ancestry. If so, you have an obligation (really your only obligation as a member) to keep your membership “active” and in good standing, even if, and especially if, you cannot be involved. In doing so, you continue to actively support the SAR’s mission and objectives, honor your patriot ancestor(s), and you remain a vital and much appreciated part of the organization.

**In Patriotism,**

**Scott Freeman**

**President, Cincinnati Chapter SAR**

## ***NEW MEMBERS TO SAR***

**This may be a new record for new members for the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.**

**A goal of the chapter for 2024 is to increase new members to our chapter. This effort really helps!**

**Special thanks to Mike Gunn for signing up many of his family. Once they are in, they are recognized within SAR forever.**

**Thanks to Franz Ott and others on the new member registration team for working with these new members thru the application process. Lots of work at the local, state and National level! Congrats!!**

**The following are new members for the Third Quarter of 2024.**

### **Regular New Members:**

Merkel, Benjamin Ramsey  
Stephenson, Mark Ray  
Ingram, Paul K  
Cook, Andrew Paul

### **Junior New Members**

Sacay, George Trefzger  
Sacay, Lincoln James  
Sacay, Knox Paul



## IN DEEPEST SYMPATHY

### **Oliver Summers Hagerman III**

We were saddened to learn that Oliver “Summers” Hagerman III of Cincinnati passed away on May 15th, 2024 at the young age of 97.

He was our chapter’s second oldest active living member who joined the Cincinnati Chapter on June 24th 1988. He was a continuous member for those entire 36 years. We are grateful for his commitment to our chapter and SAR.

Summers background included being a US Navy Veteran and a graduate of the prestigious MIT with an MBA from the University of Cincinnati.

He started his career out as an Engineer at Proctor and Gamble and worked for much of his career as a Manager for the Formica Corporation.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends who miss him very much.

Summers full obituary can be found below:

<https://www.vorhisandryan.com/obituaries/oliver-hagerman-iii>





## Fort Laurens—Bolivar, Ohio—Fri. & Sat.—July 26 –27th

On a beautiful summer day on Friday July 26th in Bolivar Ohio there was a memorial service to honor the "unknown soldiers" who perished outside the walls of Fort Laurens back during the American Revolutionary War.

Fort Laurens is the only Revolutionary War Fort in Ohio. This outpost was on the edge of the western expansion into the then Ohio territory. The tomb is the resting place of unidentified soldiers who perished on a fateful winter day outside the walls of Fort Lauren.

Color Guard members from across the state of Ohio joined to perform an event which mimics the Arlington Cemetery "Unknown Soldier" ceremony. These Color Guard members took 15 minute shifts to mark and guard this tomb. The continuous event had the tomb guarded continuously from 9:00 am until 3:15 pm with a closing ceremony at the end. There were eleven SAR members who took part.

Scott Freeman, President of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution participated in the Tomb Guarding. Also representing Cincinnati were Jack Bredenfoerder, Mike Gunn, and Gary Duffield. Kathy Freeman gratefully pitched in with photographing the days events. Ten other Ohio Society compatriots served as sentinels throughout the day, plus Commander Bob Hill guarded for one shift.

At the end of the days events, there was a ceremonial musket firing, followed by the time honored "mourn arms" with a moment of silence for all former patriots.

Thanks to the organizers of this event, kudos to the Color Guard Commanders who provided direction to the participants and certainly the Color Guard participants who took part in this event.





## Battle of Blue Licks—Carlisle, KY—Fri. & Sat. 8/16-8/17

The Kentucky Governor Isaac Shelby Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution hosted the Memorial Service for the 242nd Anniversary of the Battle of Blue Licks at the Blue Licks Battlefield State Park .

This was a National Color Guard event. SAR chapters far and wide were invited to participate. Many chapters and patriotic groups presented flags and wreaths. Color Guard members were invited to participate in the flintlock musket salute.

Saturday August 17th was the main event, however the festivities started on Friday PM "The Night Before Blue Licks" where there was a social time and Revolutionary War Program covering the Battle of Blue Licks. A performance of fife and drum music playing historic American Revolutionary War tunes was also provided. There were tours of the Pioneer Museum.

On Saturday, the event covered a couple of bases including a National Color Guard event, a SAR 250th event and a SAR Historic Sites and Celebrations Committee Event.

The memorial ceremony was held at the Battle of Blue Licks monument.

The Color Guard performed a flintlock musket salute to fallen patriots. There was a fife and drum presentation, a battle reenactment, a historic flag presentation and a reception on Friday.

Thanks to Cincinnati SAR members Scott Freeman, Mike Gunn, Gary Duffield and Bruce Bennett for participating in this event.





## Major Anthony Wayne Veterans Memorial Dedication—Fri. Aug 23rd

On Friday August 23rd, there was a Memorial Dedication attended by SAR chapters around the state of Ohio. In attendance from Cincinnati Chapter were SAR Members: Michael Gunn (red), Jason Bourgeois (blue), Scott Freeman (tan) and Jack Bredenfoerder (green/brown) in military uniform. Lee Wilkerson and Don McGraw also attended.

Several speakers shared the details of Major General Anthony Wayne's military experience at the Battle of Fallen Timbers through the Fort Defiance conflict and into the Signing of the Treaty of Greenville.

On Saturday August 24th, there was the dedication of the impressive memorial by the Northwest Territory Chapter SAR on the banks of the Maumee River near the site of old Fort Defiance in downtown Defiance, Ohio.

The ceremony began with the Ohio Society Composite Color Guard led by OHSSAR Commander Bob Hill, with Fife Music by Scott Giltner, posting the Colors.

The Emcee for the event was David Lupien, 1st VP, OHSSA who called for all to rise for an Invocation. The National Anthem, pledge to our flag and the SAR was led by Jack Bredenfoerder, President of the Germany Society.

After additional presentations detailing prominent historical experiences, there was a presentation by the Defiance Ohio Mayor. Further discussions took place outlining the leadership of General Wayne and the history of the monument. The service was accompanied by fife music, along with a presentation of twenty wreaths and Military Honors by the Color Guard.





## Constitution Day—Cincinnati Women's Club—Cincinnati—Sat. Sept. 14th

Saturday September 14th was a really special event for our Chapter. Members of the SAR and DAR came together in a special luncheon program hosted by the SAR which honored multiple events. We celebrated a tri-fecta of events during this luncheon, including Constitution Day (9/17), the 250th Anniversary of the First Continental Congress, and the Honoring of our Nations Veterans.

The Nolan Carson Color Guard opened the program with the posting of the flags / colors. Dr. Ed Bonniwell led us in prayer.

First Continental Congress - we were treated to two speakers, the first was the Cincinnati SAR President who shared a presentation on the history and conclusion of the First Continental Congress. This event was a significant one as it was the first time that the majority of the colonies agreed and understood they must work together as a unified body to stand up to the British.

The second speaker was Frank Wetenkamp a World War II veteran who saw active duty in the Philippines. Frank share the story of the efforts to free American Prisoners of War from the Japanese prior to them evacuating their locations. The Japanese were known to have executed prisoners of war prior to them leaving their locations. Frank also told of the tenuous balancing act between the Americans, the Communists and Filipino guerillas during the last days of the war. Frank is an inspiration and a true American hero. We are grateful for his service and proud of him as an American and serviceman.

Veterans Day - to honor our veterans, Cincinnati Chapter 2nd VP and Chairman of the Veterans Committee Clay Crandall led the participants in the missing soldier / POW / MIA ceremony which is very moving.

Constitution Day - the headline of the event is celebration of the signing of the Constitution by the majority of the states that occurred on September 17th 2024.

There were numerous Daughters of the American Revolution representatives on hand and we are grateful to George Stewart and his efforts to host more events where DAR and SAR members jointly participate. Note ... it is working and we are glad to see them!

There were fifty-seven attendees at the luncheon including SAR Central District VP General, Wayne Eells (from Indiana).

Also participating was the President and members of the SAR Simon Kenton Chapter in Kentucky. The DAR had two Chapter Regents and members from five local DAR chapters. There were sixteen members of CCSAR present.

It was a wonderful day of fellowship, recognizing each other, celebrating our past and having ongoing hope for our future.





# Patriot Grave Marking

## Washington Park—Downtown Cincinnati— July 4th

The Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution revived the concept of finding then marking Revolutionary War Patriot's grave sites 10 years ago.

On July 4th, the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution took time to honor Revolutionary War Patriots who have been buried in Hamilton County Ohio. The location was Washington Park in downtown Cincinnati.

Each of the dates, there were five more Patriots recognized. There will be a total of fifty-five Patriots honored in the time leading up to the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th 1776.

The Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has held in excess of 75 grave marking ceremonies, honoring 186 Patriots by marking their grave sites in the four counties of southwest Ohio.

The efforts of Mike Gunn and other SAR compatriots has identified 1,133 patriots in the four counties covered by the Cincinnati SAR; Hamilton, Clermont, Warren and Butler Counties.

These events are a combination of SAR, DAR and CAR participants from Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky and Indiana participating. Mike Gunn has been a shining star in developing these grave marking ceremonies and SAR members from afar come to participate to see how it is successfully done.

There is a commemorative marker placed in Washington Park to recognize the Revolutionary War Patriots buried in Southwest Ohio. These events have and will take place in Washington Park on Elm Street across the street from Memorial Hall in Cincinnati.

Memorial Hall is across the street from Washington Park. Within Memorial Hall, on the 2nd floor, is a 8 X 12 foot bronze plaque with the names of over 200 Revolutionary War Patriots buried in Hamilton County. An additional 55 patriots burial sites are unknown in Hamilton County.

There will be upcoming ceremonies over the next year to fully recognize the remaining Patriots. Please check our website Blog and Calendar for upcoming events.





# *YOUTH EDUCATION*

## Recognition for our Cincinnati Youth Education Leaders

The Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution leads a world class effort to presenting the history of the American Revolution to local elementary, middle and high schools.

The program is led by Bob Bowers and Ed Bonniwell.

The presenters work with the school educator to present a topic which supports their teachings on American History. There is much interest with the students and they ask lots of questions which is rewarding.

Recently, we had some outstanding contributors from the Cincinnati Chapter be recognized at the National and State level.

**Daniel Schmitz—National level**—Daniel received an award at the National SAR Convention in Lancaster PA this summer. Daniel was honored with the Colonel Stewart Boone McCarty award—given to the compatriot who has best furthered the preservation of the United States history and its traditional teachings in our schools.



**George Stewart— State of Ohio level**—George Stewart received the Silver Henry Knox Achievement certificate and medal from Ohio State President Stephen Kaplan to recognize George for his creation of a patriotic reading program (the first for any SAR Chapter) for elementary and middle school students. Since the programs initiation, many other state chapters have contacted George to leverage the program he developed for use in their own state.



**Volunteers Needed**—if you are interested in participating in Youth Education and presenting American Revolutionary War history in our local schools, please reach out to Bob Bowers or Ed Bonniwell. There are presentations previously prepared to draw from so you do not have to craft a lesson from scratch. Typically our members dress in period dress or uniforms of the day to add to the visual impact for these students. This is a very rewarding experience.



# CINCINNATI CHAPTER COMMITTEES

## Citizenship & Naturalization



During the third quarter of 2024, there were nine Naturalization Ceremonies on the Cincinnati Chapter SAR calendar.

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

At these ceremonies, there were 60 new citizens at each event representing 25-35 countries.

These events are held at a number of locations





# VETERAN OUTREACH

## Honor Flights

Multiple times per year there are honor flights from the Greater Cincinnati International Airport (CVG).

Honor Flight takes veterans free of charge to visit their respective memorials in Washington DC. Those eligible are veterans 65 and older who served in World War II, Korean and Vietnam war either stateside or overseas.

If you have a friend, relative or loved one who would like to participate, you can connect with the Honor Flight group with the link below:  
<https://www.honorflighttristate.org/>

On September 17th, there was an honor flight at CVG airport. SAR, DAR and CAR members from Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana participated in welcoming these Veterans home.

There were many there to welcome these heroes. Many smiles, hugs, tears and all felt the dedication and commitment these veterans showed our country.



## UPCOMING HONOR FLIGHTS

The next Honor Flight is October 23rd (Wednesday). Cincinnati SAR will be there! Stop down to welcome our heroes home! They would be honored!

## FLIGHTLESS HONOR FLIGHTS

For more information, copy the link below:

<https://www.honorflighttristate.org/flightless-honor-flight>





# ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

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

See the Cincinnati SAR calendar for the latest information including location at:  
[www.cincinnati-sar.org/meetingsevents/](http://www.cincinnati-sar.org/meetingsevents/)

Note this list includes local events, see calendar for all events you can participate in.

### **Upcoming Board Meetings—Montgomery Inn—Wed. PM 11/6 & 12/4**

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.

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

There are seven Naturalization Ceremonies on the schedule for the 4th quarter of 2024. If you would like to participate either in Color Guard attire or “Blue Coat”, please reach out to Jerry Knight to coordinate.

### **History Presentation—Miller-Leuser Log House - Anderson Township—Sun 10/6**

### **Point Pleasant Battle Days - Point Pleasant WV - Thu. 10/10—Sun. 10/11**

### **Central District Annual Meeting - Lawrenceburg, IN—Sat. 10/19**

### **Central District Grave Marking - Aurora, IN—Sat. 10/19**

### **Tri-State Honor Flight - CVG Airport - Hebron, KY—Wed. 10/23**

### **Ohio Society SAR Fall Board of Management meeting - Ada, OH—Fri. 10/25— Sat. 10/26**

### **Patriot Grave Marking - DAR sponsored - Blanchester, OH—Sat. 10/26**

### **Patriot Grave Marking - Sand Run Baptist Church - Hebron, KY—Sat. 11/2**

### **Washington Park Patriot Grave Marking - Veterans Day—Cincinnati, OH—Mon. 11/11**



# ***UPCOMING EVENTS—CONTINUED***

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

See the Cincinnati SAR calendar for the latest information including location at:

[www.cincinnati-sar.org/meetingsevents/](http://www.cincinnati-sar.org/meetingsevents/)

**Youth Education Presentation - Mars Hill Academy - Mason, OH—Mon. 11/11**

**Benefit Dinner - Tri-State Honor Flight - Little Miami Brewing - Milford—Sat. 11/16**

**Wreaths Across America - Ohio Veterans Home, Georgetown, OH—Fri. 12/13**

**Wreaths Across America—Wreath pickup—Evendale, OH—Fri. 12/13**

**Annual Chapter Awards Banquet and Gala - Receptions, Fairfield, OH—Fri. 12/13**

**Wreaths Across America - Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, OH—Sat. 12/14**

**Wreaths Across America - Greenwood Cemetery, Hamilton, OH—Sat. 12/14**

## **Other Events**

**Note—there are additional events on our calendar which are in adjacent states and further parts of Ohio. If you would like to participate or attend any of them, you would be welcome to do so.**

**If you participate, either as a member of the Color Guard, blue coat, or simply are there, please let the chapter Secretary Bob Bowers or President Scott Freeman know you attended. Doing so may benefit our chapter as a result of your participation.**

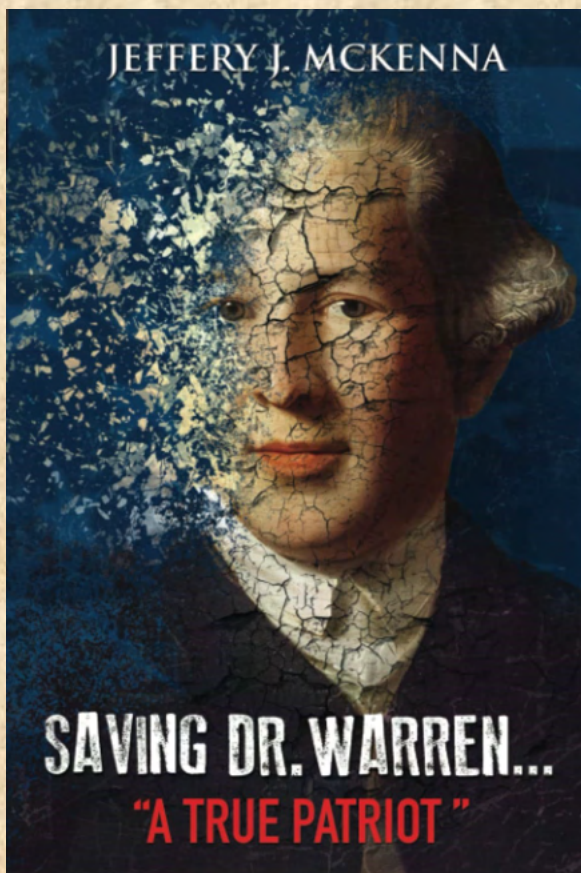
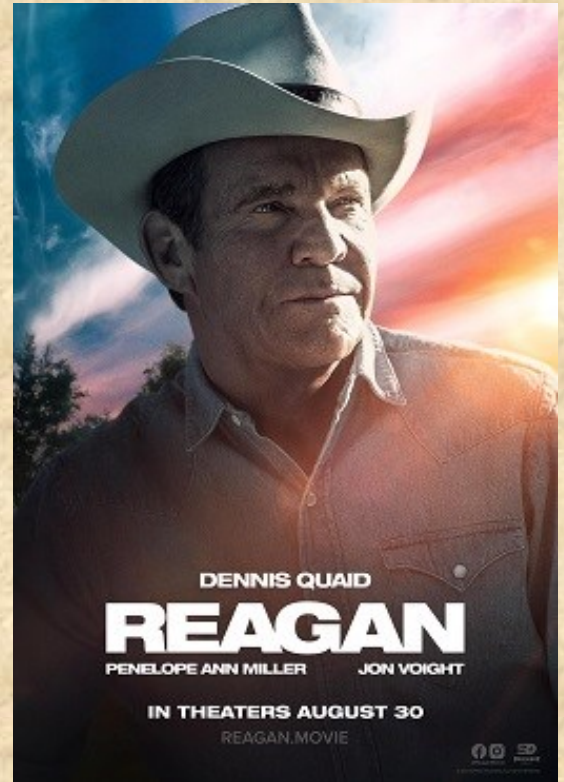


# BOOK & MOVIE CORNER

**Movie—"Reagan"** the story of Ronald Reagan from his youth to his role as one of America's most influential presidents. This presentation covers the mans life, his upbringing, his early career struggles and the almost accidental transition into politics. Many key historic events are addressed and I learned a tremendous amount about the Cold War with Russia.

Reagan is a 2024 American biographical drama film directed by Sean McNamara and written by Howard Klausner, based on Paul Kengor's 2006 book *The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism*. The film stars Dennis Quaid as President Ronald Reagan alongside Penelope Ann Miller, Mena Suvari, Kevin Dillon, David Henrie, and Jon Voight.

Very well done, recommend anyone who wants to learn more about Reagan, politics and the fall of USSR.



**Book—"Saving Dr. Warren"**— part historical, part mystery, the author describes this book as historical fiction. A perfect gift from a SAR member to a young adult curious about the American Revolution and other significant historical events.

Given SAR's emphasis on Youth Education and providing seeds for our youth to explore our nations history this is a great tool for our middle and junior high students studying American History.

In addition, Dr. Warren is the namesake of Warren County Ohio. In the next year the Cincinnati SAR will participate in a statue unveiling of Dr. Warren in Lebanon. CCSAR will be there!

"Saving Dr. Warren...A True Patriot is a historical fiction novel written for younger readers and middle school teachers. Within these pages are resources that junior high school teachers can use to help their class explore the impact of September 11th, World War II and the beginnings of the American Revolution."

Available on Amazon, Kindle or audio books.



# ***KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE***

For 2024, Scott Freeman championed the “Knowledge Exchange” event within our monthly Board of Management and Member meetings. The goal is to leverage the vast knowledge and history known by our members.

The link to the upcoming events is: <https://cincinnatisar.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-Knowledge-Exchange-Series.pdf>

Each meeting, a volunteer speaker makes a short 15-20 minute presentation sharing history of the Revolutionary War, or information about their patriot ancestor to our group. We are looking for those who would like to share.

Being part of the Sons of the American Revolution inevitably helps us learn more about our ancestors as well as the events before, during and after the great conflict.

Please note that there is much discussion and the engaged audience is thirsty for more! You are presenting to willing and interested friends.

We applaud those willing to share their knowledge with our members. Kudos!

- In April, Gordon Stokely presented “DNA Testing for Genealogy”
- In May, Rocky Jackson presented “Free Masonry’s Ties to the Beginning of the American Revolution around Boston”
- In June, Mike Gunn presented “Washington’s Eyes—”The Beginning of the Continental Light Dragoons in the Revolutionary War”
- In September, Dan Schmitz presented “Washington’s Crossing”

We have a full slate of speakers willing to share for the remainder of 2024. If you are interested in presenting a topic or speak about one of your ancestors, please reach out to Scott Freeman to get on the upcoming 2025 schedule.

We are grateful to those willing to share history and knowledge with us



## ***NOTES FROM THE EDITOR***

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

**Award Winning**—recently, our chapter newsletter received “Honorable Mention” in the multi-page Chapter National SAR newsletter competition.

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. We would love to have you!!

**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 always has the most 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, follow up and share with others.
7. **Past Newsletters**—All our past chapter and state newsletters are captured and available on our website. Copy the link below to access: <https://cincinnatisar.org/ccsar/newsletters/>

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.

**Hope you enjoy!**





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

**Editor:**

**Timothy James Madden**

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**All of You!**

