



The Cincinnati Patriot

CCSAR Robert Bob Bowers received the Von Steuben Medal presented by National SAR for outstanding and continuous contributions at Chapter, State and National Color Guard Events



New Members!
Welcome to the
Cincinnati
Chapter!

We are proud to welcome twelve new members in Q4 2024 and three new members in Q1 2025:

Too many to list here, see following separate page!



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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 and Friends of the Cincinnati Chapter SAR,

As this is the first newsletter of the year, I wish everyone a belated Happy New Year!

My first term as chapter President has ended and a second term is well underway.

The year 2024 was a great year for the chapter in many ways, and I wish to thank all the officers, committee chairmen, and many loyal members who made it so.

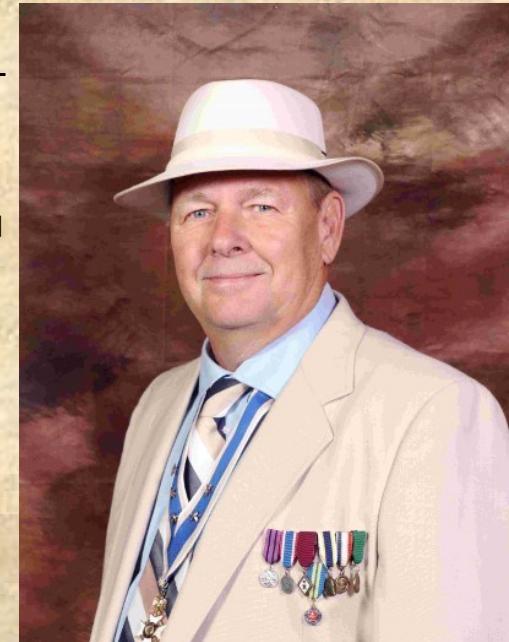
I especially want to thank everyone who paid their 2025 dues and kept their SAR membership active. Everyone who did this is a vital part of the organization and a contributor to its current and future success.

Increasing membership has been handed down as our #1 priority, so I will talk about our results of the past year. During 2024, the chapter had a net gain of 49 members. I was sort of hoping that one more new member might be approved in December to make it an even 50. That did not occur, but it was a banner year, nonetheless.

We exceed the previous peak of 259 at the end of 2020 and finished the year with 286 primary chapter members on the roster.

The table below summarizes our membership changes in 2024:

Chapter Members 1/1/2024			237
Members Gained	New Members	34	53
	Reinstatements	17	
	Transferred In (Outside OHSSAR)	1	
	Transferred In (Within OHSSAR)	1	
Members Lost	Deceased	3	-4
	Transferred Out (Outside OHSSAR)	0	
	Transferred Out (Within OHSSAR)	1	
Chapter Members 12/31/2024			286



AN UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Compatriots & Friends of the Cincinnati Chapter SAR— (continued)



Unfortunately, at midnight on New Year's Eve, the ball on Times Square is not the only thing that drops. SAR membership also drops, as those who did not renew their membership by paying next year's dues are classified as "inactive" and dropped from the active member rosters.

It is disheartening to see some of the gains of the year disappear at the end. Small or medium-sized chapters may achieve 100% retention some years, but for a chapter the size of ours, it is not realistic.

I have come to understand the various reasons why some people *choose* not to renew, even though they have been contacted personally and reminded and encouraged to do so. I am convinced there is nothing the chapter can say or do to prevent some of these cases every year.

The best we can do is minimize them and retain as many as possible.

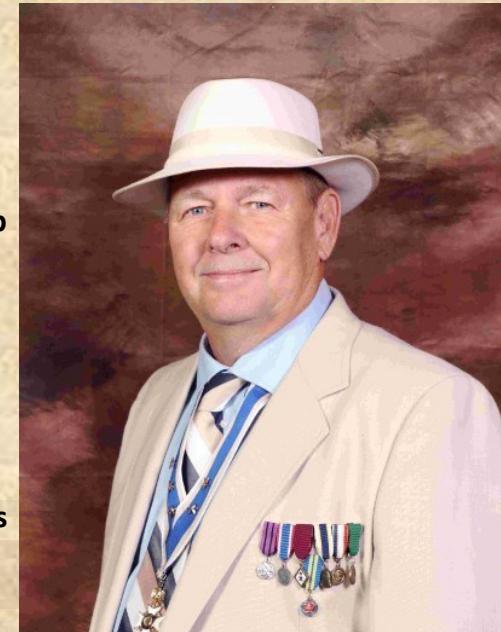
The best measure of membership is the number of members on January 1st each year. This reflects both all the changes of the previous year and retention at year end. The Cincinnati Chapter only had 11 members of 286 who did not renew (over 96% retention!), which is excellent for us. Consequently, we started 2025 with 275 members. For the second straight year we have grown, starting the new year with significantly more members than we started the previous year.

Two consecutive years of growth do not make a trend, but after four flat years, we have now achieved a step increase in membership to new levels.

In Patriotism,

Scott Freeman

President, Cincinnati Chapter SAR



MONTHLY MEETING—COME JOIN US

Every month, usually the first Wednesday of the month, our chapter meets at the Montgomery Inn in downtown Montgomery.

This meeting has two parts, the first being an informal gathering from 5:30—7:00 PM where our members can meet, enjoy an optional meal off the menu, or simply take the time to connect with other members.

The second part is the regular meeting, starting around 7:00 PM and most often ending by 9:00 PM.

Dress for the meetings is come as you are, no suits nor ties required.

You are a member of this family of Compatriots who all have a common link, that with a patriotic ancestor of direct lineage. You will find the group to be friendly, inviting and welcoming.

During the business part of the meeting, we will address chapter, state and national SAR activites, discuss upcoming events and needs to support. We also raise issues requiring discussion and decision making for our chapter.

In addition, we have started a Knowledge Exchange—or speaker series where we invite members of our group to share historical information on any aspects of the Revolutionary War conflict, as well as have outside speakers where appropriate to share with our group. This has been very successful, very interesting and leverages our members deep interest in American history.

This location is an iconic Cincinnati landmark, in a safe location, where there is convenient public and valet parking for attendees.

Note that we do not have meetings in July and August, however the activites of the chapter continue in earnest.

Come join us! We welcome you and encourage you to participate as much as you wish.

NEW MEMBERS TO SAR

**A key goal of our chapter is increase new members
and improve retention of existing members.**

**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 Fourth Quarter of 2024:

Stephenson, Mark Ray

Cook, Andrew Paul

McClanahan, Stephen Francis

Bailey, David Bruce

Ingram, Paul K.

Bissell, Thomas Allen

Bissell, Thomas Tyler

Bissell, James Christopher

Elliott, Andrew Christopher

Williams, Michael Bruce

Hounshell, Rodney A.

Ross, Dean Andrew

The following are new members for the First Quarter of 2025:

Reed, Michael Lynn

McCown, Kevin David

Mohlenkamp, Marvin Joseph Jr.

IN DEEPEST SYMPATHY
LOST YET NEVER FORGOTTEN

James Homer Houston, Jr.
July 15, 1938 - October 19, 2024

James Homer Houston, Jr. of Milford, OH. Beloved husband of the late Eileen Houston passed away October 19, 2024, at the active age of 86.

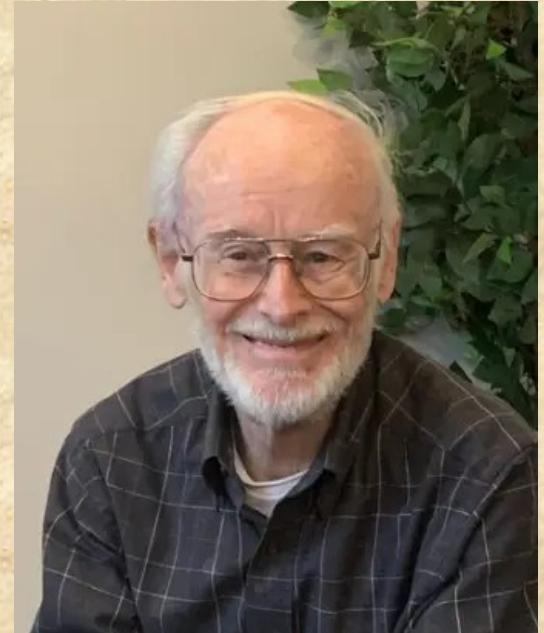
Jim was interred at Spring Grove Cemetery where the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (CCSAR) each year honors Civil War Patriots as part of the Wreaths Across America event.

The CCSAR remembered Jim and recognized him during the Wreaths Across America event held at Spring Grove Cemetery on December 14th.

He cultivated several interests, having earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America in his youth and later in life being a longtime, active member in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the United States Power Squadrons.

Jim was an active member of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

Jim always carried a smile and his SAR friends will miss him very much.



IN DEEPEST SYMPATHY
LOST YET NEVER FORGOTTEN

Norman Eugene Bissell

Dec 4, 1929 - March 7, 2025

With deepest regrets, we lost Compatriot Norman Bissell on March 7th, 2025.

Norman had been a member of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution since 2017.

Norman's son James is also an active member of our chapter.



He was 95 years old, a veteran of the US Army Air Corps, and a Professor Emeritus in Education at the University of Cincinnati.

Norman passed away peacefully at his home in Twin Towers on Friday, March 7th.

Norman was born on December 4, 1929, in Story City, Iowa, was the beloved husband of the late Rosa Beatrice (Lamansky), the love of his life, marrying her on August 10, 1957.



A dedicated educator, Norman was a long-time Professor of Special Education at the University of Cincinnati, where he took great pride in supporting families of children with special needs.

Norman's legacy of kindness, dedication, and love for education will be cherished by all who knew him.

His family and friends will forever hold his memory close.

**University of
CINCINNATI**



IN DEEPEST SYMPATHY
LOST YET NEVER FORGOTTEN

Jesse Wayne Andrews

January 20, 1936 – March 17, 2025

Jesse W. Andrews passed away Monday March 17th, on St. Patricks Day. Jesse was a prominent figure as President of both the Cincinnati Chapter and State of Ohio - Sons of the American Revolution.

Our chapter owes Jesse and his family a great deal of gratitude for their contributions to our organization over the years. Jesse is survived by his wife Billie Jean.

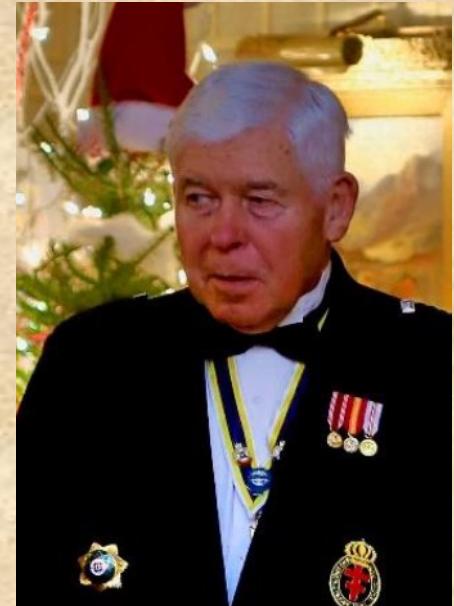
Jesse Andrews proved his patriot ancestry and joined the SAR in 1980. When he passed away he was our third longest active member of the chapter.

He became President of the Cincinnati Chapter in 1984, then President of the Ohio Society in 1993, then President of the Cincinnati Chapter again in 1995.

Last year in May, Jesse attended our Cincinnati Chapter meeting, the first one he had attended in a long time, where he received the Hub Scott Award from the state society, or more formally, he became a Samuel Hubbard Scott Laureate. This is the highest personal recognition and honor the Ohio Society SAR can award.

If the Cincinnati Chapter SAR had a Mt. Rushmore, Jesse Andrews would probably be one of the faces carved into the mountain.

In conclusion, although Jesse's main involvement and service to the SAR was decades ago and few current members knew him, his service and contributions are still appreciated and have not been forgotten.



EVENTS

CCSAR Annual Awards Gala and New Officer Inductions—Friday 12/13

On Friday evening December 13th, 2024 at Receptions Banquet Event in Fairfield we gathered for our annual Cincinnati Chapter Holiday Gala.

This event has multiple purposes including installing the new 2025 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.

President Scott Freeman accepted a second term as the CCSAR President.

There was a silent auction to raise money to offset some of the costs of this event. The number, quality and variety of the items was most impressive. Thanks to all who contributed their donations for this great cause.

Many awards were distributed as one would expect for a chapter highly recognized within the National SAR organization.

Scott shared that the Cincinnati Chapter is consistently recognized as the top chapter in the SAR organization. This is a reflection of the high quality leadership and the dedicated group of men who faithfully contribute to our chapter and mission.

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

Looking for a great 2025 and excited for all the events and contributions our SAR chapter will make in the communities we live and serve.



Wreaths Across America—Spring Grove Cemetery—Sat. 12/14

On Saturday, December 14th, 2025 on a rather pleasant day in Spring Grove Cemetery a special event took place called Wreaths Across America (WAA).

This event took place in the section of Spring Grove referred to as: Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - Section 21. Here almost 1000 Union veterans of the Civil War were laid to rest in a section with three mounds. The crest of each mound is topped by a large cannon installed pointing upward to the sky as to point the direction to heaven for those fallen.



On this day a record number of over 700 wreaths were laid by volunteers on the simple white granite headstones of the fallen. Participants in this ceremony included SAR, DAR, Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, retired and active service members as well as many volunteers from local community groups. Members of the public at large were also invited and participated.

The event started the formal program at 12:00 to coincide with the over 4,200 WAA events occurring across the country. A number of dignitaries were present for the events of the day.

Ceremonial Wreaths were placed by veterans for each of the branches of military service, followed by a salute or bow in a sign of respect.

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. A ceremonial pose of "mourn arms" was performed in quiet memory of those beneath our feet.

Taps was played to close the ceremony.



EVENTS

William Henry Harrison—Birthday Parade and Ceremony—Fri. 2/7

On a beautiful sunny Friday morning, there was a parade and visit to the tomb of former President William Henry Harrison.

Many members of the community, state of Ohio and armed forces participated in the parade up the hill from the North Bend Community center.

Welcoming all participants was the Mayor of North Bend, Doug Sammons. Once at the memorial, there were students from Taylor High School Choir and Band who sang the Star Spangled Banner to open the ceremony and God Bless America to close the event.

We were all treated to breathtaking views of the Ohio River Valley below us.

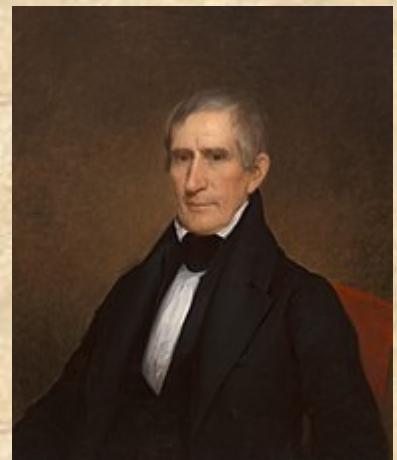
Ceremonial Wreaths were placed at the foot of the memorial by Hamilton County, Sons of the American Revolution, two chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution - Governor Othniel Looker and Hopewell chapters.

Flags were posted by the Knights of Columbus and VFW Post 10380.

A three round rifle volley was performed by the Green Township VFW Post 10380 followed by a musket salute performed by the Nolan Carson Memorial Color Guard of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Taps was played by SSG Jared Miller, Bugler for the 338th Army Band - U.S. Army Reserves. Ahh, how sweet the sound floating over the participants and onto the Ohio River valley below.

The opening and closing prayer was given by Chaplain Major Richard Melvin of the 643rd Regional Support Group, U.S. Army Reserve.



EVENTS

Presidents Day Luncheon—Cincinnati Womens Club—Sat. 2/15

On Saturday February 15th, on a drizzly day the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (CCSAR) participated in a special President's Day luncheon hosted by the Cincinnati Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Members of the Children of the American Revolution (CAR) also participated.



The Nolan Carson Memorial Color Guard led by Commander Jason Bourgeois started the event by posting colors. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation & Blessing.

The Cincinnati DAR Regent - Monica Mohlenkamp opened the event with greetings. Cincinnati SAR President D Scott Freeman spoke to the attendees and shared a story about his visit to the Old Maryland State House in Annapolis, the site where George Washington resigned his military commission on December 23, 1783.



This was followed by Riley Wilkerson, President of the Ohio Society of the Children of the American Revolution who thanked the members of the SAR and DAR for their continued support.

The guest speaker for the event was Jinny Powers Berten, author of the historical fiction book "By His Side" which portrays the life and bond of William Lee " who was a faithful and lifelong servant of General George Washington.



There were historical boards on display celebrating America's 250th birthday, history of the time period, as well as life size cut-outs of America's most famous founding fathers.



The Cincinnati SAR Color Guard closed out the session by retiring the flags / colors.

Cincinnati SAR Chaplain Clay Crandall wished us all well via an inspiring closing prayer.

This event was a combination event including the SAR, DAR and CAR. Truly a classy event with a wonderful and inspiring program.

We look forward to future joint meetings like this to share in our love and commitment to Revolutionary War History.



YOUTH EDUCATION

Share With Our Youth, So They Can Understand

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. The Youth Education group presented at:

Independence Primary School—Independence—March 13, 2025—four topics were presented to elementary school students by Youth Education members dressed in period attire.



These presentations included displays of artifacts, period uniforms and topics of historical interest and significance. Living history is the best way to learn!

There were lots of questions by the students and our team loved answering them.

St. Marks Lutheran School—Milford—March 18th, 2025

The event started with an assembly where each member of the Color Guard explained their period attire and the history of their patriot ancestor. This was followed by an outdoor musket firing demonstration—Boom! The students then participated in four separate rotating topics by the Youth Education members. Many questions, satisfying many curious students.



CINCINNATI CHAPTER COMMITTEES

Citizenship & Naturalization



During the 1st quarter of 2025, there were twelve Naturalization Ceremonies on the Cincinnati Chapter SAR calendar.

Jerry Knight & 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 an average of 60 new citizens at each event representing 25-35 countries.

These events are held at a number of locations around Cincinnati. Welcome Home!!



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 the Vietnam war.

If you know a veteran who would like to participate, you can connect with the Honor Flight group with the link below: <https://www.honorflighttristate.org/>

On April 8th, 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 May 21st (Wednesday).

Stop down to welcome our heroes home! They would be honored!

FLIGHTLESS HONOR FLIGHTS

Honor Flight Tri-State offers a program called the Flightless Honor Flight for veterans who are wheelchair-bound or who can no longer fly due to health reasons.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Events for the Next Quarter of 2025!

See the Cincinnati SAR calendar for the latest information including location at:
www.cincinnatisar.org/meetingsevents/

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

Upcoming Board Meetings—Montgomery Inn—Wed. PM—5/7 & 6/4

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 twelve Naturalization Ceremonies on the schedule for the 2nd quarter of 2025. If you would like to participate either in Color Guard attire or “Blue Coat”, please reach out to Jerry Knight to coordinate.

Patriot Grave Marking —Washington Park - Cincinnati - Sat. 4/19/2025

Youth Education Presentation - Terrace Park Elementary School - Wed. 4/23/2025

Hollow Earth Fest—Hamilton - Sat 4/26/2025

Ohio Society Spring Meeting—Miamisburg, OH - Fri. 5/2 - Sun. 5/4 2025

General Membership Meeting - Montgomery Inn—Wed 5/7/2025

Grave Marking - Isaac South—Loveland - Sat 5/10/2025

Lafayette Celebration - Paddle Boat Cruise & Dinner / Ball—Cincy - Mon. 5/19/2025

Tristate Honor Flight—CVG Airport—Hebron, KY - Wed. 5/21/2025

Memorial Day - Field of Dreams—Arlington Memorial Gardens- Mon. 5/26/2025

UPCOMING EVENTS—CONTINUED

Events for the Next Quarter of 2025!

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

General Membership Meeting - Montgomery Inn—Wed 6/4/2025

Flightless Honor Flight - for travel restricted Veterans—TBD - Sun 6/8/2025

Warren Statue Unveiling - Bunker Hill 250th - Lebanon - Tue 6/17/2025

Grave Marking—Washington Park - Cincinnati - five Patriots - Fri 7/4/2025

National SAR 135th Congress - Uncasville, CT—7/12 - 7/18 2025

Ohio Society Meeting - Ft Laurens Memorial—Bolivar, OH—Fri 7/25 - Sat 7/26

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.

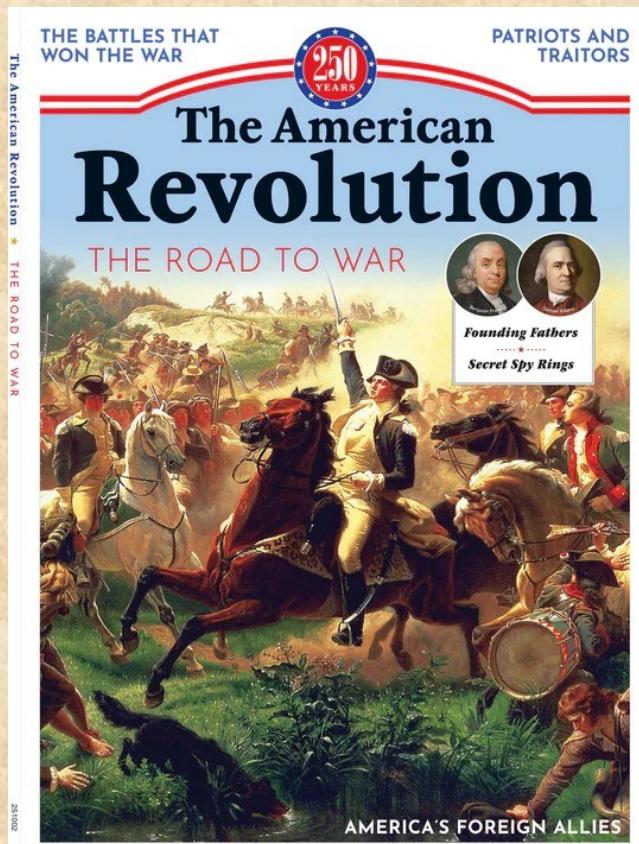
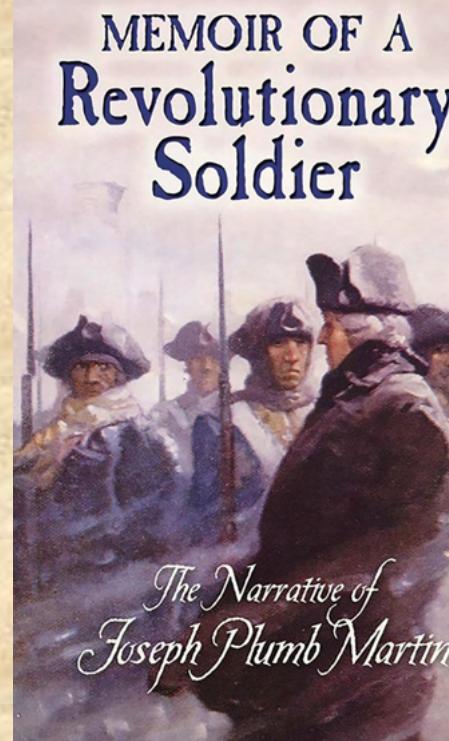
BOOK & MOVIE CORNER

Book—"Memoir of a Revolutionary Soldier" - is a narrative written by Joseph Plumb Martin, detailing his experiences as a young soldier in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War.

The memoir provides a personal account of the hardships, dangers, and camaraderie faced by common soldiers, offering a unique perspective on the war.

His notes, penned when he was seventy, recount in grim detail his harrowing experiences during the conflict — the staggering losses in human life, the agony of long marches, constant gnawing hunger, bitter cold, and the fear of battle, as well as a warts-and-all view of military leaders.

CCSAR member Jack Bredenfoerder presents this topic to students as part of our Youth Education efforts and spoke to our chapter recently about this book.



Publication—"The American Revolution—

The Road To War"— The American Revolution

was a remarkable struggle of 13 colonies defying the might of the world's superpower, showcasing an indomitable spirit in the face of overwhelming odds. Despite early defeats and significant challenges—such as treachery and harsh winters—these rebels demonstrated resilience and perseverance that ultimately led to their triumph. This historical narrative inspires the belief that even in the darkest times, hope and determination can forge a path to victory.

This publication is easy to read, covers 13 events of the of the American Revolution, from the road leading up to the conflict, to the post war realities. Also covered is the contributions of women and African American patriots.

This offers quick insights to the times and key events of the war. Great for coffee table, great illustrations and will satisfy curious young adults.

Available thru summer of 2025 via Amazon or book stores.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

For 2024 and 2025, 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/2025/02/2025-Knowledge-Exchange-as-of-2_27_2025.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! If interested, relax, you will be presenting to willing and interested friends.

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

- **In February, Andrew Baker, Senior Director of Development for UC Blue Ash, spoke about the Veterans programs and scholarships offered to veteran students at UC Blue Ash.**
- **In March, Jack Bredenfoerder presented “Memoirs of a Revolutionary Soldier” - the story of 16 year old soldier Joseph Plumb Martin.**
- **In April, Dr. Ed Bonniwell presented “Sam Adams” the man, the legend.**

We have a full slate of speakers willing to share for the remainder of 2025. 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 or 2026 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**

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All of You!

