



**Benjamin Franklin Chapter  
The Ohio Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
Chartered 1889**

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# NEWSLETTER

**February  
2013**

## President David Birthelmer and Board announce plans for 2013

At the January chapter meeting, President Dave Birthelmer announced initiatives that he and the Board of Management would like to see come about in 2013.

The first plan is to create a website for the chapter. "At present, ours is one of the few chapters in Ohio without a functioning website on the Internet," observed Dave. "The State Society's website features links to the chapters' websites, so it is easy to sample them to get ideas for what we should have on our own."

Dave went on to point out that a website is "our portal to the many groups--potential members, schools and other groups involved in education, and historical societies."

He explained that the first step is to come up with a list of features that should be included and then prepare

a flowchart of how the site will be organized.

"We are hoping for a lot of ideas and input from our membership," he explained. "Members can share their ideas with the chapter by e-mailing, Chuck Finley, our chapter secretary, at cfinley@cscce.edu.

The second initiative is to start a chapter Color Guard. "Several chapters in Ohio have them," he said, "Even the smaller ones. Only three people are required to have a Color Guard."

Members of a Color Guard dress in Revolutionary War garb that is appropriate to their Patriot ancestor. For that reason, color guards consist of uniforms of various regiments within the Continental Line, the different states' militias, and even civilians who aided the Revolution.



*The Texas Society's color guard is comprised of members from the state's various chapter color guards. The variety of uniforms reflects the different methods by which the members' patriot ancestors served the cause of liberty.*

# Members to be surveyed to assist in more inclusion

During the next few months, members will be contacted to gauge their interest in having some regarding monthly chapter meetings held at times other than noon on a weekday.

The idea stems from the realization that meeting at noon makes attendance difficult or impossible for members w of ththose jobs interfere.

Options include a luncheon meeting on Saturday as well as an evening meeting sometime during the week.

"We want as many members as possible to attend our meetings and be an active part of the chapter," observed Ed Hamblin. "So the information that we glean from this survey will help toward that goal."

## Crispus Attucks: the first fatality of the Boston Massacre

We all know about the Boston Tea Party.

On March 5, 1770, a crowd of angry Bostonians with sticks and snowballs were heckling a British sentry; other soldiers were called out; and at some point shots were fired into the crowd. Five Colonists were killed, and four were wounded.

However, you may not know that the first citizen to die was Crispus Attucks, a fugitive slave who had escaped from his master and had worked for twenty years as a merchant seaman.

Attucks was apparently in the front of the crowd when the soldiers opened fire. Some witnesses claimed that Attucks threw a piece of wood, while others said that he was leaning on a stick.

Attucks' body was carried to Faneuil Hall, where it lay in state for two days until he was buried in the same grave with the four others who were killed. Their headstone can be seen at the Granary Burial Ground in Boston.



Crispus Attucks

**REMINDER: The deadline for getting in your reservation for the Washington Birthday Dinner is Thursday Feb. 7. Send your name, check (made payable to *Benjamin Franklin Chapter, SAR*), the number of meals, and meal choice to: Treasurer Bill Diehl at 3341 Big Run South Road, Grove City, OH 43123-1070.**



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