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

NEWSLETTER

**May
2013**

Jim Shough's program traces origin, growth of Harpers Ferry Armory

At the April meeting, the Benjamin Franklin chapter was enlightened by Compatriot Jim Shough's presentation on Harpers Ferry—before John Brown. Jim's PowerPoint program featured 43 vintage paintings and photographs that traced its early history, beginning with George Washington's insistence that an armory be built at Harpers Ferry where the Shenandoah River converges with the Potomac. At the time, Harpers Ferry was in Virginia, but now is in West Virginia.

Built in 1799, the Armory was tasked with manufacturing an inventory of muskets, rifles, and other weapons in the event that the young

nation was attacked. Jim showed a number of the weapons produced as well as the machinery that made them, including the weapons and tools made for the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804.

Before the armory was built, gunsmithing had been a cottage industry in the U.S. Several gunsmiths came to work at the armory, but their artisan individualism soon ran afoul of the various military superintendents' efforts to instill military regimentation, which resulted in a superintendent's murder.

One of Jim's patriot ancestors. Jacob Shough was an inspector at Harpers Ferry, but he killed no one.



Jim Shough displays an authentic 1842 model percussion musket with the engraving that it was produced at the Harpers Ferry Armory.



State Society recognizes Robert Cupp

Robert Cupp, Chief Legal Counsel for Auditor of State David Yost, was awarded the Law Enforcement Commendation by State Society President Steve Kelley April 18. Cupp is a former Ohio Supreme Court Justice, and Allen County Prosecutor. Also shown are District Chairman Tony Robinson (far left) and Benjamin Franklin Chapter President David Birthelmer (far right).

The History of the OSU Air Force ROTC

The May 17 chapter meeting program will feature Col. Shaun Turner, Commander of the OSU Air Force ROTC Detachment 645. Col. Turner will present an overview of the Detachment's history and highlight the careers of some of its most distinguished alumni.



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