



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

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NEWSLETTER

**June
2013**

Re-enactment of Fort Randolph siege both entertains and educates guests

The eleventh annual re-enactment of the 1778 Siege of Fort Randolph was May 17-19 near Point Pleasant, West Virginia, across the Ohio River from Gallipolis.

Fort Randolph was built by the Virginia Legislature to protect settlers on the frontier of what was then Virginia from hostile Indians.

Angry about the killing of Chief Cornstalk the previous year, 200 Shawnee warriors initiated a siege of the fort. Eventually an agreement was reached that ended the siege.

The three-day event included re-enactments of the visit by Cornstalk and the siege as well as demonstrations of 18th century life skills such as weaving and pottery making.

This re-enactment occurs every year on the weekend in May that is closest to the date of the actual siege--May 16 and 17.



ABOVE: A fiddler entertains during the siege. BELOW: Members of the Virginia Militia receive orders on defending the fort. Photos: Keith Kaufman



June program features SAR's Ft. Laurens Ceremony

The June 21 meeting will highlight the SAR's annual wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of the unknown soldiers at Fort Laurens. Located in Bolivar, a town in Tuscarawas County, Fort Laurens is the site of the only Revolutionary War battle in Ohio.

The fort was built in late November, 1778 as a staging point to attack the British garrison at Fort Detroit. British troops and Indian allies ambushed 20 American troops who were outside the fort searching for firewood and killed 13. Then, they laid siege to the fort, forcing American soldiers to eat roots and boil their own moccasins to get a broth for some form of nutrition before they were rescued in the spring.

On site is the Tomb of the Unknown Patriot of the American Revolution, the resting place of one of five soldiers who could not be identified.

The program will show what the fort looked like as well as several interesting artifacts that were discovered by archeologists.

Also, presented will be photos from the Ohio SAR's annual ceremony that pays homage to the 21 patriots

who died at Fort Laurens before the fort was relieved. Members and Color Guards from several Ohio SAR chapters honor those who served and died there by laying wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Patriot.

This year's SAR event will be Saturday, July 27.



Members of several Ohio SAR chapters honor the 21 patriots who died at Fort Laurens with the laying of wreaths and a 21-musket salute.

May program features head of OSU Air ROTC

The May meeting celebrated Armed Forces Month, with Colonel Shawn Turner's presentation of the history of The Ohio State ROTC program.

Among the outstanding alumni was General Curtis LeMay. The colonel also talked about his career in the U.S. Air Force including the many planes he piloted,

one of which was the C-5A transport, the largest plane in the USAF inventory. This plane's cargo bay is longer than the Wright Brothers' first flight. He also talked about his two tours of duty in Iraq.

Colonel Turner is a 25-year veteran of the Air Force and plans to retire next year.



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