



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

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# NEWSLETTER January 2014

## January meeting

# The story of the chain of forts that stretched across western Ohio

What do you know about Forts Ball, Amanda, Stephenson, Seneca, Ferree, Loramie, Findlay, and Meigs? If your answer is, "Not much," help is on the way.

The January meeting's program will feature David Simmons, editor of *Timeline*, the magazine of the Ohio Historical Society. Mr. Simmons' presentation will look at the string of forts that formed a line from Cincinnati to Toledo.

Built between 1790 and 1812, these forts were built for different purposes. Fort Defiance (in Defiance County), Fort Adams (in Mercer County), and Fort Loramie (in Shelby County) were built by Gen. "Mad" Anthony Wayne in 1790 during the Indian wars. They were

part of a defensive line that included Fort Wayne, in Indiana.

However, Fort Meigs, Fort Amanda, and Fort Findlay were built in 1812 as part of the defense of western Ohio against an expected attack from the British forces at Fort Detroit.

Most of these fortifications were built on the banks of a waterway such as the Sandusky, St. Marys, Auglaize, or Maumee Rivers because the surrounding land was known as the land was known as the Great Swamp, making road building very difficult.

Clearly, this is an important chapter in Ohio's history, so join your compatriots on the 17th to hear this fine presentation.



*This replica of Fort Wayne (Indiana) is open to visitors. A replica of Fort Meigs sits on a 10-acre site in Perrysburg, Ohio overlooking the Maumee River.*

# Washington's birthday dinner plans announced

This year's Washington's Birthday will be Friday, Feb. 21 at the Clintonville Woman's Club, 3141 N. High Street, Columbus. The program will feature historical writer Richard Phillips of St. Clairsville, whose presentation will be illuminate Revolutionary War General and Governor Arthur St. Clair.

In addition to assisting Washington in the Battles of Trenton and Princeton, St. Clair served as his aide-de-camp and was with him at Yorktown when the British forces under Lord Cornwallis surrendered.

After the war, St. Clair continued to serve the young nation. In his tenure as President of the Continental Congress, the Northwest Ordinance was enacted in 1787.

He was then appointed governor of the Northwest Territory--what is now Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, along with parts of Wisconsin and Minnesota. He named Cincinnati, Ohio, after the Society of the Cincinnati, and it was there that he established his home. When the territory was divided in 1800, he served as governor of the Ohio Territory.

Most of his appointments included confrontation and controversy, but investigation resulted in his exoneration.

Another exquisite choice of meals will be available.

**Dinner Details:** This year we are offering a choice of three entrees--

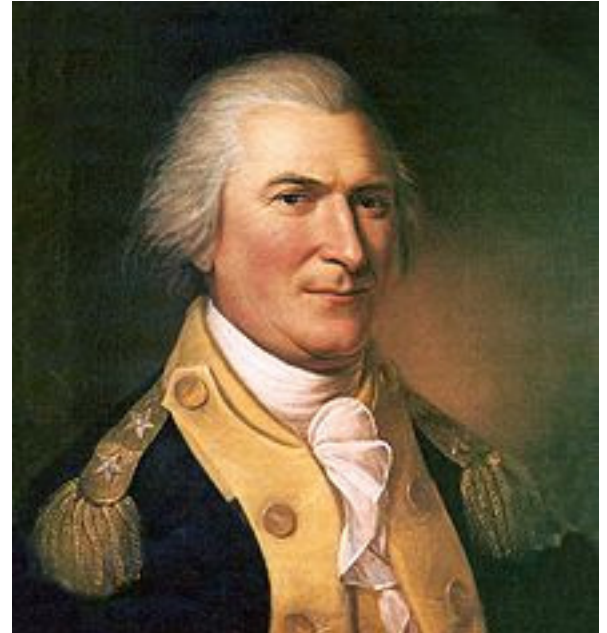
Prime Rib of Beef, Poached Salmon with Hollandaise Sauce, and Chicken Marsala. Meals will include a salad and a dessert. Beverages will include coffee, tea, and ice tea.

*Use the form below to register.*

The deadline for registration is **FEBRUARY 6, 2014**. If there are any questions, please call, David Birthelmer at (614) 385-4341 or Chuck Finley (614) 235-6237.

**Cost:** \$30.00 per person for the fish and chicken dishes and \$35.00 for the beef. Prices include tax and gratuity.

**Registration:** Please send registration form below to *David Birthelmer, 6362 Clover Meadow Ct., Galloway, Ohio 433119.*



**Arthur St. Clair**

*Revolutionary War General and Governor of the Northwest Territory.*

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## REGISTRATION FORM

**Yes, I will attend the George Washington's Birthday Dinner Friday, Feb. 21 and will be bringing \_\_\_ guest(s).**

*Circle dinner Selection*

My name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Guests:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Chicken    Salmon    Beef

Chicken    Salmon    Beef

Chicken    Salmon    Beef

Chicken    Salmon    Beef

Chicken    Salmon    Beef

**Make the check payable to : Benjamin Franklin Chapter, SAR**