



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

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NEWSLETTER **October 2017**

October meeting **The Patriots secret weapons-- women spies and soldiers**

The October program will have several surprises for everyone in attendance. It turns out that women made very significant contributions to the war effort. Some women formed groups to boycott tea and other products from Britain, while others responded to General Washington's request to sew shirts for his poorly clothed troops at Valley Forge.

When the editor of a pro-independence newspaper died, his widow took over, ran the press, and continued to print encouraging news and patriotic editorials.

Some wives and children were "camp followers" who supported the soldiers by cooking, repairing clothing, and nursing the sick.

Other women risked their lives by serving as spies and still others engineered the escape of large numbers of Patriot prisoners.

Still another woman set fire

to her large wheat crop before the approaching British army could make flour from it--so the Redcoats retaliated by burning her stately home to the ground.

And then there were the three women who pretended to be 16-year-old boys in order to enlist and serve in Washington's army, one of whom was promoted to corporal, while another used a knife to cut a musket ball out of her thigh to prevent having her secret discovered by a surgeon.

In fact, some women soldiers were actually awarded pensions.



Nancy Hart

MAKE A NOTE OF IT
The Next Meeting will be at noon on Saturday
October 21 at the Kingsdale MCL

Don Miller stands vigil at Washington's tomb

One of the special functions of the Sons of the American Revolution is to honor George Washington by standing vigil at the tomb of George and Martha at Mount Vernon.

This year's vigil was September 16, 2017 and the Benjamin Franklin Chapter and the Ohio Society were represented by compatriot Don Miller.

SAR Chapters from six other states also participated at this year's vigil, which lasted six hours in 20 minutes increments per posting, with Don posting for one hour.

"When I entered the Tomb, I could feel the aura of this great man," Don recalls. "It is an experience that I'll always remember."



Compatriot Don Miller was one of 14 SAR members from seven states who participated in this year's vigil at the tomb of George and Martha Washington, on the grounds of Mount Vernon. Don is sixth from the right. No muskets or swords are permitted by any participants.

BFC to participate in Wreaths Across America

The Benjamin Franklin Chapter will assist the Worthington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the local observance of Wreaths Across America on Saturday morning, December 16.

We will help to place wreaths on the graves of veterans buried in three cemeteries in Worthington, so be sure to set aside that date to join thousands of patriotic Americans in honoring our veterans of many wars.

Wreaths Across America is a major national event. For example, three years ago Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers laid over 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the United States and beyond, including ceremonies at Bunker Hill and Valley Forge.

More information will come in the November Newsletter relative to where and when to meet.



Chapter welcomes seven new members

John Schuyler Meyer (Grove City) Patriot: Enoch DeCamp, NJ Light Dragoons; **Lawrence Webber** (S. Vienna) Patriot: William Webber, Pvt. Massachusetts Regt; **Josh Varble** (Worthington) Patriot: William Sayers, 1st Lt. 12th PA Cont. Line; **Edward P. Hancock** (Powell) Patriot: Hugh Logan, Capt. Botetourt Co. VA Militia; **Craig A. Cataline** (Grandview Heights), Patriot: Michael Stump, Lt. Col. VA Militia; **Austin Force** (Columbus) Patriot: Abraham Updyke, Sgt. Somerset Co. NJ Militia; **Andrew DeLong** (Dublin) Patriot: Andrew Moore, Committee of Safety, Northumberland Co. PA.