



The Buckeye Patriot

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12

Sons of the American Revolution

Quarterly Newsletter

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From The President's Desk

Compatriots, Companions, Brothers & Friends,

When any of us collect our thoughts and remembrances surrounding Veteran's Day, our focus on veterans is most assuredly related to memories of our family and close friends who served. Perhaps there are recollections of well-known veterans known to us as movie stars such as Audie Murphy. Audie Murphy was one of the most decorated American combat soldiers of WWII who received every military combat award for valor available from the U. S. Army, as well as French and Belgian awards for heroism.

Two accounts of information I discovered in preparation for this newsletter article were very interesting to me, and I hope to you as well.

Harriet Tubman, one of the most celebrated heroines in American history is best known for helping slaves escape to freedom through the Underground Railroad in the 1850's. Harriet escaped slavery in 1849 and established a vast espionage ring for the Union during the Civil War serving as a cook, a nurse, and even as a spy. She was the first woman in American history to lead a military expedition. Her efforts thwarted the Confederacy, freed 750 slaves, and not one soldier was lost. Brigadier General Rufus Saxton in reporting on the raid to Secretary of War Stanton said, "This is the only military command in American history wherein a woman, black or white, led the raid and under whose inspiration it was originated and conducted."

My second account centers on Bea Arthur an actress best known for her role on "The Golden Girls" and whose popular TV show still entertains many like me even today. Little known to her fans is that she was a truck driver in the Marine Corps and was one of the first members of the Women's Reserve. Bea enlisted at the age of 21 in early 1943 and was stationed at Marine Corps and Navy air stations in Virginia and North Carolina. Having attained the rank of Staff Sergeant, Bea was honorably discharged in September 1945.

Many, no matter the decade or period of American history have honorably served our Country to earn the respected title of Veteran. Give them the honor, and a handshake, they so gratefully deserve.

Patriotically yours,

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.— John 15:13

*Jim Pildner, President
Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Sons of the American Revolution*

If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live. — Martin Luther King, Jr.



Welcome New SAR Members!

Jesse Winchell Gerbracht
Scott William Goodhue

Justin Michael Norman

Comedy Central's "Every Revolutionary War Story"



Comedy Central's take, albeit a bit tongue in cheek, on the History of the American Revolution.

Click on the image to your left to learn about Washington, Hamilton, and every unsung hero (and villain) from the American Revolution. (www.cc.com)

Nathaniel Philbrick's "Travels with George"

In the fall of 2018, Nathaniel Philbrick embarked on his own journey into what Washington called "the infant woody country" to see for himself what America had become in the 229 years since. Writing in a thoughtful first person about his own adventures with his wife Melissa and their dog Dora, Philbrick follows Washington's presidential excursions: from Mount Vernon to the new capital in New York; a month-long tour of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island; a venture onto Long Island and eventually across Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. The narrative moves smoothly between the eighteenth and twenty-first centuries as we see the country through both Washington's and Philbrick's eyes. Written at a moment when America's founding figures are under increasing scrutiny, [Travels with George](http://www.amazon.com) grapples bluntly and honestly with Washington's legacy as a man of the people, a reluctant president, and a plantation owner who held people in slavery. At historic houses and landmarks, Philbrick reports on the reinterpretations at work as he meets reenactors, tour guides, and other keepers of history's flame. He paints a picture of eighteenth century America as divided and fraught as it is today, and he comes to understand how Washington compelled, enticed, stood up to, and listened to the many different people he met along the way--and how his all-consuming belief in the Union helped to forge a nation. (www.amazon.com)

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 Officers

President - [Jim Pildner](#)
1st Vice President - [Richard Dana](#)
2nd Vice President - [Tim Ward](#)
Registrar - [Troy Bailey](#)
Genealogist - [Tim Ward](#)

Secretary - [Scott Wludyga](#)
Treasurer - [Bob Kenyon](#)
Historian - [Scott Wludyga](#)
Chaplain - [William Robinson](#)

Congress' First Investigation on an Attack on the Capitol

On Sept. 23, 1814, Rep. Richard Mentor Johnson of Kentucky, "covered with wounds and resting on crutches," rose to propose a special House committee to investigate the attack on the U.S. Capitol by the British, according to an 1849 account by a colleague, Rep. Charles J. Ingersoll of Pennsylvania. The 33-year-old Johnson, a military hero in the ongoing War of 1812, sought an inquiry into the federal government's failure to prevent the burning of the Capitol and other Washington buildings by British troops on Aug. 24 and 25, 1814.

The 1814 investigation began with promise. The House, temporarily meeting at Blodgett's Hotel in Washington, approved a special committee of three Federalists and three Democratic-Republicans, with Johnson as chairman. (Johnson would later become vice president under Martin Van Buren and attract controversy for his relationship with his common-law wife, Julia Chinn, an enslaved African American at his Kentucky plantation.) He became the nation's ninth vice president. She was his enslaved wife.

Cabinet and military officials said that on July 1, 1814, Madison had ordered military preparations for a possible attack on Washington, then a modest town of about 8,000 people. Secretary of War John Armstrong Jr. insisted Baltimore would be the more likely target. Armstrong, one general told the committee, treated "with indifference if not with levity, the idea of an attack by the enemy" on the capital.

On Aug. 19, British ships moored on the Patuxent River in Southern Maryland. Intelligence reports showed British troops were heading to Washington via Bladensburg, Md., about six miles northeast of the Capitol. Gen. William Henry Winder, who headed Washington's defense, said he sent "the whole" of his troops out of the capital to meet the enemy. Most were militia volunteers from the District of Columbia and three neighboring states. Winder said Maryland and Pennsylvania failed to provide the promised number of militia soldiers. Virginia's militia, he said, didn't reach the battlefield in time after being delayed getting arms and ammunition by a bureaucratic Army clerk who demanded signed receipts for every item. The committee report termed the mustering of forces "a great and manifest failure."

The Capitol was left undefended when British forces arrived. British Adm. George Cockburn ordered his men to fire musket volleys into the Capitol, which was unoccupied because Congress wasn't in session. Then troops rushed in and began ransacking the building. "They are in possession of the very Capitol, rioting and reveling in the sacred halls of American legislation, without fear or without danger," the United States Gazette reported. The British moved on to set fire to the empty president's mansion, which would later become widely known as the White House, and the Treasury building. The next morning, troops burned the War and State departments' building. After a tornado-like storm swept through Washington that day, the British headed back to their ships.

Armstrong resigned as secretary of war under pressure from Madison, who moved Monroe to the post. Winder was a top target. The record is clear that "the general is unfit for any important command and that to him, principally, the Enemy is indebted for his success that day," wrote the Baltimore American. The committee completed its investigation in just over two months, delivering a 370-page report to the House on Nov. 29. To the surprise of many observers, the report avoided any conclusions or blame. On Feb. 4, 1815, the House voted unanimously to table the report indefinitely. Then came news that Gen. Andrew Jackson had defeated the British at New Orleans, followed by mail receipt of a previously signed peace treaty, the Treaty of Ghent, ending the war. (www.washingtonpost.com)

Philadelphia's Native American History

Oral tradition, Lenape (or Lenape), meaning the original people, migrated to the Philadelphia region probably 10,000 years ago. Lenape came north from what is now Canada, where it thrived, hunted in the woods and fished from the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers.

In 1682, William Penn, a Quaker, arrived at a place named Philadelphia, claiming land given by King Charles II of England. Penn decided that no one in his state should suffer discrimination or persecution, and regarded the indigenous people as people of the Bible who lived untouched by the corruption of civilization.



Penn's Treaty with the Indians by Benjamin West

He learned their language and bought the first land from them. A treaty was signed at the current Pentry Tea Park, Sciacca Maxon, allowing Lenape to maintain a particular village or location. There is a statue of Tamanendo, the leader of the Lenape tribe, who welcomed Philadelphia founder William Penn on arrival, on Front Street and Market



The Museum of the American Revolution dedicated a prominent gallery and atrium to the Onaida Indian Nation, which played an extraordinary role as America's first ally, fought with settlers in several important battles and endured the tremendous difficulties of the American Revolutionary War.

Street, near the waterfront of the Delaware River. The chief stands on a turtle whereas an eagle is holding the Wampam belt, representing a treaty agreed between Penn, Tamanend and other Native Americans.

The treaty was passed until William Penn died, at which point his son Thomas Penn refused to agree. Many indigenous groups have moved west, deprived of their land, but the descendants of Lenape and the tribes of Cherokee, Navajo, Klee, Seminole, Shawnee, and Iroquois Creek remain in Philadelphia and continue today. (pennsylvanianewstoday.com)

James Monroe's Birthplace

[Colonial Beach, Virginia] After more than a decade of planning, fundraising and building, a replica of James Monroe's birthplace farmhouse is finally complete and open to the public. The James Monroe Memorial Foundation, which has overseen the reconstruction project since it signed a 99-year lease on the land with Westmoreland County in 2005, held a grand opening ceremony for the restored building Saturday. For decades, the site near the town of Colonial Beach where the nation's fifth president was born and lived until his teens was nothing more than a pull-off from State Route 205—James Monroe Highway.



*James Monroe Birthplace, 4460 James Monroe Highway,
Colonial Beach, Virginia 22443*

In her welcoming remarks at the opening ceremony, Robin Schick, mayor of Colonial Beach, recalled driving by the site on her way to daycare as a child and stopping there one day so her father could fix a flat tire. "All it was was gravel and a sign," she said. While her father worked on the car, Schick explored the nearby woods and found a caterpillar, which she named "James Monroe" and carried to daycare in the pocket of her overalls. "So today, I'm wearing my butterfly earrings, because that caterpillar has now become a beautiful butterfly," Schick said, gesturing at the reconstructed farmhouse behind her. According to remarks from Lee Langston-Harrison, who worked for 12 years as the curator of the James Monroe Museum in Fredericksburg, Monroe—the son of "middling plantation owner" and carpenter Spence Monroe and his wife Elizabeth—was born in the family home on April 28, 1758. He lived there until the age of 16, when both his parents died, and he enrolled at the College of William and Mary, where he studied law for two years until he answered the call to fight for independence from Great Britain.

Monroe, still a teenager, joined the 3rd Virginia Regiment, commanded by Hugh Mercer, and served in campaigns led by George Washington in New York and New Jersey. "He is our only president to have served in active military duty in the Revolutionary War aside from George Washington," said G. William Thomas, president of the James Monroe Memorial Foundation, at the opening ceremony. At the Battle of Trenton on Dec. 26, 1776, Monroe sustained a bullet wound to his shoulder, nearly died, and carried the bullet in his body for the rest of his life. Following his military service, Monroe served in the Virginia House of Delegates and the Continental Congress and then was elected by state legislators to be one of the first U.S. senators from Virginia.

Washington appointed him ambassador to France, and in 1799 he was elected governor of Virginia. Monroe then served as ambassador to Great Britain and special envoy to France—where he negotiated the Louisiana Purchase—under Thomas Jefferson, and as Secretary of State and War—at the same time—under James Madison during the War of 1812. In 1816, he was elected to the first of two terms as president, which are known as the Era of Good Feelings due to a sense of national purpose and unity following the War of 1812. "Like the wind, sometimes quietly and sometimes boldly, [Monroe] was always making his presence known" in the early history of this country, Thomas said. — A visitor's center has been open at the site on weekends for several years and now the house, which is lightly furnished, is part of the experience. The birthplace park is open free of charge on Saturdays and Sundays. (fredericksburg.com)

Climate Chaos Helped Spark the French Revolution

Historians have long observed the links between the natural environment and the fate of civilization. Natural emergencies like droughts, floods and crop failure regularly plunge people into chaos. Long term changes in the earth's climatic conditions lead flourishing societies like the Roman Empire to wither and fade. But perhaps there is no greater example of the explosive intersection of climate disruption and political upheaval than the period surrounding the French Revolution of 1789. Touring France in 1785, John Adams wrote, "The country is a heap of ashes. Grass is scarcely to be seen and all sorts of grain is short, thin, pale and feeble while the flax is quite dead...I pity these people from my soul. There is at this moment as little appearance of a change of weather as ever."

Years of climatic stress, financial instability and political conflict brutally converged in 1788 and 1789. A severe drought in the spring of 1788 left staple crops crippled and withered. On July 13, 1788, one of the most severe hailstorms in recorded history swept across France. The storm sliced a swath of destruction that pummeled and destroyed fields and vineyards. Grain shortages sent prices skyrocketing, and families who once spent 50% of their income on food now devoted more than 90% of their household budget just to stay alive. With all disposable income going to buy bread, consumer demand for all other commodities cratered, driving the kingdom's already shaky economy into a recession. Thousands of urban workers lost their jobs and wages, exacerbating the growing social crisis.

Just as Louis announced this momentous concession, France was hit by the coldest winter in almost a century. Thomas Jefferson, America's then-minister to France, wrote, "there came on a winter of such severe cold, as was without example in the memory of man, or in the written records of history. ...[A]ll outdoor labor was suspended, and the poor, without the wages of labor were, of course, without either bread or fuel." This vicious winter froze an already starving population. The death grip of winter lasted for months. As late as April 1789, the comte de Mirabeau observed in the south of France: "every scourge has been unloosed. Everywhere I have found men dead of cold and hunger, and that in the midst of the week for lack of flour, all the mills being frozen."

When the Estates General convened in Versailles in May 1789, the traumatized population of Paris, egged on by political orators, were ready to explode. Like many previous summers, the July heat was an oppressively sweltering contrast to the ice-cold chill of the previous winter. Months of ongoing political deadlock in Versailles were finally resolved in July 1789 when rumors of a reactionary conspiracy hit the streets of Paris, and the alarmed and angry population rose to tear down the Bastille, marking the beginning of the French Revolution.

The French Revolution was not caused by climate disruptions alone. Those disruptions ravaged the economy, destabilized the social order and traumatized the population, but it required a broken political system unable and unwilling to address the effects to tip the scales toward revolution. As we enter a new epoch of a human created climate emergency, we have it in our power to mitigate the ecological consequences, but it will not be enough to simply lower emissions or convert to green energy. We must also ensure our political structures can respond to the inevitable social crises caused by global warming and are flexible and resilient enough to weather the coming storm. (time.com)

Jefferson Statue to be Removed from NYC Chambers

For more than 100 years, a 7-foot-tall statue of Thomas Jefferson has towered over members of the New York City Council in their chamber at City Hall, a testament to his role as one of the nation's founding fathers and the primary author of the Declaration of Independence.

But for the last two decades, some Black and Latino Council members, citing Jefferson's history as a slaveholder, called for the statue to be banished — a push that gained significant momentum in the last year, as the nation has broadly reconsidered public monuments that can be viewed as symbols of systemic racism.

City officials voted unanimously to remove the statue from Council chambers but delayed a decision on where to put it. "There are 700 pieces of art under our jurisdiction, we cannot make a rash decision that will set a precedent for the other 699 pieces of artwork that may also have challenges from people or other groups of people," Signe Nielsen, president of the Public Design Commission, which oversees art at city-owned property, said at a public hearing before the vote.

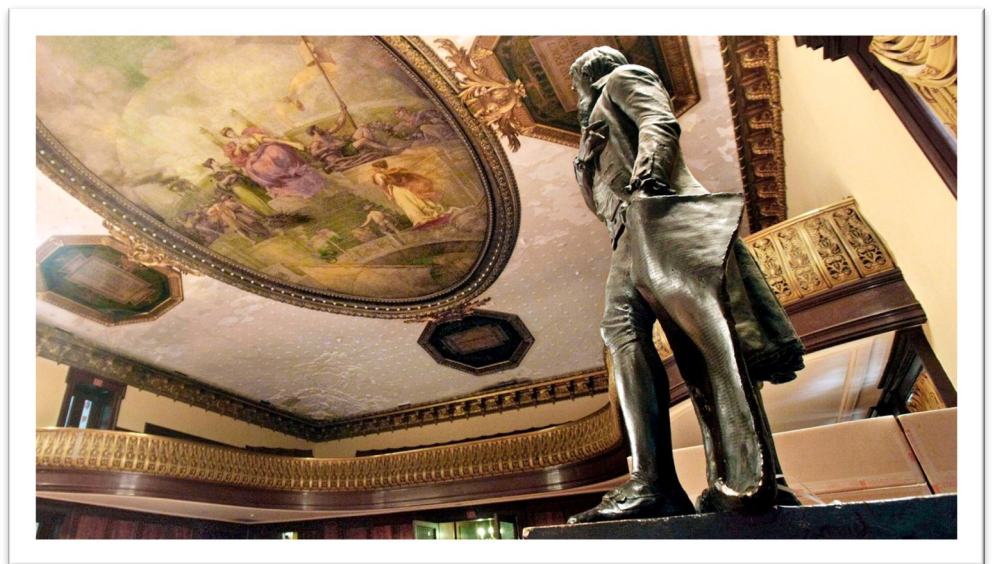
The relocation of the statue, requested by the Council's Black, Latino and Asian Caucus, was expected to be a fait accompli: An agreement was already in place to relocate the statue to the New-York Historical Society. A crate had been ordered to house the statue during the move.

The society had agreed to present the statue in a historical context that captured Jefferson's legacy as a founding father, but also as a man who enslaved more than 600 people and fathered six children with one of them, Sally Hemings.

The unexpected delay angered some Black and Latino lawmakers, who had expected the statue to be moved from City Hall because, as the caucus said in a letter to the mayor, it serves as "a constant reminder of the injustices that have plagued communities of color since the inception of our country."

There have been various attempts to remove the statue; two decades ago, a call to banish the statue gained attention, but went nowhere.

"Jefferson embodies some of the most shameful parts of our country's history," Adrienne Adams, a councilwoman from Queens and co-chair of the caucus, said at the hearing. (www.nytimes.com)



In this July 14th, 2010 photo, the statue of Thomas Jefferson, as it stood in New York's City Hall Council Chamber. (AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

Washington and the First Mass Military Inoculation

George Washington's military genius is undisputed. Yet American independence must be partially attributed to a strategy for which history has given the infamous general little credit: his controversial medical actions. Traditionally, the Battle of Saratoga is credited with tipping the revolutionary scales. Yet the health of the Continental regulars involved in battle was a product of the ambitious initiative Washington began earlier that year at Morristown, close on the heels of the victorious Battle of Princeton. Among the Continental regulars in the American Revolution, 90 percent of deaths were caused by disease, and Variola the smallpox virus was the most vicious of them all.

On the 6th of January 1777, George Washington wrote to Dr. William Shippen Jr., ordering him to inoculate all of the forces that came through Philadelphia. He explained that: "Necessity not only authorizes but seems to require the measure, for should the disorder infect the Army . . . we should have more to dread from it, than from the Sword of the Enemy." The urgency was real. Troops were scarce and encampments had turned into nomadic hospitals of festering disease, deterring further recruitment. Both Benedict Arnold and Benjamin Franklin, after surveying the havoc wreaked by Variola in the Canadian campaign, expressed fears that the virus would be the army's ultimate downfall.



Smallpox inoculations helped George Washington win the war

At the time, the practice of infecting the individual with a less-deadly form of the disease was widespread throughout Europe. Most British troops were immune to Variola, giving them an enormous advantage against the vulnerable colonists. Conversely, the history of inoculation in America (beginning with the efforts of the Reverend Cotton Mather in 1720) was pocked by the fear of the contamination potential of the process. Such fears led the Continental Congress to issue a proclamation in 1776 prohibiting Surgeons of the Army to inoculate.

Washington suspected the only available recourse was inoculation, yet contagion risks aside, he knew that a mass inoculation put the entire army in a precarious position should the British hear of his plans. Moreover, Historians estimate that less than a quarter of the Continental Army had ever had the virus; inoculating the remaining three quarters and every new recruit must have seemed daunting. Yet the high prevalence of disease among the army regulars was a significant deterrent to desperately needed recruits, and a dramatic reform was needed to allay their fears.

Weighing the risks, on February 5th of 1777, Washington finally committed to the unpopular policy of mass inoculation by writing to inform Congress of his plan. Throughout February, Washington, with no precedent for the operation he was about to undertake, covertly communicated to his commanding officers orders to oversee mass inoculations of their troops in the model of Morristown and Philadelphia (Dr. Shippen's Hospital). At least eleven hospitals had been constructed by the year's end.

Variola raged throughout the war, devastating the Native American population and slaves who had chosen to fight for the British in exchange for freedom. Yet the isolated infections that sprung up among Continental regulars during the southern campaign failed to incapacitate a single regiment. With few surgeons, fewer medical supplies, and no experience, Washington conducted the first mass inoculation of an army at the height of a war that immeasurably transformed the international system. Defeating the British was impressive, but simultaneously taking on Variola was a risky stroke of genius. (www.loc.gov)

Being an American in an Era of Divisiveness

Americans who are disillusioned by the rancorous divisions that are convulsing our political system and fraying society shouldn't be so shocked. America's Founders anticipated these problems. But will we listen to them? Our first president, George Washington, warned about geographic sectionalism and political factionalism in his Farewell Address, which was published originally as a letter to "friends and fellow-citizens" shortly before the 1796 presidential election: a bitter contest between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, with name-calling, mud-slinging, and accusations of improprieties. In the midst of this turmoil, Washington exhorted his fellow citizens to remember that "the name of American, which belongs to you ... must always exalt the just pride of patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations."

Washington's call to unity is still being issued today. Every year, a U.S. senator reads Washington's Farewell Address on the anniversary of Washington's birthday — a Senate tradition dating back to the 19th century. It's a nice tradition, but does anyone still take Washington seriously? Over the past few years, his statues have been vandalized and even torn down in places across the country. Districts have voted to remove his name from local schools. For many people, "Washington" is now a name to scorn, not heed.

Of course, Washington wasn't perfect. He had a bad temper. He didn't always make the right military decisions during the Revolutionary War. And he owned slaves. When he died, in fact, Washington held over 200 people in bondage. But looking at Washington only through the lens of his faults misses the truth — and greatness — of the man. He may have been a slaveholder, but he rejected slavery. Yes, he held human beings in slavery and even insisted on tracking down runaways. He was not an abolitionist. But he inherited many of his slaves and stopped buying more when he realized that slavery contradicted the principles of equality and liberty for which the Americans fought in the Revolution. In his will, Washington freed the people he held in bondage upon the death of his wife, explaining that while he "earnestly wished" to free them while his wife was still alive, he could not do so because it would tear apart families who had intermarried. To ensure that the emancipated people weren't just legally free but could also govern themselves productively, Washington set up a trust fund to ensure that those who were too old or young to work would be "comfortably clothed and fed." He required his heirs to make sure that orphaned slaves "be taught to read and write" and "be brought up to some useful occupation, agreeably to the Laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia." Washington's stance against slavery was well known. In 1852, the great black abolitionist Frederick Douglass called on the Americans of his day to have the justice and courage of George Washington, who "could not die till he had broken the chains of his slaves."

So why have so many Americans forgotten this George Washington? Too many people, especially young people, are getting their accounts of Washington from textbooks that are often boring or biased — or both. Instead of digging deep into the primary historical documents that tell the compelling story of Washington and our founding, students typically race through the textbook material without really learning it. Some might memorize the "what" of our history, but few know the more interesting "why." No wonder they don't care. And when they do focus on statesmen such as Washington, too many are now being told that Washington and the other Founders were simply agents of racial or economic oppression, rather than people who fought for freedom. No wonder they don't listen. So, what story do they need to learn?

Not that Washington and the other Founders were perfect; we know they weren't. They fought with each other and didn't always heed Washington's advice. But they all believed in the principles of our Declaration of Independence and Constitution — which Washington helped create — and saw them as "glorious liberty document[s]," as Frederick Douglass said. They knew that, whatever our differences, our founding principles make us "one people," as the Declaration says. In these days of partisan rancor and deep division, we need to recover common ground in those principles and our shared history of America's ongoing struggle to live up to those principles. If we do, we'll be heeding the wise advice of a man who devoted his life to making "the name of American" the "just pride" of us all.

www.washingtonexaminer.com

*Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Sons of the American Revolution
Quarterly Newsletter*

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Libertas et Patria!

*This newsletter is intended for members of the
Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 of the Sons of
the American Revolution. It is for educational
purposes only, and is not for sale.*

Important Dates to Remember

**Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Veterans Day Program, Stated Meeting**
Saturday, November 20th, 2021
Geneva Public Library at 12:00 pm
860 Sherman Street
Geneva, Ohio 44041

Wreaths Across America
December 18th, 2021 at 10:00 am
Greenlawn Memory Gardens
3140 East Center Street
North Kingsville, Ohio 44030

OHSSAR Winter Meeting
Saturday, February 5th, 2022
Marietta, Ohio

**Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Presidents Day Program &
Election of Officers**
Saturday, February 19th, 2022
Location TBD

**Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Patriots' Day Program**
Saturday, April 16th, 2022
Location TBD

Geauga County Maple Festival
April 21st - 24th, 2022
Main Street, Chardon, Ohio 44024
www.maplefestival.com

**OHSSAR Spring Meeting
& Annual Conference**
April 29th - May 1st, 2022
Geneva State Park
Geneva, Ohio 44041

132nd NSSAR Annual Congress
July 10th - 15th, 2022
Savannah, Georgia



*Congratulations to OHSSAR President &
Registrar, Northeastern Ohio Chapter
#12 Registrar, and 2021 Samuel Hubbard
Scott Laureate, Troy Bailey!*