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and enjoyed an interesting program on “The Rappahannock Forge During the American Revolution,” by notable local historian and author, Mrs. Jerrilynn MacGregor. Immediately following the meeting, many of our members participated at the Grave Marking Ceremony for Chapter Past-President and Color Guard Commander J. Dominic Lay and Sister Sue Lay of the Freedom Hill Chapter NSDAR, on the Lay family farm in Rapidan, Virginia. Moving tributes were provided by Virginia Society President Bob Bowen and others, with Color Guard musket volleys and “Taps” beautifully performed by Bugler Gerard Schuck. It was a fitting remembrance and many Sons and Daughters present added to the Lay family’s warmth and hospitality with a home style reception afterward.

Our Chapter also furnished material support for the George Mason University History Day competition on 20 March. Compatriot Lon Lacey, Color Guard Commander, along with sons Alan and Lon, and Gil Hocker, our fife and drum Field Musicians, gave a fascinating living history presentation to an appreciative public audience in Warrenton, Virginia for the Fauquier Heritage Institute on 21 March entitled, “Small Arms Evolution and Tactical Use.” The nearly three hour program received rave reviews and featured a scholarly presentation of rare, authentic Revolutionary War and War Between the States muskets, rifles and revolvers, along with period Field Music from both conflicts. Compatriots Larry Alexander and Lance Lyngar in S.A.R. attire provided key support along with Mrs. Lacey, and yours truly moderated the event to round out the prominent representation of the Culpeper Minute Men S.A.R. to the regional community. I am pleased to report as a result of our regional press releases and public outreach efforts, seven prospective new members contacted our Chapter in March either by phone or in person. Special thanks to Compatriot Paul Bess for his key donations of time and talent to follow up and assist these prospective new members. Let us all work to keep our Chapter growing!

On 27 March, a truly memorable commemoration was held at Historic Christ Church in Weems, Virginia, honoring early 17th Century Virginia Founders John Carter and David Miles; Revolutionary War Patriots Charles Taylor and James Kelley; and six brothers who all fought in the War of 1812 together: Armistead Kelley, Charles Kelley, David Kelley, James Kelley, John Kelley and William Kelley. In a stirring Grave Marking observance for these Founders and Patriots, it was noted the six “Fighting Kelleys” preceded the five gallant brothers, “The Fighting Sullivans” of World War II fame and sacrifice, by 130 years. The Virginia Society, Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, The War of 1812 Society in Virginia, and regional S.A.R. and D.A.R. all enjoyed a delightful luncheon and conviviality beforehand, with the Culpeper Minute Men Compatriots featured prominently as represented by OFPA Governor Myron Lyman, Sr; OFPA Past Governor Jerry Hubbard; Virginia Society S.A.R. President Bob Bowen and Mrs. Bowen; Culpeper Minute Men Past-President Francis Lay; Color Guard Commander Lon Lacey, Jr.; and wife Kathryn and me. I encourage all of you to visit this historic site and fine new museum whenever you are passing through Lancaster County, Virginia.

Please consider attending events on our April schedule posted elsewhere in this Newsletter, highlighted by the two President Thomas Jefferson Birthday Observance events on 13 April; in Washington, D.C. and Charlottesville, Virginia, respectively; the 24th Annual Multi-chapter Meeting at Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, Virginia on 17 April; Culpeper Remembrance Days on 24-25 April; and the President James Monroe’s Birthday Observance in Richmond on 29 April. Let us each continue to “Forward the Colors!”

With sentiments of great admiration and respect, I remain, yours in liberty,

Gar Schulin