

Sons of the American Revolution



Ewings Chapter

February 2016



Mount Vernon was the plantation home of George Washington, first President of the United States and his wife, Martha Dandridge Custis Washington. The estate is situated on the banks of the Potomac River in Fairfax County, Virginia, near Alexandria, across from Prince George's County, Maryland. The Washington family had owned land in the area since the time of Washington's great-grandfather in 1674. In 1739 they embarked on an expansion of the estate that continued under George Washington, who came into possession of the estate in 1754, but did not become its sole owner until 1761.

Brian Schoen, associate professor of the history at Ohio University, will be the speaker for Ewings Chapter's February 25, 2016 meeting. His topic will be on **Mount Vernon**. He will introduce us to the Mount Vernon Ladies Association and their struggles to preserve Mount Vernon. During the late 1840s and early 1850s Mount Vernon was neglected, dilapidated and falling apart. The Mount Vernon Ladies Association, organized in 1853 stepped in and began raising funds which enabled the association to begin repairs, reconstruction and restoration. They are the oldest historic preservation association in the United States.

Please mark your calendar and plan an evening out in Athens, Ohio, to hear more about the Mount Vernon Ladies Association and their heroic effort in saving this valuable historic landmark. **Ewings Chapter will convene at the Community Center, 701 East State Street, Athens, Ohio at 6:30 PM on Thursday, February 25, 2016.** The meal will be catered by Compatriot Scott Moody. Cost is \$12.00. President Lochary will email with additional information.

Program Topics:

- Eagle Scout Presentation – Noah Clouse – Athens, Ohio
- New Members and Genealogy update
- Discussion on upcoming Awards Program
- Future meeting dates and venues
- Ewings Chapter Web site - www.sar-ewing.org

Historical Moment: **Causes of the American Revolution – Part 2 – The Sugar Act of 1764**

The Sugar Act enacted in 1764 was an extension of the Molasses Act that was about to expire. It was designed to reduce the British staggering national debt incurred during the French and Indian War plus pay for the continued presence of British troops in the colonies (10,000) and to defend against any further Indian attacks. The act was however implemented at a time of economic depression in the colonies. With the war over the colonial merchants lost a main source of income – selling food and supplies to the British soldiers. The act made the situation worse by restricting trade from foreign markets. The tax on molasses and wine from countries outside the British Empire made them so expensive that colonist could no longer purchase them. This made the colonist extremely angry because goods such as sugar, molasses and wine skyrocket in price. This was a direct tax on these and many items. The Royal British Navy “Blue Coats” – which we learned about at last month’s meeting – was given the task of enforcing this tax and to capture anyone evading it. The Sugar Act marked the beginning of organized public protests against the British Parliament. In all 11 legislatures sent formal protests concerning the Sugar Act. It was finally repealed in 1766.

January 28th - Meeting Rewind: The “Blue Coats”

Last month at the Ohio University Inn, Ohio University College Professor Sarah Kinkle provided us with informative insight to the British Royal Navy and their role in exacerbating colonial resentment against the British in the 1760s and 1770s. As mentioned above in my Historical Moment it was the British Royal Navy’s job to enforce the tax imposed on the colonist and to capture anyone evading it. To make matters worse the new tax also created a new system for the trial of those accused of evading the tax. The trial was to be in Nova Scotia hundreds of miles away from the colonies and accused were forced to pay their own expense to and from Nova Scotia. Professor Kinkle explained that when we think of the American Revolution we always have visions of the “Red Coats” but the Royal Navy “Blue Coats” were thought of in the same light as the Red Coats by many American colonists.

Dates to Remember:

- February 21st 12:00 Noon - Marietta SAR meeting at Campus Martius Museum – contact Gene Yost
- February 25th - 27th – NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky
- March 24th – Next regular scheduled Ewings SAR meeting – Venue and time TBA
- April 29th – May 1st - OHSSAR 127th annual conference, Blue Ash, Ohio

Note: Please try to attend Ewings meetings and remember to check the Ewings Chapter web site for chapter, state, and national information and Ewings chapter newsletters and up-coming events.

Meeting Reminder:

All local members: Please be looking for an email from President James Lochary concerning Thursday’s meeting at the Athens Community Center. Information on the meal and cost are contained in this communication. If by chance you do not receive his email consider this newsletter your notification. Please reply all communications concerning the meeting to President James Lochary at jameslochary@gmail.com no later than Monday, February 22nd. Hope to see many of you there! wkb

2015 -2016 Ewings Chapter Officers OHSSAR

President – James Lochary

1st Vice President – Tom Romine

2nd Vice President - Carl Denbow

Secretary – George Benz

Treasurer – James Smith

Genealogist/Registrar – George Benz

Happy Belated Valentine’s Day and President’s Day