



# Sons of the American Revolution

## Ohio Society

Organized April 22, 1889

### State Chaplain's Activity Report

Summer Board of Management

July 25, 2020

Report from State Chaplain  
The Rev. Dr. Ed Bonniwell

1. I am intentionally seeking to elevate the office and position of Chaplain in our local chapters. I have devised study programs and ways to get men ordained, seeking to hone their skills so that they might better promote the morale of the chapter, Godliness and love for Country. Encouraging them to be faithful and loyal to SAR. These newly ordained men, most recently Matt Hardman, are also being credentialed by the State with all rights and privileges afforded to clergy. In the Colonial Revolutionary War General Washington, and second in command, General Nathaniel Greene highly revered the role of Chaplains. All such credentialed Chaplains were given the rank of Colonel; and of the 225 Chaplains that served in the Colonial Army, 25 died in battle or from wounds. With few exceptions the Chaplains were soldier-Chaplains that carried weapons. They greatly promoted the morale of the army and modeled for them a strength of character and a commitment to liberty that inspired many soldiers to remain and fight. An SAR Chaplain who understands his role can have a significant influence on many men in a non-sectarian way.
2. I continue to take the Chaplain's Conference Call Program forward, working on speakers and establishing dates. This past year we enjoyed Steve Brown of Key Life Radio Broadcast who spoke on Post-Modernism, Samuel Davis, who is the George Washington for many groups up and down the East Coast, another amazing guest was Federal Judge Susan Dlott, and Gerhard Maroscher spoke on his newly published book titled, "*Why Can't Somebody Just Die Around Here*", subtitled "*A Story of War, Deprivation, Courage, Perseverance, and Triumph*". Which did much to strengthen our love for our freedom and the values that we espouse as SAR members.

Future topics are as follows:

- The Contribution of Blacks to The American Revolution
- Washington and Great Leadership Lessons
- The Savagery of Yorktown, Washington Unleashed
- Life at Mt. Vernon
- The Remarkable Mrs. Washington; Martha the Renowned
- General Nathaniel Greene – Unsung Hero of The American Revolution
- Cornwallis Before and After the American Revolution
- Colonial Preaching and the Place of the Bible in the Life of the Colonists
- Washington's Religion and His Struggle with Anglicanism
- The Political Formation of John Adams
- Jefferson and Adams – Souls in Conflict
- Extrapolations from George Washington's Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior

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- Jefferson's Conundrum – the Pillaging Pirates of the Chesapeake
  - Publications of the American Revolution and Their Effect on the Populace
  - The Indian Nations of America and Their Role in the American Revolution
  - Secrets in the Colonial Church Closet – the Good the Bad and the Amazing
3. Since assuming my position of State Chaplain thus far we've lost nearly 50 men. President Lee Wilkerson has agreed with me that memorializing our deceased members in our Service of Remembrance through Zoom teleconferencing would not be appropriate, and would be bad form. The current service is attached, but not all names are duly noted. When the anticipated service is executed there will be no preaching, only liturgy and prayers, and the calling of each individual's name.
  4. I write bereavement letters and contact many families where there is sickness or death. Recently Russell Simmons, age 91, a member of the Cincinnati Chapter slipped away. My letters to his wife and daughter resulted with the oldest daughter calling me Sunday night July 5<sup>th</sup>, and we subsequently received a \$500 check for the Cincinnati Chapter. Moreover, I have elicited the help of newly ordained Matt Hardman as my assistant, because there are times when I must travel in order to fulfill my responsibilities. I greatly value the personal connection that I get to have with so many amazing people.
  5. In my daily walk I take seriously the call to "study to show thyself approved unto God" and to model the charity that is befitting of a true Chaplain. It's not unusual for me to call and pray with various men given the issues and struggles that frequently befall us in this life. I find my involvement with SAR most fulfilling, and am grateful to God that in this season of my life I have health and can be so involved. I love preaching and preach three times a week in my own church. And am willing to do so for SAR when opportunities present themselves. However, many of our men have their own sectarian affiliations and are advantaged by the clergy in their own particular religious traditions. Nevertheless, when called upon, I'm willing to give such homilies, etc. without hesitation.
  6. To my mind, we are somewhat paramilitary; I believe in being under authority, and do my best to seek approval, direction, and input from my superiors. Especially from Lee Wilkerson, Don McGraw, Greg Ballman, and Dr. Michael Gunn. These are unique men and good models for all of us.
  7. I am introducing a new reading program, and will subsequently publish a biography based on the materials that our presenters use in the public schools. I am proud to be a part of an ever-growing team which thus far has spoken to 6700 students.
  8. Prayer needs from Chaplain Bonniwell:
    - Pray for our President Lee Wilkerson, being assisted by Dr. Ed Bonniwell, Bob Hill, and Assistant State Chaplain, Matt Hardman, as he navigates the Ohio State Board Education. A second meeting is forthcoming and we need both favor and wisdom. We were well received in our initial presentation. This endorsement would advantage every chapter in the State.
    - Pray always for the safety of our members, especially people of the Color Guard - firing weapons.

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- Lift up Bob Bowers, Cincinnati Chapter, now recovering from surgery on a torn bicep.
- Lift up Scott Freeman whose father was translated from the Church Universal to the Church Triumphant this past Monday morning July 6.
- Pray for our national SAR leaders. With statues of George Washington being torn down, and almost every organization suspect, let us pray that God would keep us above reproach and not become a target of the biases or prejudices of others.
- I have become very close to a man named Mark, co-owner and manager of the Quality Inn Hotel where we hold our BOM monthly meetings. Let us pray either that God will sovereignly remove Covid19, or give us, in mercy, a vaccine that we may once again freely inhabit the earth, and fulfill our destinies, participating in the commerce of life, and enjoying all the liberties won for us by our founding fathers. Please pray for the hotel and this fine man, and do know that he has a great and lofty view of SAR and the values that we hold. Mark is a fine Christian man who takes seriously his call to live a life that honors God. He is our friend and ally, and I've come to love him very much.
- Pray for the Chaplains of our Chapters, that they will be diligent in their duties, fulfilling their calling.
- Pray for the growth of every Chapter, and great wisdom upon our new team of State leaders.

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