



Marietta Chapter Newsletter



March 2023

mariettasar.com

Officers 2023

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Historian

Scott Britton

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Compatriots & Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope 2023 has been a pleasant one so far.

NSSAR Central District VPG John Turley, OHSSAR president John Bredenfoerder and their wives attended our Annual SAR/DAR Regional Holiday Luncheon at the Parkersburg Country Club on December 4th. Guest Speaker Paul Zuros spoke about Historic Fort Steuben.

On December 17th, I participated in a Wreaths Across America program organized by the Return Jonathan Meigs DAR Chapter, at Miles Cemetery near Rutland, Ohio in Meigs County. It was a cold day, but fun was had by all.

VP Jean Yost and I represented the Marietta Chapter on February 4th at the OHSSAR Winter BOM meeting held at Maumee Bay State Park.

Hope to see you at a chapter meeting soon!

Patriotically,

R. Douglas Pettit, President

Marietta Chapter #40

Ohio Society

Sons of the American Revolution



In Memoriam
Scott Michael Moody
March 13, 1949 – January 4, 2023



Interesting Facts

The earliest U.S. Presidents didn't wear pants.

The very first American Presidents – George Washington included – led the country through the American Revolution and its earliest days without wearing a single pair of pants. That's because the Founding Fathers actually wore breeches, pairs of tight-fitting men's bottoms that cut off at the knee. (Their calves were covered with [knee-high stockings](#).) [Breeches were a status symbol](#); full-length pantaloons were generally reserved for working folk who needed more ease to complete manual labor, which was difficult to do in custom-fitted breeches. The knee-length items were also the pinnacle of men's fashion because they were on-trend in Europe; Americans generally kept up with overseas styles, in part because the Colonies initially couldn't mass-produce clothing (for some time, [textiles were the top import](#) from England).

The Sons of the American Revolution

Is a nonpolitical, patriotic, educational 501c3 organization of men who have ancestors who fought for, or otherwise supported the War of Independence from Great Britain that established the United States of America. Membership is open to any male (no age limit) who can prove descent from a man or woman who contributed to our country's Independence. A patriot did not necessarily have to serve in the military but might have supported the Revolution by paying a supply tax, providing food for troops, serving as a juror, or being a local public servant.

- Working to preserve our nation's past
- Assisting schools, teachers, and the public
- Sustaining and preserving our history and constitutional principles



Marietta Chapter Historian Scott Britton provided this sidebar for the America 250-Ohio commission report:

How Did the Ohio River Influence American History?

The Ohio River is formed from the joining of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers in Pittsburgh and was named for the Iroquois word, “O-Y-O,” (the great river). France was first to formally claim “La Belle Viviere” (the beautiful river) in 1749 when an expedition led by Celeron de Bienville placed lead plates near the outlets of Ohio’s major rivers. Disputes between the French and British for control of the Ohio River Valley’s rich fur trade and their relationships with the Native Americans living there, would eventually lead to the French and Indian War. In 1785 the United States built Fort Harmar at the mouth of the Muskingum River. Three years later, Marietta’s first settlers fashioned a civilian fortification on a bluff, calling it Campus Martius, a portion of which has been preserved. The nation’s westward expansion that would double the size of America beyond its original 13 colonies began there. The importance of the Ohio River in choosing other settlement sites, and its use as a means of passenger travel as well as transportation of our state’s abundant agricultural, industrial, and commercial resources to distant markets, cannot be underestimated. From its earliest pioneer settlements, the Ohio River also became the boundary line between the slave states of Virginia and Kentucky and the free territory of Ohio. It even acted as a logical extension of the Mason-Dixon line. A July 1845 incident involving the “kidnapping” of three Ohio abolitionists who were aiding escaped slaves near Belpre centered mainly around the water line boundary of the Ohio River. Their imprisonment in Virginia (now West Virginia) and ensuing court battle nearly led that state into open war with Ohio. Those escaping on the Underground Railroad likened the Ohio to crossing the River Jordan, it being the last obstacle on their quest for

freedom in the “Promised Land.” In September 1803, Meriwether Lewis used the Ohio River to recruit and gather supplies before meeting with William Clark in Louisville to begin their Corps of Discovery expedition to explore the West. Early ocean-going sailing ships were built along the Ohio, followed later by paddlewheel steamboats. Using this waterway, these vessels connected Ohio’s bountiful agricultural and commercial products (pottery, glassware, etc.) via the Mississippi River to markets in other parts of the country and the rest of the world. Ohio River barge traffic continues to supply America with significant energy resources fueling the economy. For many, the “Beautiful River” is a magnet for sportsmen, boaters and tourists.

[Download the full report here](#)



Member Inductions



Robert Fitzgerald Induction



Eric Wagner Induction

Events



L to R: Past President Jim Smith of the Lt. George Ewing Chapter, current President Scott Moody, and Marietta Chapter President Doug Pettit participated in a Wreaths Across America event on Saturday, December 17, 2022 organized by the Return Jonathan Meigs Chapter DAR at Miles Cemetery in Meigs County, Ohio.



Compatriots Tony Durm and Scott Britton recognized with State History Award for preservation of the Historic Barker House. (That looks like Gov. Mike DeWine in front of Tony!)

[Read more about that here](#)



Compatriot Bobby Fitzgerald receiving his SAR Veterans Corps Award Certificate

This photo is from the Wreaths Across America event held at Cedarville Cemetery in Belpre, December 2021:

HISTORY I



HISTORY *of Belpre*

BELLE PRAIRIE

Born in winter 1788



People that settled “Belle Prairie”, French for “beautiful meadow”, were New England farmers who had served their country during the Revolutionary War. Many had served as officers, and most were well educated. Later called “Belpre”, part of the Ohio Company land purchase was surveyed and platted in the winter of 1788-89, and was the second organized American settlement in the Northwest Territory (the land north and west of the Ohio River, 1787 Ordinance).

April 11, 1789, is the accepted date of permanent occupation of the area, as cabins were first occupied that spring. Those that settled Belpre chose the site to make their homes because it was adaptive to agriculture.

Education was very important to those first settlers. Bathsheba Rouse is credited as being the first “woman school teacher” in the Northwest Territory, State of Ohio. She was employed by the community to teach its children, and later was hired by the Ohio Company to teach in Farmers’ Castle Fort during the Indian uprisings (1791-1795).

Certificates awarded to the Marietta Chapter:

The National Society
of the
Sons of the American Revolution®



Marietta Chapter
Ohio SAR

is hereby recognized for supporting

Partners in Patriotism

and

Wreaths Across America

as part of their patriotic outreach in 2021-2022.



Paul Lee Wright

President General

Janice Green

Committee Chairman

The Ohio Society
of the
Sons of the American Revolution



**Marietta
Chapter**

has been awarded
**The Partners in Patriotism
Certificate**

for participating in the 2021 Partners in Patriotism Program
by working with the VFW in pursuit of a common goal

April 30, 2022

Date


Ohio Society President


Partners in Patriotism Chair

**The scheduled meetings of the Marietta Chapter,
Sons of the American Revolution
for the remainder of 2023 are being held at:**

**[The Levee House Bistro](#)
127 Ohio Street
Marietta, Ohio 45750**

on the following Wednesdays at 12:00 noon:

**May 10
July 12
September 13
November 8 (chapter elections)**

Come join us!