

# The Wolverine Minute Man

Newsletter of the

*Michigan Society of the Sons of the American Revolution*

#2 2011

missar.org

Summer

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I would like to thank all of the Trustees and Officers of our Society for their confidence in electing me as President for 2011/12. What an extraordinary opportunity to serve the members of the Michigan Society. I consider this a privilege to be able to see up close the accomplishments of our chapters and work with such a great group of people.

I am fortunate to follow such a talented State President, Joe Conger. I will have my hands full trying to live up to the high standards he set during the past two years as he led our Society.

I would also like to thank past Presidents Richard Steele, Joe Conger, Donald Nutt, Allan Treppa, Gerry Burkland, Lou Hoos, Ellis Olson, Larry Blacket, and Robert Wagel for their pledge of assistance to this new President as I face the challenges ahead.

For the first time in several years the nominating committee has provided our Society with a full slate of candidates under the leadership of Charlie Barr of Northern Michigan Chapter. Special thanks go out to Charlie and his team for a job well done.

Congratulations to all the officers and trustees on being elected and I am looking forward to working with you as we perpetuate the ideals of the war for independence. During my administration my credo will be "None of us is as good as all of us". Let this be a cornerstone of the decisions we make.

As descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution we all owe a special thanks to these brave men and women who by their sacrifices established the greatest place on earth to live, work, and raise a family.

The following words are as meaningful today as they were when they were spoken in 1827 by one who was a part of the Revolutionary War when he proposed a toast at a patriotic event in Troy Ohio July 4, 1827:

"May the precious blood that was spilt between the years 1775 and 1783 as a sacrifice for our liberty and independence be forever commemorated".

David Morris, Revolutionary Soldier

William (Bill) Vette  
State President MISSAR  
2011/2012

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
State Society and Chapter Presidents**

**Michigan State Society**

William G. Vette  
11389 Oakwood Drive  
Jerome, MI. 49249-9804

**West Michigan Chapter**

James A. Bergenham  
1438 Marwood Drive SE  
Kentwood, Michigan 48508

**Paul Emery Chapter**

Gerald Burkland  
7600 Trumbower Trail  
Millington, Michigan 48746-9040

**Northern Michigan Chapter**

Gerald Wall  
10581 Eastridge Court  
Roscommon, Michigan 48653-8982

**Oaks Chapter**

Robert Koller  
246 Parkland Drive  
Rochester Hills, Michigan 48307

**River Raisin Chapter**

Jerry Reed  
7780 Saint Andrew Drive  
Tecumseh, Michigan 49286-9680

**Detroit Metro Chapter**

Stuart Shuster  
815 Madison  
Birmingham, Michigan 48009-5746

**Sauk Trail Chapter**

Robert A. Wagel  
53725 O'Keefe Road  
Dowagiac, Michigan 49047

**Huron Valley Chapter**

Alan R. Treppa  
15595 Westbrook  
Livonia, MI. 48154

**Perpetual Life Members**

Perpetual Life Membership provides a lasting memorial and the payment of chapter, state, and national dues. All are recognized in the Wolverine Minute Man and Annual Directory. Michigan Society memberships are no longer available. Memorial Memberships may be purchased through NSSAR on a qualified deceased descendant.

0609 *Wilbert H. Barret	2429 *Pres. Gerald Ford	2553 *Harry S. Radcliff	2875 *Robert Whittenburger
1209 *Wallace C. Hall	2438 George M. Pennell	2712 John G. Fuller	2891 Edward A. Stokel
1404 *Marion C. Crawmer	2462 Charles E. Dewey	2751 Eugene McKay	2895 William K. Stokel
1422 *Lynn S. Gorden	2517 Robert M. Heydon	2752 Larry L. Blackett	2918 Thomas Monroe
2052 *Gov. G.M. Williams	2520 *George R. Thomas	2754 John M. Tuohy	3020 E. Lou Hoos
2188 *Harold McCracken	2522 James L. Monroe	2774 John S. Kennedy	3072 Earl W. Modert
2303 *John L. Ruby	2523 Clare E. Monroe	2780 Stephen N. Tuohy	3077 Bradley J. Boring
2318 *Linus W. Heydon Sr.	2530 Kenneth E. Reeves	2819 *Donald Richards	*deceased
2425 *Donald J. Pennell	2542 *Clyde L. Wolff	2835 James Richards	

**Memorial Memberships**

**3201** *David James Herold 3/15/1967-5/25/1973*      **170424** *Brian Joseph Denslow 2/15/1959-4/4/2007*  
**171826** *Douglas Fountain 8/22/1942-8/15/1990*

**George Washington Fellow**

Compatriots donating \$1000.00 or more to the National Society SAR. George Washington Fellow Fund:

\*\*Gerald J. Burkland, Paul Emery Chapter    \*\*E.Lou Hoos, West Michigan Chapter    \*\*Richard A. Steele, Oaks Chapter,  
\*\*Gary Wooden, Paul Emery Chapter

**Michigan Century Club**

Compatriots donating \$100.00 or more within a year for a specified program from 1-1-2010 thru 12-15-2010

Charles W. Barr II –Eagle Scout	Eugene H. McKay-Grave Marking	William G. Vette-General Fund
Joseph Conger-General Fund	General Fund	Bernie W. Wagers II-Youth Scholarship Awards
Donald L. Crabtree-Eagle Scout	Donald D. Nutt-C.A.R.	Frank W. Ward-Grave Marking
Wayne E. Denniston-General Fund	Douglas J. Rasmussen	General Fund
Robert M. Heydon-General Fund	Jerry W. Reed Sr.-General Fund	
Frank W. Hones-Service to Veterans	Meredith W. Shields-Service to Veterans	Rod Wilson-General Fund
E. Lou Hoos-ROTC/JROTC		
Gordon J. MacNeil-General Fund	Allan R. Treppa-Color Guard	

*(Gifts for SAR Library, Grave Marking (G.M.), Law enforcement, Boy Scouts, Heritage Center, ROTC, Medal & Awards, etc)*



### Casimir Pulaski

The death of General Pulaski on October 15, 1779, following his being wounded while leading a cavalry charge during the Battle of Savannah, has caused a lot of controversy ever since; not his death,

that is an historical fact, but what happened to his body after he died.

Paul Bentalou, Pulaski's aide-de-camp, wrote in 1820 that he was aboard the *Wasp* as it sailed to Charleston with the wounded Pulaski when Pulaski died. He stated that the corpse began to decay rapidly and had to be buried at sea. Col. Peter Horry, Pulaski's second in command, told the same story. A 19<sup>th</sup> century biographer of Pulaski, Jared Sparks, repeated the story that Pulaski had been buried at sea. There matters stood until 1852/53 when a resident of the Savannah area, Major William P. Bowen, announced that Pulaski's earthly remains had not been buried at sea, but had actually had been buried on his grandmother's plantation.

Major Bowen had decided it was time to let a family secret be known, and so he opened the grave and moved the remains to Savannah to eventually be placed in a monument dedicated to General Pulaski. Because of Bentalou's claim that Pulaski had been buried at sea, Major Bowen's claim that the bones were those of Casimir Pulaski was met with skepticism. He now became involved in trying to prove that the bones were indeed those of Pulaski. He took the remains to the medical college in Savannah for storage and examination, while a fundraising campaign was conducted for a Pulaski Monument to be placed in Savannah.

The Greenwich plantation, as well as another named Bonaventure, had been used as a base-of-operation for Vice Admiral Charles-Henri d'Estaing's French military operations during the Savannah campaign. It was located just a short distance from the Thunderbolt, now known as the Wilmington, River. According to Major Bowen, his grandmother, Jane Bowen, assisted by her slaves, chose a beautiful spot between the mansion and the River as the gravesite of Pulaski, and buried him during the night. It was hoped that the night burial would prevent the British from learning of Pulaski's death and possibly desecrating the grave. There were very few who knew of the grave's location, but Mrs. Bowen made sure that the grave would be taken care of and the identity of its occupant would be passed down from generation to generation.

According to newspaper articles of the day, when the remains were first dug up, parts of a wood coffin, some

rusty nails and wood were found. Unfortunately, security was not too good and souvenir hunters began to practice their trade. Metal buttons, indicating that Pulaski had been buried in his military uniform; Beads, possibly parts of a rosary; and coins from 1779 were stolen. When the grave was opened a full set of teeth remained; not many were left by the time reburial took place.

The remains were studied for almost a year at the medical college and the doctors there concluded that the remains conformed to a man of Pulaski's known age and stature. Eventually, the bones were neatly lined up in a small iron 18-by-12-inch box, sealed, and marked with Pulaski's name and rank on the cover. The iron box was then placed on a shelf in the brick vault located under the new Pulaski Monument in Savannah, which was dedicated on October 11, 1853. There they remained as the layers of time caused their very existence to be forgotten.

Major Bowen had not been completely successful in his efforts to prove that the bones from his grandmother's plantation were really those of General Pulaski. There were two very different versions of what happen to the remains of Pulaski; burial at sea, or a secret burial at Greenwich Plantation, The debate has divided historians from 1853 until the present time.

In modern times, a Polish-American historical investigator by the name of Edward Pinkowski, has taken up the challenge to solve the mystery surrounding where Pulaski's final resting place is located. Part of his research led him to the contemporary news accounts of the building of the Pulaski Monument, and Major Bowen's claim that Pulaski had been buried on his grandmother's plantation. As Pinkowski read thru the old newspaper accounts, he discovered the fact that an iron box containing bones had been placed in the vault beneath the Pulaski Monument. Unfortunately, the vault was inaccessible because of the soil and water of Monterey Square, where the Monument was located. In 1971, when Pinkowski notified the Savannah city authorities that Pulaski's bones were probably contained in the Monument, they were skeptical. They couldn't believe that this Hero of the Revolution could be buried in the middle of Savannah and completely forgotten about! In 1996 an extensive restoration of the Pulaski Monument required that it be taken apart. This allowed access to the vault, and the iron box, containing the bones, was discovered.

In the next installment we'll follow Pinkowski as he searches for some evidence that the bones taken from Greenwich Plantation are indeed those of General Pulaski.

*B. Wagers*

## Huron Valley Chapter News

Dear Compatriots

I am writing to remind you about our upcoming Inter-chapter family picnic that we are sponsoring. Members of Oaks Chapter, Detroit Metro Chapter, Paul Emory Chapter, and River Raisin Chapter have been invited. Come meet our new state president, Bill Vette, from River Raisin Chapter. We hope to have 40 or more folks attending.

The picnic will take place on Sunday, June 26th at 1 pm at Greenmeade Historical Park in northwest Livonia. It is located about 1/2 mile east of I-275. off of 8 Mile Rd. The entrance is about a block south from the intersection of 8 Mile Rd and Newburgh Rd. Should you desire more information about the park, you can google its name along with being located in Livonia, MI and information will come up.

We are asking the members of the Huron Valley Chapter to bring a meat dish. I plan to buy a cake and rolls and the members of the other four chapters will be responsible to bring those things you would find at a picnic. We plan to have iced tea and lemonade available along with table service. There are no grills there so should you want to bring something that needs to be grilled then it will be necessary for you to bring a portable grill. We suggest that you bring a couple folding chairs for all that we will have at our disposal will be the picnic tables. There are bathroom facilities in a building close by.

There are several historical buildings located in the park. For a nominal fee of \$3, one can go on a tour going through those buildings. Resource people will be on hand to tell the visitors about that particular building.

You can call me at (248) 437-1954 or email me at [t-mpleuss@att.net](mailto:t-mpleuss@att.net) Any questions, just get in touch with me.

Hope to see all of you on June 26th.

Tom Pleuss

2nd Vice President

Huron Valley Chapter, SAR

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## Northern Michigan Chapter

The chapter has held two meeting so far this year- February 12 and April 2. The third meeting of the Chapter will take place on June 25<sup>th</sup>, in Mackinaw City. A tour of the Coast Guard cutter "Mackinaw" is planned for noon. The "Mackinaw" is located at Shepler's dock. Warm casual attire is recommended, as there is no heat on board the ship. This is to be a social event for the entire family, friends, and prospective members. Following the tour, Compatriots, friends, and their families will have lunch at the Pancake Chef restaurant. This is car show weekend and anyone in

the "Straights area" can expect to see many older restored cars being driven around by their proud owners.

One of the Chapter projects this year is to try and award SAR Flag Certificates to deserving citizens who properly display the American Flag. Compatriot Joe Conger has offered to print Flag Certificates for Compatriots who request them.

At the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting a video was shown, narrated by former SAR President General Ed Butler. The progress of the Center for Advancing America's Heritage was discussed. Judge Butler. The President General also pointed out in the video presentation that fifteen Presidents of the United States (over one-third) have been SAR members.

The next meeting of the Northern Michigan Chapter, after the meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup> will take place on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The meeting location has not been decided upon yet.

*Submitted by Charles Barr II -abridged by B. Wagers*

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## In Transition

### Reinstatements-welcome back!

Baugh, Edward Leslie-State # 3228 DMC  
 Bergham, Stephan James-State #3346-WMC  
 Burke, Martin Richard-State # 3345-OC  
 Carlson, John Craig-State # 3227-WMC  
 Dennison, Wayne Earl-State # 3129-PEC  
 Gibbs, Ronald Kenneth-National # 126254  
 Gouldey, Glenn Charles-3004-OC  
 Kennedy, Timothy Donald-State # 2774-DMC  
 Montgomery, George Ernest-State # 2864-DMC  
 Moore, Steven Gregory-State #3391-DMC  
 Pifer, Edwin Ronald-State #3237-NMC  
 Robinson, Joel-State #2979-NMC  
 Swanson, David Russel-State # 2726-NMC  
 Zimmer, David Thomas-State # 3370 DMC

## New Members

Matt Barger-Oaks Chapter

Bill Laatz-National # 178151-Oaks Chapter

### The MISSAR would like to offer its condolences to the families of :

M. Ivan Hunt Died April 28, 2011, age 95, National # 157257, State # 3126 , River Raisin Chapter

Herbert Peters-Died April 24, 2011, age 95, National # 178048, State # 3392 Oaks Chapter -Compatriot Peters is the father of Congressman Gary Peters.



Newly elected officers of the MISSAR Board of Managers for 2011-2012

The MISSAR Color Guard salute out-going MISSAR President, Joe Conger, during the MISSAR annual meeting April 9, 2011



MISSAR President, Joe Conger, addresses MISSAR Board of Managers members during the April 9, 2011 annual meeting.



Vietnam veteran, Bruce Batlamente, holds the SAR Flag Certificate he received from Oaks Chapter Flag Chairman, Robert Koller



Chris Whitefield holds the SAR Flag Certificate just awarded him by Robert Koller, Oaks Chapter Flag Chairman.



Matt Van Acker speaks to Oaks Chapter members during their April 14th, annual meeting.

**A Word About Andrew Swallows**  
**By Bill Nash, SAR Oaks Chapter member**  
**Descendent of Andrew Swallows:**  
**Revolutionary War Soldier**  
**Talk presented at the Swallows Family Reunion,**  
**Pikeville, Tennessee -2008**

Andrew Swallows would have been pleased to see all us kin folks here today. He might have been amazed at how many Swallows folks there are and to where they've migrated too. He probably would have been pleased also to know that so many of his descendants still live in the area where he spent the last years of his life. Of course he would marvel at some of the things that we all are so familiar with and take for granted, since he died in 1843 while John Tyler was President of the United States. Think of the things Andrew didn't know: cars, airplanes, television sets, radios, and credit cards (to name a few). I think he would be very pleased to know that the United States of America still exists in the year 2008. I also think he would be surprised that slavery doesn't exist in the USA in 2008. He probably wouldn't be surprised at all that "death and taxes" are still with us. One more thing: he would probably be in great wonderment as to why we think he was a great person.

He didn't run for or hold any office. He wasn't well known like his contemporaries Daniel Boone and David Crockett. Although it is not known, I don't imagine he had much formal education. He didn't invent anything that we know of. He didn't live in a mansion and wasn't wealthy. So he might think "Why all the fuss about me?" To him, I think, the things he did and the way he lived was kind of "normal"- perhaps. Maybe it was for his day. We look back on the things we do know about him and we say "wow!" Consider the following about our Andrew:

**Dateline: October 1813**

The United States is at war with Great Britain in what history calls the War of 1812. Andrew's son Jacob, who had been a Commissioned Officer in 1807, volunteers to serve with Col. Stephen Copeland in a mounted force of 500 hundred men trained as "rangers" to "march against the said nation of Indians or other tribes of the savage foe and fight against them in their own savage way." Jacob is 27 years old. His father Andrew signs himself up for service with Jacob. Andrew is 53 years old! If he did serve, we have found no record of it. He sure was willing!

Dateline: 1834

Andrew is 74 years old. He's been fighting in Overton County Circuit Court for 2 years to get a Pension approved for his military service. He is ill. He has the

"palsy" which usually afflicts elderly people and is characterized by muscular tremors, a peculiar shaking, and tottering gait. We know the "palsy" today as "Parkinson's Disease." His memory isn't what it was, but he recalls to the court his amazing military service: **September 11, 1777.** The United States is 14 months old. Andrew Swallows is 17.

On that day Andrew is dressed in the uniform of a Private. He is a rifleman. He is also in the military as a substitute. He signed up for 2 months and now finds himself in a major battle, the Battle of Brandywine in Pennsylvania. He actually is not far from his home. He doesn't go AWOL. He survives the fight but the battle is lost. The American forces lose about 1200 soldiers in casualties. There are 400 who become POW's. The city of Philadelphia falls to the British. His term of service expires. He probably went home.

**1778:** Andrew Swallows is 18 years old.; signs up for another 2 month gig as a substitute. What was he thinking? What did his folks think? He serves under a Captain Leshner. Off they march to where? Philadelphia! His force joins up with Washington's Army. The British still hold Philadelphia.

His term of service expires. He probably went home.

**1779:** Andrew Swallows is 19 years old. He did it again! This time he is not a substitute. He signs up for one year. Leaves his family again! He also is not a rifleman this time. Now he is an ammunition hauler.

Now there's a safe job! He hauls the ammunition wagons all over the place. He sees service in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New York State. He mentions that he saw General Washington frequently. He was serving under a Captain Archibald. His term of service ends.

**1780:** Andrew Swallows is 20 years old. This time he has moved from his place of birth to Wythe County, Virginia. We don't know if he did this alone or with his family. He is in a new place-new surroundings and all. What does he do? Signs up for the military! This time he signs up for 9 months. Andrew reports that his commander is a Captain Buchannen. He is again an ammunition hauler. He has 76 men in his unit with him. The unit moves into North Carolina. The plan was to join General Green but for some reason not mentioned or perhaps not known to Andrew, the linking did not take place. Andrew's unit gets into an engagement near the Yatkin River. They are fighting with Tories (Americans that were loyal to Great Britain). 18 Tories are killed. One man from Andrew's unit is killed. Andrew now serves under a Captain Ward. We don't know why the change in leadership. Now his unit moves on to a fort on the Clinch River. They engage in a fight with Indians. The fort holds to the Americans. After 9 months, his term of service ends.

**1781:** Andrew Swallows is 21 years old. What does he do? He volunteers for his 5<sup>th</sup> term of service in the

American Revolution. We don't know if he was a rifleman or ammunition hauler. He serves under a Col. Preston. With 150 troops, his unit marched to Guilford County, North Carolina and joined General Green. He is in several engagements. At one point his whole unit is being pursued by the British.

He does not reenlist again. When the British surrendered at the Battle of Yorktown, the war was pretty much over.

Andrew served in the American Revolution a total of 25 months. He was given a Pension of \$26.66 a year. If he had received pay during his service (and he may not have)- it would have been about \$9.00 a month. Truth is that most of the soldiers did not get paid. Many of them didn't get food or clothes. The soldiers lived off the land.

With the war over, what does a young man turn his attention to? He finds himself a young lady named Catherine Kinder and marries her in the Spring of 1785. We don't know where or when they met. She was born in Delaware. Andrew is 25 years old. His bride is 30 years old- 5 years older than he! Another interesting fact is that Catherine already had a child, Reubin Finley, born out of wedlock. He was about 2 years old when they married. They lived in Virginia and began their life together.

By 1811, they lived in Tennessee. Andrew was given a "land grant" of 296.5 acres on the waters of Matthews Creek in March of that year. They had 7 children together (plus Reubin).

They are listed in the Family Bible (in Dutch):

Reubin, born 1783

Jacob, born 1786

Mary Magdalena, born 1788

Elizabeth, born 1790

Isaac, born 1792

Catherine, born 1794

Rachel, born 1796

Jemima, born 1800

By this we know that Andrew was a Christian man because he certainly obeyed the Biblical command to "Be fruitful and multiply." Andrew and family made their last home in Overton County, Tennessee. He died in 1843 at the age of 83.

He lived to see his son Jacob go off to war in 1814 with General Andrew Jackson as part of the

Tennessee militia and return home with the War won for the United States.

He lived to hear about Daniel Boone dying in 1820 in far off Missouri. He also lived to hear about

David Crockett losing his life at the Alamo in 1836.

He saw a very popular Tennessean rise from orphanhood to become President of the United States (Andrew Jackson), 1829-1837.

He lived to see the forced relocation of 14,000 Cherokee people in 1838 resulting in 4,000 deaths along the "Trail of Tears" by that same President.

Although he never rode in a car he may have heard about the invention of rubber in 1839 by Charles Goodyear.

He may have taken a ride in a train (invented in 1804).

He lived to hear about or own the first Revolver invented by Samuel Colt in 1835.

He was alive when the stapler was patented in 1841 and the wrench in 1835.

This we do know. Andrew was born when America wasn't the United States of America. He fought to aid in our country breaking free of Great Britain to become an independent nation. That having been done he found a wife, raised a family, worked as a farmer, went to church, enjoyed a reputation as a man of character and good morals, had friends, obeyed the law, had a long marriage, was a father to his children, and became the ancestor that we who are his kin here today have come to celebrate. We do come to celebrate his memory-and to unite our fellowship of blood together. And in doing so, we honor him. Thank you.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

Bill Nash, Camp Commander

General Israel B. Richardson Camp #2

Department of Michigan

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Member: Abraham Lincoln Association

Visit Bill's Lincoln blog at : <http://abesblogcabin.org/>

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### Coming Events

1. NSSAR 121st Annual Congress-7/ 8-13/2011- Winston Salem, North Carolina
2. SAR George Washington Vigil Arlington, Virginia -Saturday September 17, 2011. Contact MISSAR President, Bill Vette for details
3. Paul Emery and MISSAR joint meeting-10-8-11 Bavarian Motor Lodge-Frankenmuth, Michigan

### Oaks Chapter News

Since our last note the Oaks Chapter has had two membership meetings and a Board of Governors Meeting.

At the beginning of April just before our Annual Meeting two new Oaks Member's applications were approved. Matthew Barger, and Bill Laatz.. Matt Barger application was notable in that his Patriot Ancestor John G. Bagley had never been used for a earlier Dar or SAR application. Supplemental applications have been approved for Bernie Wagers (Benjamin Wagers) and Laurie Herman (Matthew Kelloch & George Sayward).

On April 14<sup>th</sup> the fourth Oaks Chapter Annual Meeting was held at Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester, MI. 43 people were present for dinner and cocktails including Joseph Conger, Past President MISSAR, Gerald Burkland, Great Lakes District VPG NSSAR, and Matthew Van Acker from the Library of Michigan.

After dinner Nominating Committee consisting of Tom Coddington, Michael Frank and Rod Wilson gave their Report:

The 2011- 2012 Nominations were:

President – Bob Koller  
 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Mike Frank  
 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Tom Coddington  
 Treasurer – Jeff Matis  
 Secretary – Laurie Herman  
 Registrar – Gary Grout  
 Chaplin – Bernie Wagers  
 Historian/Trustee – Mike Garey  
 Trustee – John Chrissman  
 Trustee – Bob Matthews

The slate was approved by unanimous vote and the newly elected officers were sworn in by Great Lakes VPG Gerald Burkland

**Awards and Medals** – Rod Wilson presented Awards for military service to:

- o Bob Matthews – WAR SERVICE MEDAL - For Vietnam Service in the US Army
  - o Tom Coddington - MILITARY SERVICE MEDAL – Service in the US Air Force
- Two Oaks Members who will receive Medals for their Military service weren't in attendance:
- o Herb Peters - WAR SERVICE MEDAL - For WWII service in France in the US Army
  - o Jim Kemlor - MILITARY SERVICE MEDAL – Lebanon Service in the US Navy

**Civil War Flag Restoration Program**– President Wagers presented Matt VanAcker, Michigan's Capitol and Information Services Director, with a check for \$1,000 to restore the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry flag a unit which was organized in Detroit in April 861.

Gary Grout introduced our guest speaker Matt VanAcker. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry fought through the war in the east and fin-

ished by participating in the Appomattox Campaign March & April 1865 including the assault on and fall of Petersburg. They were at the occupation of Petersburg and the pursuit of General Lee. Michigan was the first western state to answer Lincoln's call for volunteers following the April 12, 1861 attack on Fort Sumter. Lincoln greeted the First Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment as it marched into Washington, D.C. Matt also spoke of Charles T Foster, a student at Michigan Agricultural College who had attended a mass rally at the old capitol in Lansing, on April 13, 1861. It was the day after the attack on Fort Sumter and became Lansing's first volunteer. He fought with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan for the first year of the war. At the battle of Williamsburg in May of 1862, Charles volunteered to carry the flag - The regular color sergeant was unable to do so. A few weeks later – at the Battle of Fair Oaks on May 29, 1862 – Charles was again called upon to carry the flag. He did so through charge after charge. Then, suddenly, a minie ball pierced his neck. As he fell, he drove the flag staff into the ground and called out, "Don't let the colors go down!"

Charles was buried near the scene of the battle but for many years his grave was lost. His family finally located and marked it, He is buried at Seven Pines National Cemetery in Virginia. The marker for grave number 152 reads:

*In Memory of Charles T. Foster  
 January 16, 1839–May 31, 1862  
 Buried at Seven Pines National Cemetery, VA  
 Flag bearer Third Mich. Vol. Inf.*

After the war, at the suggestion of Allan Shattuck, Lansing's Grand Army of the Republic post was named after Charles T. Foster, the first Lansing man to enlist and the first to fall.

Michigan's flags are stored in their temperature- and humidity-controlled vault at the Michigan Historical Museum. At any time, private tours can be arranged, with special consideration going to families of those who fought in one of the represented regiments. On April 24<sup>th</sup> 2011 Oaks Member Compatriot Herbert G. Peters passed away at the age of 95.

The Oak June Membership Meeting was held at Brandy's Restaurant in Bloomfield Hills Michigan on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The highlight of the meeting was Oaks Member Compatriot Bill Nash, who gave part II of his presentation on the life of Abraham Lincoln. In this presentation Bill covered the Lincoln's assassination. This presentation was doubly interesting since our late Oaks Chaoter Member Herb Peters was a descendent of the Garretts on who's farm John Wilkes Booth was captured and killed. Compatriot Peters had been told the story of Booth's capture and death by his Grandfather Garrett, who had been present when the event occurred on April 26<sup>th</sup> 1865.

Laurie Herman Cell: 248 496-0224 Text:  
[248 490224@vtext.com](mailto:248_490224@vtext.com) [ltherman@gmail.com](mailto:ltherman@gmail.com)



I trust you are enjoying the summer. May was a wet one, and now June has been pretty dry so far-go figure-it's Michigan. The article on Casimir Pulaski is proving to be longer one than I planned. The more I read, the more I get drawn into the story. This is a great example how history can get clouded over and confused as time passes. We have two very different stories on what happened to General Pulaski's body after his death. It is up to modern day historians, using the latest techniques, to try and solve the mystery. Fortunately, they do have some artifacts to study, and try to match them with what we know about Pulaski. The next installment will address the efforts of Edward Pinkowski as he struggles to find the true story of Pulaski's final resting place.

I would like to let my fellow compatriots know about some changes that have happened in my life. In May, during a routine physical, it was discovered that I have prostate cancer. I will have surgery on September 8 to remove the prostate gland. In the meantime I was given a shot to stop the cancer from advancing. As a side affect of the shot, I am tired all of the time. I have no energy!!! It has been a challenge to produce this

issue of the WMM. I kept dozing off.

During this bad news I received some good news. My supplemental application for my patriot ancestor, Benjamin Wage(r)s was approved. This has been a goal of mine ever since I joined the SAR. It is exciting to be able to trace my male lineage and family surname directly back to a Patriot! I now have four proven patriots. I am currently working on number five

I'm not sure about what is going to happen with the fall issue of the WMM since I'm not sure how long my recovery will take. At the very best, the fall issue will be late unless the BOM decides to produce the issue with a substitute editor.

Life is full of disappointments and one of mine is that, because of the surgery, I will not be able to participate in the once-in-a-lifetime chance to stand vigil at George Washington's grave on September 17<sup>th</sup>. I was really looking forward to it. I hope as many Compatriots as possible can participate, either as Color Guard or support staff. Rest assured that I will be with you in spirit.

Until next time...May the Lord bless you and keep you safe in his arms!

"Later"

Bernie



Compatriot Burkland and myself at the grave site of my now SAR proven ancestor, Benjamin Wage(r)s. April 2009, on a mountain top in Morgan County, Kentucky.

**THE WOLVERINE  
MINUTEMAN  
ALBUM**



**CONTAINING PHOTOS  
OF MISSAR ACTIVITIES  
FROM  
March 15, 2011-June 15, 2011**



MISSAR President, Joe Conger, opens the MISSAR annual meeting held on April 9, 2011.

First Vice-President, William Vette, delivers his report at the MISSAR annual meeting.



MISSAR President Joe Congers addresses Compatriots at the annual meeting.



Judge Donald Johnston, the keynote speaker at the MISSAR annual meeting addresses Compatriots in attendance on the success of the American Judicial system

The MISSAR Color Guard honors Eagle Scout Essay winner, William S. Stratton, for his achievement in winning the MISSAR Eagle Scout Essay contest.



Eagle Scout award winner, William Stratton, reads his winning article to the Compatriots assembled at the April 9th annual meeting.



Out-going MISSAR President, Joe Conger, congratulates in-coming MISSAR President, William Vette.

Past MISSAR President, Joe Conger, presents the State President medal to new MISSAR President, William Vette.



Past MISSAR President, Joe Conger. And MISSAR President, William Vette.



Judge Donald Johnston present a new gavel to new MISSAR President, William Vette.



MISSAR Color Guard relax before retiring the colors. Left to right: William Vette, Gerald Burkland, Jim Ber-genham, Bernie Wagers



As always, Compatriot Charles Barr has a big smile for everyone

MISSAR Color Guard retires the colors at the conclusion of the MIS-SAR annual meeting.



MISSAR Color Guard commander Gerald Burkland



Oaks Chapter members in attendance at the June 9th Membership meeting pose for a photo. Oaks Chapter member, Bill Nash (in foreground), had just completed an excellent presentation on the assignation of Abraham Lincoln.

Oaks Chapter past President, Bernie Wagers, honors Tom Coddington and Jim Kemlor for their service to their country, and being recipients of the SAR Military Service Medal.



Past President, Bernie Wagers, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Scott Pouls for his service on the Oaks Chapter Board of Governors for 2010-2011.



Tom Coddington receives his Military service award from Rod Wilson, Oaks Chapter awards and medals chairman.

Past Oaks Chapter President, Bernie Wagers, presents Robert Koller a Certificate of Appreciation for his service on the Oaks Board of Governors for 2010-2011.



Oaks Chapter President, Robert Koller relaxes after conducting his first Membership meeting as President.