

THE PATRIOT

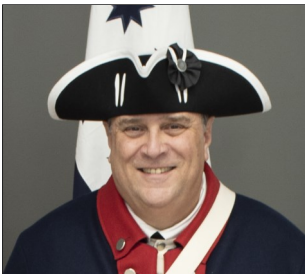


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Missouri SAR



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VOLUME 40 ISSUE 8 OZARK MOUNTAIN CHAPTER SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SEPTEMBER 2020



The Presidents Message

By President Gary Gift

Greetings Compatriots,

I hope this finds everyone doing well and I hope everyone is able to stay safe. As of this writing I have not heard of any of our Compatriots having contracted the COVID-19 virus and I hope and pray that doesn't change. I am aware of a couple of Compatriots being exposed but hopefully they did not contract it. We must all be very careful as it appears we are going through a second wave of infections which at this point appears to me more wide spread and larger than the first wave. In light of all this we have decided to go back to a ZOOM meeting format for our regular October Chapter and Chapter Development meetings. Instructions will follow by email with instructions on how to tune in.

We started out September with our first in person since February Chapter Development meeting on September 12th. We discussed our agenda for the upcoming Chapter meeting and several items on the calendar for the rest of the year. This was held at the offices of Fisk Transportation. Thank you Compatriot Howard Fisk for the generous use of his facility.

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Our regular Chapter meeting was held in person and by ZOOM on September 19th. We had several mem-

bers in person and several attend by ZOOM. Our September meeting



had a full agenda. We swore in new Compatriot John David Jehle. John gave a very interesting biography of his Patriot Benjamin Darling.

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We followed with the presentation of two supplemental Patriots to Compatriots Charles McMillan and Dr. Norm Knowlton. They both gave very interesting

biographies of their supplemental Patriots.

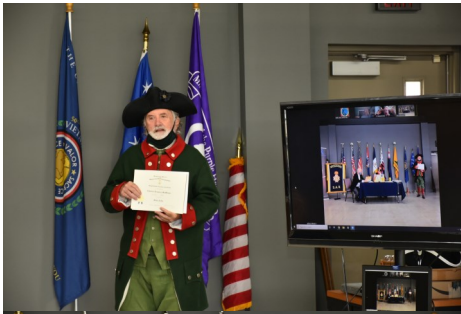
State President Howard Fisk

swore in our new Sergeant at Arms Jeff Patrick. I would like to welcome Jeff to his new position and I am sure he will do a great job.

Our presentation for the meeting

was a video of a speech given by retired Marine Sergeant Major Dr. E. Bruce Heilman that was given by him 4 years ago before his death and was played during the virtual ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II on September 2nd on board the USS Wisconsin in Norfolk Virginia. The USS Wisconsin is a sister ship of the USS Missouri on which the Japanese Emperor signed the surrender ending World War II. It was a very moving speech and presentation.

It was announced at the meeting that the Merit Badge Workshop for this year has been cancelled due to COVID. We will pick it back up



year once it is safe to have it.

We also announced a Patriot Grave Marking that is taking place on October 3rd in Cole Camp Missouri. This event will be covered by ZOOM and if anyone wants to attend there will be a message sent out on how to ZOOM in.

Immediately following our Chapter Meeting we conducted a United States Flag Retirement Ceremony.

This was the first time in recent memory that our Chapter



has conducted this ceremony. Attending and assisting us with this was Boy Scout Troop 173 from Clever, Missouri. They did a wonderful job and we are grateful for their help. As we conduct activities like this we help install patriotism and respect for our country and its flag in the minds of these young people.

We have several events coming up over the next few months. Although all of them will be done virtually we are still doing the best we can to fulfill our missions of patriotic education and awareness. We will be doing a virtual History Explorers presentation for the Greene County Library in November on the Spanish American War. And yours truly will try my best to accurately portray Colonel Theodore Roosevelt of the Rough Riders. There will be several portrayals of individuals during this presentation by Chapter Members and a special invited guest. Make sure you tune in. Instruction will be sent out.

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Also in November we will be hosting a virtual presentation of Legends of Conservation for all the schools in our area to use. It will be sponsored and produced by Wonders of Wildlife and Bass Pro Shops. Last year was the first year for this program and it was attended by over 1600 school children from all over Southwest Missouri. Prior to everything being shut down we had received reservation for more than that to attend this year.

Let me end by saying how proud of everyone in our Chapter. Even with all the restrictions we have been able to remain active and relevant in our community. In my observations of SAR Chapters and Compatriots in other States we are by far one of the most active if not the most active in the nation. And we have done everything in a safe and meaningful manner. Lets keep up the good work and everyone please remain safe and healthy.

Birthday's

Jeffrey Patrick	September 2
Charles Craft	September 2
Joseph Fisk	September 3
Lewis Neblett	September 9
Clifton Smart	September 9
Amos Walden	September 11
Glenn Gohr	September 18
Nelson Hermilla	September 22
John McAlear	September 23
James Whited	September 28
Philip Reinbold	September 30
Gabriel Schnelle	October 2
Stephen Brake	October 6
William Carr	October 17
William Bishop	October 18
Nicholas Brake	October 18
Benjamin Edmundson	October 22
John Charles	October 29

Minutes from the OMCSAR Chapter Meeting September 19th, 2020

Next Scheduled Meeting: October 17, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. via Zoom, but hosted by Fisk Transportation, Springfield, Missouri

Following our program today will be a flag retirement program which will include members of Scout Troop 173. We are encouraging all to stay afterwards to participate in this event.

President Ken Gary Gift called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. at the Fisk Transportation with 16 members present, 3 via zoom and 5 guests. All were masked and using social distancing.

Chaplain Dan Philbrick delivered the invocation via zoom. **Compatriot Mel McNeal** led the Pledge of Allegiance and **Compatriot Don Higginson** led the Pledge to the SAR.

President Gary Gift welcomed all and introduced our newest member John David Jehle. He was sworn into the OMC of the SAR by receiving the oath of the SAR, pinned with his SAR rosette, given his OMC Challenge Coin, and provided a copy of his SAR Certificate. Following the swearing in gave a short story of his patriot. A copy of his Patriot Benjamin Darling was presented.

President Gary Gift awarded Supplemental Memberships to **Compatriot Charles McMillan** and **Compatriot Norman Knowlton.**

Compatriot Charles McMillan presented the history his supplemental membership on John Tufts. He came over from Belfast Ireland and was shipwrecked as a young boy. His mother passed away during that shipwreck-Catherine Snow was the name of the ship. He settled in Belfast Maine and participated on the Committee of Safety. He later lived in Medford Massachusetts. The Committees were Safety, Correspondence, and Inspection (or Observation). These were part of the local government of patriots which

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were part of the shadow governments which eventually took control of each of the thirteen colonies. They were to keep the community informed of danger, another was to watch for violations of nonimportation agreements, and the other was to act as general executive legal authority. These were elected annually by the towns

Alexander McMillan was the son of Archibald (who was Charles's Patriot) and married Susannah Tufts. Susannah Tufts's father was Charles's 4th great grandfather who was John Tufts. He is related to the Tufts University and Charles was going to attend their reunion but it was waylaid because of the Covid Virus. John Tufts was a deacon in the Presbyterian church. Pictures were taken.

Compatriot Norman Knowlton was awarded a supplemental membership for his ancestor Phineas Wright. His biography was presented and is included. Pictures were taken.

Another supplemental membership was awarded but will be presented at another OMC meeting.

State President J. Howard Fisk inducted **Compatriot Jeff Patrick** as the newly appointed Sergeant at Arms for the Ozark Mountain Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He presided by giving Jeff the oath of office. Pictures were taken.

He then presented the OMC The President General Outreach Streamer and Certificate which were delivered to the new Sergeant at Arms Jeff Patrick and pictures were taken. He then presented to OMC President Gary Gift the Certificate and again pictures were taken. Credit was given to the Past Presidents who participated in this award.

He was presented the Certificate of Appreciation from NASSAR President John Manning in recognition of appreciation for serving as Chairman of Merchandise Committee. Pictures were taken. There was also two Certificates of Appreciation to be presented to **Compatriot David Appleby** for the Annual NASSAR Conference Committee and the Minuteman Committee.

State President J. Howard Fisk introduced

a video that was to serve as our program of the day. He introduced this video as a remembrance of patriotic events of this time of the year. The primary speaker for this program was Dr. E. Bruce Heilman. He was the Chairman of the Commission that produced this celebration for the end of World War I and World War II, the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice Day and all of the branches of the Military that participated. The program was a video of the speech he gave at the beginning of this celebration. Dr. Sergeant Heilman did not survive until the celebration was completed and died at 95 years of age.

Vice –President Report—Curtis Trent---

Was not present but we were updated as to the upcoming monthly meeting and the guest speakers. Our state CAR president will be speaking at our December meeting by Zoom, and we will not be having our dinner on the Friday night before his presentation.

Treasurer Report--- Treasurer-- John

Charles—The total funds we have as of today consists of \$12,379.00 in our Arvest Bank checking account and \$9,265.15 in an interest-bearing, guaranteed fund at the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. Dues for this upcoming year are now being collected and our members are encouraged to pay them as soon as possible since we will get more points for these payments the sooner they are paid. These two accounts total \$21,644.15. A motion was moved and seconded and passed unanimously to file this report to the Auditor.

Secretary Report—Secretary Norman

Knowlton---The minutes from last meeting were published and included with the Patriot Newsletter last month and he asked for any additions or corrections—seeing none—the minutes were moved, seconded , and passed.

He proceeded to give a history of the derivation of the naming of Jasper County in Missouri (Joplin) and Newton County. The story was of John William Jasper and his saving of the colors during the Battle of Sullivan's Island outside Charleston, South Carolina

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and also at the Siege of Savannah, Georgia .

Genealogist Report--- Genealogist Steven Perkins---as of the meeting of OMC in September he has 39 prospects with whom he has communicated or has various activity levels. Five members have supplemental applications that have been sent to or approved by National. There four new member applications received by National. We have a new member who is transferring into our chapter and his transfer has been mailed to National. We also have two new members who have been approved by National but were unable to attend today- Jessie and Harold Martin. He also sent in applications for membership for Donald Day, his two sons, and three grandsons, but they will be members of the Spirit of St. Louis Chapter. Of his 39 prospects only about half are really sincere.

Editor Report--- Editor Dan Piedlow-- He requested any events that any of our members who have participated in any event to be sure to take photos and present them and the story of the event and participants for documentation.

Historian Report— Historian Ben Edmondson - was not present and has no report

Sergeant at Arms Report---Sergeant at Arms Jeff Patrick—He was just inaugurated and has no report at this time.

Chapter Development Committee Report—Ken Lawrence—he reported that as an organization our OMC is more active than most Missouri Chapter because of the Covid Virus. We are still trying to do more public service awards and trying to schedule these soon. Being limited this year we are looking forward to next year getting back to be more active.

President Gary Gift encouraged us to seek out and give more flag awards and certificates for those persons or organizations or businesses that correctly fly our great American flag.

Committee Report — As above

Old Business — None

New Business We have cancelled our Merit Badge Merit Workshop for this year because of the Virus. We considered doing this virtually but we decided against this. We look forward to doing this again next year.

The CAR President, Matthew Stroder, will be presenting our December meeting program by zoom because of the distance factor from Jackson, Missouri. There will be no dinner the Friday before the Saturday meeting because of this.

On October 3rd, 2020 there will a patriot grave marking ceremony at Cole Camp, Missouri by the Columbia chapter. **Compatriot Steve Perkins** explained that this grave has been recognized but has never been formally marked by the SAR. It will be at 10:30 AM on the 3rd of October and encouraged all that might be able to attend to do so. This may be offered to be attended by all via zoom if possible.

Compatriot Norman Knowlton spoke briefly concerning the recent plan by President Donald Trump about his “Spirit of 1776” with regards to history in our educational system. He encouraged our chapter and state SAR to become involved in leading and participating in this program.

Compatriot Mel McNeal informed our chapter that the wife of our member Robert Grover recently fell and broke her hip and wishes all to keep her in our prayers

Compatriot Charles McMillan took this opportunity to encourage all to assist in the Patriot Research program that he is involved and trainer for the state SAR. He is looking for volunteers to input into the system that he is training to digitize records, histories, and applications. For those who participate and reach certain criteria they could receive the Marquis de Lafayette medal for their work. Our own **Compatriot James Mason** has already entered over 600 applications.

President Gary Gift gave special thanks to our own **Compatriot Charles McMillan** for

his longtime service as Sergeant at Arms.

A motion to Adjourn was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

MOSSAR President Elect George Swales
– led the Recessional

Chaplain Dan Philbrick gave the Benediction.

The Meeting ended at 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted.

Norman Knowlton, Secretary

OMC Field Trip Saturday August 15th 2020

Since our OMC of the SAR normally does not have a monthly membership meeting in August, this August 15th Compatriot Steve Perkins arranged for a visit as a field trip to the Webster County Historical Society in Marshfield. The group that attended assembled at Fisk Transportation and caravanned to Marshfield. There they met Linda Blazer who gave us an introduction to the facility and answered all of our questions. We spent about one hour touring and learning facts about Marshfield



and Webster County and its history including— Indian Lore, its founding, its principles-including—the Hubble (telescope), its festivals (the Cherry Blossom Festival), the Dickey's (Bed and Breakfast), the schools districts, and much more.

After spending about an hour touring and roaming thru the museum and gift shop, we went next door to its archives and spent another hour searching thru old records, stories, probate papers, and genealogic possibilities. We found information

tantalizing us to search for more on— Thomas Nathan Clifton, his relatives, and others including General Alexander Ray and Billy Young who supposedly participated in the Revolutionary War and are buried at St. Luke Cemetery just north of Marshfield in Webster County.

We broke for lunch at “Moms” restaurant and went on to visit the Clifton Cemetery about 6 miles south of Marshfield in southern Webster County. The group paid homage and tribute to Thomas Nathan Clifton and his family. The Clifton Cemetery has been reasonably well kept and we identified many of the Clifton family graves buried there.



Thomas Nathan

Clifton supposedly participated in the American Revolution

ary War from North Carolina. He was born in Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina on 12/26, 1758. He married twice while in North Carolina having 8 children by his first wife Elizabeth Wilson Clifton and 6 children by his second wife Elizabeth Davis Clifton. He moved on to Tennessee and his last 3 children were born in Tennessee. He cleared a large plot of land for him and his family, but because of a dispute on his patent on his land, he was forced again to move. In 1840 he moved with his family and friends to Greene County Missouri—which later became Webster County Missouri. When his grandson died he

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provided an acre of his property as a Webster County Cemetery. Many of his family have been buried there since then. Thomas Nathan Clifton died 3/8/1862 at 104 and is buried in the Clifton Cemetery.

His only daughter from his second wife, Elizabeth Davis Clifton was Eveline Clifton who devoted most of her early life to care for her father. She never married and died 4/5/1912 at 96 and is buried in the Clifton Cemetery. On October 7th, 1928 the Rachel Donaldson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution from Springfield, Missouri honored Eveline Clifton as one of the original Daughters of the American Revolution. Her granite grave stone has an attached bronze plaque bearing the insignia of the D.A.R. and the words "Real Daughter."

We returned to Springfield having enjoyed the field trip with new found history of Webster County and with more research to follow.

Important Dates in History

August 1 - Sons of Liberty Formed 1765
 August 7 - Washington establishes the Badge of Military Merit (Purple Heart) 1782
 September 3 - Treaty of Paris Signed 1783
 September 5 - First Continental Congress 1774
 September 11 - Annapolis Convention 1786
 September 17 - Signing of the Constitution 1787
 September 19 - Charles Carroll Birthday 1737
 September 19 - Battle of Saratoga 1777
 September 21 - Benedict Arnold commits treason 1780
 September 22 - British execute Nathan Hale 1776
 September 27 - Samuel Adams Birthday 1722



Compatriots outside the Greene County Courthouse celebrating the birthday of General Nathaniel Greene.



Cadet Nathen Tinsley received the JROTC Bronze medal and certificate from the Sons of the American Revolution, OMC Chapter, by Senior Instructor Lt. Col. Patrick Sanders, Republic High School.



Remember, you can order your Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR shirts from Missouri Embroidery. Their phone number is: (417) 889-2221 and their address is: 1307 S. Glenstone Ave.

Thomas Nathan Clifton

Thomas Nathan Clifton was born in Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina on December 26th, 1758 to Absalom Clifton (1718 – 1783) and Sarah Nathan Clifton (1710 – 1780). He was the youngest son of 12 children. He had 9 brothers all of which served in the American Revolutionary War, with one being killed. His father did not want him to enlist in the military but he did so anyway at the age of seventeen. Nathan supposedly enlisted as a private and served in the “Over the Mountain North Carolina Troops” and participated in the Battle of Kings Mountain. After the War was over he came back to North Carolina and settled down in peace once again. Thomas Nathan Clifton was married twice. He was 35 or 40 years of age when he married for the first time. He was married first to Elizabeth Wilson Clifton (1776 – 1814) in 1794 and had 8 children. He married a second time to Elizabeth “Betsy” Davis Clifton (approx. 1784-- - Dec 18, 1861) on July 17, 1815 in Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina. They had 6 more children, of which 5 survived to adulthood. His father having served as a private received 640 acres of land for 84 months of service in the military on Caney Fork, Sumner County, Tennessee. This resulted in 1819 in moving to Lawrence County, Tennessee with his second wife, many of his children and several families including the Welches, Wisdoms, Burkitts, and the Crocketts. They came by wagons. As the Indians were hostile toward the white race, they were compelled to use every precaution to avoid being pierced by the Indian’s arrows. By being organized by wagon train of 40 wagons, probably there were 60-80 men in the company who could hit a bull’s eye with the old flint lock rifle. This gave the whites a little advantage over the red men. The attacking Indians would begin circling the wagon train pouring arrows into the wagons as they went around to the right. The Indians had a way of holding to the side of their ponies so they could scarcely get a bead on them, so they shot more ponies than they did Indians. The wagons would form a circle with the teams in the center. The old long rifles were too much for the bow and arrow, and after having lost several braves the red men would scurry for the tall timbers. They were attacked several times by the Indians but none of them were killed. They settled in the southwest part of the newly founded Lawrence County between the present day West Point and Iron City Tennessee. All but his last 3 sons were born in North Carolina before they moved to Tennessee. Thomas Nathan Clifton was 38 when his first child was born and 68 when his last child was born in Tennessee. He lived in Tennessee quite a long while and took a claim, a large body of land, and was living fine, but failed to get a patent from the government. A land syndicate ousted him from his holdings. Becoming disgusted he took his entire family, except his oldest son Marmaduke (his wife and her family were tied to the area in Tennessee) and moved to Missouri in 1840-he was 82 years of age. Missouri in 1838 passed a law granting 40 acres of choice land to every new settler who came to the state to make a home. So taking advantage of this, every one of his family procured a homestead near Marshfield in Greene County (Now Webster County, Missouri). They came by way of Batesville, Arkansas with one ox drawn cart and wagon pulled by three horses. They settled 6 miles south of where Marshfield now stands along the James River.

Thomas Nathan Clifton was a skilled marksman and he spent much of his time hunting wild game of which was in a great abundance near his home. There were many deer, wild turkeys, and quail. He was a spirited public man, a Democrat, and some politician. When he had grown old his main occupation was to shoot the

wild turkeys out of his cornfield. Being progressive, he conceived an idea to dig a trench and baiting it with corn, he would take a stand at the end of a trench with his gun. The turkeys would come in single file and he could shoot up to 16 turkeys at one time. Living to be over 100 years of age, Nathan Clifton never had to use glasses for reading nor did he need the treatment of a doctor. He lived in the same house in Missouri for 21 years. He was preceded in death by his second wife on December 18, 1861. The site of the Clifton Cemetery was chosen by Thomas Nathan Clifton, and an acre of land was deeded to the Greene County (now Webster County) for use as a cemetery. His grandson, Tommy, died soon after the family arrived in Missouri. There was no cemetery at that time so Thomas Nathan Clifton went out one morning and chose a place to bury his grandson. It was used by the family for a burial ground and is still in use today. It is well kept and a very nice cemetery.

Two of his sons by his first wife, John and Wilson, married sisters, moved to Texas, and raised large families and where many of their descendants still live today. One of Thomas Nathan Clifton's sons by his second wife, Madison Clifton, went to California in the Gold Rush and stayed for 4 years. As a result of his findings he came back and acquired land and accumulated 300 acres much of which is still owned by the family. His descendants still live there today.

When Thomas Nathan Clifton was over 100 years of age, a company of Union soldiers on their way to the Battle of Wilson's Creek passed his farm. The soldiers had rested at the ford of the James River and one of the group told the Captain that a veteran of the Revolutionary War lived on the next farm. The Captain said "Let's have music". They had a fife and drums, so the company of men marched by with drum and fife playing and colors flying. The old veteran stood in his doorway at attention with his old flint lock musket and the flag of the Thirteen Colonies for which he had fought as a youth. He had two grandsons from his first marriage from Tennessee who fought for the Confederacy. He had four sons by his second wife from Missouri who fought for the Union. His two oldest sons by his second wife, Allison and Madison, at the ages of 44 and 41, served in Captain Butts "E" Company, 74th Missouri Militia Infantry. They served in southwest Missouri including the long hard march of Sigel's Army from Springfield to Rolla after the loss of the Battle of Wilson's Creek, and later were assigned guard duty at Springfield. They were mustered out of Federal Service on March 30, 1863. Allison married Elizabeth Conley Clifton and their farm resided across from their father's farm. His third son by his second wife, Alfred at the age of 38 was a Sergeant in "G" Company, 46th Missouri Infantry and served under Captain William Robert Brixey at Bloomington, Missouri. The fourth son by his second wife, Sidney, at the age of 36, was in "B" Company 24th Regiment, March 8th, 1864 Missouri Infantry, and served with General U.S. Grant's Army of Tennessee. Sidney was killed at Union City, Tennessee on December 28th, 1863, by a tree falling on his tent and crushing him while he was asleep. Sidney is buried in the National Cemetery at Corinth, Mississippi. Allison and Madison are buried in the Clifton Cemetery south of Marshfield. Alfred is believed buried in Webster County, Missouri.

Thomas Nathan Clifton died on March 8th, 1864 and was buried in the Clifton Cemetery just south of Marshfield, Missouri with a gun salute and full military honors. Judge Terry of Marshfield was a member of the

firing squad at the military funeral. The Cliftons are noted for their longevity of life. An old Missouri joke says that when a neighbor hears of a death of a Clifton, he exclaims, "Why, how was he killed?"

Eveline Clifton, the eldest child and only daughter of Thomas Nathan Clifton and his second wife Elizabeth Davis Clifton, devoted her early womanhood to the care of her father who lived to be 105. She never married. She died in 1912 at the age of 96 and is buried in the Clifton Cemetery just south of Marshfield, Missouri. Eveline Clifton is one of the original Daughters of the American Revolution and has been honored by the Rachel Donelson Chapter of the DAR of Springfield, Missouri and has a commemorated shield mounted to her granite grave stone. Eveline is identified as a "Real Daughter" and is DAR Member Number #85822. She received a pension from the U.S. Government for her father's participation in the Revolutionary War.



Compatriot Daniel Piedlow being sworn in as the Missouri State Sergeant at Arms.

Links to television stories on activities by the Ozark Mountain Chapter SAR. Click on the link to watch the video.

<http://ozarksindependent.com/2020/08/10/greene-county-officials-celebrate-nathanael-greenes-birthday/>

https://www.benningtonbanner.com/uncategorized/battle-day-weekend-2020-fireworks-a-walking-tour-and-a-salute-to-essential-workers/article_f134b93a-ca2d-500f-b13b-91f003241a98.html

<https://www.ky3.com/2020/08/07/happy-278th-birthday-nathanael-greene/>

Upcoming Events



October 12—Chapter Development Meeting via Zoom at 6:30 P.M.

October 17—Chapter Meeting at Fisk Transportation, 2001 E. Trafficway St., Springfield at 98:00 A.M.

