



# The Patriot

The Ozark Mountain Chapter Newsletter



February 2026

Volume 46 Issue 2



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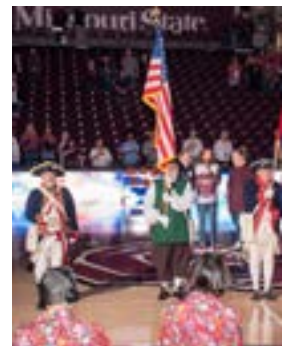
**MEMBERS**

Please notify chapter registrar Steve Perkins Patriotmarcher @ fastmail .com of any recent or anticipated change to contact information: address, phone, e-mail



The Ozark Mountain Chapter Challenge Coin is available for purchase from Ben Edmondson for \$10.00

**On the Cover**  
Compatriot's at the MSU Lady Bears basketball game presenting Colors for the National Anthem.



Photographs provided by: Daniel Piedlow, Margaret Swales,  
Editor: Daniel Piedlow



# The President's Message

By President Steven Perkins

Greetings Compatriots. OMC is off to a busy year in terms of outside activities and color guard events. Please take time to visit the chapter website and look for the "What We Do" category, where you will find the calendar of events. I hope you will join the color guard for some of their activities.

Just a few to underscore. On March 8 at 2:00 p.m., the chapter will support the Rachel Donelson DAR chapter in the American Battlefield Trust's traveling exposition called The American Revolution Experience. The display will be in the rotunda of the old Greene County courthouse from March 9-17 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

OMC is hosting the Memorial Day ceremony at the National Cemetery on May 25 at 11:00 a.m.

July 8, across the entire country, at 5:00 p.m., or a time zone that aligns with 6:00 p.m. Eastern time, state societies and their chapters will deliver to the public the Declaration of Independence. Our tentative plan is to do so at the National Cemetery on Seminole. This will be a major event for the SAR and the country.

There are opportunities all around for members to support the activities of the chapter. I hope you will find one that you are comfortable with.



Join the State Historical Society of Missouri as we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Declaration of Independence with programs, lectures, podcasts, webinars, and more! Looking ahead, here are some of our events and projects currently underway this year. All events and resources are free of charge and open to the public. Stay updated by visiting our webpage: [shsmo.org/learn/US250](https://shsmo.org/learn/US250)



## Origins: A Reflection on Missouri at 250 & Beyond

Our Missouri, a podcast produced by SHSMO, features a new 20-episode series to commemorate the semiquincentennial of the United States. From the first people to arrive at the land now called Missouri, to the efforts to bring it into the Union as the 24th state, host Sean Rost examines major moments in the years prior to statehood as well as Missouri's complex history. Subscribe on Apple Podcasts or Stitcher, or access at SHSMO.org.



## Global 250 Lecture Series

SHSMO is partnering with the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri for a series of lectures now through May that reflect on America's 250th from a global perspective. The lectures are held at Tiger Hotel in Columbia, Mo. and livestreamed on the Kinder Institute's Facebook page and YouTube.



## Reflections of 250: Celebrating America's Past Through Oral Histories - Free Webinar

Honors Students from the University of Missouri conducted interviews with Missourians to hear their thoughts on America's 250 years. SHSMO historians and students will discuss the process of doing oral history and other projects they are working on for the semiquincentennial. The interviews will be donated to the oral history program at SHSMO.



## Documenting Your American Revolutionary War Ancestor

Videos On Demand

Cape Girardeau Research Center coordinator Bill Eddleman is the host of a popular 19-episode Basic Genealogy series recorded live on Zoom and available for later viewing. In his

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recent episode, Eddleman offers advice on how to document your Revolutionary War ancestor. The webinar is available to view anytime.

We want to thank Compatriot Glenn Gohr for sending the information to us for the newsletter.



The poster features a blue background with a white border. On the left is an illustration of a Revolutionary War soldier in a red coat and white breeches, holding a rifle. On the right is an illustration of a Revolutionary War woman in a red dress and white bonnet, holding a long staff. The text is centered and includes the following information:

**AMERICA 250!**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Exploring the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution**

Date: March 28, 2026  
Time: 1 pm-4 pm  
Location: Clark Family Branch Library  
1640 S Lindbergh Blvd St. Louis, MO 63131

**Speakers:**  
DAR MO State Regent: Lisa Parks  
O'Fallon Chapter: Katherine Huffman  
SAR National Librarian General: James Osbourn  
MO 1st Vice-President: Doug Anderson

One on One Discussions with Genealogists Following Talks  
Register at [slcl.org/events-classes](http://slcl.org/events-classes) starting February 1st

## This Day in History

### February 1, 1865

President Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which abolished slavery in the United States. This amendment became a landmark in American history and a cornerstone for civil rights advancements.

### February 2, 1848

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, ending the Mexican-American War. This treaty led to the U.S. acquiring vast territories in the southwest, including present-day California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

### February 3, 1870

The 15th Amendment was ratified, granting African American men the right to vote. This amendment was a critical step in the long fight for equal rights, although many states used discriminatory practices to disenfranchise Black voters for decades afterward.

### February 4, 1789

George Washington was unanimously elected as the first President of the United States by the Electoral College. His leadership would set many precedents for the office of the presidency.

### February 8, 1910

The Boy Scouts of America was founded, becoming one of the largest youth organizations in the U.S. The

## The Hunley Project

[www.HUNLEY.org](http://www.HUNLEY.org)

On the evening of February 17, 1864, the H. L. Hunley became the world's first successful combat submarine by sinking the USS Housatonic. After signaling to shore that the mission had been accomplished, the submarine and her crew of eight mysteriously vanished. Lost at sea for over a century, the Hunley was located in 1995 by Clive Cussler's National Underwater and Marine Agency (NUMA). The innovative hand-cranked vessel was raised in 2000 and delivered to the Warren Lasch Conservation Center, where an international team of scientists are at work to conserve the submarine for future generations and piece together clues to solve the mystery of her disappearance. The Hunley Project is conducted through a partnership with the Clemson University Restoration Institute, South Carolina Hunley Commission, Naval History and Heritage Command, Charleston Naval Complex Redevelopment/Naval Base Museum Authority, and Friends of the Hunley.



The H. L. Hunley as she is today.

organization focused on character development and outdoor activities for young men.

### February 9, 1825

The House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams as President, as no candidate received a majority in the Electoral College. This marked the first time a U.S. presidential election was decided by the House.

### February 12, 1809

Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, was born in a log cabin in Kentucky. Lincoln would lead the nation through the Civil War and work to end slavery before his assassination in 1865.

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# MINUTES OF THE OZARK MOUNTAIN CHAPTER, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

February 21, 2026

9:34 A.M. to 10:50 A.M.

Concourse Information Commons West

Ozark Technical Community College

Minutes recorded by Don King, Secretary

Meeting chaired by Steve Perkins, President

**There were 25 members and 4 visitors in attendance**

The meeting was called to order by President Perkins

Compatriot Knowlton gave the Invocation

The Color guard advanced the colors

Compatriot King led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Compatriot Jones led in the Pledge to the SAR

President Perkins called the members assembled to note an event on March 8, 2026, at 2:00 P.M. at the historic Greene County Courthouse:

The Daughters of the American Revolution will be bringing in "The American Revolution Experience." A traveling Exhibition put together by the American Battlefield Trust. It will be in Springfield for a week. The opening ceremony is being held on March 8th. The Color Guard has been invited, and we have accepted the honor of presenting and posting the colors for the opening ceremony. We will have a table at the event. For people to visit with the color guard or members present.

Compatriot Piedlow presented the finalists for the Chapter Poster and Brochure Contest from New Covenant Academy for Posters and Greenwood School for Brochures this year. From an initial entrant submission of over 40 for each category. 15 finalists from each category were submitted to the membership. Instructions for the students on how to complete the assignment were provided to the membership to assist in judging. The members present were instructed to vote for one entry in each category.

The winners will be recognized at the March Meeting.

Charles McMillan was awarded the National Society's Lafayette Volunteer Service Medal in recognition of volunteer services on behalf of the SAR.

Olliver Sappington became a George Washington Endowment Fund Fellow and received a certificate and

lapel pin in recognition of this achievement.

Joe Walker, Ken Lawrence, and Steve Perkins received certificates signifying confirmation of additional patriots.

President Perkins, on behalf of Secretary King, presented the Minutes of December and January and asked if there were any comments, additions, or changes. Hearing none, a vote was called and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The Treasurers report was given by Compatriot Edmondson as follows:

Beginning Balance:	\$ 8226.13
Income for the month:	\$ 209.30
Expenses for the month:	\$ 975.69
Total Balance:	\$ 7459.74
Restricted Funds:	\$ 3184.43
CFO Balance:	\$10745.65
Total Funds:	\$18205.39

The income was derived from dues payments, which brings the current percentage of members paid to 83.33%

The 2026 MOSSAR Conference Beginning Balance  
\$ 0.00

Revenue:	\$4918.02
Expenses:	\$162.64
Conference Fund Balance:	\$4755.38
Year to date Revenues for the Chapter:	\$13885.00
Year to date Expenses for the Chapter:	\$11621.00

The Budget was presented for the coming Year for the chapter (see the last page of the Minutes)

A motion was made by compatriot Hathcock, and the motion was seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

Compatriot McAlear gave the auditors' report as follows:

As requested, I have examined the October 1 through December 31, 2025, Ozark Mountain Chapter financial records provided to me by Treasurer Ben Edmondson. The records consisted of a check register Central Bank of Missouri, Community Foundation of the Ozarks statement, photocopies of support for deposits, of disbursements in the Ozark Mountain Chapter

Treasurer's report. In my opinion, based on the documents provided to me. The Treasurer's reports from October 1 to December 31, 2025, fairly reflect the position of the Ozark Mountain Chapter.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the Auditors' report. The motion carried.

The Vice President had nothing to report.

Color Guard Commander Walker referred all members to the website for upcoming events involving the Color Guard.

Genealogists/Registrar report by Compatriot Perkins:

January 1 2026 Membership

119 with 24 lapsed

On the 31st, 6 additional members had paid dues, bringing the total to 125 paid members

3 applications at National

Compatriot Lawrence advised the members that registration was now open for the State Conference to be held at the University Plaza Hotel on April 24th and 25th 2026, 2026. As a Chapter, we are hosting the conference.

The colors were retired in place.

Compatriot Knowlton gave the invocation

No recessional was given

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

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### **February 13, 1633**

Galileo Galilei arrived in Rome for his trial before the Inquisition, accused of heresy for his scientific beliefs. His condemnation had a profound impact on scientific freedom in the Western world.

### **February 14, 1929**

The Saint Valentine's Day Massacre took place in Chicago, with seven gang members killed by Al Capone's men. This brutal event intensified efforts to address organized crime in the United States.

### **February 15, 1898**

The U.S. battleship Maine exploded in Havana Harbor, killing 266 sailors and leading to the Spanish-American War. "Remember the Maine!" became a rallying cry as the U.S. moved toward war with Spain.

### **February 17, 1801**

Thomas Jefferson was elected as the third President of the United States after 36 ballots in the House of

Representatives. The election highlighted the need for a clearer process, leading to the 12th Amendment.

### **February 17, 1864**

The H. L. Hunley became the first submarine in history to successfully sink an enemy warship, a moment that changed maritime warfare and ushered in the age of the submarine.

### **February 18, 1930**

The dwarf planet Pluto was discovered by American astronomer Clyde Tombaugh. Although reclassified in 2006, Pluto's discovery sparked public fascination with space exploration.

### **February 20, 1962**

Astronaut John Glenn orbited the Earth, becoming the first American to complete the feat. His mission was a milestone for NASA and boosted American pride during the space race.

### **February 23, 1945**

U.S. Marines famously raised the American flag on Iwo Jima during World War II. The photograph of this moment became an iconic image of American resilience and determination.

### **February 24, 1868**

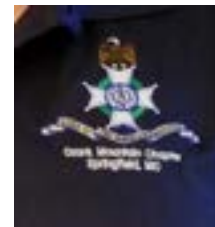
The House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson, marking the first impeachment of a U.S. president. The Senate ultimately acquitted Johnson by a single vote.

### **February 25, 1870**

Hiram Revels, the first African American U.S. Senator, took office, representing Mississippi. His historic achievement was an early victory in the struggle for African American representation in government.

### **February 26, 1919**

Grand Canyon National Park was established by Congress, preserving the unique geological and scenic features of the canyon. It is now one of the most famous natural landmarks in the United States.



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.

## Important Dates in History

- Feb 1, 1781:** The Battle of Cowan's Ford, Huntersville, NC
- Feb 2, 1765:** Stamp Act
- Feb 3, 1779:** Major General Moultrie defeats British detachment at Port Royal Island, SC
- Feb 6, 1756:** Aaron Burr's Birthday
- Feb 6, 1778:** The United States and France become allies
- Feb 9, 1737:** Thomas Paine's Birthday
- Feb 14, 1779:** Patriots Andrew Pickens and Elijah Clarke beat Loyalists at Kettle Creek, GA
- Feb 14, 1781:** Crossing of the Dan
- Feb 22, 1732:** George Washington's Birthday
- Feb 23–24, 1779:** American George Rogers Clark captures Vincennes (in what is now Indiana) on the Wabash in the Western campaign
- Feb 27, 1776:** Revolutionaries drive the loyalists from Moore's Creek Bridge, NC

## Birthday's

Robert Hammerschmidt	2-2
Keith Moore	2-3
William Craft	2-4
Michael Williamson	2-5
Johnathan Saunders	2-15
Gary Bishop	2-20
Charles Craft	2-21
Paul Wilkerson	2-22
Jeffery Settle	2-26
Bruck Bacher	2-27
Joseph H. Fisk	2-27
Leonard Slovensky	2-27



## Profiles of Valor: Mary Edwards Walker



### The only woman awarded a Medal of Honor.

By Mark Alexander

March 25 is National Medal of Honor Day — the anniversary observance of the awarding of the first Medals of Honor. It is a day to recognize all recipients of our nation's highest military award for their "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty," as well as to recall their extraordinary service and sacrifice on behalf of their brothers in arms and in defense of American Liberty.

Those medals were awarded by Abraham Lincoln to six men for their actions on April 12, 1862, as members of Andrews' Raiders. They were volunteers from three Ohio infantry regiments, and their valorous actions were memorialized in books and films as "The Great Locomotive Chase."

Those actions occurred just south of Chattanooga, Tennessee, the birthplace of the Medal of Honor and home of the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center.

Within two weeks of The Great Locomotive Chase, all of the Raiders were captured and held in the Swims Jail in Chattanooga, where they were charged with "acts of unlawful belligerency," while the civilians, including James Andrews, were charged as spies. They were all tried and convicted in military courts. Andrews was executed on June 7, 1862, in Atlanta, and seven additional Raiders were also hanged there.

Andrews and seven of his Raiders are buried at a monument dedicated to their actions at the entrance of Chattanooga National Cemetery.

Since those first medals were awarded, American presidents and military commanders have, in the name of the United States Congress, presented Medals of Honor to more than 3,500 recipients — and amazingly,

there have been 19 double recipients. In a nation of some 330 million people today, there are only 63 living recipients, many of whom we have profiled.

It is notable and fitting that this week, we profile Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, whose field of service was also Chattanooga.

A native of Oswego, New York, Walker broke many barriers, including earning her medical degree from Syracuse Medical College in 1855.

At the onset of the war, she attempted to join the Union Army, but as with all women, she was rejected by the uniform services. However, because of her persistence, she was hired as a civilian nurse and later a surgeon by the Union Forces, becoming the first female surgeon in the U.S. Army. She was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland and later the 52nd Ohio Infantry. She wore traditional men's clothing as a surgeon, which helped her blur the lines of distinction in an era when women were not expected in the field.

Still, she later declared, "I let my curls grow while I was in the army so that everybody would know that I was a woman."

Her first battlefield service was at Manassas in July 1861. In 1862, she lobbied the War Department to allow her to spy for the Union, but that was denied. Her most significant service was at the Battle of Chickamauga just south of Chattanooga in September 1863. She then came to Chattanooga to render medical assistance to the wounded for an extended period. The Union had suffered 16,000 casualties, including more than 9,700 wounded.

In 1864, Walker had crossed lines in order to assist a Confederate doctor in performing an amputation and was arrested as a spy, as she was also carrying letters. She had a history of crossing enemy lines in order to treat all those in need of care. She was imprisoned for four months at Castle Thunder in Richmond, Virginia, and released in a prisoner exchange in the summer of that year.

Consideration of that risk was a factor in awarding her a Medal of Honor on November 11, 1865. However, the primary factor was that Walker sought a retroactive brevet (or commission) to validate her service. After President Andrew Johnson directed Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to review the legality of issuing a commission, the Army's Judge Advocate General determined, as had Union Army officials during the war, that there was no precedent for commissioning

a female. Thus, Johnson, with the support of Gen. George H. Thomas and Gen. William T. Sherman, issued her Medal of Honor as an alternative, despite the fact she was not formally recommended or vetted for the medal. He cited her devotion "with much patriotic zeal to the sick and wounded soldiers, in the fields and hospitals, to the detriment of her own health" and the hardships she endured as a prisoner of war for rendering such service.

Having distinguished herself as an abolitionist prior to the war, she would become a noted prohibitionist and suffragist in the years that followed.

In 1916, three years before the end of her life, the Army was directed to review its Medal of Honor rolls to ensure the eligibility of prior recipients. The Army's Medal of Honor Board deliberated from 1916 to 1917 and at the end of that process revoked 911 medals from recipients who had not met the qualifications for the award, mostly related to enlistments. Dr. Mary Walker and William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody were among those who did not meet the eligibility requirements, specifically because laws in 1862, 1863, and 1904 required recipients to be military officers or enlisted service members.

Walker refused to return her medal, however, and wore it until her death on February 21, 1919, at the age of 86. In 1977, an Army Assistant Secretary, acting on a recommendation from the Board for Correction of Military Records, determined that there were grounds for restoring Walker's medal, though they exceeded their authority in doing so by contradicting standing law.

Despite his initial opposition to restoring the medal to Walker, Jimmy Carter officially restored the award. According to her 1865 citation: "Whereas by reason of her not being a commissioned officer in the military service, a brevet or honorary rank cannot, under existing laws, be conferred upon her; and Whereas in the opinion of the President an honorable recognition of her services and sufferings should be made; It is ordered, That a testimonial thereof shall be hereby made and given to the said Dr. Mary E. Walker, and that the usual medal of honor for meritorious services be given her."

In 1775, American Patriot Alexander Hamilton wrote, "There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty, that makes human nature rise above itself, in acts of bravery and heroism."

Mary Edwards Walker: Your example of valor — a humble American Patriot serving your fellow man above and beyond the call of duty, and in disregard for the peril to your own life — is eternal. “Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one’s life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

Semper Vigilans Fortis Paratus et Fidelis

Pro Deo et Libertate — 1776

[https://patriotpost.us/alexander/105496?mailing\\_id=8212&subscription\\_uuid=b6666ccb-7d37-4607-b40f-88d0603e9482&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=pp\\_email.8212&utm\\_campaign=snapshot&utm\\_content=body](https://patriotpost.us/alexander/105496?mailing_id=8212&subscription_uuid=b6666ccb-7d37-4607-b40f-88d0603e9482&utm_medium=email&utm_source=pp_email.8212&utm_campaign=snapshot&utm_content=body)

## My Patriot - Benjamin Harmon

Benjamin Harmon was born in Suffield, Connecticut on May 17, 1711. His father, Nathaniel Harmon, was one of the first three proprietors of Suffield along with his two brothers. Benjamin’s grandfather was an original proprietor of Springfield, Massachusetts. Benjamin’s mother was Mary Skinner, whose father was also an original proprietor of Suffield.

Benjamin married Hannah Jaques in Suffield, Connecticut and they had seven children, four sons, and three daughters. All four sons served in the American Revolution.

Benjamin served in the French and Indian War with Connecticut troops and obtained the rank of sergeant. He continued in the militia unit from Suffield and was almost 64 years old when the first shots were fired at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. The Suffield Militia was mustered in and started to march toward Concord and Lexington on April 20, 1775. The company was commanded by a cousin of Benjamin and the company marched some 80 miles before they received word that the battle was over. Benjamin may have also served with the company at Bunker Hill, but that is not certain.

Benjamin died December 3, 1795, and is buried in West Suffield, Connecticut next to his son, and patriot, Benjamin Harmon II.

Daniel R. McMurray

NSSAR#153204

MOSSAR#2242

## A Strategist in Waiting: Nathanael Greene at the Catawba River, February 1, 1781

by Robert Ford

The Race to the Dan is the name given to the campaign of maneuver and retreat that followed the Battle of Cowpens on January 17, 1781.[1] The major event in the campaign was the single confrontation of the opposing armies at the fords of the Catawba River on February 1. In the traditional view of the engagement at the Catawba, the American commander, Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene, coldly committed the militia to a hopeless defense of the river while he quietly extricated his Continentals from danger. An examination of the traditional view of the battle and Greene’s conduct in dealing with his militia subordinates suggests a different interpretation.

Brig. Gen. Daniel Morgan had defeated a detachment of 1,000 British soldiers at the Battle of Cowpens. Morgan realized he did not muster the strength to contest the main British army under Lt. Gen. Charles Cornwallis that was waiting nearby. Morgan took his 1,000 men and 600 British prisoners north, then northeast, ultimately heading for safety and supplies in Virginia.

Rivers, swollen in the winter rains, were obstacles to movement for both armies. Morgan divided his force into two, one assigned the mission of managing the prisoners, the other containing most of his fighting men.[2] The two divisions, small and nimble, crossed the South Fork of the Catawba River, then paused at the main branch of the Catawba. Cornwallis, his army reinforced with 1,500 men, was slow to start and moved more ponderously. He stopped at Ramsour’s Mill on the South Fork to burn most of his wagons in an effort to pare down the plodding, elephantine nature of his large force.

At the outset of the campaign, Greene was camped near Cheraw, South Carolina. He was new to command, having arrived on December 3 to take over the southern department of the Continental army.[3] He chafed at inaction, and yearned for his chance at Cornwallis, then resting securely at his base in Winnsboro, South Carolina. The Race to the Dan was a stream arising from several wells. One was Cornwallis’s decision to pursue the retreating Morgan, motivated in part, at least, by his desire to recover the British soldiers captured at

Cowpens. A second was Greene's intention to fight Cornwallis.[4] Greene had recently served in the north as a staff officer to George Washington, and longed to earn his spurs in independent command.

Morgan's report of Cowpens, dated January 19, reached Greene on January 23.[5] News of the victory was cheering, but Morgan told Greene nothing of Cornwallis's movements.[6] Morgan's next letter, dated January 23, was a spike to action for Greene. This letter reported the kind of opportunity Greene had wanted: Cornwallis had left his base in South Carolina and was in pursuit of Morgan across North Carolina.[7] Greene received Morgan's letter on January 27.[8] The next day he departed with a small escort for Morgan's position at Sherrills Ford on the Catawba River, north of Charlotte, North Carolina.[9]

Greene arrived on January 30 to find a fluid tactical situation.[10] Cornwallis had sent a detachment probing eastward from Ramsour's Mills and was expected at the river any day.[11] The militia commander, Brig. Gen. William L. Davidson, sent a cavalry reconnaissance to the western side of the river to look for the advancing British.[12] The two divisions of Morgan's army crossed the river independently, then joined at Sherrills Ford. The British prisoners continued northeast under a militia guard.[13] Morgan tasked Davidson with guarding the river crossings below Sherrills Ford.[14]

It was a tribute to Morgan's acumen that he fought Cowpens with an army that included a huge militia component. The best accounting gave Morgan only 290 regular infantry under John Eager Howard, and 80 regular cavalry under William Washington, a total of 370 men.[15] There were casualties among the Continentals at Cowpens, leaving Morgan with 350 regulars on the Catawba. Joseph Graham, the author of the most detailed memoirs of the fighting on the Catawba, claimed that before Greene arrived, Morgan "sent on the troops under his command with Colonel Howard directly towards Salisbury." [16]

Salisbury lay thirty miles east of the Catawba River. The regular infantry in Salisbury was two days' march from the British crossing the river. More to the point, it was two days away from any ability to support the American militia posted on the Catawba fords.

As Graham told the story, Greene arrived, met with Morgan and Davidson, then sent Washington to follow Howard on the road to Salisbury.[17] The militia would defend the river crossings by themselves. The



Continental would rest safely in Salisbury. Cornwallis, crossing on February 1, would meet only the militia. [18]

Graham's narrative became the focus of controversy. Many later authors resisted the idea that the American commander left the militia alone to defend the river. After all, if the British were too dangerous for the Continentals, why were the militia ordered to remain, alone and isolated, an island of amateurs in a sea of professionals? This was a valid question, but as bad as things looked, Greene was about to make them much worse.

Greene arrived at the last minute, literally as the British were about to cross the river. This was not due to any fault of his own. Morgan's second letter was his first intelligence of Cornwallis's chase of Morgan. When he arrived, he inherited the tactical situation on the Catawba. Morgan had issued orders not knowing when, or whether, Greene would arrive. Greene accepted Morgan's dispositions and took steps to amplify what Morgan had done. Greene faced an army of 2,700 British regulars, American Provincials, and German auxiliaries.[19] He had 350 regulars and 800 militia.[20] Greene immediately sent letters to three prominent militia commanders, Thomas Sumter, Isaac

Shelby, and William Campbell, asking them to bring as many men as they could raise to the Catawba fords. [21]

When Greene left Cheraw, he left his army under the command of Brig. Gen. Isaac Huger. His orders to Huger on departing Cheraw were verbal, and therefore subject to some question. William Johnson, Greene's first biographer, asserted Greene had ordered Huger to take the army to Salisbury.[22] Greene's next order was in writing. On January 30, he unequivocally ordered Huger to Salisbury.[23] There is no order from Greene directing Huger to defend the river.

Greene's letters of January 30 continued Morgan's template: militia to the river, Continentals to the rear. Greene faced impossible odds. Although he requested help from three militia commanders, he soon realized there was no way they could respond in time to provide any benefit in defending the river crossings. Acknowledging defeat before his army could be destroyed in a futile effort to resist the crossing, Graham asserted that Greene joined in Morgan's decision to abandon the river. Morgan had sent the regular infantry to Salisbury on January 30. Greene then sent the Continental cavalry rearward after he arrived. Both moves occurred before the British crossed on February 1.

Greene put the historians following in Graham's wake in a terrible predicament. The problem arose in Greene's dealings with the militia. Greene quickly and correctly assessed his tactical problems. On January 31, he reported to Congress:

The enemy are in force and appear determined to penetrate the Country, nor can I see the least prospect of opposing them with the little force we have, naked and distressed as we are for want of provision and forage. Our numbers are greatly inferior to the enemy's when collected and joined by all the Militia in the field, or that we have even a prospect of getting.[24]

Not convinced he had made his point, he spelled it out: "The difference in the equipment and discipline of the troops give the enemy such a decided superiority that we cannot hope for any thing but a defeat."

Greene's pessimism formed the background to his actions with the militia. On January 31, he told Congress, "the fords are so numerous upon this river and our force so small it will be impossible to prevent their passing." [25] The same day, he communicated a vastly different message to the local militia. He

chided them for what saw as a tepid response to recruiting. Davidson's 800 men were not enough to make a dent against Cornwallis, and he told them so: "the inattention to his call and the backwardness of the people is unaccountable." [26] He made sure they grasped the nature of the problem: "if . . . you neglect to take the field and suffer the enemy to run over the Country you will deserve the miseries ever inseparable from slavery."

Greene's plans for the militia diverged sharply from his plans for the Continentals. He made this point crystal clear to the militia officers:

Let me conjure you, my countrymen, to fly to arms and repair to Head Quarters without loss of time and bring with you ten days provision . . . If you do not face the approaching danger your Country is inevitably lost. On the contrary if you repair to arms and confine yourselves to the duties of the field Lord Cornwallis must certainly be ruined.[27]

Greene, entirely candid with Congress, was much less so with the militia. Graham insisted Greene had no intention of risking a single Continental in a hopeless defense of the Catawba fords, a position strongly supported by the general's letters. The militia would face the British unassisted. Thus far, Greene's urgings to the militia have painted him in a difficult light. But, it was his next statement that magnified the discomfort in later generations.

Without betraying a trace of hesitation, Greene assured the militia of plentiful support: "The Continental Army is marching with all possible dispatch from the Pedee to this place." Everything in the record we have seen—Graham's eyewitness testimony as much as Greene's correspondence—paints this statement as a lie. As he wrote this line, the Continental army was in two groups. Graham placed one marching away from the river to Salisbury; Greene's letters placed the other marching toward Mask's Ferry, with orders to proceed to Salisbury. No one had orders to march to the river. Greene was raised a Quaker and usually gets high marks for his ethics.[28] How, then, do we reconcile the idea of an ethical general committing to a course of action so Machiavellian?

Graham's view of Greene's actions on the Catawba fed into the views, held by most historians, of Greene as the master strategist of the southern war: here was a man willing to sacrifice the militia in order to accomplish the larger, strategic goal. In actuality, there

was another, much more mundane force at work. In a word, Greene, new to the job, made rookie mistakes. His performance as a master strategist would have to wait, because in the short run, he was the new guy indulging a slow slog through a series of poor decisions.

There are few memoirs or pension depositions by Continentals shedding any light on Greene's decisions. Two Delaware soldiers painted Greene entirely differently from the traditional picture. Robert Kirkwood was the commander of the Delaware corps, reduced to company size by illness and combat losses. In his orderly book, he recorded arrival at the Catawba on January 23. His next entry was on February 1: "March'd to Col. Locke," a reference to the home of Francis Locke, a militia commander living a few miles from Salisbury.[29] Kirkwood was a master of minimalism, but even with this in mind, he made it clear the Continentals moved east on February 1, the day of the British river crossing, not the night before. [30] His sergeant major, William Seymour, kept a log with better detail. Seymour related more of what happened. After arriving at the river on January 23, the Continentals took a position at Sherrills Ford:

We remained on this ground until 1 February, waiting the motion of the enemy, who this day crossed the river lower down than where we lay, and coming unawares on the militia commanded by Genl. Davidson, on which ensued a smart skirmish . . . We marched off this place for Salisbury on the first of February.[31]

Kirkwood and Seymour attested to the fact that Graham was wrong. Greene did not abandon the militia to the savagery of a professional army more than three times more numerous. The traditional view of a shrewd Greene manipulating men and events falls short of the more prosaic reality. Greene deployed the Continentals at a ford on the river, withdrawing them only after learning the British had crossed elsewhere.

The Catawba River had half a dozen fords in the area of operations of the Race to the Dan. Of these, Sherrills Ford was the northernmost. Cornwallis ultimately crossed at the next two in line south, Beatties and Cowan's, but Cornwallis maneuvered his army so as to deceive the Americans on his intended crossings.[32]

The position of Sherrills Ford affected deployments by both Morgan and Greene. Morgan, thinking he divined Cornwallis's plan, originally decided to "Leave Open" Sherrills Ford and defend only the downstream river crossings.[33] Morgan, again trying to decide where



Daniel Morgan, left, and Nathanael Green, right, portraits by Charles Willson Peale. (Independence National Historical Park)

Cornwallis would cross, revised his plan. On January 29, he wrote that he kept the Continentals at Sherrills Ford.[34] He had moved Sherrills Ford from last to first place in priority. Rather than leave it undefended as an unlikely target for Cornwallis, he moved it to most likely, and defended it with his best soldiers.

Greene inherited Morgan's deployments, and likely his thinking. Greene kept the Continentals at Sherrills Ford. As luck would have it, and from the American standpoint it was pure luck, Cornwallis crossed downstream, bypassing the Continentals. Greene then withdrew the Continentals toward Salisbury. Graham, not a party to the councils of strategy between the three generals, misapprehended everything, the planning as well as the execution.[35]

For his part, Greene left inconsistent records. New to independent command, his reporting to Congress was unpolished and imperfect. A commander telling the civilian authorities he expected only defeat was asking for trouble. If things were so bad, why was he risking men and resources in a futile attempt to defend a lost cause? His reporting was a classic rookie mistake, much like his unguarded statements to the militia officers. Huger was not marching toward the Catawba River. He was marching in the direction of the river, but with orders to stop in Salisbury. In his efforts to create enthusiasm for the project, Greene overstated his case.

In the traditional view of the fighting on the Catawba, Greene emerged clever, almost diabolically so. He brilliantly maneuvered the militia to the river where they delayed the British and caused the enemy to suffer casualties, all the while allowing the regulars to escape harm, saving them for the major battle to come. The fact that he used lies and deceit was part of his aura. Greene, his gaze fixed on the mission, did

whatever it took to win.

For better or worse, this traditional view does not reflect what actually happened. Greene, new in command, floundered. His letters to Sumter, Sevier, and Campbell on January 30 were absurdities in a world where Morgan expected Cornwallis to cross the river as early as January 31.[36] His misstatement to the local militia officers, that the Continental army was marching toward the Catawba, was capable of creating false hopes in men facing unimaginable danger.

Greene's performance as a master strategist would have to wait. He had been yearning for his chance at Cornwallis and he took it. He made the worst possible beginner's mistake: he decided to defend the river with half his army. Greene threw caution to the wind and jumped at his first opportunity to fight Cornwallis. He was saved by mere chance. Cornwallis decided to cross below Sherrills Ford. Had he decided otherwise, his juggernaut of professional soldiers, still fresh from repose in South Carolina and unbloodied in this campaign, would have crushed Greene's army, permanently.

The fighting at the Catawba left Greene's integrity and ethics intact. He used neither lies nor deceit in his dealings with the militia. His skills as a master strategist, however, would emerge later. At this point in his career, he was a great strategist in waiting.

[1] Some historians limit the actual "race" to the final days of the campaign, e.g., John Buchanan, *The Road to Guilford Courthouse: The American Revolution in the Carolinas* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1997), 352. For convenience, this article will use the term to cover the entire campaign. Andrew Waters, *To the End of the World: Nathanael Greene, Charles Cornwallis, and the Race to the Dan* (Yardley, PA: Westholme Publishing, 2020), likewise, treats the entire campaign as well.

[2] Daniel Morgan to Nathanael Greene, January 23, 1781, in Richard K. Showman, Dennis M. Conrad, Roger N. Parks, and Elizabeth C. Stevens, eds., *The Papers of General Nathanael Greene*, vol. 7: 26 December 1780–29 March 1781 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1994), 7:178; William A. Graham, *General Joseph Graham and His Papers on North Carolina Revolutionary History* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1904), 287–288.

[3] Greene to Thaddeus Kosciuszko, December 3, 1781, in Richard K. Showman, Dennis M. Conrad, Roger N.

Parks, and Elizabeth C. Stevens, eds., *The Papers of General Nathanael Greene*, vol. 6: 1 June 1780 –25 December 1780 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1991), 6:515.

[4] As one example among many, Dennis Conrad, a distinguished Greene scholar, remarked on the general's "wish to engage Cornwallis's army," "General Nathanael Greene: An Appraisal," in Gregory D. Massey and Jim Piecuch, eds., *General Nathanael Greene and the American Revolution in the South* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2012), 17.

[5] Greene to John Matthews, January 23, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:174.

[6] Morgan to Greene, January 19, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:152–155.

[7] Morgan to Greene, January 23, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:178.

[8] Edward Stevens to Thomas Jefferson, February 8, 1781, in Julian P. Boyd, Lyman H. Butterfield, and Mina R. Bryan, eds., *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, vol. 4: 1 October 1780 to 24 February 1781 (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1951), 4:562, [founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-04-02-0698](https://www.earlyamericanarchives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-04-02-0698).

[9] Most of the Catawba fords have a multiplicity of spellings, including, in this instance, Sherrill's, Sherels, and Shreve's. Beatties, mentioned below, is rendered Beattie's, Beatty's, and Baty's, among others. Cowan's Ford, the site of the major fighting, was McGowan's in the eighteenth century.

[10] Greene to William Campbell, January 30, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:218.

[11] Morgan to Greene, January 28, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:211.

[12] Graham, *General Joseph Graham*, 288–289.

[13] Morgan to Greene, January 28, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:211; Graham, *General Joseph Graham*, 287–288.

[14] Morgan to Greene, January 28, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:211; Graham, *General Joseph Graham*, 288.

[15] Morgan's biographer reported that the "army returns and muster rolls" counted 980 American soldiers at Cowpens. James Graham, *The Life of General Daniel Morgan, of the Virginia Line of the Army of the United States, With Portions of His Correspondence, Compiled from Authentic Sources* (New York, 1859),

295. William Johnson broke this down into the numbers shown here. William Johnson, *Sketches of the Life and Correspondence of Nathanael Greene*, 2 vols. (Charleston, 1822), 1:374–377.

[16] Graham, *General Joseph Graham*, 288.

[17] *Ibid.*, 289.

[18] Cornwallis to George Germain, March 17, 1781, in Ian Saberton, ed., *The Cornwallis Papers: The Campaigns of 1780 and 1781 in the Southern Theatre*, 6 vols. (Uckfield, UK: The Navy and Military Press Ltd, 2010), 4:13.

[19] “Return of Troops at the Battle of Guilford” in Saberton, *Cornwallis Papers*, 4:63; “Return of Casualties in North Carolina Prior to the Battle of Guilford,” in Saberton, *Cornwallis Papers*, 4:62; “State of Troops Fit for Duty, 15th January to 1st April 1781,” in Saberton, *Cornwallis Papers*, 4:61; Saberton, *Cornwallis Papers*, 3:11n4.

[20] The militia numbers have been hotly contested. The number in the text is from Morgan to Greene, January 29, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:215.

[21] Greene to Thomas Sumter, January 30, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:221; Greene to William Campbell, January 30, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:218; Greene to Isaac Shelby, January 30, 1781, in *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:221.

[22] Johnson, *Sketches of the Life*, 1:401, 413. Johnson found support in a letter from a staff officer, who reported to North Carolina’s governor that Huger had orders to proceed to Mask’s Ferry, on the Pee Dee River in North Carolina, as part of Greene’s strategy to counter an anticipated British move to Salisbury, Lewis Morris to Abner Nash, January 28, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:209.

[23] Greene to Huger, January 30, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:219–220.

[24] Greene to Samuel Huntington, January 31, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:226.

[25] Greene to Huntington, January 31, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:225.

[26] Greene to the Officers Commanding the Militia in the Salisbury District of North Carolina, January 31, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:227.

[27] *Ibid.*, 7:228.

[28] For example, his most recent biographer praised his “virtue.” Terry Golway, *Washington’s General: Nathanael Greene and the Triumph of the American Revolution* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2005), 3.

[29] Joseph Brown Turner, ed., *The Journal and Order Book of Captain Robert Kirkwood of the Delaware Regiment of the Continental Line* (Wilmington, DE: Historical Society of Delaware, 1910), 13.

[30] His minimalism was apparent in his account of the Battle of Cowpens, which he limited to two lines: “Jan. 16th. March’d to the Cowpens. Jan. 17th. Defeated Tarleton.”

[31] William Seymour, *Journal of the Southern Expedition, 1780-1783* (Wilmington, DE: Historical Society of Delaware, 1896), 15–16.

[32] Cornwallis to Germain, March 17, 1781, in Saberton, *Cornwallis Papers*, 4:13.

[33] Morgan to Greene, January 28, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:211.

[34] Morgan to Greene, January 29, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:215.

[35] Graham described Greene’s meeting with Morgan and Davidson on his arrival, which he was able only to watch from a distance. A militia captain at the time, he had no entry into the councils of high command. Graham, *General Joseph Graham*, 289.

[36] See Morgan to Greene, March 29, 1781, in Showman et al., *Papers of Nathanael Greene*, 7:215, where Morgan reported Cornwallis’s main army was only ten miles distant, and “their advance is in sight.”

<https://allthingsliberty.com/2026/01/a-strategist-in-waiting-nathanael-greene-at-the-catawba-river-february-1-1781/>



# Awards and Events

The Ozarks Mountain Chapter, on February 9, 2026, by invitation from the Quilts of Valor Foundation, to participate in the presentation of Quilts of Valor to six military veterans at The Montclair Senior Living Center in Springfield.

The national Quilts of Valor Foundation was represented by Shirley Haskins, Linda Groce, and Mary Ryder. Women across the country volunteer to make patriotic-themed quilts. Each is unique and bears the name of the recipient.

Compatriots Steven Perkins, Charles McMillan, and Rodney Grewe assisted in presenting Quilts of Valor to veterans John Grace, Stan Harpool, Rawleigh Harr, Howard Lachance, and the husband-and-wife team of Barbara and Larry McBride.

A Quilt of Valor is a quality, handmade quilt awarded to a service member or veteran who has been touched by war.



## George Washington Birthday Celebration

**February 14, 2026**

By Past OMC Pres Charles G. McMillan

Charles McMillan represented the Ozark Mountain chapter with his presence at the 39th Annual George Washington Birthday Celebration, held at the Hilton Inn, Independence, MO. He was the lead drummer and had the privilege of tutoring two young drummers.

A record number of people attended this year, and many were first-time visitors.

Our guest speaker at this National event was Brooks Lyles, the NSSAR Treasurer General. He presented an intuitive view of George Washington.

There were over 21 Color Guardsmen who presented and posted the colors under the command of Color Guard Commander Compatriot Bill Marshall, KSSAR Commander.

In addition to the record attendance, there was a record number of items for auction by the Ladies Auxiliary...51 items with the proceeds going to the SAR. Ctrl Click this link to see a video and other items on this event.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/235312398909718/>



# Awards and Events

On February 19, Color Guard members were honored to present colors prior to tip-off of the Missouri State Lady Bears vs. Liberty College. State Commander Steve Perkins, Jeff Hicks, Gary Gift, Ken Lawrence, Don Higgeson, and Dan Piedlow (photographer) made their advance for the national anthem then departed where some remained to watch the game. Perkins saw this game on the schedule late last year and regarded it as the perfect opportunity to bring colors for all attendees and participants to hopefully get a patriotic shiver up their spine.



The OMC Color Guard presented Colors at the Stafford Middle School for the DAR awards for the best essay on February 11th.

At the monthly meeting on February 21st, OMC President Steve Perkins presented Compatriots (L-R) Steve Perkins, Ken Lawrence, and Joe Walker with Supplemental Patriot Certificates.



At the monthly meeting on February 21st, OMC President Steve Perkins presented Compatriot Charles McMillan with a Lafayette Medal and Certificate.



At the monthly meeting on February 21st, OMC President Steve Perkins presented Compatriot Oliver Sappington with a George Washington Fellow lapel pin and certificate.



# Awards and Events



After the monthly meeting on February 21st, the OMC Color Guard and members went to Washington Park in Springfield to present Colors and have a Proclamation read by Springfield Mayor Jeff Schrag for George Washington Remembrance Day.



Ozark Chapter's Past President J. Howard Fisk received a Distinguished Citizen Commendation on February 24, awarded by the Ozark Trails Council Scouts of America. OMC Color Guard advanced and posted colors before nearly 100 guests and the honoree at the luncheon fundraiser, Barley House at Moon Town, 3060 N Kentwood, Springfield.

OMC's Past President Gary Gift and Past President General David Appleby were two who shared thoughts and offered reflections about Howard Fisk. Gary largely related his friendship and shared Scout experiences over the years with Howard and their two sons. David Appleby spoke about Howard's commitment to the SAR and their shared devotion and passion to the mission of education and keeping patriotism alive in the hearts and minds of citizens.

Dr. Hal Higdon spoke of shared experiences with Howard's dedication of service on various boards, and how he has always been a vital individual to their objectives. We enjoyed equally hearing some personal scouting stories from Howard Fisk. There were humorous moments and some touching moments.

The common thread among the speakers was integrity, dedication, and doing the right thing. As the final thought about this recognition: it was the right thing to do.

Color Guard and chapter members Dan Piedlow, Don Higgerson, Charles McMillan, Joe Walker, Rod Grewe, Ken Lawrence, and Steve Perkins were honored to have attended this event to gain a greater perspective about a true leader. Also in attendance was chapter



# Awards and Events

member and Howard's son, Barrett Fisk. The lunch was concluded by singing Happy Birthday to Howard, who the next day would advance another year.



(Top Left): Color Guard advancing Colors.  
(Bottom Left): Past President General David Appleby.  
(Top Right): Past OMC President Gary Gift.  
(Middle Right): Dr. Hal Higdon from OTC.  
(Bottom Right): Scouting America Ozarks Trails Council CEO Travis Rubelee present Compatriot J. Howard Fisk with a sealed 100th Anniversary Limited Edition of Boy Scouts of America History book.



# Upcoming Events



Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 PM, the Chapter Development Committee is meeting at Steve's home. All members are welcome to attend. If you need directions, contact Steve.



Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 PM, the DAR has invited our chapter to attend their Traveling Revolutionary War Display at the Greene County Courthouse, located at 940 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield.



Saturday, March 21 at 9:30 AM, the monthly meeting of the Ozark Mountain Chapter will be held at Ozark Technical College in room 108 off Atrium in the Commons, located at 1001 E. Chestnut Expy., Springfield. All are welcome to attend.



Saturday March 21 at 1:00 PM, the United States Coast Guard will be having a memorial service for World War II veteran, Jack Hamlin. The event is at the Montclair Senior Center, 1000 E. Montclair St., Springfield. This is a Color Guard event and guard members muster is 1:30 PM.



Wednesday March 25 at 11:00 AM, there is a National Medal of Honor Day Ceremony in Independence, MO. All are invited to attend. Musketeer and Color Bearers muster time is at 11:45 AM. The location is: Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, 500 W. US Hwy 24, Independence, MO 64050.



Sunday March 29 at 2:00 PM, the OMC will be conducting the Annual Observance of Vietnam Veteran's Day at the American Legion Post 639, 2660 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield. Color Guard muster time is 1:15 PM. All are welcome to attend, especially our veteran's.



Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 PM, the Chapter Development Committee is meeting at Steve's home. All members are welcome to attend. If you need directions, contact Steve.



# *Battle of Fort San Carlos Festival and Grave Marking*

**EXPANDED TWO DAY EVENT:  
MAY 30-31, 2026  
STE. GENEVIEVE, MISSOURI**

*In partnership with the city of Ste. Genevieve, this year there will be added events to commemorate this pivotal battle and enjoy the historic town.*

## **SAR Event Schedule Preview for Sunday, May 31**

**\*\*rain or shine event\*\***

**11 a.m.**

**Militia and Color Guard muster at  
Guibord-Valle House**

**1 p.m.**

**Memorial Cemetery Ceremony**

**Bring your own wreath and receive  
a commemorative flag streamer.**

**SAR members must  
register to receive credit.  
Scan below to visit the  
event website:**

**[www.mossar.org/battle-  
of-fort-san-carlos/](http://www.mossar.org/battle-of-fort-san-carlos/)**



**Extra weekend events: Market Vendors,  
Colonial Reenactors, Encampments, etc!**

*National Color Guard Event - Sons of the American Revolution*

**Participating Color Guard members must contact State Commander Steve Perkins  
to review safety requirements and eligibility for medal qualification: [patriotmarcher@fastmail.com](mailto:patriotmarcher@fastmail.com)**