

**MARIETTA CHAPTER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
mariettasar.org**

Proposed program:

**HEADSTONE DEDICATION AND MEMORIAL SERVICE
GEN. JAMES MITCHELL VARNUM, REVOLUTIONARY WAR**
Processional from Campus Martius to Oak Grove Cemetery
10:30am, Friday, July 2, 2010

Planning Notes

Brigadier General James Mitchell Varnum's headquarters still stands at Valley Forge. Varnum was the hero of Rhode Island.....buried near the "Monument to the Unknown Pioneer Settlers" in Oak Grove Cemetery, 8th and Wooster Streets, Marietta, Ohio...with a Sons of the American Revolution bronze marker with his name, and a Varnum's Continentals bronze marker, but, no head stone. We are working on this oversight.

The Sons of the American Revolution will hold its 2010 National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, June 25, thru Thursday, July 1, 2010. The event ends with Executive Committee Meeting Thursday morning. Normally about 1,000 attend.

The new 2010 President General will receive the *Signature Ring of General George Washington*. Washington's ring should be obtained for a one day exhibit on July 2nd at Campus Martius Museum. SAR Ex. Director Joe Harris states this ring is maintained in a bank vault in KY and with security is delivered to the National Convention. He advised protocol as follows: Marietta Chapter makes request to Ohio President Tim Ward, the OH President makes request to Vice President General of Central District Steve Emery. Emery (Chairman of Museum Board) makes request to the Museum Board and the current President General David Applebee and the incoming President General Ed Butler.

The Daughters of the American Revolution will hold its Annual Convention at its headquarters in Washington D.C. July 7 – 11, 2010. They advise 3,000 members and guests start arriving the 4th of July for research and social events. The National DAR normally will not post

information about a local event however the Marietta Chapter DAR may network with other states to get the information out.

Local Resources:

Marietta Chapter Sons of the American Revolution:

Marietta Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution

American Union Lodge # 1

Society of Cincinnati

Campus Martius Museum

Marietta College Special Collections

National Resources:

National Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard; Larry Perkins, current National Color Guard Commander, member of the Ohio delegation to plan the 2010 National Convention, will assist to guide us through the national planning side of the event. He advises the July 2nd date is best to allow time from Cleveland and on to Washington D.C. for the DAR families.

Varnum Continentals, Rhode Island, Varnum Armory and Museum, Varnum Home, Ronald A. Sullman, LTC/Adjutant will serve as liaison. He advises there is great interest by his Color Guard and will look at possibility of flying the group to Marietta for the ceremony. The Continentals are affiliated with the Rhode Island Army Reserve or Guard.

Varnum Headquarters, Valley Forge National Park (check for potential material for museum display)

Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.

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PROJECT BACKGROUND:

In April of 2008, during a tour of Mound Cemetery (part of our '12 Days with Patriots and Pioneers of Washington County Ohio) with Debbie Noland Nitshie of Philadelphia, PA, (historian and web developer of 'Marietta History Blog'), we attempted to locate the grave site of General Varnum with no results. Later in the summer Debbie contacted our chapter with a request from a member from the Varnum Continentals to know the location of the grave. A collaborative effort from several groups located Varnum in a plot for the "Unknown Pioneers of Washington County" at Oak Grove Cemetery, Marietta, OH. There is no head stone however there are bronze markers from the SAR and Varnum Continentals.

The Marietta Chapter is completing research on Varnum and in process of ordering a Veterans Administration headstone. City has granted permission for stone, historical marker and the processional from Campus Martius to Oak Grove Cemetery.

During our "Patriots and Pioneers Project" planning this past two years, we have discussed ways where we could highlight our Patriots with special displays at Campus Martius Museum. This summer after learning of the Varnum's Continentals, Varnum Museum, Varnum House, Varnum Armory, Varnum Headquarters display at Valley Forge, research was began on Varnum.

The Varnum Continentals(www.varnumcontinentals.org) were contacted, to learn the President Bruce MacGunnigle is also the President of RISSAR.(www.rhodeislandsar.org) Rhode Island is interested in anything special for Varnum..

The program to ponder;

1.) I proposed a four week display at Campus Martius, possibly Saturday, June 12 thru Sunday, July 11, 2010, featuring General Varnum in the display room next to General Putnam's Home (Putnam's home was part of the original Campus Martius Stockade, where Varnum lived.) This past summer I talked with Andy Verhoff, museum director who likes the idea of this special exhibit, described the hoops that we must jump to be in the Ohio Historical Society facility. Andy suggests the display should be for the entire season, with special programming involved. Need outline proposal for state director.

2.) Pre-Event Speaker: We have a pretty good program down for Varnum (used in October) with a power point presentation. Gave preview to Rotary Club Thursday.

3.) National speaker, possibly someone from Rhode Island for evening program.

4.) Processional from Campus Martius up Washington Street to Oak Grove Cemetery for dedication of General Varnum's headstone, (to be ordered), and wreath laying, with SAR Color Guard, possibly Varnum Continentals, and local Revolutionary War re-enactors, leading the way, with involvement by Society of Cincinnati, Masons, Indian Chiefs and others. (See original 1789 procession from Campus Martius Stockade to Cemetery.)

5.) Tours of Mound Cemetery with 37 Revolutionary War Patriots. We have the program for Mound Cemetery with map that we have used several times.

We have a great opportunity as many of the East Coast SAR members will be in Ohio for the 2010 meeting, particularly, the Rhode Island group. This program would help spark our local groups towards more research and patriotic thought.

Jean Yost, President, Marietta Chapter SAR phone 740-678-8060 email jean.yost@gmail.com Feb. 6, 2009

