

Fort Harrison

335 Main Street, Dayton, Virginia ■ www.fortharrisonva.org

VOLUME 34 Winter 2019



HUZZAH!

The Regiment is Coming!

Fort Harrison will welcome the Virginia Regiment, George Mercer Company, on Saturday, April 13, 2019. The company will be setting up their encampment with tents and equipage on the grounds around Fort Harrison. The Muster of the company will include a drill, musket demonstrations and the firing of several volleys. The focus of their interpretation is on the role of the Virginia Regiment here in the Shenandoah Valley during the French and Indian War.

George Mercer, the commander of the company, attended the College of William and Mary and may have begun his career as a land surveyor. His family plantation, Marlborough, was located near the Potomac River in Stafford County. The Mercers enjoyed a close connection with both the Mason and Washington families

He went on to join the provincial Virginia Regiment (at the onset of the French and Indian War), serving as a lieutenant. Mercer fought and was wounded at the Battle of Fort Necessity under the command of Lt. Colonel George Washington.

The following summer of 1755, he and his commanding officer were serving under British General Braddock on the march to recover Fort Duquesne (present day Pittsburgh) from the French. This campaign was doomed to failure, when the French and Indians attacked the British troops near the

continued on page 2

THIS ISSUE!
Upcoming event dates!
New President!
+ lots more!

FORT NECESSITY

The Fort Necessity National Battlefield, owned by the National Park Service, is at Farmington in southwestern Pennsylvania. It is here that George Mercer was wounded while under the command of Lt. Col. George Washington. The 1754 battle was considered the opening action in the French and Indian War.



National Park Service photo

continued from page 1

Monongahela River and slaughtered hundreds of British Regulars and Virginia Provincial troops. Mercer survived that day and went on to be a captain of his own company (Mercer Company) under Colonel Washington. He also served as Washington's aide-de-camp.



Likely George Mercer

Mercer's initial company, along with two others, provided carpenters for the building of Fort Loudoun in Winchester. Fort Loudoun would serve as Colonel Washington's headquarters during the French and Indian War.

George Mercer's brother, Captain John Fenton Mercer, was killed and scalped at the Battle of the Great Cacapon, fought near Fort Edwards in April, 1756. Colonel Washington writes to Governor Dinwiddie and mentions finding Mercer's body after the attack:

"...I have sent down an Indian scalp which was taken off at the place where Captain Mercer had his engagement. He [Captain John Mercer] was found thrust under some rocks, and stones piled up against them."

Source: George Washington to Governor Dinwiddie, May 3, 1756

The Fort Harrison Board of Directors extends an invitation to the community to stop by on April 13th and learn about the French and Indian War with this group of dedicated re-enactors. The event is free and open to the public.

The following weekend, April 20-21, the company will be taking part in a re-enactment of the Battle of the Great Cacapon, held near Capon Bridge, West Virginia.

1749

Society of Fort Harrison

MEMBERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Alex & Pat Banks | Helen Craig Lynch |
| Chester & Nancy Bradfield | Tom & Lesley Mack |
| Dan & Nancy Brubaker | Bill & Andrea Miracle |
| John & Jackie Buchanan | Joseph G. Myers* |
| Betty Campbell | Betty B. Rice* |
| Eleanor Canter* | Jane W. Ritchie |
| Earl & Janet Downs | Joan Harvey Sipe* |
| Jeff & Beverley Evans | Ilene Smith |
| Diane Guzzi | Diane Stilwell |
| Clive Hallman, Jr. | William* & Bonnie Lou |
| Phyllis Weaver Hearn* | Wampler |
| Catherine Hildreth | Charles & Judy Warren |

*deceased

"1749" Pledged Members

Terri Denton

The Board of Directors established the Society to honor those who have contributed \$1,749 to Fort Harrison. "1749" is the year Daniel Harrison built his home on Cook's Creek. You may become a member by making a lump sum payment or in smaller amounts over a 5-year period. Donations go into an endowment fund that secures the future of the house.



Save the Dates!

Fort Harrison's talented cooks offer delicious fare and an opportunity to help support the ongoing work at Fort Harrison. Reserve early so you won't be disappointed!

COLONIAL DINNER

6:00 p.m. March 21, 2019

\$35.00 per person. Reservations must be received by March 14. Checks should be made out to Fort Harrison, Inc.

APPETIZER

Cream of Peanut Soup

MAIN COURSE

Grilled Center-Cut Boneless Pork Chop
Skillet-Fried Potatoes
Stewed Tomatoes
Collard Green with Country Ham
Indian Corn Muffins

DESSERT

Blackberry Cobbler

SPRING TEAS

1 p.m. June 7 and June 8, 2019

\$20.00 per person. Reservations must be received by June 1. Checks should be made out to Fort Harrison, Inc.

FIRST COURSE

Summer Berry Chilled Soup
Served with Lemon Tea Bread

SECOND COURSE

Swiss Spinach and Ham Quiche
Served with Fresh Fruit Salad

DESSERT

Raspberry Brownie Cake



Changing of the Guard

Alex Banks has been elected President of Fort Harrison, Inc. by the Board of Directors. He assumes the role with a lot of experience, having served previously as President and Vice President.

Dear Members and Friends of Fort Harrison,

With a new year comes a new President. I am looking forward to a great year working with our Board of Directors to start new programs and also to renew an old favorite, the Fort Harrison Colonial Dinner.

It will soon be spring and time to renew our annual memberships as Friends of Fort Harrison. Be assured that all but a very small portion of your dues are used for the care of Fort Harrison and the balance is used for administrative costs. The Board and I hope you will carefully consider joining us again in supporting this most important part of Valley history.

Jody Meyerhoeffer deserves a big thank you for his leadership over the last few years. As a Board we want to also thank Pat Early, our director, for all her hard work hosting school groups and events like the Colonial Trades Fair. This is a must see event for this Spring. Bring your children or grandchildren so they can learn and interact with our skilled tradesmen.

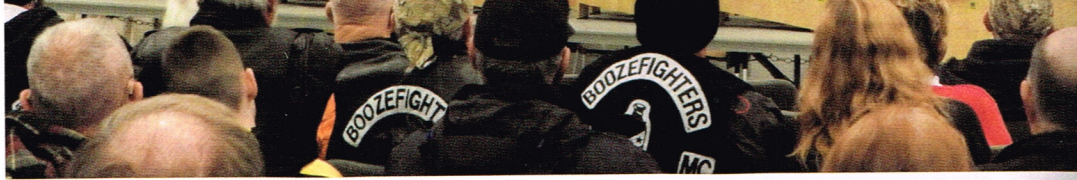
Alex Banks, President
Fort Harrison, Inc.

Thanks to each of you at Fort Harrison,

After serving as President of this organization since the Spring of 2015, I am stepping down from this office. I want to thank our members and the Fort Harrison Board of Directors for all the support and encouragement extended to me while I served as President. Your interest in the care and preservation of this fine old building has insured that the Daniel Harrison House is one of the most recognized historic landmarks in the Shenandoah Valley.

In closing, I hope you will continue to contribute to Fort Harrison and also to give our new President, Alex Banks, the same support and encouragement. Thank you and best wishes.

Jody Meyerhoeffer



With Appreciation to All

The Board of Directors of Fort Harrison extends appreciation to all who attended and contributed wreaths for our Wreaths Across America event on December 15th, 2018 at the Dayton Cemetery. Wreaths were placed on all known veteran graves in the cemetery, a total of 186 graves.

It was very appropriate that Fort Harrison sponsor the event since the land on which this cemetery is located was once the property of Daniel Harrison, one of the earliest settlers in this part of the Shenandoah Valley. As a militia captain during the French and Indian War, Daniel Harrison would have been one of the first veterans in this community. The oldest stone in the cemetery is that of Mary Harrison who died in 1794 at age 26. It is believed that Daniel Harrison and other family members are buried near her grave.

Special thanks to VFW Post 8644 of Bridgewater and Dayton American Legion Post 27 for assistance during the ceremony. Music included The Star Spangled Banner, sung by soloist Alyson Harnes, the Turner Ashby Brass Ensemble under the direction of Rob Nash, and buglers John Ringle and Megan George of the Massanutten Brass Band. We also extend a special thank you to Melissa Harper, of Pence Middle School, for arranging our use of the Pence auditorium on a very rainy day in Dayton!

Donors to the 2018 Wreath Program

Dayton Cemetery of Virginia Inc.
 Charles and Judy Warren
 Randy and Laura Atkins
 Pit Stop Auto
 Carter Melton
 Kathy and Kevin Boase
 VFW Ladies Auxillary, Post 8644
 Carol Yetzer
 Mary and Charles Scott
 Pat and Lee Early
 Cheryl Lyon
 Nancy and Dan Brubaker
 Nancy Gray and Susan Patterson
*in memory of Isaac Early
 and Roland Early*
 Donna Simmons
in memory of Owen D Simmons, Jr
 Joe and Beverly Lineweaver
in memory of William Olin Burtner, USN
 Bill Meyerhoeffer
 Jody Meyerhoeffer
 Betty Jo Meyerhoeffer
in memory of Joe Meyerhoeffer
 Nancy and Chester Bradfield
 Earl and Debra Weekley
 Alex and Pat Banks
 Stanley and Margaret Thomas
 Jane Ritchie
 Frank Miller
 Elizabeth Kaylor
 Helen Craig Lynch
 Penny and Ted Hollabaugh
 Terri Denton
 William Layman
 Stevens and Nancy Lambert
in memory of Roland B Lambert
 Richard and Linda Jacobs
*in memory of Raymond Heatwole
 and Cletus Bowman*
 William and Sharon Zirk
*in memory of Emory H Shoemaker
 and Lynn G Shoemaker*

Douglas and Pamela Armentrout
in memory of George Armentrout
 Beverly Callison Smith *in memory of*
*Richard Donald Callison
 and Jack Byrd Callison*
 Charles and Nancy Harold
*in memory of Virgil M Harold
 and William Franklin Snoddy*
 Neil Miller
 Martha McCoy
 Eleanor Wimer
 Kasey May
 Jackie and John Buchanan
 Michael Zirkle
in memory of John F Zirkle
 Margaret Raymond
in memory of Howard S Payne
 Hubert B Estes
in memory of Hubert B Estes, Sr
 James and Gladys Estep
in memory of Paul Estep
 Joseph and Karen Orsini
in memory of Weldon K Coakley
 Edna Shickel
in memory of Weldon Stover Shickel
 Susan Kidd
in memory of Jess Carter
 Jeffrey and Dorothy Bartley
in memory of Edgar H Bartley, Jr
 Mike Hill
in memory of Lycurgus P Hill Sr
 Rodney and Gloria Hildebrand
in memory of William Eugene Hildebrand
 Melinda Shiflet
in memory of William E Bryan
 Doris Bowman
in memory of Donald V Bowman, Sr
 David and Jane Chase
in memory of William E Harman
 Tom and Penny Imeson
 Betty Campbell
 Bill and Andrea Miracle
 Kim Clark



Fort Harrison

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA





Fort Harrison, Inc.

www.fortharrisonva.org

P.O. Box 366
Dayton, VA 22821



Richard Martin photo

“Dayton Days”

In October, the grounds surrounding Fort Harrison were once again bustling with hundreds of shoppers visiting our many skilled artisan booths. As always, Fort Harrison's Famous Brunswick Stew was a popular lunch choice, and we sold many quarts of stew for people to take home as well. Many thanks to our talented cooks as well as their helpers for producing so many gallons of our delicious and very popular stew.



Christmas Open House

Many friends of Fort Harrison, as well as participants in our Wreaths Across America event, attended Christmas Open House on December 15. It was a great chance to warm up and visit with old and new friends on a decidedly cold and rainy day!

