

# WVSSAR Color Guard Newsletter 25-8-2



Information and happenings of your WVSSAR Color Guard!

WVSSAR State Color Guard Commander: Martin Brady, Daniel Boone Chapter



If your chapter or any organization you know of would like to schedule your WVSSAR Color Guard for an event, or need assistance contact me, Martin Brady at [mpbrady30@aol.com](mailto:mpbrady30@aol.com) or (256) 740-1053



Greetings Compatriots!

Wow! We had a great Color Guard turn out for the Patrick Board Grave Marking in Spencer this past weekend. I appreciate every ones effort and special thanks to Compatriot Mark LaFrance for taking the roll of Honor Guard Commander. All the firelocks seem to have gone off together for all three volleys. Great job Compatriots!

We don't have time to pat ourselves on the back too long. Busy weekend coming up. It's Point Pleasant Battle Days! Check schedule farther below.

After Battle days, there is SAR Color Guard at the Black Walnut Fest parade in Spencer the next weekend. And another Color Guard needed at the Capitol that Sunday. Then the BOM later this month.

Speaking of "Parades". For all the WV SAR Compatriots reading this, you are welcome to come out to any parade your Color Guard is in and march behind us. This lets people know we are an organization and not just a Color Guard. We need your support too.

We had our third and final (for the year) Musket and Black Powder Safety Training. All together we had 38 Compatriots attend this training. Thanks. This shows your commitment. Already planning for next year. We will have some NSSAR required training and maybe some practice.

Chapters and Chapter Color Guards, reminder of the Color Guard meeting after the BOM later this month. Please have a representative there.

Keep up the good work! MP Brady WV Society CGC

For inquiries or input to the WVSSAR Color Guard Newsletter, [mpbrady30@aol.com](mailto:mpbrady30@aol.com) (256) 740-1053

## Past Color Guard Events:

### September 2025 WVSSAR Color Guard Events:

**13 Sept.** – Musket & Black Powder Safety Training at **Fort Randolph 9am**

**27 Sept.** – Celebrating US Navy 250<sup>th</sup>, Luncheon in Spencer, WV

along with a Military Salute. Guest Speaker Dr. J. K. Lilly (WVSSAR Daniel Boone Chapter President and Retired US Navy), “Birth of the Continental Navy” with a “Light” lunch at Folklore Pizza and Bistro



**27 Sept.** - **Patriot Patrick Board Grave Marking Service** was held, following the 250<sup>th</sup> Navy luncheon (1330). Co-Hosted by Daniel Boone and Capt. James Neal Chapters at the Mt. Olive Cemetery, Spencer.



If you participate in an event locally or in another state, or know of an up-coming event, let us hear about it.

## Also on September 13

We had some WVSSAR Colorguardsman stand vigil at Gen Washington's tomb. Several chapters were represented. They had a surprise guest arrive!!!



## October WVSSAR Color Guard Events Scheduled

Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, Color Guard to lead Battle Days Parade 1030 Muster, 1100 step-off. Point Pleasant

Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Service of the Battle of Point Pleasant. 1200 Muster of Color & Honor Guard for 1300 (1 pm)

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> 1130 Muster, Step off 1200 noon. Color Guard to lead Black Walnut Festival Parade in Spencer, WV

Oct 12<sup>th</sup> 1130 Muster, Event Time 1 pm. DAR Day of prayer at the WV Capitol

## Other WVSSAR events

October is Battle Days at point Pleasant, WV Contact Point Pleasant Chapter for full schedule and details! Some highlights for SAR are:

3<sup>rd</sup>, Education Day at Tu Endi Wei State Park

4<sup>th</sup>, Parade 1030 Muster, 1100 step-off.

5<sup>th</sup>, 1000 Colonial Church Service, 1200 Color & Honor Guard Muster for 1300 Commemoration Service.

25 Oct. WVSSAR Fall BOM!, in Flatwoods

## **NSSAR National Events this Month!**

### **NSSAR Fall Leadership**, 2-4 October

October 3-5 Point Pleasant Battle Days Point Pleasant, WV

Check with local SAR chapters to verify the below dates:

October 6 Battle of Chestnut Neck Little Egg Harbor, NJ

October 7 Battle of Kings Mountain Blacksburg, SC

October 17 Battle of Saratoga Stillwater, NY

October 19 October 22 Yorktown Days Battle of Red Bank Yorktown, VA Fort Mercer, NJ

## **Other SAR Events**

October 13<sup>th</sup>, 250<sup>th</sup> Navy Birthday Celebration in Philadelphia, PA The PASSAR plans to join some of these activities. Contact PA Society CGC Fred Fonseca at fredfons@msn.com

## **Coming up!!!**

**“They’re gonna put me in the movies”** 🎵 Move over Buck Owens!



I have been communicating with Chris Barnhart working on a documentary for PBS about early West Virginia area during the Revolution. He is looking for outfitted re-enactors and compatriots for some filming at Forts Randolph and New Salem among other places. Needed are compatriots in frontier, Native Americans and regimental attire. Must supply your own clothing and equipment. Filming schedule was sent out, so watch your own calendar to keep track.

# Get involved with your WVSSAR Color Guard!



Broaden your activity! Participation as a State Color Guardsman helps you stay more engaged with the WV Society as a whole. You get to meet other compatriots from across the state, and they get to meet YOU! Visit the WVSSAR website and click on “Color Guard” to learn more. Or contact M.P. Brady at [mpbrady30@aol.com](mailto:mpbrady30@aol.com)

[https://www.sar.org/app/uploads/2022/05/2020\\_09\\_12-NSSAR-Color-Guard-Handbook.pdf](https://www.sar.org/app/uploads/2022/05/2020_09_12-NSSAR-Color-Guard-Handbook.pdf)

## Don't forget

Columbus DAY, USA

250 yrs of the US Navy October 13, 1775 -2025



October 19 1782 – Yorktown, VA  
With escape by sea cut off by the French,  
Gen. Cornwallis surrenders after 3 week siege

31 October, Happy Halloween  
and watch out for that  
Scary Hessian Soldier!!!



## **SAFETY!!!**

**Firelock Safety training!** Well, the Musket & Black Powder Safety Training at Fort. Randolph in September was the third and final training for this year. Thanks to all the compatriots that took the time to attend this important training. Plans for next year are to have basic Color Guard Safety class that ALL WV Society Colorguardsman will be required to attend. Since this will only be about one to two hours perhaps we can add some Color Guard practice in as well. (Oh no, he said the “P” word again!)

**Have you seen the NSSAR Safety Inspection Video?** How about the loading and firing sequence videos? There are others as well. Compatriot Brett Osborne, our NSSAR Safety Officer, did a great job putting these together. Watch here- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-HFDAXHNhs>

**Be Prepared, a Useable First-Aid Kit!!!** It is always a good idea to have a First-Aid kit handy. However, when holding events when firelocks will be used it is a must! There are different types of First-Aid Kits available. Many of the small household and travel kits are in-adequate. These contain a multitude of various sized “Band-Aids”, but would they really serve the purpose in an emergency?

As harsh as it is to discuss, any chapter or state firing firelocks for ceremonial or demonstration purposes needs to consider #1, what could happen, #2, what would I need, and #3, is it in that kit? Let’s consider three scenarios. The very common cut finger. Firelocks have “pinch points” and use sharp flints. So yes all the Band-Aids will come in handy. With pan and muzzle flashes, there is a possibility of burns or eye irritant. Is there burn cream or eye ointment in that kit? And worst case scenario, someone shows up with a loaded firelock and you have a gunshot wound to take care of. Anything in that bag to stop bleeding or cover large wounds? It will take more than a Band-Aid.

Chapters should consider what they have and what they may need. There are a variety of kits out there, pick one that matches your possible needs. Or buy separate items and make your own kit. At events. Make sure other compatriots know where it is if needed.

Also who in your chapter has medical or first responder training? Ask them if they would be willing to aid someone if needed, BEFORE an incident occurs. And don’t ask them to do more than they are comfortable with or have training for.

Being prepared has many advantages. Knowing you have if you need, frees your mind to concentrate on other matters. You are more relaxed and can respond faster.

## **Your Health**

Remember the “Buddy System? Well that’s still a good idea. As we are out at events we need to look after each other. Most of us are fortunate to have a regular “buddy” that we hang with. Sometimes however, a compatriot shows up at an event on his own. Maybe he is new or visiting from a nearby state. Make it a point to acquaint yourself with other compatriots at our events, especially the new guys showing up. We are after all a social organization. Keep an eye out for each other.

**If you are out at an event and don’t feel right, SAY SOMETHING TO SOMEONE!** We want you around for the next one.

Compatriot Doc. John Turley, Daniel Boone Chapter still has helpful and informative health information on <https://thegrumpydoc.com/>

# West Virginia's connection to the US Navy

The 13<sup>th</sup> of October officially marks the beginning of the world's most powerful Naval Force, our own United States Navy. But while many in seemingly land locked West Virginia would not pay much attention, we do have a small connection to the Continental Navy during the Revolution.

In mid-summer of 1777, a pro revolutionary man by the name of James Willing living on the banks of the Mississippi river in Natchez (now in MS) made his way to Philadelphia "on business". Through family connections, he secured a position as Captain in the Continental Navy. With his orders in hand and dispatches for Oliver Pollock, Continental agent in New Orleans, he next made his way to Fort Pitt, in western Pennsylvania arriving on 17 December, 1777. The Commander at Fort Pitt, General Edward Hand, writing to the Secretary of the Board of War 24 December 1777:

***"Capt. Willing had arrived here a few days before my return from Ft. Randolph (at Point Pleasant). I have in the best Manner supplied him with such things as he wanted.—but am afraid the river will be shut up before he gets away."***

Along with sundry supplies Gen. Hand was to furnish Capt. Willing with men for his trip down the Ohio & Mississippi. You can imagine the stampede of volunteers to get away from the monotony of frontier garrison life with a promise of "enriching their lives"(?).

Twenty men from the 13<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regt. along with 14 others signed on.

Captain Willing and his "Marines" "got away" from Fort Pitt on 10 January, 1778 on a 10 oar river galley named "the Rattle Trap" with two swivel guns easing down the Ohio along the now West Virginia western boarder to the Mississippi. It didn't take long for Captain Willing to take advantage of his orders. He started collecting small boats with volunteers on the rivers. Boats refusing, were taken and cargo confiscated. At settlements, Captain Willing "demanded" allegiance to the United States and recruits, but usually settled for agreements of neutrality.

As his flotilla neared Natchez, Willing started going ashore and raiding plantations. All accused of being loyal to the crown. Anything of value was taken. Anything that could not be carried away was destroyed (buildings & workhouses burned, livestock killed). Arriving at Natchez on 19 February 1778, the town was spared as they capitulated with their, would be invaders. Below Natchez near Manchac, his Marine Lieutenants, McIntyre & Harrison captured the British sloop *Rebecca*, mounting sixteen 4-pounders and six swivels guns, on its way up river to meet the Americans as word of their exploits traveled fast.

Upon arriving at New Orleans Captain Willing was warmly greeted by Oliver Pollock and welcomed by Spanish Governor Benardo de Galvez. You see there was some behind the scenes negotiations with Galvez way before Willing's arrival. He was storing supplies for the Americans to aid them. In return they would help him retake West Florida from the British.

But the warmth and welcome did not last. Willing's rag tag group of land pirates was not the large force Galvez was expecting. And reports, petitions and refugees from Captain Willing's exploits up river started arriving at Governor Galvez's door step.

It seems there was another side to James Willing's business trip. Willing who was originally from Philadelphia failed in business in Natchez. He not only had business debts, he had gambling debts. And it seems most of plantations he raided around Natchez belonged to people he owned money too.

Willing also soon had a falling out with Pollock. While Pollock attempted to give Willing all the assistance he could, Willing's rashness and impatience along with his rowdy men did not help his case. The petitions over seized property, accusations of abuse and thievery, kept all three men busy. Never

mind trying to organize a campaign to anywhere. Tensions got so bad they just wanted Willing to leave, and he wanted to leave. However, Willing had caused such a stir that the British were now heavily patrolling the mouth of the Mississippi! It went on for months. Finally in November of 1778 Captain Willing along with Lt. McIntyre were able to depart New Orleans taking dispatches along with them from Pollock and Gov. Galvez. The sloop they took passage on was captured off the Delaware Capes by a British privateer, Columbus. Captain Willing was taken prisoner and sent to New York in July 1779. He was eventually exchanged for Lt. Governor Henry Hamilton of Detroit. The larger portion of Willing's force returned up the Mississippi and Ohio. A small number of Marines under Lieutenant Daniel Longstreet stayed and eventually assisted in the capture of British settlements on the north side of Lake Pontchartrain and the battle of Mobile.



Charles H. Waterhouse, *Willing's Marine Expedition, February 1778*.