



CULPEPER MINUTEMEN CHAPTER  
VIRGINIA SOCIETY  
**The MUSTER CALL**



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Serving Virginia's Piedmont

Counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange & Rappahannock

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Compatriots and Friends:

April 19th marks the 238<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. The picture at the lower right corner of this page depicts a less known skirmish between Patriots and the retreating British on that day in what is now the town of Arlington, Massachusetts. After seeing his family to safety Jason Russell, though 59 and lame, returned to defend his home saying "An Englishman's house is his castle". Russell joined a company of minutemen under the command of Gideon Foster and in the ensuing battle was shot twice, bayoneted eleven times, and died on his own doorstep. It is in memory of men like Jason Russell that we serve today as Sons of the American Revolution.

One of the most pleasant duties of modern Minutemen is to honor modern patriots, such as our Fire Safety Award winner Tom Marable. Mr. Marable is also the Virginia Society 2012 award winner! Tom Marable is the Fauquier County Department of Fire Rescue & Emergency Management Volunteer Association President. The chapter received the award at the 2013 State Society Annual Meeting, and Mr. Marable received the award and a \$500 check at the Fauquier Board of Supervisors Meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>. I know that this has energized Fauquier County for presenting nominees this year and perhaps our other four counties will rise to the challenge.

Our chapter also recognized our 2012 George and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest winner on April 12<sup>th</sup> with a medal, certificate and a check for \$100. Our winner, Alexandra Via, is a student at Peninsula Catholic High School in Newport News. Her essay "The Electoral College" is in this *Muster Call*. It would be nice to present the 2013 award to a local student.

A small, but important matter I would like to bring to your attention concerns our name. According to our charter, "Minutemen" is one word. I will adopt that convention and encourage you to do the same. I will, however, continue to use CMM as an abbreviation. That is inconsistent, but I think facilitates clear communication.

I look forward to seeing you at Graves Mountain for the Seven-Chapter Meeting. The deadline for RSVPs was April 12<sup>th</sup>, but if you can give your RSVP to Don Jennings or me by Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> and show up with a check you will be welcome. If you miss that deadline and want to attend, give me a call.

The Jason Russell mentioned in the first paragraph and in the picture below is my wife's 6xgreat grandfather. His house still stands as a museum. I intend to weave revolutionary patriot stories into future Muster Calls and would very much like the stories to be about our ancestors. I would love to hear from you about your family's ancestors.

Your Servant,  
Bill Schwetke, President



"The Fight at Jason Russel's House", 19 April 1775  
by Ruth Linnell Berry.