



# 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:

In the spring of 1775 a Connecticut farmer called together his three adult sons for a father-son talk and said: "We shall have war; this country will not long endure the tyranny of England, and one of you must enlist in the service of your country. You Daniel, cannot go, for you have a sick wife and seven children dependent upon you. Nor you James, for you are subject to falling sickness fits. The lot falls upon you Asa, and your brothers must support your family while you are gone."

Asa Lay would act upon his father's instructions as soon as the news of the battle at Lexington and Concord was received, and remain on active service until the last day of that war. The tales of his service are extraordinary and I intend to share some of them with you in future Muster Calls. Suffice for now to note that, years after the war General George Washington met Asa's son who had worked on a carved set of teeth for the general. Upon hearing that he was the son of Asa Lay General Washington asked him to **"Give my love to your father; I knew him well; he was a brave man."** That was very high praise from one remarkable man to another. Of course you have discerned that Asa Lay is the ancestor of our own Francis and Jake Lay. It is fitting to remember the extraordinary service to our country by Asa Lay as we also remember the extraordinary service of our dear compatriot Francis Lay: past president; past color guard commander; perfect attendance for years that was only recently interrupted by appropriate attention to the care of his wife, Carlyn; and always there, in uniform, at every event. Francis will be greatly missed; he represented his illustrious ancestor very well indeed!

Your Servant,  
Bill Schwetke, President



Captain Asa Lay  
Old Burying Ground,  
Westbrook, Middlesex County, Connecticut



Lt Col Charles Francis Lay  
1933 - 2013

