

CHAPTER MINUTES

September 9, 2006

Zirkle Mill, Forestville, VA

The fifth regular meeting of 2006 was called to order by President Bill Simpson, Jr. in the front lawn of the 18th century Zirkle Mill at 12:40 P.M. with the following officers present.

President: Bill Simpson, Jr.
Vice-President: Rob Andrews

There were 78 attendees, including 6 members, 2 DAR members (spouses of Col. Fielding Lewis members), and numerous guests including preservation, State and Local governmental officials. Other VASSAR Chapters represented were George Mason, Fort Harrison, and Thomas Jefferson. The Virginia SDAR Chapters represented were Narrow Passage, Stone Bridge, and Bill of Rights. The VASCAR Societies represented were Light Horse Harry Lee and Peter Muhlenberg. Also attending were members of the Shenandoah County Preservation League and Friends of the Pierce Mill.

In addition to the regular meeting, the purpose of the gathering was to celebrate the saving of the Zirkle Mill and to recognize and reward those citizens who played an important role in the fight to save the historic structure. The Mill was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

After posting the colors, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Will Simpson followed by the SAR Pledge by Vice-President Andrews.

President Simpson called the meeting to order, welcomed the attendees on behalf of the Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter, and explained the Chapter's role in the dedication ceremony. President Simpson introduced Rob Andrews and his sister, Sherryl Belinsky as the new owners of the Mill, and then turned over the meeting to Vice-President Andrews for the dedication ceremony.

Vice-President Andrews introduced the following guest speakers:

Miss Lisa Zirkle of the Zirkle Mill Foundation

Elizabeth Kostelny, Executive Director, Association for the Preservation of Virginia's Antiquities

Kathleen Kilpatrick, Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Preservation

Delegate Todd Gilbert, 15th District House of Delegates.

As each was introduced they all responded with a central theme; i.e., how difficult the

fight to obtain the Mill's preservation status and the importance of preserving our heritage. A special presentation was made to Mrs. Glen Hofecker, widow of the previous Mill owner. Mr. Glen Hofecker promised to present a bench from the mill, circa 1840, to the new owners of the mill as long as the mill remained in Forestville. Glen passed away and his widow kept his promise by presenting the bench to Rob Andrews and Sherryl Belinsky. Mrs. Belinsky then presented Iris Hofecker with a picture of her husband Glen speaking at the Save the Mill Rally. (November 2004) where he made his promise.

SAR awards were presented as follows:

Mr. Denman Zirkle, President of the Zirkle Mill Foundation, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the group's preservation efforts.

Sherryl Belinsky was presented with a Certification of Appreciation for her preservation efforts.

State Delegate Allen Louderback was presented with the Good Citizenship Medal for his valuable governmental assistance.

Mr. Turner Beedle of Edinburg, Va constructed a model of the Mill which he presented to Compatriot Andrews. After recognizing Mr. Beedle's work, Compatriot Andrews then presented the model to his sister Sherryl for her valuable assistance in helping him fight to save the Zirkle Mill.

Vice-President Andrews concluded his portion of the ceremony by indicating that the restoration of the Mill would cost more than \$450,000 and any and all contributions would be appreciated (by the end of the day \$169 was raised in a raffle, another \$265 was donated, and a special gift of \$5,000 from an anonymous donor was made).

Vice-President Andrews then turned the meeting over to President Simpson, who conducted the Chapter's business.

OLD BUSINESS

The minutes of the previous CFL meeting (13 May 2006) were unanimously approved.

A report was presented for the Registrar indicating that the present enrollment of the Chapter is 59, with one application and five supplementals pending.

NEW BUSINESS

Terry Block was appointed to head the Nominating Committee for the election of officers for 2007 at our next meeting in November.

A streamer was awarded for participating in the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Guildford Courthouse, and was added to the Chapter's flag standard by President Simpson and Jim Griffes.

The benediction was led by Jim Griffes, and the meeting was adjourned by President Simpson at 1:50 P.M.

Time Sure Goes By Fast When You're Having Fun

It seems like yesterday that I began editing The Gunnery News, taking over from Jac Russler, who had done a magnificent job since the Chapter's founding. But, a quick check of the files shows that it was 26 issues ago, September 2002, to be exact, that I edited my first newsletter.

I want to thank the members for responding to many "last minute" requests for information so I could put the finishing touches on each issue. I trust you will respond as quickly to please for help from the next editor, whoever he may be.

The Gunnery News has received many "pats on the back" for its content (your good deeds and work) and received an Honorable Mention citation in judging of Chapter newsletters nationwide at the 113th Annual Congress in Chicago in 2003.

It's been fun, but it is now time for another Compatriot to step up and take on this chore.

Semper Fi – Bob Bowen

MEMBERSHIP

The Chapter closes the year with 60 primary members, eight dual members, and one application pending. Additionally, three new applicants are being processed along with five supplementals. We are continuing to grow by leaps and bounds.