

THE VIRGINIA CAVALIER

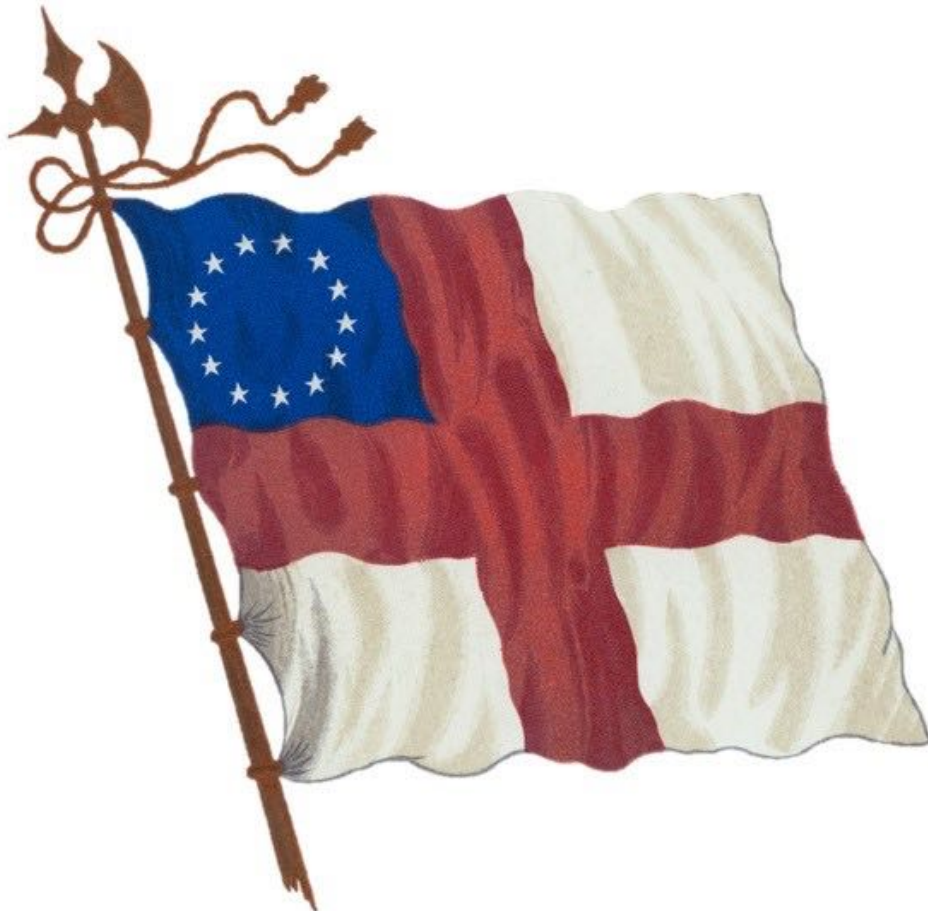


The Virginia Society, Order of Founders and Patriots of America



Vol. 17, No. 4

Winter 2022





Significant & Noteworthy News



Governor's Report on the Fourth Quarter of 2022

As I turn over the gavel to our new Virginia OFPA Governor, Dr. Kenneth L. Hawkins, I do so trusting that you all will be as supportive of Ken and his leadership team as you have been of me.

We also have a new Deputy Governor, Nicholas Jewett, who showed his commitment to the OFPA by his attendance and participation in this year's General Court in Boston last June.

While I may be stepping down as Society Governor, I will still be around, both in Virginia OFPA and national OFPA.

At the Fall Membership Meeting in Yorktown, I was elected Councilor General of the Virginia OFPA. While that may not be a familiar office to most associates, it amounts to a three year appointment to the national Council of the OFPA, which is essentially the board of trustees of the national OFPA. Each state society elects one Councilor General to sit on the Council, which also includes all general officers. The Council is the body responsible for the collective success of the national organization and all societies.

Last June at the General Court in Boston, I was relieved of my position as Deputy Registrar General after four years of managing the production of all OFPA Diplomas, and elected to the national office of Historian General.

Governor General Ed Horton has appointed me as head of an Archives and Records Committee tasked with seeing to the digitization of all old approved applications and each application's reference documents. It is a task that needs doing as we seek to have an effective and available member data base capable of being searched back into our Order's history.

Finally, I am trusting that you all had a blessed Christmas and that you are looking forward to a healthy and prosperous new year.

Steadfast for God and Country,
Michael E. Weyler, Ph.D.
Governor, Virginia Society



Significant & Noteworthy News



Yorktown Victory Day with Governor General Horton

The three October 19 Yorktown Victory Day events in which the Virginia Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America has historically participated were made special in 2022 because the current Governor General of our Order, Ed Horton, came down from New Jersey and was able to participate in all of the events, i.e., the wreath laying ceremony at the tomb of Governor Thomas Nelson Jr. , the Victory Day Parade up Main Street, and our Fall Membership Meeting at the Riverwalk Restaurant, where Ed was our guest speaker.

Not only was our OFPA senior officer present for the events of the day, but the senior officer from the Sons of the American Revolution, President General Bruce Pickette, was also present in Yorktown. He and his wife Rita accepted our invitation, and joined us for our Fall Membership Meeting luncheon at the Riverwalk. The day was a good opportunity for these two senior officers to get to know each other better.

Wreath Ceremony at the Grave of Governor Thomas Nelson Jr.

The day began in the Grace Episcopal Church Cemetery, where Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr. is buried. While this annual ceremony is sponsored by the Virginia SAR, 83 wreaths representing many lineage societies were presented this year in remembrance of Nelson, which compares with forty wreaths presented last year.



L/R, Shane Newcombe, Peter Hill, Ed Horton, Mike Lyman, Terry Krebs and Bruce Pickette



Significant & Noteworthy News



Yorktown Victory Day with Governor General Horton



Thomas Nelson, Jr. was Yorktown's most famous son and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. As the commander of the Virginia Militia during the siege of Yorktown, Nelson is said to have urged the patriot cannon to fire on his own home, the Nelson House, where General Cornwallis was said to have his headquarters, offering five guineas to the first man to hit his house. Nelson also served in the Virginia General Assembly, the Continental Congress, and was elected Virginia Governor in 1781.

Governor General Horton presented the General Order's wreath, and Virginia OFPA Past Governor Mike Lyman presented the VA OFPA wreath.

In the photo above, Incoming VA OFPA Governor Ken Hawkins (on the left), Outgoing Governor Mike Weyer and Associated Jeff Thomas (on the right) confer with Governor General Ed Horton (second from the right) outside Grace Episcopal Church.

Yorktown Victory Day Parade to the Victory Monument

Immediately following the wreath presentation ceremony, the OFPA mustered (below left) for the Victory Day Parade down Main Street, which terminated at the Victory Monument overlooking the York River, from which the French fleet provided support on October 19 back in 1781. A unit from the U.S. Army's "Old Guard" (below right) stepped off to begin the parade.





Significant & Noteworthy News



Yorktown Victory Day with Governor General Horton



Governor General Ed Horton (photo right) carried the National Colors in the parade.

Mike Lyman, Past Governor, VA OFPA, carried the Betsy Ross Flag in the parade.

The OFPA parade unit is shown below.

The parade ended at the Victory Monument at the top of Main Street, where the ceremonies involved representatives from the French Navy.





Significant & Noteworthy News



Yorktown Victory Day with Governor General Horton

VA OFPA 2022 Fall Membership Meeting

The 2022 Fall Membership Meeting was called to order by Governor Michael E. Weyler at 11:30 am. Chaplain Terry Krebs brought the Invocation and Associate Tim Ahlgrim led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Governor Weyler's Report focused on the importance of this membership meeting, the last under his administration, which featured the nomination and election of new officers and councilors for the 2023-2024 term. The new Virginia Society officers were installed by Governor General Horton.

Treasurer Shane Newcombe, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of nominees, which was accepted by the assembled members, and then voted on and unanimously accepted.

Our new Virginia OFPA Governor is Kenneth L. Hawkins, Ed.D., who lives in Virginia Beach. He has been our Deputy Governor during 2022, having represented our Society at a variety of lineage events over the last year.

Dr. Hawkins is also an active member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia. In the Virginia SAR he is the Eastern Region Chairman, as well as the Chairman of the VASSAR Eagle Scout Recognition Committee.

Because of the SAR's trust in him, he had a special role assigned to him by the President of the VASSAR for Yorktown Victory Day. He was the Aide de Camp for SAR President General Pickette.



Newly installed Virginia OFPA officers and councilors along with Ed Horton, Governor General, OFP (third from the left) and Bruce Pickette, President General, SAR (third from the right).



Significant & Noteworthy News



Yorktown Victory Day with Governor General Horton



OFPA Associates and guests who attended the Virginia OFPA 2022 Fall Membership Meeting luncheon.

Seated, left to right, Bruce Pickette, President General of the Sons of the American Revolution, Rita Pickette, the SAR First Lady, Elena Hill, Kaci Krebs, Associate Mike Lyman, Past-Governor VA OFPA. Standing, left to right, Associate Tim Ahlgrim, Dr. Michael E. Weyler, Outgoing Governor, VA OFPA, and Historian General, OFPA, Ed Horton, Governor General of The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, Dr. Kenneth L. Hawkins, newly-installed Governor, VA OFPA, Associate John Taylor, Bruce Meyer, President of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Chaplain Terry Krebs, Associate Peter Hill, Associate Doug Hall, Shane Newcombe, Past Governor VA OFPA and Treasurer General, OFPA.



Significant & Noteworthy News



Patriot Grave Marking for Ezekiel Potts

On October 29, 2022, the Sergeant Major John Champe Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, sponsored and executed a grave marking ceremony for Revolutionary War Patriot Ezekiel Potts at the Historic Potts Cemetery near Hillsboro, Virginia. Ezekiel had been a private in the Continental Line, as well as a provider of monetary and material support to the patriot cause.



Fifteen descendants of Ezekiel Potts (photo left) were in attendance, as were eleven lineage organization who presented wreaths. The Virginia Society, Order of the Founders and Patriots of America wreath was presented by OFPA Associate Doug Hall, who represented our Order during the ceremony.

The ceremony was conducted by the chapter president Ken Bonner and chapter vice president Barry Schwoerer. Paula Schwoerer, Barry's wife and 4th great-grand niece of Patriot Ezekiel Potts, presented a short Biographical Sketch of the Patriot.

The SAR Joint Color Guard, under the command of Dave Cook, Fairfax, Resolves Chapter., which included OFPA Doug Hall as drummer, concluded the ceremony with a musket salute.



Wreath presenters were, L-R: Ernie Coggins - 1st VP VA SAR, Doug Hall - VA OFPA, Paul Christensen - Colonel James Wood II Chapter, Ken Bonner - Sergeant Major John Champe Chapter, Judith Shephard - Elizabeth McIntosh Hammill Chapter DAR, Jacob Schwoerer - Colonel William Grayson Society, C.A.R., Nancy Watford - Katocin Chapter DAR, Anita Bonner - Lanes Mill Chapter DAR, Kimberly Scott - District VIII, Virginia DAR, and Richard Rankin - George Washington Chapter SAR



Significant & Noteworthy News



Major Peter Philip Helphenstine Grave Marking



On November 12, 2022, at Mount Hebron Cemetery in Winchester, Virginia, the Colonel James Wood II Chapter of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution held a grave marking ceremony at the grave of Major Peter Philip Helphenstine. The OFPA was represented at the ceremony by Associate Doug Hall (photo left), who also served as drummer for the combined VASSAR Color Guard and Musket Squad.

Helphenstine was born in Koln, Germany, on June 17, 1724. He married in Germany and then immigrated to the American colonies in 1754, landing in Cape Fear, North Carolina. He and his wife had seven children. Legend has it that he became a friend to General George Washington after he was contracted to make shoes for the troops during the Braddock Campaign of the French and Indian War. Helphenstine then served in Lord Dunmore's War in 1774 and fought against the Shawnee in Kentucky. Because of this service, he was chosen to serve as an officer in the Continental Army.

His service in the American Revolution was with the 8th Virginia Regiment, known as the German Regiment, commanded by Colonel Peter Muhlenberg. He was injured in battle in South Carolina in April 1778 and returned home to Frederick County, Virginia. He eventually died of repeated infections of the wounds sustained in battle, passing on May 11, 1779. He was one of the founding fathers of the German Lutheran Congregation in Winchester and is buried in the cemetery that is now part of the Mount Hebron complex.

The ceremony was emceed'd by Dale Corey with the Virginia SAR combined Color Guard presenting colors and firing a musket volley to honor the patriot. Compatriots from the Colonel James Wood II, Culpeper Minutemen, Fairfax Resolves, Fort Harrison, George Mason and Sgt Maj John Champe Chapters along with the Lanes Mill DAR Chapter paid homage to Helphenstine. Descendants of Helphenstine participated with Ed Helphinstine, Jr and his daughter Sarah unveiling the marker. Ed Helphinstine, Sr and his daughter Leah presented a wreath. Reverend Jim Simmons provided Chaplain duties with Ed Helphinstine, Jr providing a presentation on his ancestor.





Significant & Noteworthy News



Skirmish at Kemp's Landing



On a beautiful fall day, Saturday, November 12th, the Norfolk Chapter of Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution commemorated the 247th Anniversary of the Skirmish at Kemp's Landing in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The ceremony was held on the grounds of Immanuel Episcopal Church, adjacent to where the actual battle took place. Master of Ceremonies was Robert Bruce, President of the Norfolk Chapter. The VA OFPA Governor-elect, Dr. Kenneth Hawkins presented a wreath from the Order. Associate Tim Ahlgrim was also in attendance, as was Faye Walton Sobell, President of the Virginia Chapter Daughters of the Founders and Patriots of America.

Photo above shows, l/r, Faye Sobell, Ken Hawkins and Tim Hawkins.

Dr. Pat Hannum, a local historian, was the guest speaker and provided an enthralling description of the battle while pointing out the positions of forces during the actual battle. Of all the Revolutionary War battles, the Skirmish at Kemp's Landing on November 10th, 1775 is one of the smallest. Its only real claim to fame is that it was the first fight in Virginia, and also where the first Virginian blood was spilled for the Revolutionary cause.

Lord Dunmore, the Royal Governor of Virginia, sent about 120 British regulars of the 14th Regiment and elements of the newly formed Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment to Kemp's Landing to combat rebel (Patriot) militia activity in the area. The Ethiopian Regiment consisted of escaped African slaves who signed up to fight for the Crown in response to Dunmore's November 1775 Proclamation granting freedom for military service. On November 15th, 1775, the Princess Anne militia fired on the British advance guard. The ensuing engagement left 18 Patriots captured, including Col. Joseph Hutchings, 7 killed, including 2 who drowned crossing a creek. Only one British soldier suffered a minor wound.





Significant & Noteworthy News



The Battle of Great Bridge Commemoration



December 3, 2022 was a rainy day in Chesapeake, Virginia forcing the annual joint DAR/SAR commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge indoors to the Chesapeake City's Council's Chambers.

The Battle of Great Bridge is recognized as the first major land battle of the War for Independence in Virginia and, at the same time, as the first complete victory in a land battle during the American Revolution. An important result of the British loss was the departure of the last Royal Governor of Virginia, Lord Dunmore.

This year marked the 247th anniversary of the Battle, the 122nd Annual Commemoration and the 69th wreath laying ceremony by the Great Bridge Chapter of DAR, and the 12th annual observance by the Norfolk Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. In total, 47 organizations and chapters were represented and presented wreaths. The Virginia Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America, Dr. Kenneth Hawkins, presented a wreath for the order. Photo at left of Ken and the wreath shows the Battle of Great Bridge Monument located near the site of the bridge.

A significant part of the history of the patriots' victory at the Battle of Great Bridge is the story of Private William (Billy) Flora, a free black from the Portsmouth area and a member of the Norfolk County Militia, who served as a sentry for Colonel Woodford's army. On the early morning of December 9, 1775, Flora was stationed behind a pile of shingles near the Great Bridge, more than 300 yards away from the patriot line. Before leaving his dangerous post and retreating to the safety of the breastwork, he fired his musket eight times at the approaching enemy. Running across the causeway with the redcoats close behind, Flora stopped suddenly. Even though he was under heavy fire, he went back to remove a loose plank from a narrow foot bridge located in front of the breastwork to slow the enemy's advance. He survived unscathed, and was the last sentinel to return to the breastwork's protective barrier. (Painting below: Bill Flora kneeling and firing)





Significant & Noteworthy News



The Battle of Great Bridge Commemoration in Culpeper



On Friday, December 9, 2022, the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution held a commemoration ceremony to honor those members of the Culpeper Minute Battalion who fought at the Battle of Great Bridge on December 9, 1775, 247 years ago on that date.

In 1775 the Virginia Convention, in response to Patrick Henry's plea to "... give me liberty or give me death," divided Virginia into 16 Districts to raise military forces to resist the abuses of the King.

In the District comprising Culpeper, Fauquier, and Orange Counties (which today would include Greene, Madison and Rappahannock), the Culpeper Minute Battalion was organized in September of 1775, under a large oak tree near the current Culpeper Minute Battalion Monument in Yowell Meadow Park.

The Culpeper Minutemen fought in the Battle of Great Bridge near Norfolk, Virginia, defeated the British, and secured Virginia for the cause of independence.

Since the Battle at Great Bridge began at dawn on that cold December 9, the commemoration in Culpeper also started at dawn. The sunrise ceremony, accompanied by a firelock salute, was intended to give those present a small sense of that morning 247 years ago.

The Virginia OFPA Immediate Past Governor Michael E. Weyler brought greetings from the VA OFPA and presented our wreath (photo above).

Governor Weyler was also the senior officer of the Virginia SAR present for the ceremony, and as such also brought greetings from the VA SAR President. He reminded those assembled that the OFPA not only seeks to remember Patriots such as those in the Culpeper Minute Battalion, but also remember from whom those Patriots received the legacy of liberty that compelled them to service in 1775. It was the Founder Ancestors of those Patriots who came to our shores when America was mostly wilderness, and built a county that the Patriots built into an independent nation.

We must remember that America's legacy of liberty is not 250 years old, but 400 years, dating back to the Founders who came to our shores seeking a new life in a free land in the early seventeenth century.

Virginia Society of The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America

Officers and Councillors--Terms between 2023-2025

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Ancestor Memorials

Associate-James M. Bayne
Founder-William Hatcher
Patriot-Edward Hatcher

Associate-Randall Hall Chandler
Founder-Robert Chandler
Patriot-David Chandler

Associate-Arthur Brian Cowardin
Founder-Peter Cowardine
Patriot-John Cowardine

Associate-Lewis Taylor Cowardin
Founder-Peter Cowardine
Patriot-John Cowardine

Associate-Lewis Turner Cowardin II
Founder-Peter Cowardine
Patriot-John Cowardine

Associate-German P. Culver, Jr.
Founder-John Tompkins
Patriot-Nathaniel Tompkins

Associate-George W.B. Elder
Founder-Robert Abernathy
Patriot-John Abernathy

Associate-Charles B. Fegan
Founder-Robert Moulton & son Robert
Patriot-Cpt. Freeborn Moulton & son Elijah

Associate-Dr. Hugh Erskine Fraser, III
Founder-John Barker
Patriot-Henry Barker

Associate-Asa Wesley Graves, VI
Founder-Thomas Graves
Patriot-Thomas Graves & son John

Associate-Asa Wesley Graves, VII
Founder-Thomas Graves
Patriot-Thomas Graves & son John

Associate-Asa Wesley Graves, VIII
Founder-Thomas Graves
Patriot-Thomas Graves & son John

Associate-Douglas M. Graves
Founder-Thomas Graves
Patriot-Thomas Graves & son John

Associate-Zachary N. Hall
Founder-Thomas Graves
Patriot-Thomas Graves and son John

Associate-Kenneth L. Hawkins
Founder-William Hawkins
Patriot-Benoni Hawkins

Associate-Christopher L. Hubbard
Founder-George Hubbard
Patriot-Peter Hubbard

Associate-Donnel J. "Jerry" Hubbard
Founder-George Hubbard
Patriot-Peter Hubbard

Associate-Liam Jackson Hubbard
Founder-George Hubbard
Patriot-Peter Hubbard

Associate-Nicholas J. Jewett
Founder-Maximilan Jewett
Associate-Ezekiel Jewett

Associate-Croft M. R. Kirby
Founder-Thomas Kirby
Patriot-Capt. William Kirby

Associate-Reade B. H. Kirby
Founder-Thomas Kirby
Patriot-Capt. William Kirby

Associate-Taylor T. L. Kirby
Founder-Thomas Kirby
Patriot-Capt. William Kirby

Associate-Wade H. O. Kirby
Founder-Thomas Kirby
Patriot-Capt. William Kirby

Associate-Roger H. W. Kirby
Founder-Thomas Kirby
Patriot-Capt. William Kirby

Associate-Terry Robert Krebs
Founder-John Benson Sr. and son John
Patriot-Job Benson and son Elihu

Associate- Lt. Col. Myron "Mike" E. Lyman, USA (ret)
Founder-Richard Lyman
Patriot-Ozias Lyman

Associate- Col Judson P. Mason, Jr.
Founder-Sampson Mason
Patriot-James Mason

Associate-Donald W Moore
Founder-Edmund Moore
Patriot-Tully Moore

Continued on next page

Ancestor Memorials (continued)

Associate-Bruce Edward Munger Sr.
Founder-Nicholas Munger CT
Patriot-Maj. Timothy Munger, Madison CT

Associate-J. Shane Newcombe
Founder-Capt. James Allen
Patriot-Maj.-Capt. Richard Allen

Associate-Terrence Frederick O'Rourke
Founder-Thomas Stoughton MA
Patriot-Maj. Oliver Stoughton, CT

Associate-Richard Travis Rattan
Founder-Richard Higdon
Patriot-John Higdon

Associate-Richard Volney Rattan
Founder-Richard Higdon
Patriot-John Higdon

Associate-Harry C. Redd III
Founder-Col. William Claiborne
Patriot-Maj. Bullar Claiborne

Associate-James Francis Russell II
Founder-Nicholas George
Patriot-Spencer George

Associate-John Courtney Sheffield II
Founder-Col. Robert Wynne II
Patriot-John Winn, Sr. & son Peter Winn

Associate-John Hadley Sheffield III
Founder-Col. Robert Wynne II
Patriot-John Winn, Sr. & son Peter Winn

Associate-Walter Alexander "Zander" Sheffield
Founder-Col. Robert Wynne II
Patriot-John Winn, Sr. & son Peter Winn

Associate-Walter Jarvis Sheffield, Esq.
Founder-Col. Robert Wynne II
Patriot-John Winn, Sr. & son Peter Winn

Associate-John H. Stevens
Founder-John Stevens
Patriot-David Stevens

Associate-Lee Swift III
Founder-William Swift (Swyft)
Patriot-Barzillai Swift

Associate-Jeffrey Thomas
Founder-Thomas Burton
Patriot-Isaac Joseph Burton

Associate-Billy "Cowboy" Ogden Wadsworth
Founder-Thomas Kirby
Patriot-Sgt. Capt. William Kirby

Associate-Eugene A. Walker
Founder-Capt. Samuel Walker
Patriot-Sgt. Timothy Walker

Associate-Dr. Michael E. Weyler
Founder-Simon Stone
Patriot-David Stone

Associate-James Lewis Wheeler
Founder-George Wheeler & son William
Patriot-Sgt. Timothy Wheeler, Sr.

Associate-Cranston Williams, Jr.
Founder-Ambrose Cobbs & Robert Cobbs
Patriot-Capt. Robert Lewis Cobbs

Please Remember

VA OFPA has several wreaths, a parade banner and an OFPA flag which can be used by any VA OFPA Associate at an event. It is a good way to let people know you are an OFPA member.

If you participate in an activity where you are identified as an OFPA Associate, please advise the Governor and Secretary. Save a copy of the program, and a photograph of your participation if possible. If you write an article, save a copy and send to Governor Hawkins and Secretary Russell to be included in the annual Governor's report.

Society Officers

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The new web site for the General Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America is ofpa.org. Check it out.

The VA OFPA web site is www.vaofpa.org. Donald Moore is our webmaster and has recently updated it. Take a look at a *great* web site!

This is how the OFPA Handbook describes the OFPA flag.

"SECTION 3. COLORS. The colors of the Order shall consist of the National Colors or Flag as prescribed by an Act of Congress, and the colors of the flag of the Order. The latter shall be cross, Gules, on a field, Argent, with canton, Azure, a constellation of thirteen stars, Argent."



Above—OFPA Flag

