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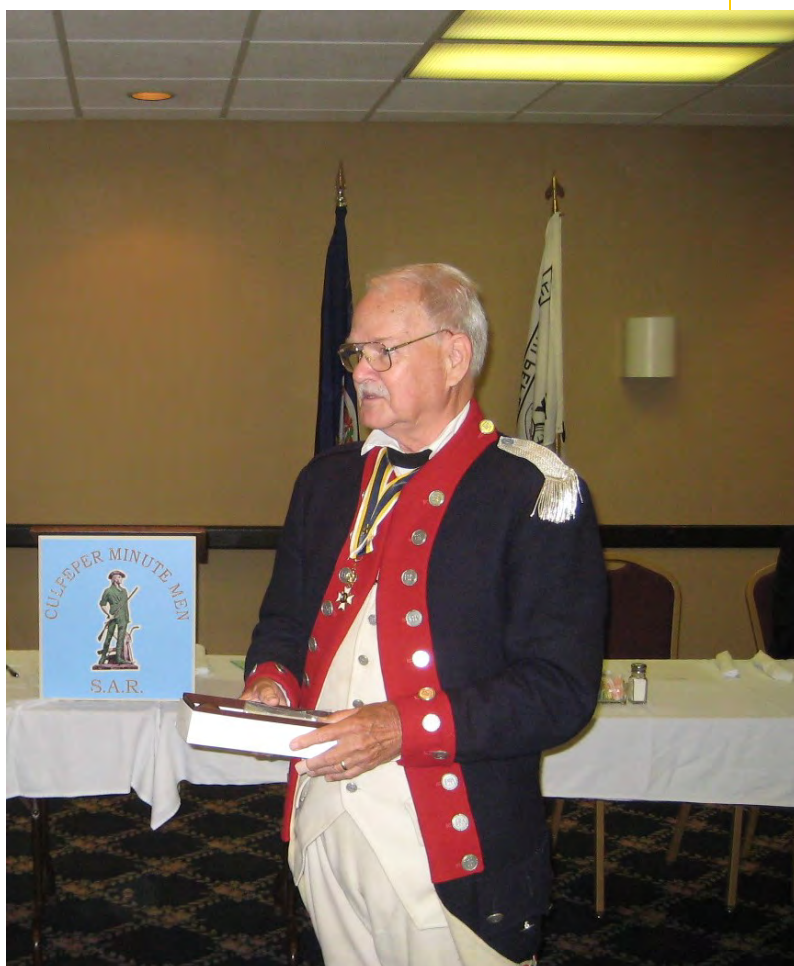
IN MEMORIAM

VA OFPA Associate Charles Francis Lay, passed away Wednesday, 14 August 2013 at his home. Final service for Francis will be Saturday the 24th of August at 11:00 a.m. The service will be held at Our Lady of the Blue Ridge RC Church in Madison, VA, on US Rt. 29, just north of Madison. This will be a standard Catholic Mass for burial. It may be followed by a graveside service for the internment of the ashes at the Lay Family Cemetery in Rapidan.

Francis was very proud of his patriotic heritage, that goes back to 1635. Pages 3,4 and 5 include additional information on the Lay Founder and Patriot.

Francis remained Steadfast for God and Country.

Francis will be missed by all who knew him. I will miss my friend. The Order will greatly miss his service and devotion.



Founder Robert Lay, Patriot Captain ASA Lay

These are the stories of Founder **Robert Lay, 1st** (b. 1617 d. July 9, 1689), and Revolutionary War soldier and Patriot **Captain ASA Lay** (April 11, 1749 d. February 23, 1814). Both are ancestors of Charles Francis Lay, Jake Lay and the late James Dominic Lay of the Virginia Society, OFPA.

ROBERT LAY, 1st

Robert Lay, Sr, came from England with his two brothers, John & Edward. He is first mentioned as being at Lynn, MA in 1638. The early records of Lynn are lost, so there is no confirmation of this report. By tradition, he was in Saybrook, CT by 1640. He married Sarah (Fenner) Tully (Dec. 1647). In a division of lands, made in 1648, there appears to have been 43 proprietors in the town of Saybrook, among them were ancestors of the....Lays...etc. He was a freeman in 1657, and at October 11, 1666 a representative (deputy) at the General Assembly at Hartford, CT. He was exceptionally well educated. He built Lay's Wharf where West Indies trading vessels berthed. In 1666 he bought the ketch "Diligence", which made regular trips to the West Indies, exporting local produce and importing rum & sugar. He developed Fenwick's farm on Nott's Island, in the river opposite Potapoug. John Lay, Sr. sold his newly built house to his brother, Robert, who lived there the rest of his life. He, Robert, was the second permanent resident of what is now Essex. Robert Lay died in Saybrook at the age of 71 or 72. Both he and his wife Sarah are buried in Essex Cemetery.

Robert Lay, Jr. (II), (1654-1742), Robert Lay, III (1679/80- 1738) and Daniel Lay (1712-1782) were the intervening generations between Robert, 1st and Asa Lay.

References:

1. Saybrook Vital Records – Pgs 3, 19
2. Potapoug Quarter-The First Settlers of Essex, CN - Stevens.
3. Genealogical Dictionary, First settlers of New England, James Savage, Vol. III, pg 65.

LT. COL. (CAPTAIN) ASA LAY

Asa Lay was the third son of Daniel Lay (1712-1782) and Anna Bull. He was born in Saybrook, CN April 11, 1749. He married Sarah Wolcott April 18, 1770. They raised twelve children.

Selection as the family member to enlist for service in the War. - He was one of three sons of Daniel Lay. The first son, also Daniel could not go as he had a sick wife and seven children. The second son James could not go as he was subject to falling sickness. Thus it was Asa who was chosen. He left home for the War the day after the news of the Battle of Lexington and Concord; Massachusetts (April 1775) reached his town. He enlisted as a private under a Cpt. John Ely. The Connecticut troops at this time had no uniforms. Their clothes were the homespun that they wore at home. They were ordered to supply themselves with a blanket, knapsack, clothing, etc. The men were also to supply their own weapons. Asa carried the 'fowling piece' that he had used to shoot quail.

Asa Lay's first Battle was the **Battle of White Plains**, near New York City (October 25, 1776). By this time he had been promoted to corporal, Sergeant, and then to Adjutant. (A rank between

enlisted and officer.) Lt. Lay took part in the battle of Monmouth, NJ June 28, 1778. He served as part of the 6th Connecticut Regiment in and around West Point, NY from 1776 to 1778.

ASA Lay at Valley Forge, PA - In February 1778 Lt. Asa Lay was detached from his regiment and ordered to Valley Forge by **General George Washington** to serve as **General Baron Von Steuben's** commander of his personal body guard, while Von Steuben trained Washington's troops in military order, drill and fighting formations. He was at Valley Forge for about a month, and as with other officers he was invited to dine with General Washington and his wife Martha.

Asa Lay Employed as a Spy - Early in the War General Washington devised a plan for getting information about the enemy. Washington prevailed upon a gentleman from Virginia to masquerade as a Tory and write for a British newspaper in Long Island, NY. He would then pass a packet of information on to a trusted confederate, who would pass it on to Lt. Lay in Long Island. From the hand of that person Lt. Lay was to receive the parcel and cross over to Connecticut, and put it into the hands of Col. Meigs, who would deliver it to Washington. Asa Lay was always to go to Long Island in the night. He never knew the man from whom he took the papers; never exchanged a word with him except the countersign; and never told any person what his business was on Long Island, until many years after the War had closed. Lt. Lay was employed in the Secret Service for several months.

Asa Lay tried by Courts Martial - During his secret service, he and his detachment of 15 men were able to capture a number of British troops and keep them from destroying American supplies. The British soon captured him in January 1779. As leader of the Raiding party, Lt. Lay was tried by Court Martial. A **Major John Andre** presided at the trial. (This same John Andre was later hanged as a British Spy by the American Army. He helped **Benedict Arnold** betray his country by attempting to surrender the West Point Army fort.) Because Lt. Lay had destroyed his papers, Major Andre was unable to hang Lt. Lay as a spy. He did spend two years and five months, under miserable conditions as a Prisoner of War. He was released in the autumn of 1780, seen as being unfit to fight.

Almost a combatant at the Battle of Yorktown. - After a short period of recuperation at home in Saybrook, he rejoined his regiment and was promoted to Captain, on August 28, 1780. Captain Lay and company were scheduled to join the forces of French **General Count Rochambeau** at Peekskill, NY and proceed south to Yorktown, VA for the last big battle of the Rev. War. He came down with dysentery and had to be replaced by one of his lieutenants, a Lt. Mansfield. (Lt. Mansfield serving in ASA Lay's place was wounded in one of the first engagements at the Battle at Yorktown.) At the time of the declaration of peace, in 1783, he was stationed with **Baron Von Steuben** at Fishkill, NY, on the Hudson River. Captain Asa Lay was a frequent visitor at **General Washington's headquarters**, in Newberg, NY on the opposite side of the river.

Asa Lay proudly served in his state's Militia after the War. - Captain Lay was retired from active service January 1st, 1783. He became a Lieutenant Colonel of the Seventh Conn. Regiment by a commission dated May 31, 1796.

Cpt. Asa Lay's greatly admired his Commander in Chief , General George Washington - Col. Lay had many memories of the War that he related to his children and grandchildren, He was so fond of General Baron Von Steuben that he named one of his twelve children **Steuben**. He spoke fondly of his commanders in his Connecticut regiments. **"But none did his heart cling in love, and reverence as it did to General Washington. 'I never saw the man,' he would say, 'I could live for, fight for, and die for as I could for Washington.'"**

Footnote: Asa's first son, Asa Wolcott Lay, made a set of Ivory teeth for Washington , "made a set of **ivory teeth** for General Washington, for which he was paid a guinea a tooth... Washington paused for an instant over the signature [to the bill] and then he said, 'I had a captain in the army by the name of ASA Lay; he was from Saybrook in Connecticut, Do you know anything about him?' When Washington learned that this Asa Lay was the son of the captain he took the young man's hand and said 'Give my love to your father; I knew him well; he was a brave man' "

Excerpts for this article taken from:

1. The Descendants of Robert Lay of Saybrook, Conn, Edwin A. Hill, Boston (MA), New England Historic Genealogical society, 1908. Pgs 4, 5, 7, & 9.
2. Captain Asa Lay of the War For Independence, by Mary Hewitt Mitchell, PhD, The Torrington Printing Company, Torrington, CT, 1930, 37pp.
3. Recollections of Eune Elizabeth Lay, daughter of Steuben Lay, granddaughter of Asa Lay, circa April 1893, 19pp
4. The History of Middlesex County (CT) 1635-1885, J.H. Beers & Co., 36 Vesey St., NY, 1884, pp 573-576.



Ancestor Memorials

Associate-Robert B. Kendall
Founder-Francis Kendall
Patriot-Josiah Kendall

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

Associate-A. Brian Cowardin
Founder-Peter Cowardine
Patriot-John Cowardine

Associate-L. Taylor Cowardin
Founder-Peter Cowardine
Patriot-John Cowardine

Associate-Asa Wesley Graves, VI
Founder-Thomas Graves
Patriot-Thomas Graves

Associate-Douglas M. Graves
Founder-Thomas Graves
Patriot-John Grave
Patriot-Thomas Graves

Associate-Russell C. Scott
Founder-Christopher Branch
Patriot-Capt. Benjamin Branch

Associate-Michael T. Halterman
Founder-Christopher Wadsworth
Patriot-Joseph Wadsworth

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

Associate-Roger P. Jones
Founder-Rev. Richard Jones
Patriot-Peter Jones

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

Associate-Myron "Mike" E. Lyman
Founder-Richard Lyman
Patriot-Ozias Lyman

Associate-Billy "Cowboy" Ogden Wadsworth
Founder-Christopher Wadsworth
Patriot-Joseph Wadsworth
Founder-John Ogden S-1
Patriot-Abraham Ogden S-1

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

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

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

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

Associate-David Warren Lyman
Founder-Richard Lyman
Patriot-Ozias Lyman

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

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

Associate-Walter Jervis Sheffield
Founder-Col. Robert Wynne, II
Patriot-John Winn and son Peter Winn

Associate-Dwight David Lyman
Founder-Richard Lyman
Patriot-Ozias Lyman

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

Continued on next page

Ancestor Memorials

Continued

Associate-Asa Wesley Graves, VII

Founder-Thomas Graves

Patriot-Thomas Graves

Associate-James Lewis Wheeler

Founder-George Wheeler and son William

Patriot-Sgt. Timothy Wheeler, Sr.

Associate-Charles E. Phebus

Founder-Sir George Calvert, 1st

Patriot-Lord Baltimore

Associate-Wade H.O. Kirby

Founder-Thomas Kirby

Patriot-Captain William Kirby

Associate- Charles Adams Roberts

Founder- William Lane

Founder-Andrew Lane

Patriot- Daniel Lane, Sr.

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 let the Governor know. Save a copy of the program. If you write an article, save a copy and send to Governor Newcombe to be included in the annual Governor's report.

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