

Celebrating General Joseph Martin in Martinsville

On Saturday, May 8, 2021, the Martin's Station and Colonel George Waller Chapters of the Virginia SAR co-hosted two ceremonies to commemorate General Joseph Martin and the Raid at Martin's Station in 1776. The first event took place in front of the Old Henry County Courthouse in Martinsville, Virginia, a town named in his honor, and the second event was the placement of an SAR marker beside General Martin's gravestone at the Martin family cemetery in Leatherwood, a short distance from Martinsville. Master of Ceremonies for the day was Andy Voss, President of the Colonel George Waller Chapter.

At the Courthouse, Virginia OFPA Governor Weyler brought greetings from the Virginia Society of The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, presented the Wreath of the Order and participated in the event's Color Guard.



In his remarks, Governor Weyler reminded those present that neither Joseph Martin's story, nor the story of America, began with the Revolution. It began more than a century and a half before the Revolution.

It began in Jamestown where, in 1608, Thomas Graves, an original investor in the Virginia Company, arrived to begin a new life. He was a settler, a soldier and one of the founding members of the first freely elected parliament in the new world, the Virginia House of Burgesses.

Thomas Graves' spirit of service to Virginia was clearly passed on to his fourth great grandson, General Joseph Martin, explorer, statesman, diplomat and Revolutionary War hero.

As an Order we honor both the Founder and the Patriot.

Tom Coker, President of the Martin's Station Chapter spoke at length about General Martin's life and deeds. While we associate his name with the station he build on the Wilderness Road, a station to aid the settlers moving west, his skill in dealing with the Indian tribe in the area kept most of the tribes neutral in the Revolutionary War.

The ceremony to place an SAR marker at General Marin's grave literally involved a convoy to his family cemetery deep into the private farm that had been the Martin farm.



L/R: Governor Weyler and Associate Jeff Thomas, President of the Virginia SAR, with the Order's wreath at General Martin's gravestone in the Martin family cemetery