

The Society of Descendants of Militia Officers

Spring/Summer Muster 2016

Report of the Captain on the State of the Society

Membership:

- Current Society membership is 5 with 3 pending applications for Members and 1 pending application for Associate Members. We are within 1 new member of meeting our 10 member goal for the first year of operation.
- We have responded to 12 requests for applications that have not resulted in enrolment of a new member since the last Muster. In each case we wait for 2 weeks to a month and send a follow up e-mail asking if they need more information or assistance.
- I encourage our members to find ways that we can engage those who request information, but do not apply, and to find other candidates for membership.

Significant Actions Since Our Fall Muster:

- Associate Membership established by vote of the membership.
- Membership dues raised by vote of the membership to include a \$20 application fee intended to pay for the costs of preparing the membership certificate and eventually appropriate insignia and a \$20 annual membership fee.
- After a long research effort to identify the format of militia commissioning certificates and to identify whether they were sealed and if so how the seal was attached, we will be able to issue a quality membership certificate in July.
- Draft Articles of Association have been completed and circulated for comment, and will be voted on at this Muster.

Programs Fulfilling Our Educational Purpose:

- We currently curate five lists of information on the militia. The current focus of these lists is the harvesting of muster rolls available online and books that are available in .pdf copy format online.
 - Units with date of service and known officers – 105 pages in length.
 - Register of commissioned officers and individuals with officer status – 153 pages in length.
 - Register of non-commissioned officers -
 - List of wars and battles – currently being pursued at a lower priority.
 - List of brief descriptions of known uniforms of militia units – currently being pursued at a lower priority.

I should note that where we encounter militia units in the Civil War, we are adding them to our registers. Records of these units are fragmentary, but reflect the final form of traditional militia organization, and therefore seem to be worthy of cataloging.

- We have one research paper published, on Militia manning in the War of the Regulation (available on academia.edu and on the website), and three research papers in work, on (1) response to the Danbury Alarm in the Revolution, (2) staffing of the Florida Militia in the Third Seminole War, and (3) the determination of catchment areas for Militia companies using cemetery records.
- We have started a new feature on our website highlighting profiles of militia officers from whom our members descend.
- There is ample material to sustain research activity in these areas for years, with probably at least 10,000 discoverable militia units and 50,000 discoverable officers.

Newsletter: Our newsletter, The Assembly, continues to be published on an approximately monthly basis, with information on source materials, new members, and information that contributes to understanding the context in which the Militia served.

Web Presence:

- Our website with our complete collection of lists provides information on the Society, a way to contact us, and our collection of lists. It is updated as we make additions to the lists, or add other significant documents.
- We need our members to follow the Facebook page, and like or comment on postings regularly to help build a picture that our organization is an active one. Positive reviews would also be appreciated.
- We have been asked by the Lineage Society of America not to post information on their Facebook page about what our organization is doing. Although this limits our ability to get our existence out to potential members, we have been more warmly received on other lineage related pages. Members aware of lineage related Facebook pages where we might be welcomed are asked to contact us as soon as possible.

Finances:

- Our first financial report will be presented to the membership at this muster.
- I would like to particularly call attention to the generosity and faith in our Society of Members St. Aubin and Taylor-Carusi in making generous monetary donations to our work.

Elections: In keeping with the traditions of a militia company, the Society will conduct elections for our Captain, Lieutenant, and Ensign at the Fall Muster. Any member wishing to make a nomination should consult the Articles of Association for the procedure.

Walter G. Green III, Ph.D.
Captain