

## The Society of Descendants of Militia Officers

Fall Muster 2015

### Report of the Acting President on the State of the Society

#### Membership:

- Current Society membership is 4.
- We have responded to 9 requests for applications that have not resulted in enrolment of a new member over the past three months. 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.
- Our goal is 10 members at the end of our first year of operations, and 50 members at the end of our second year of operations.

#### Programs:

- 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.
  - Register of commissioned officers and individuals with officer status.
  - 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.
- We have one research published, on Militia manning in the War of the Regulation, and two research papers in work, one on response to the Danbury Alarm in the Revolution and the second on staffing of the Florida Militia in the Third Seminole War.
- There is ample material to sustain research activity in these areas for years, with probably at least 10,000 discoverable militia units and 20,000 discoverable officers.
- We now have a blog (The Militia Researcher at <http://militiaresearch.blogspot.com>) that will provide approximately weekly to monthly posts with information designed to improve the skills of militia researchers.

**Educational Purpose:** A purpose that conforms to a list of allowed purposes is the key requirement for tax exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our purpose is educational, the collection, analysis, and dissemination on the militia and its role in national defense from 1607 to 1861.

#### Tax Exemption:

- We have requested and obtained an Employee Identification Number (EIN).

- The Society meets the requirements for 501(c)(3) tax exempt status under the provisions of the means test as an organization with a revenue of less than \$5000 a year. We are not required to file a request for determination of tax exempt status, although obviously we would want to do so when our finances permit (the current fee for exemption determination is \$400.00). We are, however, required to file a Form 990 Postcard annual tax return and will do so in January of 2016.

**Newsletter:** Our newsletter, The Assembly, is being published on a 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 at least 4 times a week as we make additions to the lists.
- Our Facebook page is updated at least 4 times a week, and generally features the status of our lists and other general information about ongoing activities.
- 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.

**Finances:**

- We have an established PayPal account and the capability to invoice new members for annual membership fees.
- To simplify membership renewals, individual membership numbers are keyed to the month of joining the Society.
- Our current annual membership fee is set a \$10.00. I recommend that we consider increasing this to a figure that will generate sufficient income to fund a broader range of activities.

Walter G. Green III, Ph.D.  
Acting President