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## How About Holding An AMERICA 250 FAMILY REUNION?

You can invite all of the Descendants of Your Own Patriot Ancestor....

During the upcoming [Orlando 2023 Congress in July](#), the America 250 Committee is holding a planning Workshop designed to help you:

1. Identify and contact all SAR descendants of your Patriot Ancestor;
2. Identify and contact all DNA Matches to you through that same Patriot Ancestor; and,
3. Plan a Family Reunion based on your Ancestor's Rev War experience.

I have asked the America 250 Committee if I can help to prepare a "cookbook" outlining the steps involved in organizing a Family Reunion event for all descendants of a particular Patriot Ancestor, - or for an identifiable group of Patriot Ancestors (such as the Culpeper Minutemen), - to be held on the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Rev War event, and in the location where he participated in that Rev War event.

The steps involved are:

1. Identify your Patriot or class of Patriots to be celebrated, and the event or location of their activity to be celebrated.
  - a. In the case of a Patriot group – (such as the Culpeper Minutemen), - develop a listing of all Patriots (SAR, DAR, SR) who participated in the event (e.g., the Battle of Hampton in 1775);
  - b. also develop the list of Supporting Patriots from the celebration location area (e.g., Culpeper County) who provided significant services, thereby qualifying them for SAR & DAR Patriot status.
  - c. Identify all of your DNA Matches to you through your own Patriot Ancestor, and notify them of the Dates, Place, and America 250 Event that is to be celebrated;
  - d. Provide those DNA Matches with sample letters and emails they can use for spreading the word to all of their own family contacts, detailing the Reunion and the America 250 Event;
  - e. Contact the local Chambers of Commerce, travel associations, hereditary societies, etc., to obtain their buy-in and assistance in the development of the America 250 celebration events;
  - f. Provide a "Schedule of Events" Template for a package that includes Event Programs for Reunion activities, America 250 activities, Grave Marking Ceremony activities, Reunion Roster Attendance and Yearbook Templates. Remember to include as many or more social events as there will be educational and historical events (more people like to party than visit museums);
  - g. A Reunion preparation planning checklist, outlining Reunion Headquarters information and food / lodging / local attraction suggestions.
  - h. Once the America 250 Event and location are identified, the Compatriot Descendants of all other Patriot Ancestors who participated in that same Rev War Event or location will be contacted to see if they also wish to hold a simultaneous Reunion for their own DNA Matches and collateral family members.

If done correctly, there could very well be 100-150 Descendants in attendance for EACH Patriot Ancestor, only 10% of whom are already SAR-DAR-C.A.R.-SR members – thereby creating a target-rich environment for SAR membership growth.

I must admit that "cookbooks" are not something that I am totally familiar with. When my mother's real estate company used to publish and distribute cookbooks each Christmas season, I was always chided for not submitting recipe's with the other family members, employees, and Realtor Associates, so I finally contributed two recipes – one for Manatee Stew, and the other for Bald Eagle Soup. Everyone realized it was a joke, though, because you can't Microwave either one of those delicacies, and that's the only kind of cooking I do. Besides, cookbooks never tell you how many seconds to Microwave anything.

What I am leading up to here, is that we are going to need some help: possibly from some professionals; but more likely from those of you who are accomplished amateur party and event planners, travel and lodging coordinators, community-oriented genealogy groups, etc. You can help us immensely by attending the Workshop at the Orlando Congress in July!

Anyway, those are a few random thoughts from a wandering mind.....

Hope it helps.

Lee