

# President's Pen

Virginia Society of the War of 1812 Compatriots

It is hard for me to believe how fast this year has flown by. Yet as documented in this newsletter and previous ones this year, members of the Virginia Society have contributed greatly to the noble objectives of our Society and to the War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebrations. Surely, in educating the public and honoring the veterans for fought in this War, we give thanks and pay respects to our direct descendants who served our country in this time of need.

At the Rappahannock Historical Society annual meeting and fund raiser on October 27<sup>th</sup>, Mike Lyman, Vic Dial and I manned a table with literature and information on the War of 1812. Several persons visiting the table admitted that they knew very little or nothing about the War of 1812. Later at the Grave Marking for Alfred S. Dearing, in addition to giving remarks, I asked those attending questions about the War of 1812, including who was President and First Lady, what heroic thing did the First Lady do, why did we get into the war, why was the Battle of Baltimore of lasting significance, what was the most decisive battle of the War, who were a couple of our Naval Heroes, and what immortal words did they proclaim. In this fairly large crowd, usually only one or two gave a reply. Mike Lyman in his enthusiasm started to give the answers first, until I said to Mike, "I know you know the answers. I want to see what they know."

After the conclusion of the event, many in attendance came up to us to expressed their appreciation for the "very impressive ceremony" and pledged that when they got back home they would some research and become more acknowledgeable about this War. Mike, Vic and I felt good for what was accomplished.

There are literally hundreds of organizations, societies, and good causes that one can be become involved. I wish to express my debt of gratitude, for those who chose the War of 1812 to give their precious time, talent and energy. There is much work left to do and persons to reach. The upcoming Bicentennial Celebrations give us a once in a lifetime opportunity. Let us seize the moment.

Judy and I wish you the very best Holiday Season ever and look forward to working with you to make the New Year a banner one for our Society and for all those who served in the War of 1812.

Very best,

John N. Dickie

## Our Society regrets the passing of two of our members

Doctor William E. Nichols died on April 30, 2012

He resided in Waynesboro, Virginia

Colonel (Retired) James Fred Nixon, Jr. died

April 7, 2012 .A portion of his obituary follows:

*Oct. 06, 1919 - April 07, 2012*

### **Colonel (Ret.) James Fred Nixon, Jr.**

Colonel (Ret.) James Fred Nixon, Jr., 92, of Huntsville, passed away Saturday. Colonel Nixon was a native of Tishomingo, MS, graduate of the University of Mississippi, where he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity. He was a Colonel in the Army until retiring when he became the Commandant of the Army Reserve 3392 USAR School. He also attended Armed Forces Staff College, the Command and General Staff College, Air Forces College and Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He was a member of First United Methodist Church in Huntsville, the Society of the War of 1812, past president of the Sons of the American Revolution and Grand Lodge of Mississippi F & A M. Master Masons for 70 years. Colonel Nixon was preceded in death by his loving wife of 50 years, Gladys Wicks Nixon.

THE GENERAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING  
WAS HELD IN BOSTON DURING THE  
PERIOD AUGUST 17-2012 AND WAS  
ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT DICKIE AND OUR  
QUARTERMASTER , SHANE NEWCOMBE