



SOCIETY HOLDS ITS ANNUAL MUSTER ON JUNE 24, 2023, AT THE PILOT HOUSE RESTAURANT IN TOPPING, VIRGINIA

The Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia held its annual muster on June 24, 2023, at the Pilot House Restaurant in Topping, Virginia. The Society's Board of Direction meeting was also held there to discuss past and future issues concerning the Society's financial status and plans for future events. President James Green opened the meeting at 10:30am and Stuart Butler acted as secretary. Attending the meeting were Tim Ahlgim, Kenneth Bage, Robert Bruce, Kenneth Hawkins, Mike Lyman, Hugh Markham, Willie Martin, James Russell, Paul Walden, Richard Fickling, Robert Bruce, Stuart Whitehead, Gerald W. Scott, and David Hazel. Six guests were also present for the luncheon and presentation.

During the meeting, a range of topics were discussed to include the shortage of grave markers, uniform incentives to increase the participation of members in the color guard, financial health of the Society (which is good), the continuation of the annual essay contest, and the lack of ROTC volunteers to participate in Virginia ROTC awards programs. Other topics included endorsement of additional money for the publication of the 2nd edition of burials of Virginia War of 1812 soldiers.

President Green and Vice President General Walden announced that they would attend the General Society's Triennial meeting at Plattsburg, New York, later this summer.

Following the BOD meeting and luncheon, the Society was addressed by Comdr. Christopher Melhuish, who gave a very informative

history and background of USS Constitution (Old Ironsides), a ship that he once commanded.



President James opens the meeting





Comdr. Christopher Melhuish





Registrar Hugh Markham inducts new members into the Society. L to R: Willie D. Martin, Roger E. Bruce, and Jon T. Rymer.



Mike Lyman displayed some possible War of 1812-era items in his collection



Plaque from Norfolk State University ROTC to the Virginia Society of the War of 1812