

This is a printer friendly version of an article from [zanesvilletimesrecorder.com](http://zanesvilletimesrecorder.com)  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

---

Article published Jan 11, 2006

## Revitalizing the Sons of the American Revolution

CHUCK MARTIN

Keith Kaufman of Perry County, president of the Rufus Putnam Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, is working to revitalize the chapter in Muskingum, Perry and Morgan counties.

The modern incarnation of the chapter has been in existence since 1987, when it was chartered with nine members due to the efforts of the Rev. Ken Kettlewell, who was serving that year as chaplain-general of the National Society of the S.A.R. The officers were Kettlewell, president; William R. Brown, vice president; Robert E. Nicholas, secretary-treasurer and Philip H. Fletcher, chaplain.

However, the chapter actually has an older history, which started only a few years after the national organization was formed. Kaufman has provided that history, along with other information.

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution was formed on April 30, 1889, when 20 delegates met at Fraunces Tavern in New York City in the "Long Room" where George Washington bade farewell to his officers on Dec. 3, 1783. This was apparently an outgrowth of the Sons of Revolutionary Sires, which had been organized in the San Francisco area in 1876.

It was subsequently chartered in Connecticut in January 1890, held its first national congress in Louisville in April 1890 and was chartered by Congress on June 9, 1906.

Interestingly, the Ohio chapter was formed April 11, 1889, in the office of Gov. Joseph B. Foraker. One Zanesville resident has served as president of the Ohio Society. That was Henry A. Axline in 1890. He does not show up on the roster of the original members of the Zanesville chapter.

Only six years after the state and national organizations were formed, Bernard Van Horne Schultz, a national member since 1890, began efforts to organize in Zanesville and began developing a list of men who might be eligible. By April, he had 18 prospective members and an organizational meeting was held in May, where it was decided to name the chapter after Putnam, the Revolutionary War veteran who had led the settlement of Marietta, the first settlement in what would become Ohio, in 1788.

According to the Ohio SAR genealogist, the Rufus Putnam Chapter was the first Ohio Society chapter formed in the state.

Putnam, of course, also had local ties, being the uncle of Dr. Increase Mathews and Levi Whipple and backing them in the purchase of the land that became the village of Putnam, then part of Zanesville after 1872. He was also the father of Catherine Putnam, the first wife of Ebenezer Buckingham, a leading citizen of Putnam until he was killed during construction of the third Y Bridge in 1832.

Kaufman has been able to track down the names of the founding members of the Rufus Putnam Chapter. Some of those names should be familiar to students of Zanesville history, some may be recognized by descendants living in the Zanesville area today.

There are actually 22 listed. They are:

Charles T. Atwell, Edward M. Ayers, James McConnell Bailey, Willis Adams Bailey, Walter Van Hamm Black, Edmund Cone Brush, Van Horne Bukey, Lewis Culbertson, Charles Searle Elder, Howard Cole Fulton, Willis H. Graham, Sherman Moorehead Granger, Charles Robert Hamilton, Frank Colton Irvine, Robert Thompson Irvine, Jim F. McMaster, Harry Lincoln Nye, Sherwood Mortley Pinkerton, Bernard Van Horne Schultz, William Darlington Schultz, Tileston Frazier Spangler, Clarence Sumner Vandenkark.

Listed with each is the name of the ancestor who fought in the Revolution. Pennsylvania and Massachusetts are the most represented, with seven listing ancestors from the Keystone State and six from Massachusetts. Three list Virginia ancestors, two Connecticut and one each from New Hampshire, New York and Indiana. One lists two ancestors from two states and two give the name of an ancestor but no state.

Somewhere in the material Kaufman submitted was the statement that more Revolutionary War veterans are buried in Ohio than any other state. I don't know if that's true, but there certainly are plenty of them, probably because of lands given to veterans for their military service. In Muskingum County, 165 graves of Revolutionary War veterans have been identified. The complete list can be found on pages 74 and 75 of the new Muskingum County history book compiled by the Muskingum County Genealogical Society.

The original chapter remained active for about 50 years, but remained in existence into the 1960s, as it occasionally shows up in news articles, such as one from June 25, 1965, about former Zanesville Mayor Roy Nowell receiving a "Good Citizenship Medal" from the society, along with a certificate of appreciation for service to the society and the community.

The Putnam chapter has been able to sponsor a couple patriot grave markings in Perry County, and it participated in the Christmas Parade in New Lexington. The state and national societies sponsor several essay, speaking and scholarship programs for youth, but the Putnam chapter needs more members before it can sponsor youth in these contests. One of Kaufman's goals is to build enough membership to do that.

For information about Joining the Sons of the American Revolution, write: Keith H. Kaufman, 4076 State Rte. 13 N.E., New Lexington, Ohio 43764 - 9676. Or, e-mail: [kkcountryboy@yahoo.com](mailto:kkcountryboy@yahoo.com) Please add SAR in your Subject Line.

---