



December 5, 2020 (Saturday) - 245th Commemoration of the Battle of Great Bridge - VIRTUAL EVENT ONLY

Location: Zoom - following is an excerpt, with details sent Sunday morning the 22nd of November, from VASSAR President Schwetke.

The ceremony to mark the 245th Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge has been changed from a physical event to an online event hosted by the DAR. This is due to the governor's recent restriction on indoor and outdoor events to 25 attendees. Information from the Virginia SAR project officer, Ken Hawkins follows.

The 10th Annual National Observance by the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) and 120th Annual Commemoration by Great Bridge Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) will take place at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 5th via ZOOM.

Those chapters interested in presenting a wreath virtually at this event should contact Kenneth Hawkins at drklhawkins@gmail.com, with Chapter name, presenter's name & title NLT 12:00 pm Dec 1st. Don't delay as there is limited capacity due to system capabilities. A planned rehearsal of this event will be held on December 1st.

Details: This is a National Level Event, commemorating the Battle of Great Bridge was fought December 9, 1775, in the area of Great Bridge, Virginia, early in the American Revolutionary War. The victory by colonial Virginia militia forces led to the departure of Royal Governor Lord Dunmore and any remaining vestiges of British power over the Colony of Virginia during the early days of the conflict. Following increasing political and military tensions in early 1775, both Dunmore and colonial rebel leaders recruited troops and engaged in a struggle for available military supplies. The struggle eventually focused on Norfolk, where Dunmore had taken refuge aboard a Royal Navy vessel. Dunmore's forces had fortified one side of a critical river crossing south of Norfolk at Great Bridge, while rebel forces had occupied the other side. In an attempt to break up the rebel gathering, Dunmore ordered an attack across the bridge, which was decisively repulsed. Colonel William Woodford, the Virginia militia commander at the battle, described it as "a second Bunker's Hill affair". Shortly thereafter, Norfolk, at the time a Loyalist center, was abandoned by Dunmore and the Tories, who fled to navy ships in the harbor. Rebel-occupied Norfolk was destroyed on January 1, 1776 in an action begun by Dunmore and completed by rebel forces.

Weather:

Attendees: Bonner, Cook, Greaf, Melhuish, and Schwetke

