



THE GUNNERY NEWS

Col. Fielding Lewis Chapter
Fredericksburg, VA

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President's Corner



Happy Holidays, fellow Compatriots!

Over the last several months I have had the occasion to spend some time and reflect on my time as the Chapter President. My biggest worry four years ago when I first took the job, was not to let the Chapter fold or go broke under my watch. Happy to say that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, inability to meet personally for extended periods, increases in State dues, and occasional changes or absences in key officer positions over these years, we've been able to not only maintain our member numbers but to also remain financially solvent. Of note is the fact that many of the new members who have joined us are really energized about what the SAR does and to get involved.

*We've seen more activity in grave markings, more unofficial social gatherings to get to know each other better, more interaction and meetings with local DAR Chapters, more community involvement with the Scouts and presentations of Flag Certificates, as well as the reestablishment of the **Gunnery Newsletter** and an updated Chapter website.*

We've become less computer phobic by having to learn how to "ZOOM" into meetings – which will have dividends as we all must soon transition to the Member Clicks system to pay dues and access State-wide SAR information.

As I turn the gavel over to Compatriot Jeremy Utt, I remain committed to supporting the Chapter to meet its obligations to Remember Our Past, Promote Core Values, and Shape Young Minds and will enthusiastically support Jeremy and the newly elected Board of Managers wherever I can. I want to say thank you for all the support I've received from the membership over the years, and especially to those who served with me on the

Board of Managers and to the Committee Chairs. None of what we have done could have been done without all of them! I ask that you all give Jeremy and the new Board the same (or more) support that you have given me to keep the Chapter moving forward.

**HAVE YOU SEEN OUR WEBPAGE?!?!?!
<https://cflvirginia-sar.org>**

The new webpage features the latest News, a Media Gallery, Genealogy and Historical Resources, Events Calendar, and a Members Area. You can subscribe to the News for delivery to your email and sign up for access to the Members Area! Check on it soon!!

Editors Note: This issue marks a large event with several 'behind the scenes activities' that needed recognition for the recognition of Pvt John Wallace in Stafford County. Coordination with Virginia Commonwealth govt, a residential contractor, county govt. and descendants took months of hard work by several compatriots.

It also marks the last months of President Wachter's term as President. We will also mark the departure of Brian Madigan as Secretary. As the transfer between Presidents will mark a new era for the chapter, I'd like to personally say thanks to Jim and Brian for all the hours dedicated to the chapter.

Revolutionary War Soldier Honored in Stafford Family Cemetery

By James Baron
Originally Published in the Fredericksburg Free-Lance Star Online
Edition on 14 Aug 2022

Story has been modified from its original version.

A Revolutionary War veteran who served at Valley Forge and Monmouth in the late 1770s was officially honored on August 14th.

“Three years ago, we came very close to losing the Wallace family cemetery to a bulldozer including the nearly 200-year-old grave of true patriot and soldier John Wallace,” said Gordon Silleck, the great-great-great-grandson of Wallace, who was buried at the cemetery on May 4, 1829. “Today I am happy to say the cemetery is much improved, but importantly, it’s saved and the future looks much better,” Silleck said.



Mr. Steve Boulton, Virginia Society, Sons of Confederate Veterans, played the bagpipes in tribute to John Wallace. - Photo by Quinn Roderick



Virginia Delegate Tara Durant honored John Wallace, Aug 14th – Tara Durant VA - Facebook



Wallace's Great-Great-Great Grandson, Gordon Silleck – Tristan Lorei – Freelance Star

Rep. Tara Durant was among those who came to honor Wallace and his family Sunday. Durant said she was surprised with the large number of people who came to pay their respects to the Stafford native and veteran of the Revolutionary War. “All of these people that came out, that shows how much they care about our history and all the values that we care about with this country,” Durant said. “Everything that we were founded on.”



CFL Compatriot, BG(r) Jack Apperson provided remarks for John Wallace. - Tristan Lorei – Freelance Star

Retired Army Brigadier General, CFL Compatriot, and Fredericksburg native Jack Apperson told the guests at the graveside ceremony the “carelessness or callousness” inflicted upon Wallace’s headstone reminded him of the “fragility of our own democracy.” “Many people believe our country today is very

close to such a moment,” Apperson said. “Let us use this ceremony to rededicate ourselves to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” The general told

guests his great-great-great-grandfather Peter Apperson was also at Valley Forge at the same time as Wallace and served in the same regiment alongside him.

Jalyn Wade said two years ago when she and her family moved into their new home on Liberty Hall Drive almost directly across the street from the historic cemetery, they noticed the grass was overgrowing on the property and wanted to do something about it.

“My husband and I wanted to come clean it up with weed-whackers and were told by the developer do not step foot in it,” Wade said. “We were told to stay away.”

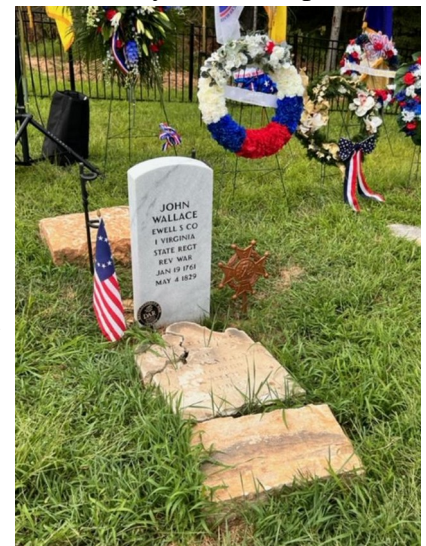
Wade said many residents of the Liberty Hall Estates community would like to see the builder turn the cemetery over to Liberty Hall residents, who she says have “a great desire” to maintain the property.

“We would love to adopt it,” Wade

said. “We’re waiting for the HOA to turn the rights over to us so we can govern ourselves.”

Seth Roderick, also a member of the Lewis chapter, said a three-year-old Free Lance–Star story that reported the damage to the Wallace family cemetery initially got his chapter involved. The chapter petitioned the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to replace the broken Wallace headstone with a brand new VA-issued marble version.

“We hope this grave monument stands for another 200 years as a reminder of one of the citizens of Stafford and his contributions to his community,” Roderick said last month. “It was during a difficult time in our shared history which was the founding of the United States.”



John Wallace's new and original headstones. - Photo by John Carberry

Revolutionary War Soldier Honored in Stafford Family Cemetery – Con'd from Pg. 2

Military records show Wallace also camped at the Middlebrook encampment in Bridgewater Township, New Jersey, at West Point, N.Y., and then at Smith's Clove, a pass through New York's Ramapo Mountains. He eventually went on to join the Philadelphia Campaign, which lasted from July 1777 to July 1778.

In addition to dedicating the new headstone Sunday, two markers were also added to Wallace's gravesite including a solid brass Revolutionary War veteran marker and a smaller stainless steel marker from the Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution.



Virginia SAR Color Guard Renders Honors to John Wallace – Photo by John Carberry

Stafford's Donna Sayre, a member of the Falls of the Rappahannock Daughters of the American Revolution, said her group was present Sunday to honor the sacrifices Wallace made for the country. She said the damage done at the cemetery three years ago reminded her of damage done at her own childhood home in Kentucky.

"I saw my family grave destroyed by development and I feel very strongly about this," Sayre said. "I think (the Wallace family cemetery) needs to be here for the next 200 years for generations to come so they know what happened and the people that made those sacrifices."

Although Silleck said he doesn't know too much about John Wallace personally, he did say Wallace and his twin brother Thomas ran away from the family farm when they were 15 years old in an attempt to join the Continental Army. Lt. Col. G. B. Wallace—their older brother—got wind of the scheme and sent the two boys home. Two years later, they both enlisted.

Silleck moved to Fredericksburg in 2016 after spending a career working at Sikorsky Aircraft in Connecticut. Now fully retired, he said he now makes a hobby out of doing minor repair and upkeep jobs around the old family cemetery, including repositioning misplaced footstones and repairing a cross on one of the monuments that was broken off.

"Just little things like that," Silleck said. "I hope people who visit here come away with a greater degree of patriotism and a sense of preserving history and hope they'd be conservationists in their own right."

CFL Erects New Headstone for Corporal John Wallace

9 July, Stafford County, Gunnery News

Several members of the Colonel Fielding Lewis Chapter erected a Veterans Administration acquired headstone for John Wallace, a Corporal from both the 1st State Regiment and Falmouth Militia. This event marks a year-long effort spearheaded by Secretary Brian Madigan and Registrar Seth Roderick to mark Patriot Wallace's grave after the original sandstone grave stone was damaged.

Around May 2021, Compatriot Roderick was contacted by Gordon Silleck, a direct descendant of John Wallace, requesting assistance marking his Patriot Ancestor's grave. Upon inspection, the original sandstone grave stone was damaged and likely beyond repair. Compatriot Roderick asked Compatriot Brian



Mr. Steve Boulton and Compatriot Roderick dig a footer for the new Veterans Admin. Gravestone as Compatriots Carberry and Quinn Roderick rest. - Photo by Jim Wachter

Madigan, also the Chapter Veteran's Committee Chair for assistance. Compatriot Madigan successfully submitted documentation to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for an official Veterans Headstone. In November 2021, the new headstone was delivered to Compatriot Roderick for installation. Mr. Silleck began coordinating with the Liberty Hall Estates housing development contractor which is now sitting on the old family farm, Liberty Hall. After some lively discussion and intervention by Compatriot Roderick the contractor agreed to allow the Chapter to erect the new headstone.

On 9 July, Colonel Fielding Lewis Chapter President Jim Wachter, Secretary Brian Madigan, Registrar Seth Roderick, Compatriots John Carberry and Quinn Roderick with the assistance of Mr. Steve Gross and Mr. Steve Boulton loaded the 350-400 pound marble stone to a flatbed trailer and transported it to the gravesite. They dug approximately two feet into the ground only to find the base of the original stone that had to be hauled from the hole. After setting the stone and placing a layer of concrete around it's new footer, the stone was leveled and plumbed. The old sandstone gravemarker was then placed immediately to the foot of the new stone.

Memorial Day Hugh Mercer Memorial Ceremony

30 May 2022, Fredericksburg, Virginia, *Gunnery News*

On Memorial Day 2022, Members of the Virginia SAR Colonel Fielding Lewis Chapter, Falls of the Rappahannock, and the Washington-Lewis Chapters of the Virginia DAR held a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the General Hugh Mercer Memorial in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

The ceremony began with the playing of “Going Home” and “Flower of Scotland” by a local bagpiper in honor of one of the U.S.’s most famous Scotsmen, Hugh Mercer. Colonel Fielding Lewis Chapter President and members of the local DAR



chapters placed wreath’s at the foot of Mercer’s Memorial.

CFL Compatriot and Fredericksburg local businessman Charles Daniels delivered remarks on Mercer and the importance of Fredericksburg during the Revolutionary War.

For Mercer’s part, he is the only confirmed General Officer in U.S. Army history to die in

hand-to-hand combat. Mercer was called to service by his true friend and neighbor, General Washington, to serve in the Continental Army. Mercer had previously served under Washington during the French and Indian War and humbly left his Fredericksburg Apothecary to join the cause. Fredericksburg, under Washington’s brother-in-law Fielding Lewis’ leadership, was one of the most important manufacturing and port cities capable of providing supplies to the Army.

Photos by CFL Registrar Seth Roderick

VIRGINIA
FOR
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NSSAR America 250 Program

Are you ready to celebrate 250 years of Independence? The National Society is too and to commemorate the events, they have created the America 250 Programs. Learn more about how the Colonel Fielding Lewis Chapter, Virginia Society, and National Society will celebrate our liberty by going to:

<https://america250sar.org/>

Monthly Social Hour



20 July. Fredericksburg, Virginia, *Gunnery News*.

Compatriots of the Colonel Fielding Lewis Chapter and John Harvin of the George Mason Chapter met at **Casey’s of Fredericksburg** for an evening of conversation, food, drinks, (and always good laughs).

The CFL Chapter meets every third Wednesday of the month as an opportunity to see each other outside of Chapter meetings and regular order. This night included John Harvin from the George Mason Chapter, who heard about our social hour and drove down from Prince William County to meet with other Virginia SAR Compatriots. Conversations range from catching up about each other’s personal and professional lives, to fishing and watercraft, to theater enactments (it’s a long story).

The next event will be held at **The Pub** in Fredericksburg at 4187 Plank Road on 18 January 2023. Come join President Wachter in his last non-ceremonial event!!!

Event Attendance & Donation Reporting Form

Are you active in your community or participating in Veterans Service Organizations? Your service and donations can be recognized by the Chapter and State Society! Unfortunately we’ve lacked a mechanism to report your activities. The chapter website now features a web form that automatically notifies this editor and web master!

Simply navigate to <https://cflvirginia-sar.org/event-and-donation-reporting-form/>

And fill out the blocks to the absolute best of your ability. From there, your inputs will be reported to the Chapter’s officers and where appropriate to the State Society. You’re working hard to help your community, just like your Patriot ancestor, you deserve recognition for it. If you cannot access the form and prefer a document, notify the editor at historian@cflvirginia-sar.org.

Our Feature Story on pages 2 & 3, "Revolutionary War Soldier Honored in Stafford Family Cemetery" was reproduced with minor changes by permission of the story author at the Fredericksburg Freelance-Star. To read the full story:

https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/revolutionary-war-soldier-honored-in-stafford-family-cemetery/article_48e2fe0d-60ae-54ba-89b5-a0c031d158dd.html

Freelance-Star also covered our compatriots efforts to set the VA Headstone at the site. Please see that full coverage here: https://fredericksburg.com/news/local/revolutionary-war-veteran-gets-new-headstone-at-damaged-stafford-cemetery/article_e1e5df6a-7e7e-5b24-b7ff-55ace1c3afd.html

Upcoming Events

January

21 January. CFL Chapter Meeting, FXBG Country Club – Chapter Officer Installation

February

3 Feb: 2023 Pennsylvania SAR Winter Meeting (Alloy Hotel, King of Prussia, PA)

9-12 Feb: Virginia SAR Annual Meeting (Berry Hill Resort, South Boston, VA)

18 Feb: Grave Marking for Phillip Fendall (Fendall House, Alexandria, VA)

25 February: 247th Commemoration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge (Moore's Creek Battleground, Currie, NC)

March

2 Mar: NSSAR 2023 Spring Leadership Meeting

10-11 Mar: Multi-Chapter Event at Graves Mountain (Syria, VA)

11 Mar: Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse (Guilford Courthouse National Park, Greensboro, NC)

11 March. CFL Chapter Meeting, FXBG Country Club – Michele Trampe "Human Trafficking Awareness"

24 Mar: 246th Anniversary of the Battle of Thomas Creek (Jacksonville, FL)

April

25 Mar: Mountain View High School Marine JROTC Awards

May

13 May. CFL Chapter Meeting, FXBG Country Club – Debbie Pederson "History of Smithfield and FXBG CC"

June

17 June. CFL Chapter Meeting, Ferry Farm – Historical Presentation / Tour of Ferry Farm

July

15 Jul: 133rd NSSAR Congress (Orlando, FL)

Editor's Note: Some events are based off best available information from the National SAR, Virginia SAR, and various Chapter Calendars.

CFL Supports Wreaths Across America in Indiana



CFL Historian Jerad Myers support American Legion Post 24 during their 3 December Wreaths Across America Event at the Garland Brook Cemetery in Columbus, IN. More than 90 volunteers from the Legion, Young Marines, and Chamber of Commerce placed over 1,200 Wreaths on Veteran Graves. -Photos by Jerad Myers



Seymour (Indiana) Chapter of the Young Marines.



Grave of Patriot Joseph Hart (176476)

Do you have a life-event you'd like to celebrate with your fellow Compatriots? Send a short description of the event along with a photo or two to historian@cflvirginia-sar.org

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is the leading male lineage society perpetuating the ideals of the war for independence. As a historical, educational, and patriotic, non-profit corporation, we seek to maintain and expand the meaning of patriotism, respect for our national symbols, the value of American citizenship, and the unifying force of 'e pluribus unum' that was created from the people of many nations -- one nation and one people.