



Norfolk Patriot

*Norfolk Chapter
of the Sons of the American Revolution*

Honoring our Forefathers, Serving our fellow men



**Celebrating 100 years
1924 to 2024**

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Summer 2024



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DOUGLAS
MACARTHUR

Cover: Annual NATO Parade down the streets of Norfolk: Photo by NATO – SFC Maximilian Schulz. Inside: Piper Jim Roberts performing at the DAR's annual Flag Day ceremony.

The Norfolk Patriot is a quarterly newsletter of the Norfolk Chapter. Please submit articles for publication to the editor by the 15th day of March, June, September and December to:
ahlgrim.vassar@gmail.com.

Input or comments are welcome at any time.

President's Message



Members,

I hope all of you are having a great summer so far. The chapter has had a busy year so far and we are gearing up for an even busier fall season. Our members have been hard at work in the spring and early summer and I'd like to discuss a few of the highlights.

Starting off, we finished out the ROTC and JROTC program for the universities and high schools in the area. It was my honor to present awards at two different ceremonies hosted by my employer, Old Dominion University, and as well to present awards at Princess Anne High School. We had a total of 9 volunteers including myself helping to present these awards throughout our community and I am very grateful for the chapter's participation in these endeavors

We also honored two patriots in Chesapeake in cooperation with the Great Bridge SAR chapter. The two ceremonies were excellently done despite the weather elements sometimes trying to get the best of our wreaths! We are currently planning another ceremony in the fall, but it will be up to a Scout project as to the timing of that event.

One of the most unique experiences I have had in SAR

was our presence at the 71st annual Parade of Nations in Downtown Norfolk. When I arrived, I was greeted with floats representing every country currently in NATO! The creativity was very impressive, and I enjoyed our opportunity to march behind the Scouts float and have our color guard march with a French contingent. I am already looking forward to next year!

Later that same day, our chapter was able to coordinate with the Great Bridge SAR chapter to support the Revolutionary Beer Fest. While I was unable to attend, I understand it was a great time and hope to be able to make it next year.

The next month, our chapter had a presence at the Genealogy Day at the Beach at the Virginia Beach Central Library. There were some great presentations and we were able to put up a table for potential members. Finally, our chapter marched in the 2nd annual Norfolk Memorial Day Parade in Larchmont. This was a great experience for everyone just as it was last year, until we reached the tents, and the organizers began their Memorial Day ceremony. At that point, the heavens erupted upon us and there was thunder, lighting, and pouring rain. I want to give a special thanks to the chapter members who stayed to help take down our table and tent in the pouring rain.

Looking forward, we will be attending a Tides' baseball game as a chapter on August 11th. We will once again be carrying the colors for the Tides for the playing of our national anthem.

We are also hard at work preparing for the Battle of the Virginia Capes in September. I am pleased to announce to the chapter that we have received official permission from Fort Story to once again hold our commemoration of the battle on the base. You should have received a Save the Date flyer for this event and official RSVPs with the form required for you to be able to get on base will be sent out soon. This will be the first Capes event that is a national SAR event so we hope to make it incredibly memorable for all involved.

That's all I have for now until our next meeting in September. I hope all of you have a wonderful summer filled with safe travels and look forward to seeing you all in the fall!

Upcoming Events

The following is a compilation of observances and ceremonies being held statewide. Please check with the local chapter or entity before making any travel plans.

July 1st, 11:00am: Reading of the Declaration of Independence and Wreath Presentation, at the Warren Heritage Society, 101 Chester St., Front Royal, VA. Hosted by the Col. James Wood II Chapter, and Warren Heritage Society.

July 2nd, at 7:00pm: Purcellville Cannons baseball team's Salute To Veterans at Fireman's Field, 250 S. Nursery Street, Purcellville, Virginia and hosted by the Sgt.Maj. John Champe Chapter. Contact Barry Schwoerer (bschwoerer@comcast.net) for more information.

July 3rd, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm: Rockin' Independence Eve, Winchester, Virginia, at the Walking Mall in Winchester. Hosted by the Col. James Wood II Chapter and the City of Winchester.

July 4th: Independence Day. The following are only a few of the many events planned across the State:

Reading of the Declaration of Independence, Winchester, Virginia, hosted by the Col. James Wood II Chapter at the Walking Mall, Winchester, VA.

Fourth of July Celebration, Abingdon, Virginia, hosted by Gen. William Campbell Chapter VASSAR at the Abingdon Muster Grounds 1780 Muster Place, Abingdon, VA.

Independence Day Parade in Leesburg, Virginia, down Market Street from Ida Lee Park to King Street and down Market. Hosted by the Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter with DAR and C.A.R. participation.

In celebration of our Nation's birth, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is offering free admission to the Historic Area and the Art Museums on July 4th from 9 am to 5 pm. Check their website for additional information.

Independence Day at Yorktown. A full day of activities of every kind is sponsored by the City. Go to their website for more information and details.

Fourth of July Parade, Middletown, VA. Hosted by the Col. James Wood II Chapter VASSAR and City of Middletown beginning at Laurel Ridge Community College, going south on Main Street.

Independence Day and March to the Tomb, Mount Vernon, Virginia, hosted by the George Washington Chapter at George Washington's Mount Vernon, VA.

Reading of the Declaration of Independence. Hosted by the Culpeper Minutemen Chapter at Yowell Meadows Park, Charters of Freedom, N. Blue Ridge Ave, Culpeper, VA.

July 6th, at 10:00 am: Commemoration of the Battle of Green Spring in Williamsburg, Virginia at the Church on the Main, 4644 Yeardley Loop, Williamsburg, Virginia hosted by the Williamsburg Chapter. For more information, contact Gary Dunaway at ormazd72@gmail.com.

July 9th, 11:00 am: The 248th Anniversary of the Battle of Cricket Hill at the Morningstar Marinas, 249 Mill Point Road, Hudgins, Virginia and hosted by the Richard Henry Lee Chapter. For more information, contact Michael Rhodes at airsllc@gmail.com.

From July 10th through the 17th, the 134th Annual NSSAR Congress will be held at the Marriott Hotel, 25 South Queen St., Lancaster, PA, 17603. Details can be found at: <https://passar.org/2024%20Congress/2024%20SAR%20National%20Congress.html>

July 13th, 2:00 pm: The 250th Commemoration of the 1774 Essex Resolutions at the Essex County Museum & Historical Society, Max Silver Memorial Courtyard, 218 S. Water Lane, Tappahannock, Virginia. The Rappahannock Chapter is hosting. Contact Wright Andrews at wandrews@andrewsdclaw.com for more information.

July 18th, 9:30 am: The 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Fairfax Resolves at George Mason's Grave, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton, Virginia. Hosted by the Fairfax Resolves and George Mason Chapters.

July 18th, 6:00 pm: The 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Fairfax Resolves, at Market Square, 300 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Co-hosted by the City of Alexandria and the Fairfax Resolves Chapter.

July 19th, 3:00 pm: The Fairfax Resolves Plaque listing the original signers of the Resolves will be dedicated at the historic Christ Church, 118 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA.

August 2nd, 11:30 am: DAR Sign Dedication at the Joint Expeditionary Base, Fort Story, Virginia and hosted by the Lynnhaven Parish Chapter, NSDAR. Please contact Carolyn Guenveur, carolyng04@gmail.com for more information.

August 9th and 10th: The Atlantic Middle States Association will meet at the Williamsburg Lodge, 310 South England St., Williamsburg, VA. Hosts and POC's are Bill Greaf; Ken Hawkins. Compatriots and guests can book their hotel rooms online at: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50775027>.

August 10th, 11:00am: the 248th Anniversary Commemoration of the First Reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Spirit of Loudoun Revolutionary War Monument on the green at the Loudoun County Courthouse, 18 E Market St., Leesburg, Virginia. Hosted by the Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter. For more information, please contact Barry Schwoerer (bschwoerer@comcast.net).

August 11th, 3:00 pm: Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution Nite with the Norfolk Tides. Co-hosted by the DAR and SAR. Tickets available at: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Sonsdaughters3>.

August 13th. 7:00 pm: Norfolk Chapter Board of Managers Meeting.

August 17th, Noon: Opening Ceremony of the Nansemond Indian Nation Annual Pow Wow, 1001 Pembroke Lane, Suffolk, Virginia and hosted by the Nansemond Indian Patriot Chapter.

August 24th, 10:00 am: Patriot Monument Dedication to George Flohr, Royal Deux Ponts Regt., St. John's Cemetery 1650 N 4th St., Wytheville, Virginia. Hosted by the Lt. David Cox Chapter. Contact Rollie Ney at cclrnye@embarqmail.com or Bruce Meyer at esr-sar@charter.net for more information.

September 7th, 11:00 am: Commemoration of the Battle of the Virginia Capes, hosted by the Norfolk Chapter at the Vice Admiral Francois Joseph Paul de Grasse Statue, Fort Story, Virginia Beach, VA.

September 13th, 10:00 am: Grave marking for LtCol William Langborn, Aide de Camp to Marquis de Lafayette at 8400 St Peter's Lane, New Kent, Virginia and hosted by the Williamsburg Chapter. For more information, contact Gary Dunaway at gdunaway4sar@gmail.com.

September 13th and 14th: The VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting, at the Woodlands Hotel and Conference Center, Williamsburg, VA

September 14th, 8:00 am: Vigil at Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, Virginia.

September 15th, President General's Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington, Virginia. hosted by the George Washington Chapter VASSAR

September 15th, 2:00 pm: Wreath Laying at the grave of Pvt. John Broddy by the General William Campbell Chapter. Contact John Gullion for more information.

September 15th, 4:00 pm: Wreath Laying at the grave of Brig. Gen. William Campbell, VA by the General William Campbell Chapter at 303 Seven Mile Ford Rd, Marion, VA.

September 17th, 10:30 am: Constitution Day Commemoration, at the Mount Hebron Cemetery, Winchester, Virginia and hosted by the Col. James Wood II Chapter. Contact Dale Corey for more information.

September 21st, 4:00 pm: Franco-American Alliance Commemoration, at Worden Field, US Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland and co-hosted by the US Naval Academy and the John Paul Jones Chapter MDSSAR. Contact Glenn Moss at hawkeyemoss24@gmail.com) or the Peggy Stewart Tea Party Chapter NSDAR for more information.

September 22nd, 10:00 am: Abington Muster Commemoration, 1780 Muster Place, Abingdon, Virginia, hosted by the Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA), with support from the Gen. William Campbell Chapter.

September 22nd, 1:00 pm: Commemoration of Robert Carter III, at 220 Judicial Place, Heathsville, Virginia and hosted by the James Monroe Chapter. Contact Jim Russell at jimrussell1948@yahoo.com. For more information.

September 28th, 11:00am: Commemoration of John Champe's assignment to Capture Benedict Arnold at the Champe Grave Site, Cemetery adjacent to Prickett's Fort Historic Site, 88 State Park Road, Fairmont, West Virginia. The Sgt Maj John Champe Chapter is hosting the event. Contact Barry Schwoerer (bschwoerer@comcast.net) for more information.

 **2024 Daughters & Sons of the American Revolution Night with the Norfolk Tides, on Sunday, August 11, 2024** 



Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Come one, come all, to watch some great baseball. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to help the DAR and SAR increase our community awareness of our amazing organizations in the Hampton Roads area as part of the lead up to America250! We will lead the National Anthem from home plate and the SAR will provide the color guard before the Norfolk Tides ballgame against the Durham Bulls which begins at **3 PM Sunday, August 11, 2024**, at Harbor Park in Norfolk, Virginia. Be sure to wear DAR, SAR, or other patriotic clothing. *Get excited! It's going to be a fun night.* Come meet the Oriole Bird! Be sure to bring your children & grandchildren. We will all be in Section 210. Tickets have gone up to **\$15** each and may be purchased online from this link: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Sonsdaughters3>

Chapter Meetings

The Norfolk Chapter held its May meeting at the Princess Anne County Club on May 18, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Chapter President John Hall with invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Compatriots Tim Hughey and Dale Crisp respectively. The SAR Pledge was led by Chapter Vice-President Graham Hatch.

Guests included prospective member Jeb Raitt along with his wife Catherine, DAR, and son Charles. Frank Womble, also a prospective member, of American Friends of Lafayette with his wife, Gloria, DAR to highlight the upcoming 2025-26 events in the area and larger region.



Our guest speaker: Dr. Patrick Hannum, Norfolk Chapter's Secretary, provided a very interesting presentation on the history of the Nike missiles in the Hampton Roads communities, their impact and eventual outcome, starting in the 1950's to the present. President Hall presented a Certificate of Appreciation upon conclusion.

After lunch, the meeting resumed with the minutes of the March Membership Meeting being approved. Derek Sutton presented the Treasurers Report, followed by Tim Ahlgrim reporting that with help of Bob Bruce and the able assistance of the members of the chapter, 7 ROTC & 12 JROTC certificates & medals were awarded this year. Registrar Ken Hawkins reported that there were 7 applications in progress at the National headquarters and that he had 5 more in-progress.

Kemps Landing Committee chairman Pat Hannum confirmed that Chris Picynski is our guest speaker for this year's 16 November ceremony. More details to follow as planning and funding develop. Any chapter members who would like to lend a hand should contact Pat.



Compatriot Dale Crisp announced that a Patriots Pantry program that supports junior enlisted military personnel was in the area. Donations can be made to the treasurer, the program includes funding things like day care, pre-school, Thanksgiving meals, and is considered patriotic service when accounting for chapter activities and reporting.



Dr. Hannum was also presented with the Chapter Service Medal, he and Ken Hawkins, Tim Ahlgrim, Robert Bruce & John Hall all received the Henry Knox Service Medal.

Chapter Events and Ceremonies

Lunch at the Richard Henry Lee Chapter



Past chapter president Ken Hawkins and Historian Tim Ahlgrim represented the Norfolk Chapter at the Richard Henry Lee Chapter's luncheon meeting on April 9th at the Historic Christ Church, in Weems, Virginia. The guest speaker was Philip Barnard, Deputy Governor of the Virginia Society of Order of the Founders and Patriots of America and 1st Vice President, Richmond Chapter, Virginia SAR, who gave a colorful and educational presentation on the lives of two of his ancestors and patriots who played very different roles in their service to the American Revolution during its earliest days in Massachusetts.

Patriots' Weekend in Lexington & Concord



Past chapter president Bob Bruce and family attended Patriots' Weekend in Lexington and Concord on April 13th, 14th & 15th. Reenactors from all over the

East Coast and New England brought to life the events of April 18-19, 1775. Cindy's cousin is a Lexington Minuteman and got the family front row spots to witness the recreation of the Lexington battle early in the morning. Bob also marched in the Concord parade with the Massachusetts Society.

Fort Christanna Clean-up



On April 15th, Compatriot Dale Crisp and his wife Donna, assisted in cleaning the Fort Christanna Memorial located in Brunswick County Virginia. The fort was established in 1714 on land set aside for Indian tribes to create a village, school, and fur trading center. The following week, on the 25th, the assembled volunteers swept, weeded, and removed trash from the Comte Grasse Memorial at First Landing in preparation for summer visitors.

Berkley Plantation Plaque

Berkley Plantation on the James River in Charles City County is well known as the location where Taps was first played when Union Forces occupied the grounds there in 1862 during the Civil War. Ten US Presidents are known to have visited the plantation. On Sunday May 5th, the Virginia SAR's Richmond Chapter dedicated a plaque to



commemorate the revolutionary era shipyard located there. The shipyard produced 18 vessels that supported the Patriot war effort. Past chapter president Bob Bruce and Secretary Pat Hannum represented the Norfolk Chapter wreath. VASSAR President Bill Grief led the wreath presentations offered by 15 patriotic organizations and Compatriot Gary Dunaway led the color guard. Berkley Plantation is an operating farm as well as an historic attraction. The current property owner Malcom E. Jamieson attended the ceremony and provided greeting to those in attendance.

Genealogy Day at the Beach

The Norfolk Chapter supported Genealogy Day at the Beach again this year, hosted by the Virginia Beach Genealogical Society at the Myra Oberndorf



Library in Virginia Beach. Chapter members included chapter president John Hall, vice-president Nathan Elliot, Compatriots Hank Almond, Matt Kuhr, former president Bob Bruce, and Historian Tim Ahlgrim and used this opportunity to recruit new members and sell some merchandise.

Memorial Day Parade



The Norfolk Chapter again participated in the Annual Memorial Day Parade organized by the Larchmont Civic League. Compatriots marching in the parade and manning the tent afterwards included John Hall, Bob Bruce, Dr. Mark Jumper, Tim Ahlgrim, Hank Almond, Derek Sutton, Robert Hitchings, Graham Hatch and prospective member Jeb Raitt. We made it through the parade, but the rain couldn't hold off long enough to finish the ceremony.

Pomeroy



Former chapter president Bob Bruce represented the Norfolk Chapter at the dedication of the new roadside marker by the Richmond Chapter that informs travelers they are passing the burial site of Revolutionary War Major Joseph Eggleston and pointing them to his graveside marker nearby.

Knight Essay Recognition



On June 4th, Dr. Mark Jumper, Youth & Education Committee Chair and Bob Bruce, Past President, presented Knight Essay participant certificates to two students at Tallwood High School. Kailey Harriety was recognized for second place with the certificate and check for \$150 and Shenan Lewis received \$75 for third place. Samantha Aitken had previously been recognized as the Chapter and State winner. Teacher, Kate LaRoue has supported this contest for our Chapter.



Gunston Hall

On June 8th, Dale Crisp of the Norfolk Chapter represented it at the SAR's commemoration of the Virginia Declaration of Rights at the Mason Family cemetery located at Gunston Hall for a commemoration of the 248th Anniversary with a wreath laying ceremony at the tomb of George Mason hosted by

the George Mason Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. Afterwards, a special Naturalization Ceremony was held for over 50 individuals. The ceremony was presented in partnership with the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, Columbia Society, and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Flag Day



The Great Bridge Chapter of the DAR hosted their 53rd Annual Flag Day Ceremony today, June 14th, at the MacArthur Memorial Museum in Norfolk. Major General Fred Prochaska of the U.S. Army National Guard (ANG) spoke on "Celebrating the Past, Present, and Future of the Stars and Stripes." Past presidents Ken Hawkins, Robert Hitchings, Tim Derek Sutton, Dale Crisp, and past president Bob Bruce who presented the Chapter's wreath.

John Marshall

Bob Bruce presented the Chapter wreath at a special Grave Marking Ceremony in honor of John Marshall, a patriot of the Revolutionary War who later became the greatest Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in American history. The setting was the gravesite for Marshall and his family at Historic Shockoe Hill Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. The current President of the Virginia SAR has mandated that, during the 2024 year, the Society honor each of the four great contributions given to all Americans by our forefathers. They are the Constitution, our Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a

nation of free men. This ceremony was designated to honor our independent Supreme Court. As the man most responsible for establishing our independent Supreme Court, John Marshall was chosen for the honor. And given the location of the ceremony, the Richmond Chapter of the Virginia Society SAR was selected to host the event.

Philip Barnard, First Vice President of the Richmond SAR, and a scholar of the American Founding period, delivered the Biographical Address on John Marshall for the ceremony. Despite the intense heat of the day, the event was attended by twenty chapters representing the SAR, DAR and CAR from across the state, as well as historical organizations associated with Richmond history and the legacy of John Marshall. The SAR Color Guard posted a full presentation of colors. which contributed to an outstanding presentation for the public.



and supported by the Norfolk and Great Bridge Chapters.



SAR Annual Conference

The SAR Annual Conference on the American Rev-



olution was held in Norfolk at the Waterside Marriott from June 7-9th. There were over 60 attendees including SAR President General, John R. Dodd. The conference was organized by Past President General, Joe Dooley. The theme of the conference was revolutionary maritime operations and included international presenters from Great Britain, France and Spain as well as scholars from the US. The Norfolk Chapter was represented by Compatriots Graham Hatch and Pat Hannum. On Sunday afternoon a dozen conference attendees received a guided tour of the Great Bridge Battlefield that was coordinated



ROTC and JROTC



The Norfolk Chapter was extremely fortunate to be able to award seven silver ROTC medals and twelve bronze JROTC medals to cadets and midshipmen in the Tidewater area. Additionally, we were able to recognize a young cadet of the Sea Scout program. Members of the Norfolk Chapter took time out of their busy schedules to recognize these young men and women who represent some of the best our society has to offer.

Past president Bob Bruce presented awards to the five cadets from the Norfolk District: C/CPO Rushane Granville from Booker T. Washington HS, C/SN Alex Gomes from Granby HS, C/PO1 Shenea Corprew from Lake Taylor HS, C/PO3 Glasgow Giselle from Maury HS, and C/SCPO Alfredo Betancourt representing Norview HS.



Chapter President John Hall took over most of the ROTC duties, presenting six silver ROTC medals to MIDN 4/C Darius Sanders of Hampton University at ODU, MIDN 2/C Ethan Lau of Norfolk State University at ODU, MIDN 1/C Gavyn Pifer of Old Dominion University, MIDN 2/C Kyle Shea of Regent University at ODU, Cadet Noah Payton of Old Dominion University, and Cadet Brett Boll of Regent University at ODU. Compatriot Lawrence Jones presented the Society's Good Citizenship Award to Sea Scout PO2 Caspian Collett, of the Norfolk Top Hatter Squadron.

Compatriot Hank Almond presented our award to Cadet Rogielyn Lapid of Salem HS and the Silver medal to Cadet Christopher Herriot who is in the Army's program at Norfolk State University.

Secretary Pat Hannum met Cadet Ymor Vergara of Green Run HS, Matt Kuhr presented to Cadet Lloyd Anthony Aganon of Landstown HS, Wayne Boone presented the medal to Cadet Sergio Ballman of First Colonial/Cox HS. Historian Tim Ahlgrim went to both Churchland HS for Kaden Rorie, the area's only Marine Corps JROTC program, and then to I.C. Norcom HS where he met Cadet Ray Conrad Abelardo Sayoto.



Norfolk & Great Bridge Chapters Honor the Lives of Two Patriots



Road. Great Bridge Chapter President Don Ferguson served as the master of ceremonies for both events.

Patriot Willis Wilkins was born in January 1757 in the Deep Creek area of Norfolk County, VA. He provided material support to the revolutionary cause, furnishing a horse, fodder and corn to sustain the Patriot war effort. During the War of 1812, although in his late 50s, he served as a Captain in the Silver Grays, a Virginia militia unit. During this time local militia defended the region against British raids, including the successful defense of Craney Island, saving the area from British occupation. His service in



the War of 1812 made him eligible for a bounty land grand under Congressional authorization. He died in 1815 and it is unknown if surviving family members ever filed a claim for the land that was authorized after his death. Willis & his wife Sarah had at least one child, James Edward Wilkins, who married Elizabeth Jolliff in February 1826. Their son, also named James Edward Wilkins born in 1835 married Ella Brockett and they relocated to Wilson, North Carolina. His descendants were residing in that area of North Carolina as late as the 1970s.

Patriot William West was born in Princess Anne County, VA in 1762, and most likely lived in what is today the northern portion of the City of Virginia Beach. Between 1781-83 William West provided material support to the revolutionary cause as documented in records available at the Library of Virgin-

By: Pat Hannum

Saturday April 13, 2024 was an important day for the Norfolk and Great Bridge Chapters. Presidents John Hall and Donald Fergusson co-hosted a dedication of two Patriot graves in Chesapeake. The two ceremonies were attended by over twenty-five individuals representing a variety of patriotic organizations, the Chesapeake City Government and the local community. Patriot Willis Wilkins was honored at an 11:00 am ceremony at a small plot in the Deer Run community at 2019 Coral Ivy Lane and William West was honored at a 12:30 pm ceremony at the Good Hope Methodist Church Cemetery, 1633 Benefit



ia. William likely relocated to St. Brides Parish, Norfolk County, between 1820-30 and passed away in 1845 at the age of 83. William and his wife Sarah had a least one son, John West, (who served executor of his will) and may have been his only son. John married and had four children, John T. West & Leroy McCain West, both of Norfolk, VA; Harry Watters West; and Annie Macon West Hope, of Portsmouth, VA. Harry and Ann were children of John's second marriage to Mary Eliza Watters Benthall, a widow; they married in January 1855. Members of these families are also interred in locally, a number of them in the Good Hope Methodist Church Cemetery, indicating family members remained in the Tidewater Virginia area for at least four generations.



While appealing to citizens for material support may seem extreme to us today understanding the conditions existing in 1780 helps us to fully appreciate why this was necessary. Imagine each of today's dollars being worth one cent. That is what that average American faced in 1780. This dire monetary situation was documented by a French Commissary officer when Rochambeau's Expeditionary Army arrived in Newport, Road Island in July 1780.

We have another report from Robert Henry, a 15-year-old militia man. Henry had a bayonet thrust into his thigh at Kings Mountain, South Carolina, in Oc-



The Virginia General Assembly, during its session begun in May 1780, passed an act authorizing the governor to collect supplies from citizens needed by the American army. These were dark days for the revolutionary cause in Virginia. The once 15 regiment strong Virginia Continental Line was reduced to three regimental-sized detachments by May 1780. Two of these were captured at Charleston and one defeated at the Waxhaw's, South Carolina while marching to reinforce Charleston. Understanding the situation in 1780 provides context to why the legislature took this drastic action and how they compensated individuals who provided supplies to sustain the Army.





tober 1780. Recovered and back on duty guarding Cowan's Ford on the Catawba River on February 1, 1781, near Charlotte, NC, he and his brother paid 200 Continental dollars for a half-pint of whiskey



and a half-bushel of potatoes to feed themselves while on duty. During the war the value of the Continental dollar plunged for many reasons, including counterfeiting by the British, a form of economic warfare. The most hardened Patriots, including officers & men serving in the French & American Armies struggled with the financial burdens of the war.

Virginia's Governor, Thomas Jefferson, appointed commissioners in each county to carry out the terms

of the act of the Legislature. The commissioner issued individuals providing material support a certificate describing what was provided. Between 1781 and 1783 county courts held special sessions at which certificates were presented and authenticated,



and booklets listing authenticated certificates were compiled and sent to Richmond for settlement. Two commissioners appointed to settle the claims recorded those for which they authorized payment, and warrants were issued by the auditor of public accounts. These surviving records document the material support to the Patriot cause provide by Patriots Willis Wilkins and William West.



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