



The Magazine

Williamsburg Chapter Virginia Society
Sons of the American Revolution



By signing the Declaration of Independence, the fifty-six Americans pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. Nine died of wounds during the Revolutionary War. Five were captured or imprisoned. Wives and children were jailed, mistreated, or left penniless. Twelve signers' houses were burned to the ground. No signer defected. Their honor, like their nation remained intact.

Vol. XXIII

Number 2

FEBRUARY 2018

President's Message

It is a pleasure to serve as your President for the coming year. Harley Stewart did a great job during a growth period for the chapter. It will be challenging to fill his shoes.

Since we are now the second or third largest chapter in the state depending on the day, we will need the assistance of more members as we go through the year. There are many ways you can assist the chapter depending upon your interests and availability. Even if your time is limited, there is a place for you in our chapter.

We will be providing a list of the standing committees and the respective chairmen. Most committees could use more help. When I became a member, I found the committees were a great way to learn about the chapter, state and national activities of SAR.

Also, because of our chapter size, we should have a presence at the state meetings (annual and midyear) as well as the various commemorations. Many of these are within a few hours drive of Williamsburg and carpooling is usually available. Again, these are a good way to not only meet other compatriots but to refresh our memory of historical events. Please review the upcoming events in each Newsletter. If you have questions, feel free to contact me or other Board members.

Finally, if you have suggestions regarding our meetings or activities please email or call me with them. I look forward to a great year for the Williamsburg Chapter.



William Greaf



Calendar

Fri. – Sat. February 9TH - 10TH

VASSAR

Annual Meeting – Richmond
(More information on pg. 7)

Mon. February 12TH

Board Meeting

10:00am Williamsburg Library
Williamsburg, VA

Sat. February 17TH

Valentine's Day

Luncheon Meeting

Colonial Heritage Country Club
6500 Arthur Hills Dr, Williamsburg, VA

Fri. March 16TH

James Madison's 267TH
Birthday Commemoration
Montpelier, VA

Sat, March 17TH

Patrick Henry's 254TH
Anniversary of speech

"Give me Liberty or give me Death"
St. John's Church Richmond, VA

Sat, March 17TH

Crossing of the Dan
Commemoration
South Boston, VA



Membership Update

2017 was a banner year for the Williamsburg Chapter SAR. The membership increased by a net of 30 or 21%, and as of January 1, 2018, our membership stands at 172. It should be noted that we had 6 members transfer into our chapter and 0 transfers out. Your chapter is worldwide. We have 2 members that live outside the United States in England and Italy. Beyond Virginia, we have members in the following states; Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin. While more members gain the benefits of membership and are available to support our goals and projects, the growth also helped our chapter financially. One of VASSAR President Elston's 2017 initiatives under membership and retention provides a rebate of part of our 2017 VASSAR dues. The dues rebate for our level of growth will be approximately 10%. So, I encourage you to take full advantage of the many opportunities for service and fellowship offered by the Williamsburg Chapter SAR in recognizing our forefathers who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a Nation of Free Men.

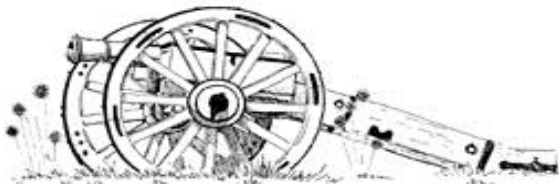
Roger Cross, Secretary

CLASSIFIED

The Chapter is in need of a public relations officer, a key member of the Chapter.

The individual will be responsible for publicizing Williamsburg Chapter SAR activities by submitting event notices and pictures to the Virginia Gazette and the WYDaily. He also will be responsible for submitting articles and pictures to the Virginia Society SAR for inclusion in their publications such as the "Virginia Dispatches". He will be responsible for taking pictures, or designating an alternate, at Chapter luncheons and Chapter events and providing the pictures to the Secretary (member photos), the Newsletter editor, and the Historian, as appropriate.

The individual will be a member of the Board of Managers and should attend most meetings. The meetings are usually the first Monday of the month and are held at the Williamsburg Library.



UPDATE

The Nominating Committee of the Williamsburg Chapter SAR will submit Compatriot **John Holt** to the Chapter membership as its nominee as Public Relations Officer. The nomination will appear in the February Newsletter, will be formally announced in an email to the membership, and will be repeated at the membership meeting on February 17, 2018. A vote of members will be taken at the membership meeting of March 10, 2018.

FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER



Anne Conkling
Native of Pennsylvania
American Univ., Wash. DC
(Philosophy and Religion)

Business career began in retail, buyer and manager, Chinese Antiques and Imports, then major Art Gallery. Trained by Colonial Williamsburg as Historical Interpreter 50 years ago, and also have worked at Jamestown Island church for the APVA, and at Bruton Parish. At Bruton have served as Guide Coordinator and trainer, two terms on the Vestry, Choir, Numerous committees, and long time mentor for Education for Ministry. Served on the Boards of both Salvation Army and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Many years at the Va Gazette in the Advertising Dept. as well as Oller Studios. Currently working with the Collins Group, publisher of Next Door Neighbors Magazine, and lecturer for the Roads Scholar program. Have recently completed working with WHRO on Bruton Parish Church project.

REGISTRAR'S CORNER

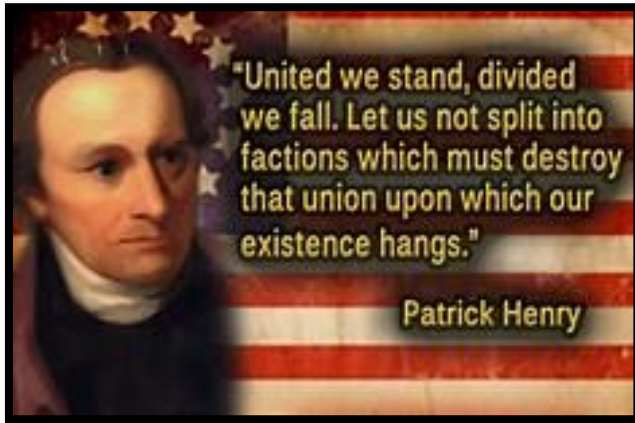
It was written by David Eagleman in *Forty Tales* from the *Afterlives* that "There are three deaths. The first is when the body ceases to function. The second is when the body is consigned to the grave. The third is that moment, sometime in the future, when your name is spoken for the last time." For your patriot ancestors, the future may be now, unless he or she is remembered in your family history. Convey this thought to your friends and acquaintances who believe they have one or more Revolutionary War forefathers.

Then refer them to me.

Jim Hess, Registrar

jimhess42@gmail.com

220-2924



"Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

*Patrick Henry
March 23RD, 1775*



St. John's Church Richmond, Virginia

Chaplin's Corner

First, I must apologize for arriving late for the Joint Dinner on January 13. For those of you who attended, you heard a great presentation by our State President Mike Elston. For those of you who did not attend the dinner, I refer you to Mike's Presidential Initiatives. His presentation was about the numerous successful accomplishments VASSAR has achieved on those initiatives. Secondly, I assure you that not one word of the prayer I had prepared for that night but was unable to deliver due to my late arrival has been changed. I present it below to illustrate that Mike and I were certainly on the same wavelength in what the chapters need to do.

Our Heavenly Father,

Be with these two chapters as we begin this new year and with these officers we will install here tonight. We seek your inspiration and enlightenment for our leaders; Mike Elston and his staff, Dan Warren and Bill Greaf; and their new boards, the committee chairmen and especially all those without an official position who give endless hours to our projects and goals. Motivate these leaders and open their vision to new and better ways to serve our chapters and our communities. Keep us mindful of our veterans many of whom have given so much and our youth who are our future. Guide us in all we do that we may have a prosperous year for our chapters and our communities.

In Thy Son's Name we pray,

Amen

As Chaplin I need to send out get-well cards to those Compatriots who are sick and sympathy cards to families of a deceased member. If any one receives information about either of these situations, please pass the details to me, so that I can send these cards out as quickly as possible. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Jack Lee, Chaplin
Williamsburg SAR Chapter

valce@widomaker.com
221-6686

Chapter News



2018.01.13

Oath of Office being given to the 2018 Board of Managers by VASSAR President Mike Elston.



President William Greaf accepting the "Command Gavel"



Jim Hess receiving the rank of Colonel in the VASSAR First Virginia Regiment for his contributions to the VASSAR Knight-Patty Fund.

2018.01.13



Eagle Scouts received NSSAR Certificates of Recognition at a Court of Honor of Troop 103 at Williamsburg United Methodist Church on January 8, 2018. Certificates were presented by Bob Spencer (on left), past-president of Williamsburg Chapter, assisted by Heath Richardson, Chapter Chairman (not in photo), and Harley Stewart, Chapter president (on right). Eagle Scouts, L to R, are Matthew LaRosee, Jeffrey Seiders, Nathan Denny, Thomas Kueser, Nicholas Rauchwarg, and Nathaniel Baker.

Photo by Don Reeves, Troop 103

Upcoming Events

February 17th Valentine's Luncheon

The Williamsburg Chapter invites all members and their wives and guests to attend the Valentine's luncheon at the Colonial Heritage clubhouse. We will have a guest speaker and look forward to seeing you there.

Date: Saturday, February 17th, 2018

Location: Colonial Heritage Clubhouse
6500 Arthur Hills Dr, Williamsburg, VA

Social: 11:30

Meeting: 12:00



Please see the RSVP information on the last page of this newsletter.
Reservations **MUST** be received no later than Saturday, February 10th.



VASSAR

Annual Meeting

In less than a month, we will gather in Richmond to celebrate our achievements of the past year and make plans for the future> Please consider joining us as it is going to be a great event. For example, on Saturday afternoon the Hon. Rob Wittman, U.S. Representative for the 1st District of Virginia, will join us in the Old Hall of the House of Delegates at the Virginia State Capitol for our public service awards ceremony. We will present him with the SAR's Silver Good Citizenship Medal.

Other highlights will include Friday night workshops on chapter operations and other topics of interest, a great Ladies' Program at the same time, our annual business meeting on Saturday morning, and the state orations contest. On Saturday night, we will enjoy the black-tie banquet at which we will install our 98th President.

Your chapter has already received all of the relevant information. If you haven't received it yet, ask your chapter secretary and president why you haven't! Even if you can't stay overnight, please consider participating in the Saturday events. It's a great opportunity to meet compatriots and spouses from all over the Commonwealth.

Speaking of the House of Delegates A number of different bills have been introduced this year that attempt to weaken the protections for monuments and memorials related to past wars, including the Revolutionary War. While, as a Yankee, I can understand the feelings others have about Confederate monuments, there is a vast difference between those monuments and monuments to the Founders of our country, our Patriot ancestors, and the battles of the Revolution. The education of some of our representatives in Richmond must be sadly deficient if they think there is an equivalency between monuments to the losers of the Civil War and the victors of the Revolutionary War.

Accordingly, I am drafting a letter to state legislators on behalf of the Virginia SAR in opposition to any bill that would weaken the protections for monuments and memorials relating to the Revolutionary War. As soon as it is approved, it will be sent to chapter presidents and secretaries for further use and distribution.

In the meantime, I urge you as private citizens (not as representatives of the SAR) to contact your state delegates and senators to express your opposition to HB 1225 (introduced by David Toscano, who represents Charlottesville/Albemarle County), and HB 1097 and 1098 (introduced by Mark Levine, who represents parts of Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria). SB 444 and 733 are the Senate versions of HB 1225 and 1098. HB 1225 would allow the removal or "contextualization" of any monument dedicated to war veterans, not just Confederate monuments. SB 444, which was introduced by Jennifer Wexton of Loudoun County and has already been defeated in committee, also would have given localities the right to move, remove or alter monuments and statues within their own jurisdiction, regardless of when they were erected. HB 1097 would allow a governing body of a locality in which a monument or memorial is located to relocate the monument or memorial to a museum of the locality's choice. HB 1098 and SB 733 would allow local governments to relocate any monument or memorial erected prior to 1900 to an outdoor location on the grounds of a locality-owned history museum that is located within one-quarter mile of the existing site.

All of these bills weaken protections for monuments and memorials relating to the Revolutionary War. With your help, all of them can be defeated!

As always, if you have any questions about the items covered in this report -- or anything else related to the SAR -- please do not hesitate to contact me!

Michael J. Elston
97th President and National Trustee
Virginia Sons of the American Revolution



VIRGINIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

P.O. Box 336
Lorton, Virginia 22199-0336

January 11, 2018

MICHAEL J. ELSTON
PRESIDENT

PAT KELLY
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

THOMAS WHETSTONE PHD
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

WILLIAM SCHWETKE
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

R. WAYNE ROUSE
SECRETARY

FREDERICK N. ELOFSON
TREASURER

ERIC MONDAY
CHANCELLOR

REV. DR. ROY MARTIN
CHAPLAIN

THOMAS ROTH
HISTORIAN

CHRISTOPHER SHEAF, MD
SURGEON

DAVID THOMAS
REGISTRAR

MICHAEL J. ELSTON
NATIONAL TRUSTEE

Dear Compatriot:

You are most cordially invited to attend the Virginia SAR's Annual Meeting on February 9 and 10, 2018, at the Omni in Richmond. It will be a fantastic opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new friends and celebrate the achievements of the past year. I am extremely proud of all you have accomplished, and I look forward to an even brighter future for the Virginia SAR.

I am also pleased to announce that on Saturday afternoon the Honorable Rob Wittman, U.S. Representative for Virginia's 1st Congressional District, will join us for our public service awards ceremony at the State Capitol. We will present Congressman Wittman with the SAR's Silver Good Citizenship Medal.

Please take note that we're changing up the format just as we did at the Semi-Annual Meeting. Friday night will be devoted to a series of workshops designed to be of interest to a broad cross section of chapter leaders and members. The workshop facilitators have been chosen from across the Commonwealth to share the very best ideas and information to help your chapter grow and thrive. Whether you have just joined the SAR or have been around for years, you will learn something that will help your chapter.

The ladies' program on Friday evening will feature a presentation from "the Liberty Man." I am sure your wives and sweethearts will have an enjoyable time!

The highlight of Saturday night will be the installation of our 98th President. But the whole event will be fun, and I do hope you will join us.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Elston



Virginia Society
 Sons of the American Revolution
128th Annual Meeting Agenda

February 9 – 11, 2018

Omni Richmond Hotel
 100 South 12th Street
 Richmond, Virginia 23219

Friday, February 9

1:00 – 7:00 pm	Registration	Top of Grand
10:00 – 12:00 pm	Executive Committee Meeting	York River Room
10:00 – 1:00 pm	War of 1812 Society Meeting	Rappahannock Room
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Board of Managers Meeting	James River Salon C
5:00 pm	Dinner (individual arrangements)	Hotel & Adjacent Restaurants
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Admin/Tax/Awards Workshop	James River Salon AB
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Color Guard Workshop	James River Salon C
8:00 – 9:00 pm	Chapter Governance Workshop	James River Salon AB
8:00 – 9:00 pm	Registrar/Genealogy Workshop	James River Salon C
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Ladies Program	Rappahannock Room
9:30 – 10:30 pm	President's Reception	Hospitality – Room 321

Saturday, February 10

7:00 – 8:30 am	Registration	Top of Grand
8:00 – 9:45 am	General Membership Meeting	James River Salon C
10:00 – 12:00 pm	Rumbaugh Orations Contest and Youth Awards Ceremony	James River Salon D
12:00 pm	Lunch (individual Arrangements)	Hotel & Adjacent Restaurants
1:00 pm	Buses Depart for Virginia State Capitol	Atrium (by Starbucks)
1:30 – 4:30 pm	Public Service Awards, Silver Good Citizenship Medal Presentation, Memorial Service and Chapter Awards	Virginia State Capitol
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Social Gathering (cash bar)	Top of Grand
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Banquet and State Officer Installations (formal, suit & tie or colonial attire)	James River Salon C
9:30 – 10:30 pm	President's Reception	Hospitality – Room 321

Sunday, February 11

8:30 – 10:00 am	Executive Committee Meeting	York River Room
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"The Crossing of the Dan."

On February 14, 1781, American General Nathaniel Greene achieved one of the greatest victories of the American Revolution, not in battle but by succeeding in a maneuver remembered today as "The Crossing of the Dan."

The crossing of Greene's Army across the Dan River from North Carolina into Virginia was the climactic moment of the famed "Race to the Dan," a chase across North Carolina that began after American forces stunned British troops at the Battle of Cowpens in South Carolina. The stunning achievement is remembered today at the Crossing of the Dan Exhibit in South Boston, Virginia.

As winter descended on the Carolinas in December of 1780, the British army of Lt. Gen. Charles, Lord Cornwallis appeared to be on the verge of ultimate victory in the South. Charleston had fallen and the American army of Gen. Horatio Gates had been destroyed at Camden, South Carolina, on August 16th.

One of Gen. George Washington's most able subordinates, Gen. Nathaniel Greene, was sent to North Carolina in a desperate effort to salvage the situation. Greene arrived to find that he was severely outnumbered and that what remained of the American army was starving, poorly clothed and barely equipped.

Through a Herculean effort he rebuilt the American army and, even though he was still severely outnumbered, undertook a daring strategy of dividing his army in the face of the much larger British army. On December 21, 1780, Greene sent Gen. Daniel Morgan into South Carolina with one wing of his army.

One of the greatest American military officers of all time, Morgan allowed himself to be pursued by British troops under Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, known in the Carolinas as "Bloody Ban" because he had previously massacred surrendering American soldiers. After drawing Tarleton away from possible reinforcement from the rest of the British army, Morgan turned on him at the Battle of Cowpens on January 17, 1781. Using brilliant battlefield tactics, Morgan smashed Tarleton's command and then retreated rapidly north into North Carolina with hundreds of prisoners and a wealth of captured weaponry and supplies.

Notified of Morgan's achievement, Gen. Greene also turned his wing of the army north. He knew that Lord Cornwallis would be furious over the loss and would move quickly to destroy the American army and recapture the prisoners taken by Morgan. The future hopes of the Patriot effort in the South now depended on his ability to get his men safely beyond the reach of the British. So began the famed "Race to the Dan."

Greene and Morgan moved rapidly north, pushing the prisoners forward as rapidly as possible and destroying boats and ferry crossings as they advanced. Cornwallis burned his own burdensome trains of supply wagons and chased with remarkable speed.

Morgan was in poor health and was soon forced to give up his command, but Greene continued north with his now reunited army. Cornwallis was close behind, sometimes failing to catch Greene in a vulnerable spot by mere hours.

There was some skirmishing as the two armies raced north, but Greene refused to turn and fight a major battle that he knew he would almost certainly lose.

As the Race to the Dan continued, Gen. Greene aimed his army for the Dan River, a wide and important natural barrier near the line dividing North Carolina from Virginia. If he could reach the Dan, he knew, he would be able to prevent Cornwallis from crossing.

With Cornwallis and his cold and exhausted army close behind, Greene reached a place called Boyd's Ferry on the Dan River. On February 14, 1781, St. Valentine's Day, and with some of his men manning defensive earthworks to hold off the British if they came on too fast, he moved his men across the river. A flotilla of ferryboats and every small boat the Americans could find was used to carry men, wagons, supplies and cannon across.

The Crossing of the Dan was a brilliant success. Greene saved his army and just one month later crossed back over the river to challenge Cornwallis at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. The American army would go on to reconquer much of the South, while the British would march on to ultimate defeat at the Battle of Yorktown.



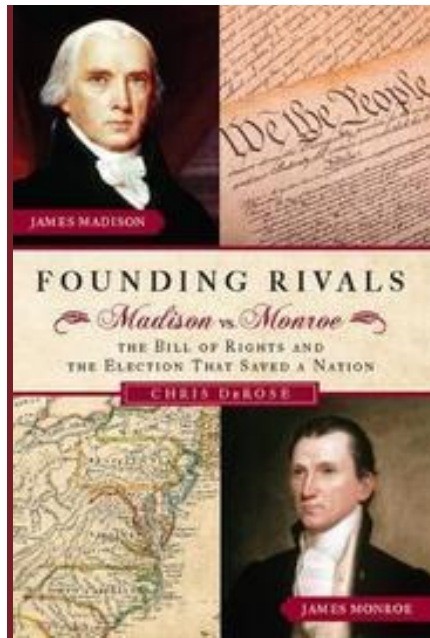
The video this month is about the Crossing of the Dan. Click the link below the mouse:



<https://youtu.be/KkZbD71Bhfs>



Despite being typical of lodging establishments that dotted early eighteenth century state coach routes in sparsely settled areas of Virginia, Wiley's Tavern played a significant role in Revolutionary War history. It served alternately as the headquarters of British General Charles Cornwallis (February 15, 16, and 17) and American General Nathanael Greene (February 23) during the decisive Crossing of the Dan Campaign in February 1781.



FOUNDING RIVALS is the book that examines Virginia's two famous Jameses, James Madison and James Monroe, their friendship and their political rivalry. In 1789 James Madison and James Monroe ran against each other for Congress—the only time that two future presidents have contested a congressional seat which was won by only 336 votes. But what was at stake, as author Chris DeRose reveals in *Founding Rivals: Madison vs. Monroe, the Bill of Rights, and the Election That Saved a Nation*, was more than personal ambition. This was a race that determined the future of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the very definition of the United States of America. Purchase your raffle tickets at the welcome desk at the February meeting, \$1 for one ticket or seven tickets for \$5 for your chance to own this insightful book.

WEB sites

National <https://www.sar.org/>

State <http://www.virginia-sar.org/vassar/>

Williamsburg Chapter



<http://williamsburg.virginia-sar.org>



Lunch is priced at \$20.00 per person.
Send your reservations to the
Williamsburg Chapter Treasurer by
Saturday the 10TH of February.
The reservation form is below.

2018 Williamsburg Chapter Officers

President	William Greaf	Chaplain	Jack Lee
Vice-President	Jay Smith	Newsletter Editor	David Westenberger
Secretary	Roger Cross	Sergeant-at-Arms	Eric Ely
Treasurer	Frederick Siegel	At-Large	Ron Losee
Public Relations		At-Large	Tom Campbell
Registrar	Jim Hess	President 2017	Harley Stewart
Historian	Stephen McGuffin		

For information about the Williamsburg Chapter SAR please contact William Greaf, President, at hsaprof@gmail.com.

Cut along dotted line

Reservation for the Saturday, 17TH February, 2018 Chapter Luncheon

Please reserve _____ regular meals at \$20.00

Name(s) _____

Vegetarian meals _____ # Vegan Dinners _____ # Gluten free meals _____

Please make checks payable to "Williamsburg Chapter SAR"
and mail to arrive by February 10TH to:



Fred Siegel
3006 Downing St.
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 259-0184

fwsiegeljr@gmail.com

