



# 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. XXVIII

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APRIL 2023

## President's Message

### Compatriots

It is amazing how sometimes things can come together. Last August I heard about the Virginia 250 committees planning on holding a conference in Williamsburg on the weekend of March 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. At that time, I had offered the help of our chapter in the planning and execution of the conference. For the longest time I heard nothing back. When VASSAR got wind of the conference they had asked if we were involved in, all I could say was that we had offered help. When it was announced that this conference would be concluding on the anniversary of the formation 1773 Committee of Correspondence. Then more details emerged of what would be happening that day, VASSAR wanted all chapters to hold some kind of commemoration to celebrate as part of the SAR 250 campaign. Our chapter reached out to Colonial Williamsburg and offered to provide a color guard to be part of the March 12 events. We were told that our services would not be needed.

Out of a moment of inspiration we took advantage of the fact that this event was open to the public. The invitation was sent out to our chapter and several other chapters that we would be meeting in Williamsburg for this event and plan on marching in the procession. Several members of our chapter and other VASSAR members showed up, some in uniform and others in standard SAR attire. At my request I asked members who showed up to not bring muskets or flags, so that we would not detract/distract the public from the days events. I feel that all went well.

I want to thank our chapter compatriots who showed up in uniform, Vice President John Lynch, Treasurer Gary Dunaway, Web Master David Westenberger, and Ron Adolphi, also in uniform was State Color Guard commander Chris Melhuish. Other members who showed up were Hunt Berryman, Roger Cross, George Corbett and Robert Bruce, President Norfolk Chapter, Tim Ahlgrim also of Norfolk, from VASSAR was Secretary Tim Dioquino, and Chancellor Eric Monday. This was an excellent showing for something that was put together at the last minute.

Bruce Laubach - President



# Calendar

**Wednesday March 29, 2023**

1 pm - Vietnam War veterans will gather for National Vietnam War Veterans Day at Veterans Park 3792 Ironbound Road in James City County

**Monday April 3, 2023**

10:00 am BOM meeting  
by ZOOM

**Saturday April 8, 2023**

Chapter Lunch Meeting  
11:30 pm Social  
Colonial Heritage Country Club  
Williamsburg

**Saturday April 22, 2023**

10 am – 5 pm Celebrating  
Thomas Jefferson birthday  
Montpellier, Virginia

**Saturday April 22, 2023**

10 am Celebrating  
James Monroe's birthday at birthplace  
4460 James Monroe Hwy  
Westmoreland County  
&

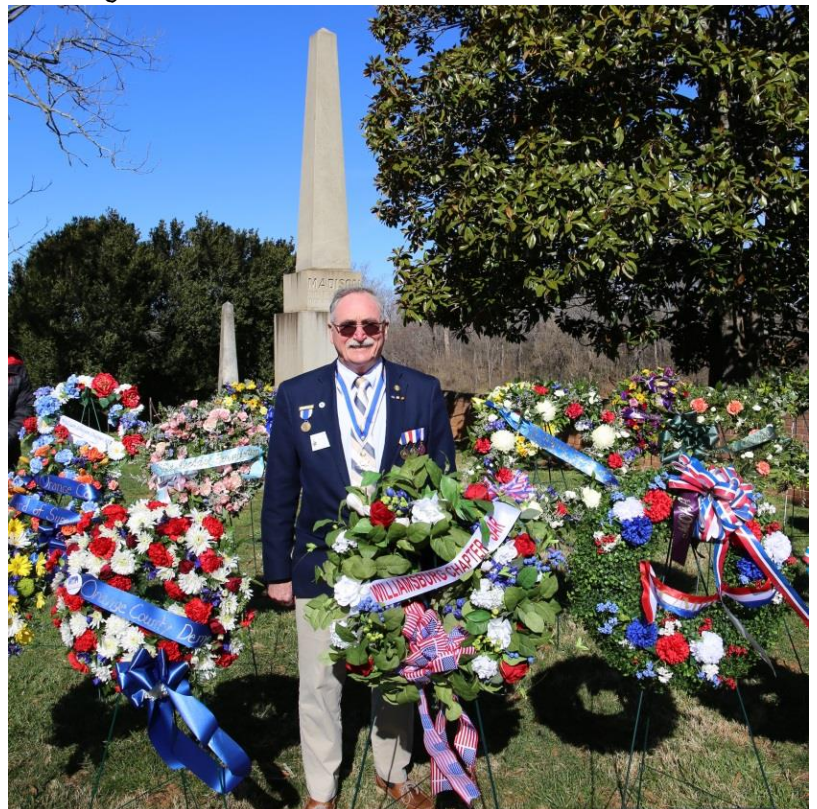
**Saturday April 29, 2023**

11 am James Monroe gravesite  
Hollywood Cemetery  
412 S Cherry Street  
Richmond

## Chapter News



Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> trying to stay warm while waiting for the 250<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the 1773 Virginia Committee of Correspondence event being held at The Raleigh Tavern.



President Bruce Laubach attended the Commemoration of James Madison's 272<sup>nd</sup> Birthday

David Smith is our April Speaker. He wrote a book about the Armstrong brothers who were Pennsylvanians who fought for the Patriots and eventually marched to Virginia circa 1781.



David O. Smith is a Distinguished Fellow with the South Asia Program at the Stimson Center, a nonpartisan policy research center in Washington, D.C. He retired from government service in 2012 after serving in a senior position in the Defense Intelligence Agency. Prior to that he was Senior Country Director for Pakistan in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) in the Department of Defense. During thirty-one years of service in the U.S. Army, he served in a wide variety of field artillery assignments and spent 22 years dealing with politico-military issues in the Near East and South Asia. He remains actively engaged in a variety of quasi-official (Track 2) engagements with both Pakistan and India.

He is the author of *The Quetta Experience: A Study of Attitudes and Values Within the Pakistan Army*, published by The Woodrow Wilson Center in 2018; *The Wellington Experience: A Study of Attitudes and Values Within the Indian Army*, published by the Stimson Center in 2020; and *The Armstrong Brother: One Pennsylvania Family's Contribution to Victory in the American Revolution*, published by Xlibris in 2021.

Fits nicely in a 6¾ envelope

**Reservation for the Saturday April 8<sup>TH</sup> 2023 Lunch meeting**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ regular meals at \$24.00

Special need \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to

**“Williamsburg Chapter SAR”**

Mail to:

**Gary Dunaway – Chapter Treasurer**

**104 Pageland Drive**

**Yorktown, VA 23693**

**(757) 303-3673**

**[ormazd72@gmail.com](mailto:ormazd72@gmail.com)**



# Recent Events



## 250th Commemoration of the 1773 Virginia Committee of Correspondence Event

First Row Chris Melhuish VASSAR Color guard Commander, Gary Dunaway, John Lynch Chairman VA250  
Tim Dioquino VASSAR Secretary, Eric Monday VASSAR Chancellor General, Hunt Berryman Registrar Williamsburg Chapter  
Second row Bruce Laubach President Williamsburg Chapter, Robert Bruce President Norfolk Chapter, David Westenberger, Ron Adolphi, Roger Cross past President Williamsburg. In the very back re-enactors Francis L Lee, Richard H Lee, Dabney Carr

March 18 – Williamsburg Compatriot Gary Dunaway represented our chapter at a grave marking sponsored by The James Wood II Chapter held at the Dry Run Cemetery Fort Valley in Shenandoah County.

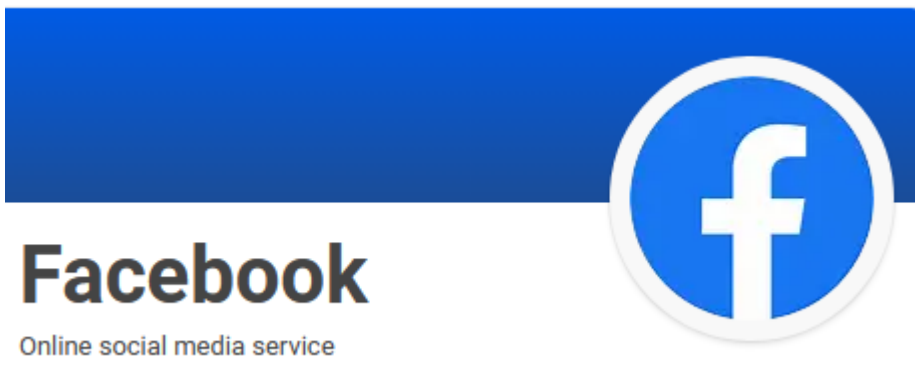
Patriots honored were: Johann Clem  
David and Frank McInturff  
Joseph and Jacob Golladay



At the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Williamsburg Chapter SAR held at Colonial Heritage Club House, Williamsburg, Virginia. Gary Dunaway is presented with the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution President's Award by Past President Bruce Meyer.



At the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Williamsburg Chapter SAR held at Colonial Heritage Club House, Williamsburg, Virginia. John Lynch Chapter Vice President presenting the Robert C Burt Scout Volunteer Award to Chapter President Bruce Laubach. Awarded by the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, this honor is presented to members of the SAR who act as a role model and provide dedicated service to the Boy Scouts of American.



Compatriot Sean Heuvel Ph.D. has created a Williamsburg Chapter SAR page on Facebook. This should be of great benefit to our chapter by postings letting people know who we are and what we do for our community. Link ↓

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089682241634&mibextid=LQQJ4d>

# Future Events

## *The James Monroe Memorial Foundation*

### Westmoreland County Ceremony – Saturday, April 22

Starting at **10:00 a.m.**, at the Birthplace, the 265<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremonies are expected to include local and state elected officials. The formal ceremony will commence at **10:30 a.m.** Come to see both the Birthplace House and the exhibits at the Visitor Center.

Many of you were able to join us in October 2021 for the grand opening ceremony of the Birthplace House, and again in April 2022. Whether you could make it then or not, we hope that you will come back on April 22 to see the Birthplace House again. We had approximately fifty lineage societies and other groups presenting wreaths at the grand opening ceremony. We hope to repeat that this spring. The ceremony will be in front of the Birthplace House again, rather than in front of the Visitor Center.

See [www.monroefoundation.org](http://www.monroefoundation.org) for the Birthplace location at 4460 James Monroe Highway (State Rt. 205) just outside of Colonial Beach.

### Hollywood Cemetery Ceremony – Friday, April 28

This year our annual wreath-laying ceremony at President Monroe's tomb in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond will be at **11:00 a.m.** Friday morning (subject to any changes in the start time by the Army, which schedules the ceremony). April 28 is President Monroe's actual birthday, and the White House military protocol rules require that the ceremony be held on that day. The Army's portion of the ceremony normally consists of a speech on behalf of the President delivered by an Army general,

Please remember that President Monroe was the only President besides George Washington to have actively served in the regular army during the Revolutionary War, participating in six major battles (as well as wintering at Valley Forge, crossing the Delaware with George Washington, being seriously wounded at Trenton and cited for conspicuous bravery) and subsequently served simultaneously as Secretary of War and Secretary of State (during the War of 1812, when he helped coordinate American defenses against the British). He was also an active participant in our first American lineage society, the Society of the Cincinnati.

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**Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>,**

**You, your family, and your friends are cordially invited to a Grave Marking  
Ceremony to honor**

**Patriot Colonel Joel Lane**

**To be held at 11:00 AM at City Cemetery  
500 East Hargett Street**

**Raleigh, NC 27601**



## 2023 V.S.C.A.R. State Conference. George Wythe Society

George Wythe Society received the following 2022 – 2023 Awards:

- “Silver Star Society 2022-2023 Honor Roll”
- “Society with Largest Membership Growth by Percentage 25 Members or Less 2022-2023”
- “Society with Best Event Kids Helping Kids Contest 2022-2023”
- “Society with Best Program State Corresponding Secretary Contest 2022-2023”
- “Society with Best Program First Place American Indian Contest 2022-2023”
- Certificate, “Obtaining New Members 2022-2023”
- “Most Creative Basket State Conference 2023”



Senior Society President Denise Thomas with Society President William Mason holding all the awards won.

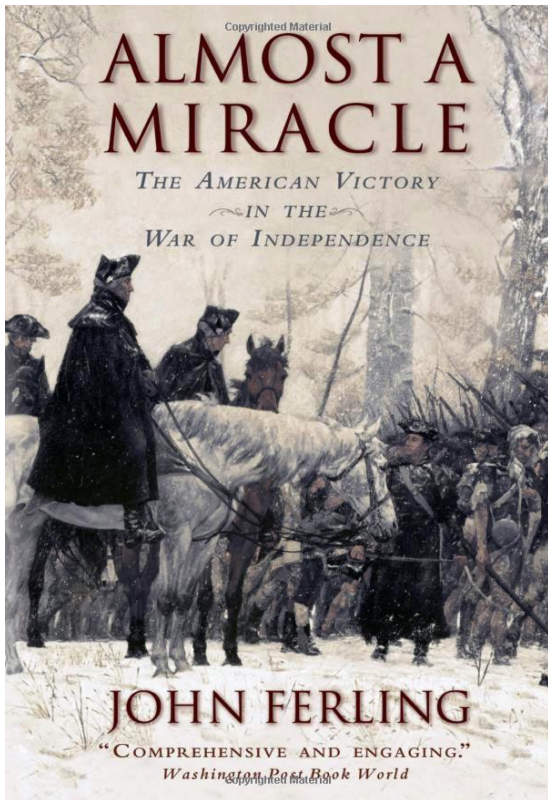


Tatton Mason  
SAR/CAR liaison



# “Book of the month”

Oxford University Press Date: June 4, 2007 Hard back, 704 pages, 40 illustrations with 20 maps



In this gripping chronicle of America's struggle for independence, award-winning historian John Ferling transports readers to the grim realities of that war, capturing an eight-year conflict filled with heroism, suffering, cowardice, betrayal, and fierce dedication. As Ferling demonstrates, it was a war that America came much closer to losing than is now usually remembered. General George Washington put it best when he said that the American victory was "little short of a standing miracle."

*Almost a Miracle* offers an illuminating portrait of America's triumph, offering vivid descriptions of all the major engagements, from the first shots fired on Lexington Green to the surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown, revealing how these battles often hinged on intangibles such as leadership under fire, heroism, good fortune, blunders, tenacity, and surprise. The author paints sharp-eyed portraits of the key figures in the war, including General Washington and other American officers and civilian leaders. Some do not always measure up to their iconic reputations, including Washington himself.

Others, such as the quirky, acerbic Charles Lee, are seen in a much better light than usual. The book also examines the many faceless men who soldiered, often for years on end, braving untold dangers and enduring abounding miseries. The author explains why they served and sacrificed, and sees them as the forgotten heroes who won American independence. Ferling's narrative is also filled with compassion for the men who comprised the British army and who, like their American counterparts, struggled and died at an astonishing rate in this harsh war. Nor does Ferling ignore the naval war, describing dangerous patrols and grand and dazzling naval actions.

Finally, "Almost a Miracle" takes readers inside the legislative chambers and plush offices of diplomats to reveal countless decisions that altered the course of this war. The story that unfolds is at times a tale of folly, at times one of appalling misinformation and confusion, and now and then one of insightful and dauntless statesmanship.

About the author: Throughout his long career, historian John Ferling has specialized in the American Revolution. He taught numerous courses on the Revolution, America's Founders, and U. S. military history. He is the author of thirteen books, all but two of which have dealt with the American Revolution and its leaders.

Raffle tickets for this book will be available at our next luncheon meeting.  
One ticket for \$1 or 7 tickets for \$5 – See Steve Holm – Sergeant-at-Arms



# Registrar's Corner

CONGRATULATIONS to the following new compatriots who were inducted into the Williamsburg Chapter at our March meeting:

Eric Wolfe – Patriot Ancestor John Jacob Mickley

Sean Heuvel – Patriot Ancestor Jonathan Curtis

Karl Wickert – Patriot Ancestor Jacob Wickert

Ryan Myers – Patriot Ancestor Elisha Eldridge

William Mason will be inducted in April as a junior member. He is the son of compatriot Tatton Mason and Nathaniel Stoddard Jr is his Patriot Ancestor.

We currently have six new member and ten supplemental applications under review by the SAR genealogical committee. There are fifteen new member and fourteen supplemental applications being developed.



**Hunt Berryman**

**Registrar**

**Email:**

**[huntberryman@aol.com](mailto:huntberryman@aol.com)**

**NEW COMPATRIOTS**



Stewart Wolfe and his father Richard, Matthew Hinkley and his wife Lori, Patrick Shaver and his wife Kim, Michael Doucette and his wife Lori, and Clyde W. Stacks.

## Compatriot Sean Heuvel sharing his Patriot

Biographical Sketch of Jonathan Curtis (1754-ca 1833)

By Sean M. Heuvel, Ph.D. (his sixth-great-grandson)

Jonathan's senior officers



Col. Benjamin Woodbridge Col. Jonathan Holman Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates

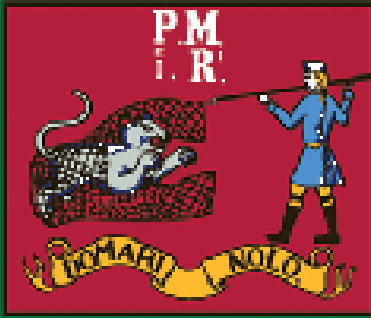
Jonathan Curtis was born in June 1754 in Spencer, Massachusetts and baptized on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of that month. Among seven children, he was the only son of John Curtis (1708-ca 1786) and Mary Spear (1715- ca 1786), who both descended from old New England families. As the American Revolution dawned, Jonathan took up arms in Fall 1775 and served as a Massachusetts Militia private during the Siege of Boston. His company commander was Capt. John Cowls (1731-1811), and his regimental commander was Col. Benjamin Ruggles Woodbridge (1739-1819), who later served under Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln during the Pawlet Expedition. In September 1777, Jonathan commenced service for a second time as a Massachusetts Militia private during the Saratoga Campaign. Specifically, he served in the 5<sup>th</sup> Worcester County Militia Regiment that was commanded by Col. Jonathan Holman (1732-1814), a Continental Army veteran who was an ancestor of U.S. President William Howard Taft. In addition, Jonathan's company commander, Capt. John Nichols (1734-1812), was the father-in-law of a niece of Brig. Gen. Rufus Putnam. The 5<sup>th</sup> Worcester County Regiment departed Charlton, Massachusetts on 27 September 1777, to reinforce the growing army commanded by Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates at Saratoga. Assigned to a Massachusetts Militia brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. Jonathan Warner (1741-1803), it is unclear whether Jonathan and the rest of the 5<sup>th</sup> Worcester County Regiment arrived in time to participate in the Second Battle of Saratoga on 7 October 1777. However, they undoubtedly would have witnessed the surrender of Gen. John Burgoyne's army on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Following this service, Jonathan returned to Charlton and in January 1778 married his first wife, Dolly Wilson, who passed away shortly thereafter. Jonathan then married Sybil (aka Sybilla) Haven in October 1780 and went on to have three children – Eli Curtis (1784-1852), Lucinda Curtis (1793-1867), and Ezra Curtis (1797-1859). After the War of 1812, the Curtis clan was among the mass migration of New Englanders who went to Ohio, where they quickly became an established and prosperous pioneer family. Jonathan and Sybil first lived in Marietta, Ohio but later moved to nearby Carlisle, which was located in what is now Noble County. The last historical reference to Jonathan was in 1833, when he appeared on a Noble County tax list. His year of death is unclear, but it is believed that Jonathan is buried in the Curtis-Ridge Cemetery, located in Noble County's Stock Township. Considering his Patriotic service from Boston to Saratoga, and his noteworthy role as an early Ohio pioneer, Jonathan Curtis' life was a life well lived.



All chapter members have put a significant amount of time in researching your Patriot. Adding Patriot biographies to the PRS is a way to honor your ancestors and possibly help other compatriots in their searches. It is also an easy way to support your chapter and only requires writing a paragraph or two about your Patriot. Whether your Patriot signed the Declaration of Independence, wintered at Valley Forge or simply supported the Revolution by providing supplies, all deserve our recognition. I encourage you to take a few minutes and provide your Patriot's biography to Gary Dunaway at [ormazd72@gmail.com](mailto:ormazd72@gmail.com).

Roger Cross



1775 This is the flag of the First Pennsylvania Rifles. The regiment would see action during the New York Campaign, Battle of Trenton, Second Battle of Trenton, Battle of Princeton, Battle of Brandywine, Battle of Germantown, Battle of Monmouth and the Battle of Springfield.

### Colors of the First Pennsylvania Rifles

The letters "P.M." on the flag refers to "Pennsylvania Militia," and the "i.R." is "1st Rifles." The Latin legend "Dominari Nolo" means "I Will Not Be Dominated" and refers to the American's desire to be free from the King of England.



Photo by Karen Corbett.

The Williamsburg Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, present NSSAR Flag Retirement Certificates to Boy Scout Troop 103 and VFW Post 8046 and its Auxiliary. The presentation was done in conjunction with a flag retirement ceremony by Troop 103 at the Upper County Park, Toano, VA. Pictured L to R, are Dave Coppinger, Assistance Scoutmaster, Peggy Bormann, Auxiliary President, Ron Stottlemeyer, Post Commander and George Corbett, chapter Flag Recognition Committee Chair.



## From the Chaplain Jim Morford

Many years ago, back in the 1950s, I was introduced to a book by J. B. Phillips with the title *Your God is Too Small*. Even 70 years ago I was wrestling with understanding what God is.

Phillips (1906-1982) born in the UK was a Bible scholar, translator, author, and, Anglican clergyman. His writings challenge much of Christian orthodoxy.

In *Your God is Too Small* Phillips dissects the understandings of what God is - understandings that were instilled in us as children and which we carry with us to this day – our little gods.

When I look at pictures of the universe revealed to us through the Hubble Telescope and more recently through the James Webb Space Telescope, I am in awe of its beauty and how incredibly immense the visible universe is. Then I contemplate with an increasing sense of wonder how tiny our Earth is. On this small planet, orbiting a medium size sun in an average size galaxy containing billions of suns, circling the center of the Milky Way at a speed of 140 miles a second, and taking about 200 million years to complete one orbit, I think of the Psalmist who raised his voice to the heavens and sang to his God, “What is man that thou art mindful of him?” By what miracle do we exist?

Phillips wrote, “The trouble with many people today is that they have not found a God big enough for modern needs. While their experience of life has grown in a score of directions, and their mental horizons have been expanded to the point of bewilderment by world events and by scientific discoveries, their ideas of God have remained largely static.”

As we mature, Phillips asserts, many have experienced enough of life to know that God is immeasurably “bigger” than our forefathers imagined, and modern scientific discoveries confirm that we have only just begun to comprehend the incredibly complex being that is the force that created life as we know it on this planet.

Throughout history humans have worshiped many gods and if some could find no god they worshiped something. Substitutes include the State, wealth, power, the environment. They are not called “God”, but these substitutes influence behavior and demand devotion

Phillips asserts, “We have not only to be impressed by the “size” and unlimited power of God, we have to be moved to genuine admiration, respect, and affection, if we are ever to worship Him.”



A prayer for understanding

Eternal God, omniscient and omnipresent, creator of the universe, help us to accept that you are greater than our ability to fully grasp. May we be guided in our daily lives by the wisdom of the Commandments given to Moses, the words of the prophets and the teachings of your only son.

We pray that you will be with us to guide us in these deeply troubling times as you guided our forefathers who gave us a nation where the people are free, and government serves the will of the people. **AMEN**

# Williamsburg 2023 Chapter Officers



<b>President</b>	Bruce Laubach
<b>Vice-President</b>	John Lynch II
<b>Secretary</b>	Gerry Ward
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gary Dunaway
<b>Registrar</b>	Hunt Berryman
<b>Public Relations</b>	Robert Davis III
<b>Newsletter &amp; WEB</b>	Dave Westenberger
<b>Chaplain</b>	Jim Morford
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Steve Holm
<b>Historian</b>	Tatton Mason
<b>At-Large</b>	Eric Ely
<b>At-Large</b>	Ron Adolphi
<b>Past President</b>	Roger Cross

[vabelling@msn.com](mailto:vabelling@msn.com)  
[cslasoz@aol.com](mailto:cslasoz@aol.com)  
[Gerry-Ward@outlook.com](mailto:Gerry-Ward@outlook.com)  
[ormazd72@gmail.com](mailto:ormazd72@gmail.com)  
[huntberryman@aol.com](mailto:huntberryman@aol.com)  
[macnider@cox.net](mailto:macnider@cox.net)  
[pal744@cox.net](mailto:pal744@cox.net)  
[Morfordjc@gmail.com](mailto:Morfordjc@gmail.com)



## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ALL MEMBERS

**Patriot Biographies:** Only a few have been received. A brief narrative of your ancestor for our history file that will be shared with your compatriots in our newsletter.

Please make this a priority. Send it to Gary Dunaway at [ormazd72@gmail.com](mailto:ormazd72@gmail.com) who will add it to our chapter's history file.

Dave Westenberger - Ed

**Mentor Program:** To support and assist new members. Volunteers are needed. Let Bruce Laubach know if you can help. [vabelling@msn.com](mailto:vabelling@msn.com)



### PATRIOT BIOGRAPHY GUIDANCE:

- Describe qualifying service of the Patriot: *When and Where; State or Continental.*
  - Military Service: ...Private in the Northampton County, Pennsylvania Militia.
  - Patriotic Service: ...paid the 1783 supply tax in Williams Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania.
  - Civil Service: ...as a town clerk in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.
- Best biographies are between 150 and 600 words.
- Detail the Patriot's life. Think of this as the person's obituary. Help future members recognize the Patriot as part of their own family.
- Include the War service, immediate family (parents/children), and relevant life events.

# SAR GIFTS AND FASHIONABLE APPAREL



SAR apparel is available at (502) 589-1779 or on the National SAR WEB site at:

<https://store.sar.org/storefront.aspx>



0928

Personalized Name Badge  
(Name Tag) - Pocket  
Attachment Nametag

\$25.00

There has been confusion on how to add this item to the cart. There is a statement that says "I understand personalized items are not refundable" that has a small box after it on the bottom of the page where the personalized items are added. You must click that box before the "ADD PERSONALIZED ITEM TO CART" button will become active. Unless you click the box agreeing that Personalized Items are not refundable, the item can not be added to the cart.

Personal Name Badge link is:

[https://store.sar.org/categories.aspx?Keyword=personalized%20name%20badge%20\(name%20tag%20\)](https://store.sar.org/categories.aspx?Keyword=personalized%20name%20badge%20(name%20tag%20))