



# 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

Number 8

AUGUST 2023

## President's Message

### Compatriots

It is kind of nice to finally sit back and relax just a bit. In the past two months our chapter has been very busy. We had a very successful commemoration of the Battle of Spencer's ordinary on June 24<sup>th</sup> with a great presentation by Dr, Sean Heuvel. Then just over a week later our 4<sup>th</sup> of July day of Prayer and Thanksgiving at Bruton Parish Church followed by a very moving Bell ringing ceremony. On July 6<sup>th</sup> we held a commemoration of the Battle of Green Spring followed by retiring to a local brew house and lifting a pint in salute to our fallen patriots. Some enjoyed the craft beverage or an ice-cold lemonade all in the spirit of comradery. Either way it was a welcome relief from the heat of the day.

Rounding out our busy month we held our luncheon on the 8<sup>th</sup>, where we welcomed 4 new members to the Williamsburg Chapter. These new members are descended from John Collins, a merchant who provided supplies to the Continental Army. Our new members are Gray Collins Jr., Gray Collins III, Gray Collins IV, and Grant Collins. These new members are very active with the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Militia, which is a revolutionary war re-enactment group, it would be a great pleasure to add them to our own Color Guard. Welcome!

The Sons of the American Revolution is a nonprofit organization. To help us support our nonprofit status we compile information on what we do, such as holding and supporting events that help to keep the public aware of your history and support of other nonprofit organizations. We have several reports that are submitted annually that document our activities. While we try to keep track of everything, we need your help as well. If you attend or participate in a commemoration or wreath laying, in person or as a member of the color guard, please let us know, so that we can record your activities. If you contribute clothing, items or cash to Veterans organizations which can include mileage please let us know.

Thank you all for your help and cooperation.

Bruce Laubach - President



# Calendar

**Monday August 7, 2023**

7:00 pm BOM meeting  
by ZOOM

**Saturday August 12, 2023**

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

## Chapter News



BSA Troop 155 held a Court of Honor for new Eagle Scout, Trent Wilson, at Williamsburg Baptist Church on June 19, 2023. Williamsburg Chapter President Bruce Laubach presented Wilson with a SAR Certificate of Recognition and Scholarship Application. Also attending were compatriots Raynor Duncombe (an Eagle Scout) and Harley Stewart, Chair of Eagle Scout Recognitions. Also pictured is Scoutmaster, and proud father, Dereck Wilson.



SAR and DAR wreath presentations at the Battle of Green Spring Commemoration

**Compatriot Sean Heuvel  
our August speaker.**

**"Sons of the Old Dominion: Virginia Militia Commanders at the 1781 Siege of Yorktown"**

Dr. Sean Heuvel is a higher education professional who has served as both a faculty member and an administrator. He works at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia, where he serves as Director of Graduate Recruitment and Admissions, overseeing the admissions process for all of Christopher Newport's graduate school programs. A military historian by trade, Dr. Heuvel specializes in the American Revolution as well as the Civil War. The author of several books and publications, he earned his degrees at the University of Richmond and The College of William and Mary. Along with the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and the SAR, Dr. Heuvel is an active member of the Society of the Cincinnati. He and his family live in Williamsburg, Virginia.



I sent an email to all chapter members on May 15 with step by step procedures to register and pay for our monthly luncheons through Member Clicks. If you have questions, please contact me at [ormazd72@gmail.com](mailto:ormazd72@gmail.com)

Even if you do not want to pay online, please try to use the registration form from the Member Clicks calendar to reserve your seat. You can print an invoice and mail it with your check if that's your preference. Luncheon price remains \$24 for this year.      ↓↓↓      Gary Dunaway=Treasurer      ↓↓↓

<https://vssar.memberclicks.net/>

Fits nicely in a 6¾ envelope

**Reservation for the Saturday August 12, 2023 Lunch meeting**

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

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

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

Please make checks payable to

**“Williamsburg Chapter SAR”**

Mail to:

Or >

**Gary Dunaway – Chapter Treasurer**  
**104 Pageland Drive**  
**Yorktown, VA 23693**  
**(757) 303-3673**  
[ormazd72@gmail.com](mailto:ormazd72@gmail.com)



# Recent Events

## Independence Day SAR Service of Prayer & Thanksgiving




Participating compatriots

### Bruton Parish Church service

A video was recorded of the service and may be seen by clicking the green link below.



<https://youtu.be/rkmLX1fNr0U?t=256>



The Bell of the church was rung 13 times to signify the 13 original states and their Declaration of Independence from Great Britain.



On July 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 The Williamsburg Chapter SAR presented a Wreath at the Williamsburg Chapter DAR's commemoration of Benjamin Harrison V's Cemetery at Berkeley Plantation. Benjamin Harrison was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. From left to right Robin Doucette Regent Williamsburg Chapter NSDAR,

Bruce Laubach President Williamsburg Chapter SAR, Ron Adolphi, Dr. Cheryl Brown Davis State Librarian Virginia DAR, Jennifer Hopkins Vice director District II Virginia DAR, Evangeline Mason George Wythe Society C.A.R., Eric Ely Williamsburg Chapter SAR, and Meredith Hopkins Registrar William Byrd Society N.S.C.A.R.

### July 6, 2023 Battle of Green Springs Commemoration



Church on the Main

Williamsburg, VA.

# Future Events reminder

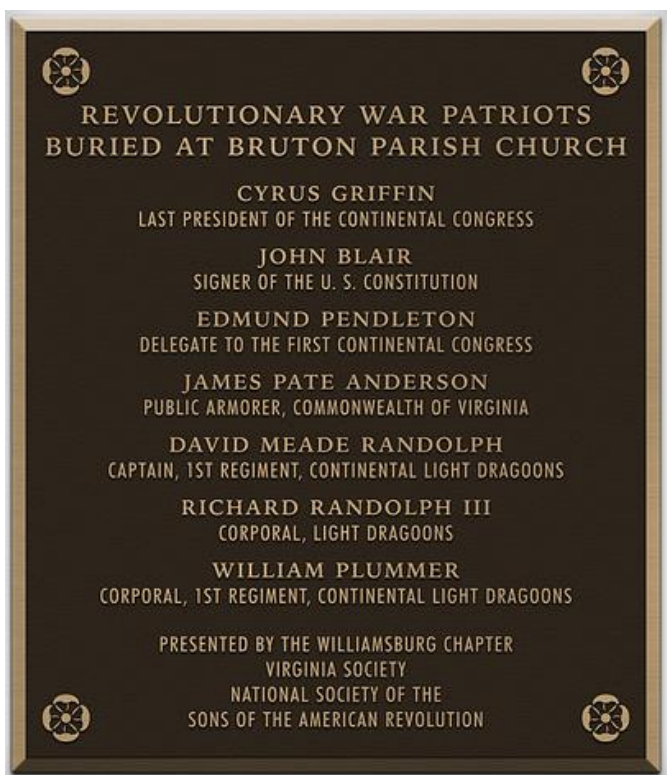
## Bruton Parish Plaque



Jim Morford has gotten approval from Bruton Parish Heritage Center to display our plaque and SAR Patriot Marker. I have just placed the order - the total price is \$606 as stated earlier.

The SAR Store is still out of stock on the markers, but I keep checking every day. Our backup plan in case we can't get that in time is to display a generic stone marker.

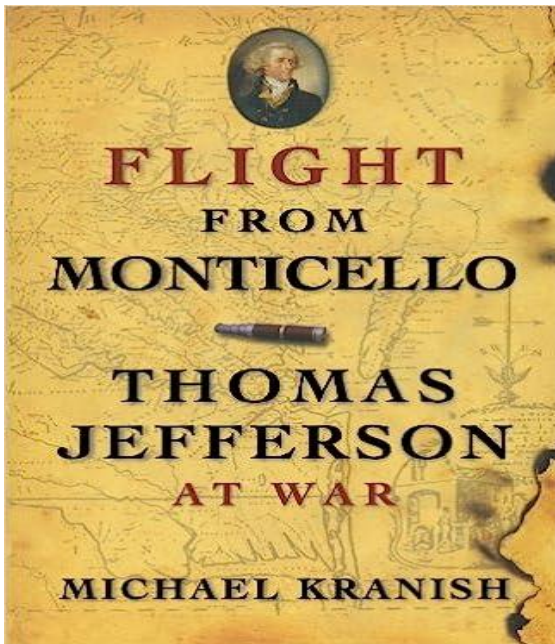
The grave marking ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 30th. Jim is checking with the rector to see if we will be able to conduct musket firing.



There are seven Revolutionary War patriots buried in the churchyard. We are coordinating with the church and Heritage Center for the event. We have ordered a bronze plaque honoring these patriots, which will be placed in the Heritage Center along with a bronze SAR Patriot Marker.

Our fundraising effort for the McIlhany Cemetery grave marking was so successful, we had a surplus of \$400. Compatriot Ron Adolphi generously volunteered to make up the shortfall.

## “Book of the month”



On July 4, 1781, the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson had retreated to the safety of a small cabin at a remote plantation in the southwestern foothills of Virginia. Three columns of British forces had invaded the state during the last six months of Jefferson's term as governor. One force was led by Benedict Arnold, a former ally turned traitor. The second was led by Major General William Phillips, who until recently had been Jefferson's favored guest at Monticello. A third general, Lord Cornwallis, arrived with a massive army and set up headquarters at another home owned by Jefferson. The rebellion that Jefferson had helped set in motion seemed in danger of turning decisively for the British as thousands of enemy troops overran Virginia.

In vivid, precisely observed scenes, Michael Kranish captures the tumultuous outbreak of war in Virginia with a sweeping narrative of clashing armies, of spies, intrigue, desperate decisions, and gut-wrenching battles. A lifelong belief in the corrupting influence of a powerful executive led Jefferson to argue for a weak governorship. The state was woefully unprepared for the invading British troops. Kranish describes Jefferson's struggle to respond to the invasion and paints an intimate and compelling portrait, illuminating Jefferson's flights from the British, his family turmoil, and his private hours at Monticello. Jefferson would be haunted for the rest of his life by his actions as governor, and his career was dogged by accusations of wartime incompetence. The lessons he learned during those dark hours would have a profound and lasting influence on his political thinking, and on the nature of the American presidency. *Flight from Monticello* sheds new light on a little-known yet momentous time in Jefferson's life-and in the birth of America.

"A superb narrative of [Jefferson's] turbulent wartime years." - Wall Street Journal

"...a readable and surprisingly fresh take on Jefferson, the Revolutionary War, and Colonial Virginia...this is solid, entertaining history that debunks some myths while conveying the fog of war." -- Boston Globe

"The story of this seldom-told episode of our early history is dramatically told by Michael Kranish...Even people with broad knowledge of the Revolutionary period will gain from his diligent research, analytical insight and sparkling prose...*Flight from Monticello* is a worthwhile read." -- Washington Times

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

4 new compatriots



PHOTO BY BOB DAVIS III



## Congratulations!

We welcome four new compatriots who were inducted at our July meeting. They are Alfred Gray Collins Jr, Alfred Gray Collins III, Alfred Gray Collins IV and Charles Grant Collins. Alfred Gray Collins III serves as the Commonwealth Attorney for Colonial Heights and Alfred Gray Collins IV and Charles Grant are students at Hampden-Sydney College. The patriot ancestor of the Collins family is John Collins from King and Queen County, VA, who furnished supplies in support of the Revolution. Alfred Gray III and his sons are regular volunteers at Yorktown, where they can be seen firing a cannon or two.



**Hunt Berryman  
Registrar**

**Email:**

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



## Compatriot Harold B. Gill, Jr. sharing his Patriot

My Patriot Ancestor, Jones Gill was born in Charles City County in 1764. He was placed on the Charles City militia muster roll in 1780 at age 16. Later he was drafted for two tours of duty. He said he served at various places including Ford Hood on the James River, Sandy Point, and Malvern Hill. He took part in a skirmish with Tarlton's men at Charles City Court House where several of his companions were killed. He was discharged before the victory at Yorktown but remembers seeing Generals Wayne, Lafayette, and Washington there.

After the war Jones moved to Buckingham County where he married Patience Nunnally on July 3, 1793. They lived in Amherst and Nelson counties. I am descended from their seventh child, Curtis Gill. Jones Gill died at his son's home in Amherst in 1844. The house still survives at the corner of Indian Creek Road and Page Mountain Road in Amherst.

Several years ago my son and I placed a SAR marker at Jones Gill's grave at the Gill Family Cemetery in Amherst.

It's hard to believe but I knew Jones' grandson, William S. Gill, who died in 1943. I have a photo that includes my Great Grandfather, my grandfather, my father, and me.

All chapter members have put a significant amount of time in researching their 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

## From the Chaplain Jim Morford



Credit: created by Fredlyfish4, commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pikes\_Peak\_summit\_view\_1.JPG

Last month during our SAR July 4 Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving we sang one of the most beautiful anthems ever written about our beloved county - *America The Beautiful*. Though not our National Anthem, it might best be characterized as America's Hymn. Eric Westervelt, a correspondent for NPR, observed, "If 'The Star-Spangled Banner' boldly proclaims the country's greatness as fact, 'America the Beautiful' is more aspirational."

Many are familiar with the story behind the song. Wellesley College Professor Katherine Lee Bates was inspired after her 1893 train trip from Boston, by way of Chicago and the Columbian Exposition, across the plains to Colorado Springs to teach literature at a summer school. In July she decided to visit the summit of Pikes Peak. The recently opened cog-railway up the 14,000-plus-foot mountain was broken, so Bates had to make it half way up the rocky path by horse-drawn wagon. She had to do the final half on the back of a mule.

Bates spent about half an hour absorbing the views before beginning the descent. The view had so impressed her that she wrote in her diary, "...we stood at last on that Gate-of-Heaven summit...and gazed in wordless rapture over the far expanse of mountain ranges and the sea-like sweep of plain." The view had so impressed Bates that she wrote, "All the wonder of America seemed displayed there."

After she returned to her hotel that evening, she remarked to friends that countries such as England had failed because, while they may have been "great," they had not been "good" and that "unless we are willing to crown our greatness with goodness, and our bounty with brotherhood, our beloved America may go the same way."

She later authored a poem based on that Pikes Peak experience, a poem which has become our classic anthem, "*America The Beautiful*."

Samuel Ward's hymn, "Materna" is accepted as the preferred music behind the lyrics.

NPR's Westervelt wrote that, "In 1918, when the armistice ending World War I took effect on November 11, soldiers from the six New England states, known as the Yankee Division, stood in stunned silence near the French city of Verdun as the artillery ceased at 11 a.m. Soon after, those American soldiers walked out of their trenches, some in tears, and began singing "*America the Beautiful*."

It is said that when Bates heard that story she cried, realizing she had written a song that spoke to and gave voice to the soldiers who could picture the country they loved and now would be able to come home to.

In 1926, an effort was made to adopt the hymn as the national anthem. However, President Hoover chose the "Star-Spangled Banner" instead. *America The Beautiful* remains one of the most-enduring expressions of patriotism in American history,

### **A prayer inspired by the words of *America the Beautiful*:**

God of our fathers, we pray that you will always shed Your grace on our blessed land. Though we may be far from perfect, we pray that You will mend our every flaw that we might become a family of citizens under the paternity of You our God.

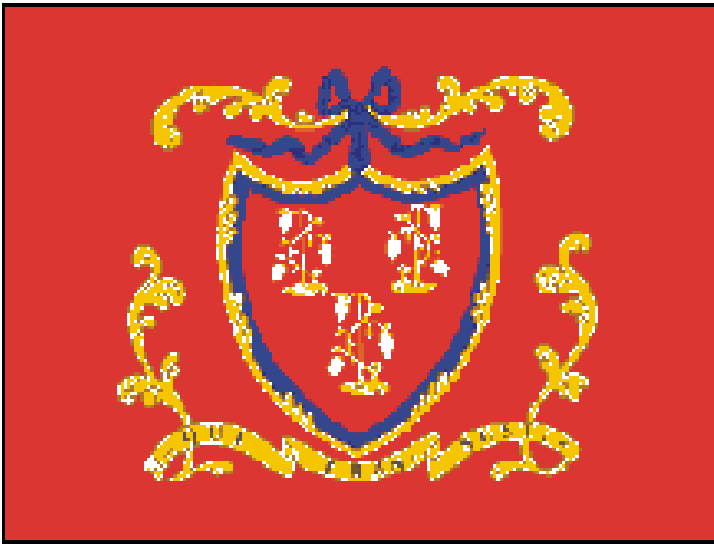
We pray in gratitude for the heroes of the past who proved that they loved their country more than self and the cause of freedom more than life.

The liberties bequeathed to us by our forebearers are the soul of our nation. May we guard them with self-control and protect them by applying equal justice under the law.

We ask, Father, that You crown our country's good with brotherhood throughout this land from sea to shining sea. **AMEN**

# Flags of the American Revolution

## Colors of the Second Connecticut Regiment 1776



2nd Connecticut Regiment



The 2nd Connecticut Regiment was formed in 1776 as part of the Continental Army. Eight companies were recruited from the counties of Fairfield, Windham, and Hartford and assigned to the 1st Connecticut Brigade. The regiment would see action in the New York Campaign, Battle of Brandywine, Battle of Germantown and the Battle of Monmouth. The three grape vines on the "Arms of Connecticut" shield, represent the three original settlements of the colony; Hartford, Windsor, and Wethersfield. The motto is "Qui Transtulit Sustinet," and means "He who brought us here will take care of us."



Photo by Karen Corbett

The Williamsburg Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, presented a NSSAR Flag Recognition Certificate to James River Elementary School on 13 September 2022. The certificate is presented to individuals and organizations who properly display and maintain the flag of the United States of America. Pictured are (L to R) George Corbett, Chair, Chapter Flag Recognition Committee and Angel Washington, Principal, James River Elementary School.

# Williamsburg 2023 Chapter Officers



|                             |                   |  |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>President</b>            | Bruce Laubach     | <a href="mailto:vabelling@msn.com">vabelling@msn.com</a>           |
| <b>Vice-President</b>       | John Lynch II     | <a href="mailto:cslasoz@aol.com">cslasoz@aol.com</a>               |
| <b>Secretary</b>            | Gerry Ward        | <a href="mailto:Gerry-Ward@outlook.com">Gerry-Ward@outlook.com</a> |
| <b>Treasurer</b>            | Gary Dunaway      | <a href="mailto:ormazd72@gmail.com">ormazd72@gmail.com</a>         |
| <b>Assistant Treasurer</b>  | Bill Dorn         | <a href="mailto:wrdorn48@gmail.com">wrdorn48@gmail.com</a>         |
| <b>Registrar</b>            | Hunt Berryman     | <a href="mailto:huntberryman@aol.com">huntberryman@aol.com</a>     |
| <b>Public Relations</b>     | Robert Davis III  | <a href="mailto:macnider@cox.net">macnider@cox.net</a>             |
| <b>Newsletter &amp; WEB</b> | Dave Westenberger | <a href="mailto:pal744@cox.net">pal744@cox.net</a>                 |
| <b>Chaplain</b>             | Jim Morford       | <a href="mailto:Morfordjc@gmail.com">Morfordjc@gmail.com</a>       |
| <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 III   |  |



## ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ALL MEMBERS

The VASSAR is hosting the Atlantic Middle States at the Williamsburg Lodge on August 9-11, 2024. I have been asked by 1st VP Virginia Society SAR Bill Greaf to provide up to two members of our Chapter to assist in planning this event. I am looking for some volunteers to assist in this planning. This is a great way for you to get more involved in our Chapter and State societies. Please provide me with your name and mailing address and phone number so that I can provide them to 1st VP Greaf. Thank you Bruce Laubach President Williamsburg Chapter VASSAR.

The Board of Managers (elected officers and 2 At-Large members) provides the leadership for the chapter and is an excellent opportunity for those that want to be actively involved in the direction of the chapter. The Registrar is a key officer in supporting the growth of the chapter through new member applications and the recognition of additional Patriots as Supplementals. If you are interested in learning more about the Registrar position for 2024 or in helping as an Assistant Registrar in support of the Williamsburg Chapter's mission, please give me a call (757) 869-6303 or email [rogercross@msn.com](mailto:rogercross@msn.com).

Past President Roger Cross

