



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 signer's houses were burned to the ground. No signer defected. Their honor, like their nation remained intact.

Vol. XIII

No. 9

September 2010

In Memoriam

1944-2010



As many of you know, our Chapter Past President as well as VASSAR Past President Art Batten suddenly passed away on August 5th at his home. He had just completed a wonderful week at the National Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill.

He is survived by his wife, Ann Marie; his son, Mark; his son, Christopher and wife Laura; and his granddaughter, Fiona.

Arthur was born on May 2, 1944 in Manchester, NH. He earned a BA from St. Michael's College, VT, an MEd from the Univ. of Southern California, and an MBA

from Golden Gate Univ., CA. He was an Electronic Warfare Officer for the U.S. Air Force, flying 100 combat missions in Vietnam. He retired with the rank of Major in 1987. Since 1993, he worked for the Virginia Employment Commission, and was currently the manager of the Virginia Workforce Center in Williamsburg.

A passionate and lifelong member of the Boy Scouts of America, Arthur received his Eagle Scout award in 1962. He served over 25 years in various adult leadership positions including Troop 84 Scoutmaster, Powhatan and Heritage Districts Commissioner and Vice Chairman, and Woodbadge Scoutmaster. His service was recognized with numerous awards including the prestigious Silver Beaver award in 1996.

Arthur was a dedicated member of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution. As mentioned earlier he served as the Williamsburg Chapter President, Virginia Society President, National Society Trustee, and National Eagle Scout Committee Chairman and he recently received the Patriot Medal.

He was interred on Wednesday August 12th in the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring, MD.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the BSA Memorial Contribution Fund, Colonial Virginia Council, 11721 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, VA 23606.

President Ben Fegan – Ben has been on a long road to recovery following his June 25th operation at the Maguire Woods Veterans Hospital in Richmond. Nevertheless his progress continues to be steady and he hopes to be home soon. The best address to send cards would be to his home since his wife Pat brings him the mail every day. His home address is 1541 Harbor Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

Fall Meeting Schedule:

September 18 (Note the date change)
Bob Spencer – member and lecturer at the Christopher Wren Association will speak on “*Researching Your Revolutionary War Ancestor*”.

October 9 – **Bill Simpson** – VASSAR Past President will speak on the “*Battle of Cowpens, SC*”

November 13 – **John Rogers**, frequent lecturer at the Christopher Wren Assoc.

Sign-up Form for the Sept. 18 Meeting

<p>Reservations MUST be received by 9/15/2010</p> <p>Send to: Bob Schmidt 220 Charleston Place Williamsburg, VA 23185 (757) 245-0292</p> <p><i>Meeting Date 09/18/10</i> <i>Crowne Plaza/Ft. Magruder, 11:30am</i></p> <p>Checks payable to “Williamsburg Chapter, SAR”</p> <p>Please reserve _____ lunches at \$16.00 per person for September 18, 2010</p> <p>Name(s) _____</p> <p>Special Dates</p>
--

September 10&11 - VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting – Being held in Winchester. Any member who wishes is welcome to attend. Details can be found at: <http://www.sar.org/vassar/semi-annual-meeting-2010.htm>.

Anyone planning on attending please let Ed Truslow know at 757-565-2460.

October 19th Yorktown Day – this is a great event and all SAR members are encouraged to attend the graveside service Afterwards you can also march in the parade with other chapter members. Put it on your calendar.

November 11th – Our annual Veterans Day event at the Palace Cemetery

Yorktown Battlefield Tour

A walking tour of the Yorktown Battlefield for all chapter members and spouses of the Williamsburg Chapter, SAR is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 2010.

The event will include a Ranger guided tour of the Battlefield from 9:30 - 11:30 A.M., Lunch (Dutch Treat) a local restaurant in Yorktown, then a private tour of the Yorktown Victory Center led by historian Edward Ayres from 1:00- 2:30 P.M. Cost for the Battlefield tour is \$10 per person, or free if you have a Golden Age Passport. The Victory Center is free to local area residents.

Please sign up for this event at the September chapter meeting, or notify Jim Henry at 221-8314 or by e-mail at thedawgsdidit@juno.com by September 30, 2010. A minimum of 10 participants is required. So, sign up NOW!!!

Historian's Corner

The month of September selection "From the Historian's Bookshelf" is entitled "Flight from Monticello: Thomas Jefferson at War", by Michael Kranish, Oxford University Press, 2010.

On June 4, 1781, Thomas Jefferson fled Monticello, mere minutes ahead of the British soldiers rushing to capture him. He nearly became the most valuable American prisoner of the Revolutionary War: his life -- and the momentum of the entire war--- balanced on a razor's edge. In "The Flight from Monticello", Michael Kranish recreates this harrowing moment and reveals its central importance to Jefferson's life and to the young nation's fate.

Kranish describes Jefferson's struggle to respond to the invasion and paints an intimate and compelling portrait, illuminating Jefferson's quiet conversations, his family's turmoil, and his private hours at Monticello. Jefferson would be haunted his entire life by his actions as governor, and his career dogged by accusations of wartime incompetence. "Flight from Monticello" sheds new light on a little-known yet defining moment in Jefferson's life, and by extension, that of the nation he would come to lead.

---Jim Henry

Virginia Society *Sons of the American Revolution* **CHAPTER DIRECTORY**

Clinch Mountain Militia Tazewell area
Colonel Fielding Lewis Virginia's Eastern Piedmont Region
Colonel George Waller Martinsville area
Colonel James Wood, Jr. Northwest Virginia
Colonel William Grayson Prince William County area
Culpeper Minute Men Virginia's Central Piedmont area
Dan River Danville area
Fairfax Resolves Fairfax County
Fincastle Resolutions Roanoke Valley area
Fort Harrison Harrisonburg area
General Daniel Morgan Staunton area
General William Campbell Abingdon area
George Mason Arlington County
George Washington Alexandria
James Monroe Upper Northern Neck
Lieutenant David Cox Galax/Independence
Martin's Station Cumberland Gap
New River Valley New River Valley area
Norfolk Norfolk/Virginia Beach area
Overmountain Men Gate City
Richmond Richmond/Petersburg
Rockbridge Volunteers Lexington
Richard Henry Lee Lower Northern Neck
Thomas Jefferson Charlottesville
Thomas Nelson, Jr. Newport News/Hampton/Yorktown
Williamsburg Williamsburg

Virginia Society Bulletin

The latest edition of the VASSAR Bulletin may be viewed at:
<http://www.sar.org/vassar/vbulletin/bulletin-34-2.pdf>