



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. 11

November 2010

President's Message

Compatriots,

I hope all of you noticed Compatriot Jerry Travers picture and accompanying article on the front page of the October 13th Virginia Gazette. As most of us know Jerry is the archaeologist for the York River State Park. Using a metal detector Jerry found the traces of a fortified complex dating to 1676. The article goes on to describe Jerry's recent work.

Our October speaker was VASSAR Immediate Past President Bill Simpson who spoke on the battle of Cowpens. Bill's presentation was well researched and was well received.



Ben and Bill

Our 2010 Teacher of the Year was Jennifer Hayden. Jennifer teaches Social Studies at Walsingham Academy. She was accompanied by her husband Joseph Cunningham.



Jennifer & Ben

The Chapter inducted two new members, Kevin Kelly and Ben Harris, into the SAR .



Kevin Kelly & Ben



Ben Harris, his wife Margaret, Ben & Ed

We will celebrate Veterans' Day with a ceremony at the Revolutionary War grave site behind the Palace at Colonial Williamsburg followed by lunch and a speaker at The Crowne Plaza.

Our celebration will begin at 11 AM on 11 November. Tom Campbell and volunteers will mark the grave sites with small American Flags. We will have Bob Schmidt's local color guard and a fifer and drummer from Colonial Williamsburg. We will also have a Colonial Williamsburg interpreter (Frank Mergargee) who will portray Richard Henry Lee. Wreaths will be laid by Elane Strange (Regent, Williamsburg DAR), Mark Brennan (President Elect, VASSAR), Jim Swords (President, Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter, SAR) and myself. The ceremony should not exceed 30 minutes and will be followed by lunch at the Crowne Plaza.

Joe Spruill will shortly be issuing parking and other administrative instructions regarding the Palace Ceremony. We hope to have a shuttle service similar to the one we had on Memorial Day.

Our lunch will begin at 12:30... allowing time for movement from the Palace. We will present awards to the Firefighter of the

year and Policeman of the year. Our speaker will be local resident Harry Walters. Harry was an honorable mention All American fullback on the last undefeated Army team. After a successful business career he served as Ronald Reagan's Assistant Secretary of the Army and as Administrator of the Veterans Administration (now a Cabinet Level Job).

Harry left government to be President/CEO of Great Lakes Carbon and went on to sell the company. He organized an ESOP (Employee Stock Options Plan) for Northwest Airlines. Harry organized a group comprised of members from the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans which studied health care and issued a report on that subject last year. His topic will be Health Care as it affects veterans and senior citizens. He might be persuaded to comment on December's Army/Navy game.

Finally, Jim Henry and his nominating committee have developed its slate of 2011 officers. His report follows in the newsletter.

Sign-up Form for the Nov. 11th Meeting

**Lunch Reservations MUST be received by
11/08/2010**

**Send to:
Bob Schmidt
220 Charleston Place
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 245-0292
sar1812@cox.net**

**Meeting Date 11/11/10
Crowne Plaza/Ft. Magruder, 12:30pm**

**Checks payable to
"Williamsburg Chapter, SAR"**

**Please reserve _____ lunches at \$16.00
per person for November 11, 2010**

Name(s) _____

Proposed Slate of Officers, 2011

Meeting Schedule:

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 together with your chapter members. Put it on your calendar.

The event schedule is as follows:

9:30 am - Wreath laying ceremony at the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr. at Grace Episcopal Church - sponsored by VASSAR

10:30 am - Yorktown Day Parade, Main St.

11:15 am - Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Victory Monument (50 seats reserved for SAR members)

November 11 Veteran's Day– 11:00am ceremony at the Governor's Palace. Cemetery followed by a 12:30pm luncheon meeting with Harry Walters as our speaker. The election of 2011 chapter officers will take place at this meeting.

All members and spouses encouraged to attend the Palace ceremony as well as the luncheon meeting.

January 15 Joint Chapter Meeting – Just some advanced notice that the joint dinner meeting with the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter will be held in the evening of January 15th at the Riverwalk Restaurant in Yorktown. VASSAR President Bob Bowen will be the speaker and preside over the induction of the 2011 chapter officers.

President - Ed Truslow
Vice President - Rushton White
Secretary/ Treasurer - Bob Schmidt
Registrar/Genealogist - Clayton Rowland
Chaplain/ Historian - Jim Henry
Public Relations - Collyer Linn
Member at Large – Ron Losee
Member at Large - Joe Spruill
Member at Large - Ben Fegan

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Henry, Nomination Committee Chair

The Historian's Corner

In his excellent presentation on the Battle of Cowpens at the October chapter meeting, Bill Simpson referred several times to Lt. Colonel John Eager Howard of the Maryland Line. So, to tailgate on those comments, this month's selection "From the Historian's Bookshelf" is entitled "Cool Deliberate Courage: John Eager Howard in The American Revolution" by Jim Picuch and John Beakes, The Nautical and Aviation Publishing Co. of America, Charleston, SC, 2009.

Picuch and Beakes tell us that from the early campaigns of the Revolutionary War in 1776 to the final battles in 1781, Lt. Colonel John Eager Howard of the Maryland Line built a reputation as an outstanding military leader. One author calls Howard "one of the finest regimental commanders in American history."

Howard participated in the New York campaign of 1776 and the Philadelphia campaign of 1777, led his Maryland troops as they fought tenaciously at the Battle of Camden, SC in 1780, and was awarded a Silver Medal by Congress for his

performance at the Battle of Cowpens in 1781. He also served with distinction during the Race to the Dan and the Battles at Guilford Courthouse, Hobkirk's Hill and Eutaw Springs.

After the war, Howard held several important offices including Governor of Maryland and U.S. Senator. This is the first military biography of this distinguished soldier, and I highly recommend it for your reading.

Jim Henry, Chapter Historian
e-mail: thedawgsdidit@juno.com

2011 Dues Notices

By now everyone should have received their 2011 Chapter dues notices. Please make your checks out to ***Williamsburg Chapter, SAR*** and remit them to Bob Schmidt at 220 Charleston Place Williamsburg, VA 23185 **no later than November 15, 2010**. If you have not received your notice, please call Bob at 757-345-0292 or e-mail him at sar1812@cox.net.