



# 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. XIV

No. 5

May 2011

### President's Message

Compatriots,

April has been a busy month for the chapter. We supported the District 6 History Day Competition in Norfolk as well as the State History Day Competition here in Williamsburg at the Thomas Nelson, Jr. College.

At our monthly luncheon meeting at the Crowne Plaza, we were treated to a very interesting presentation by Jim Holloway about the planned new Yorktown Victory Center. The architectural renderings of the new center are indeed impressive and are consistent with making the center a national rather just a regional resource. It will be a five year project and the construction start date will be dependent on when the funding arrives from the state.



(L-R) Ed Truslow and Jim Holloway

Current programs at the Yorktown Victory Center as well as the Jamestown Settlement may be viewed at

<http://www.historyisfun.org/calendar.htm>

Ron Losee was the winner of the book raffle and he took home *Forgotten Patriots": The Untold Story of American Prisoners During the Revolutionary War*, by Edwin G. Burrows.

Our May meeting is our special Memorial Day event on Monday May 30<sup>th</sup> with Colonial Williamsburg instead of the usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday meeting at the Crowne Plaza. More details on Memorial Day will follow in this newsletter. Our Next Crowne Plaza meeting will be on Saturday June 11th

Ed Truslow

### History Day Event

On Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>, over 200 middle and high school students from across the Commonwealth gathered at the Thomas Nelson College on Centreville Road for the statewide History Day competition sponsored by Colonial Williamsburg. VASSAR participated by making awards to exceptional student projects that focused on the late Colonial and Revolutionary periods of our history. VASSAR judges were our own Jim Henry, Don Swain and Chapter President Ed Truslow along with Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter President Joe Shipes.

Our History Day winners were

**Senior Division** – Abigail Wild of Charlottesville for her depiction of both Benjamin Franklin and his French noblewoman friend. Mr. Franklin’s social contacts were important in gaining support of the French government for the American Revolution.

**Junior Division** (Two projects tied) Brooks Allerton of Haymarket for her project that was centered on her analysis of the deficiencies of the Articles of Confederation.

Samuel Robles-Hinckley, Alejandro Romero, and Zachary King of Williamsburg for their website depicting the results of the Treaty of Paris which set the stage for the American Revolution.



**(L-R) Abigail Wild, Samuel Robles-Hinckley, Zachary King, Alejandro Romero and Brooks Allerton**

### **Memorial Day**

Plans for the May 30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Ceremony with Colonial Williamsburg are well advanced. We have reserved tables for an 11:30 luncheon in the King’s Arms Tavern Garden as we did last year.

The ceremony will begin in front of the Governor’s Palace. We will then march behind our Color Guard (Bob Schmidt, OIC) and CW’s Fife and Drum Corps to Bruton Parish Church, then on to the French burial site about 100 yards behind the CW Employees Parking Lot on Francis Street.

We can park in the Employees Parking Lot. Joe Spruill is arranging a shuttle to the entrance of the path in front of Matthew Whaley School that leads to the Palace and, after the Palace portion of the ceremony, back to the entrance to King’s Arms Tavern for those who are uncomfortable with walking the ceremony route. If you can volunteer to drive please contact Joe Spruill at [josephspruill31@gmail.com](mailto:josephspruill31@gmail.com). Vans or minivans are preferred but any full-size sedan will do.

The luncheon will be “Dutch Treat” so no advance payment will be needed. However, we must have an accurate count; so please make your reservations directly to Bob Schmidt no later than Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> by returning the reservation form in this newsletter. As we get closer to Memorial Day we will send out more detailed instructions.

**Sign-up for the May 30th Meeting  
Reservations MUST be received not later  
Than Wednesday, May 25**

**Bob Schmidt  
220 Charleston Place  
Williamsburg, VA 23185**

*(757) 345-0292  
sar1812@cox.net*

**Meeting Date 5 /30/2011  
Kings Arms Tavern Garden  
Dutch Treat – Order from Menu**

**Number for lunch \_\_\_\_\_**

### **Colonial/Revolutionary Period Artifacts**

Anyone having Colonial or Revolutionary period artifacts and wishes to display them at a future meeting, please contact **Ron Losee at 565-1707.**

### **Flag Certificates**

Our chapter would like to nominate more good citizens in our area who properly and consistently fly our flag on national holidays and other appropriate days. Please provide the nominee's name and address to Flag Chairman Bob Schmidt and he will prepare a personalized certificate for you to give to the nominee in his/her home. Bob may be contacted at 345-0292 or [sar1812@cox.net](mailto:sar1812@cox.net).

On March 20<sup>th</sup> Tom Campbell presented a certificate to Cindy and Tom Sandelin of Williamsburg.



**(L-R) Cindy and John Sandelin and Chapter Presenter Tom Campbell**

### **The Historian's Corner**

The "From the Historian's Bookshelf" selection for the month of May is entitled, "Come to the Cow Pens!", Poetry and Prose by Christine R. Swager; Illustrations by John Robertson, Hub City Writers Project, Spartanburg, South Carolina 29305, 2002.

Now, I can just imagine some of you saying, "Oh, no! Not another book about the Battle of Cowpens!" I would offer a word of caution not to prejudge this little book until you have read it! For starters, this book is a product of the Hub City Writers Project, a non-profit organization of Spartanburg, South Carolina, whose mission is to foster a sense of community through the literary arts. They do so by publishing books from and about their community; encouraging, mentoring, and advancing the careers of local writers; seeking to make Spartanburg a center for the literary arts.

The other surprise is that the book is more about the Partisans who fought at Cowpens than the Continental Army. The contention is that the American Revolution in South Carolina was a bloody struggle between Patriots (or Partisans) and Tories (Loyalists). It was a war of neighbor against neighbor, of brother against brother. The Partisans were true citizen soldiers who responded to their country's need when there was an enemy threat. When there was none, they returned to their homes and their fields. Mixing poetry and prose, Dr. Christine R. Swager presents to the reader a stirring account of these citizen soldiers and gives them the credit they are due for helping our nation win its independence. Also, the illustrations and maps by John Robertson are a superb enhancement to this work!

A good and quick read.

Jim Henry, Chapter Historian  
e-mail: [thedawgsdidit@cox.net](mailto:thedawgsdidit@cox.net)

Raffle Book for June: "*The Genuine Article*": A Historian Looks at Early America. By Edmund S. Morgan.

### **Boy Scout Chairman Needed**

We are in desperate need of a Chapter Boy Scout Chairman. The duties would include being the primary interface with the VASSAR initiatives for our area. Please give Ed Truslow a call at 565-2460 if you can help out..

### **Future VASSAR Activities**

**Raid on Martin's Station** – May 15-17 Ewing, VA

**VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting** – Sep 16-17 Fredericksburg, VA

**Yorktown Day** – Oct. 19 Yorktown, VA

### **2011 Chapter Calendar**

**May 30th** - Memorial Day with CW & Luncheon at Kings Arms

**June 11th** - Chapter Luncheon Meeting (Joint with Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter)

**July 4th** – Independence Day Service at Bruton Parish Church

**July 9th** - Chapter Luncheon Meeting

**August** – No Meeting

**Sep. 10th** - Chapter Luncheon Meeting

**Oct. 8th** - Chapter Luncheon Meeting

**Nov. 11th** - Veteran's Day @ the Palace and Luncheon Meeting afterwards

**December** – No Meeting

Luncheons will be at the Crowne Plaza except as otherwise noted.

### **Member Photos**

Bob Schmidt continues to solicit member photos for inclusion into a future Chapter directory. This will certainly help each of us put a name to a face. You may e-mail a digital photo to him at [sar1812@cox.net](mailto:sar1812@cox.net) or mail a photo to him at 220 Charleston Place, Williamsburg, VA 23185. If there is more than one person or image in the photo, that will be OK. The member image can be isolated and digitally “cut out” for inclusion in the directory.

### **World War II Vets**

*The following is a message from VASSAR President Mark Brennan:*

The National Society SAR plans to honor World War II SAR members with a certificate at the Congress in July in Winston-Salem, NC. However, the WW II SAR members must submit completed forms. If interested, the form is very simple and can be submitted on-line. The forms must be submitted by 1 May 2011. The form can be found at [http://www.sar.org/NSSAR-Forms/Webform/WW2\\_Survey](http://www.sar.org/NSSAR-Forms/Webform/WW2_Survey).

Alternately, the veteran may print out and fill in the attached form and email or mail to me at the address below and I will fill out the online form for the veteran.

*In addition to Mark's offer, Ed Truslow can assist you in making inputting your information. Call him at 565-2460*

Thanks,  
Mark S. Brennan, Sr.  
VASSAR President  
2120 Christendom Dr., Midlothian, VA  
23113  
[vassar2011@gmail.com](mailto:vassar2011@gmail.com)

### **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** - Ben Fegan  
**Member at Large** – Ron Losee  
**Member at Large** - Joe Spruill