



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.

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September 2011

President's Message

Compatriots,

August has been a relatively quiet month for the Chapter as compared to the very busy July we had. That said, we are gearing up for an active fall beginning with our Chapter luncheon meeting on Saturday September 10th. We are pleased to have Colonial Williamsburg interpreter Frank Megargee, bring us "Richard Henry Lee", one of our Revolutionary War heroes, to the luncheon. I hope as many of you as possible will come to hear Frank. Please use the sign-up form in this newsletter.

Also in September there will be the VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg on the 16th and 17th. More information about that is included in this newsletter. Any and all chapter members are invited to attend.

Best regards,
Ed

NSSAR National Congress Oration Contest

Alan Booth, our Chapter's Rumbaugh Oration contest winner, represented the Virginia Society at the National Congress in Winston-Salem, NC in July. Although he did not win, he did very well and was a crowd favorite.



**(L-R) NSSAR President General David
Simpson , Alan Booth and chapter coach Ben
Fegan**

Alan has already begun work on his 2012 oration which will be based upon one of the Patriots who died at the Palace in Colonial Williamsburg. Alexander Scammell participated in the raid on Fort William and Mary, the capture of Fort Ticonderoga, the fighting near Boston, the invasion of Canada and he was wounded at the battle of Saratoga. He became George Washington's adjutant and was appointed to command the first New Hampshire Regiment just prior to the siege at Yorktown. He was mortally wounded near Fusilier's Redoubt by one of Tarleton's dragoons. Cornwallis paroled him back to the allied Army and he was then sent to the hospital in Williamsburg where he died.

Alan is also considering writing for the Knight Essay contest and the Eagle Scout competition. We wish Alan well!"

Freedom Park Interpretive Center

The James City County Freedom Park Interpretive Center, just off of Centreville Road, is nearing completion. The structure contains about 3,000 square feet and will contain displays and exhibits to include a touch screen kiosk explaining various aspects of the historical significance of the site. One of the historical events that occurred there was the Engagement of Spencer's Ordinary on June 26, 1781. The Williamsburg Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution provided text and graphics about the engagement for one of the pages on the touch screen kiosk. The chapter also plans to eventually place a historical marker, similar in design to the one placed on Greensprings Road, elsewhere within the grounds of the park.

Construction at the intersection of Centerville Road and Longhill has been underway this summer and traffic lights are scheduled for installation soon. Freedom Park's next phase of improvement will be picnic and playground areas and parking lot completion. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the Interpretive Center is tentatively scheduled for the first week in October.



**Freedom Park Interpretive Center
Nearing Completion**

Sign-up for the Sep 10th Meeting
Reservations **MUST** be received not later
Than Wednesday. September 7th

Bob Schmidt
220 Charleston Place
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 345-0292
sar1812@cox.net

11:30 am
Crowne Plaza/Fort Magruder Inn
6945 Pocahontas Trail
Williamsburg, VA

Names for lunch _____

The Historian's Corner

Thank you for your prayers and concern as I have spent the past months healing from a broken right ankle sustained on June 13. I continue to make good progress through physical therapy, and am looking forward to being back with the Chapter at our September meeting.

"From the Historian's Bookshelf" selection for September is an insightful and informative book that has provided me with hours of reading pleasure during the course on my rehab. The book is entitled *Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World*, by Maya Jasanoff, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2011.

A ground breaking history of the Revolutionary era, *Liberty's Exiles* tells the story of what happened to the tens of thousands of American loyalists left in the new United States as the last British troops pulled out of New York City on November 25, 1783 bringing the American Revolution to an end. Through painstaking archival

research and vivid storytelling, award-winning Maya Jasanoff re-creates the journeys of ordinary individuals whose lives were overturned by extraordinary events. As they dispersed across the British Empire, these loyalists carried things from their former homes revealing an enduring American influence on the wider British world.

If you have ever wondered or thought about what happened to those Americans who were on the losing side of the American Revolution due to their loyalty to the Mother Country, then I heartily recommend "*Liberty's Exiles*" to your edification!

Jim Henry, Chapter Historian
e-mail: thedawgsdidi@cox.net

Raffle Book for September: *The First Salute: A View of the American Revolution*, by Barbara W. Tuchman. *The First Salute* brings vividly to life the people and events responsible for the birth of our nation.

VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting Fri Sep 16th - Sat Sep 17th

This year's meeting will be in Fredericksburg and those wishing to attend must send in their registration form and check by August 26th. Information regarding hotel reservations, registration and agenda can be accessed at

<http://www.virginia-sar.org/vassar/semi-annual-meeting-2011.htm>

Note that spouses and guests are welcome and there are separate activities available for them.

2011 Chapter Calendar

Sep. 10th – Sat. Chapter Luncheon Meeting – speaker “Light Horse Harry Lee” (Frank Mergargee)

Sep. 24th – Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter Grave Marking Ceremony at Langley AFB

Oct. 8th – Sat. Chapter Luncheon Meeting – speaker Tom Campbell

Nov. 11th – Friday Veteran's Day @ the Palace and Luncheon Meeting afterwards. Speaker John Broadwater

December – No Meeting

Future VASSAR Activities

Battle of Kings Mountain – Oct. 7 - Blacksburg, SC

Battle Days – Oct 7-9 – Point Pleasant, WV

Yorktown Day – Oct. 19 Yorktown, VA

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