



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. 10

October 2011

President's Message

Compatriots,

We got off to a great start for our fall activities with our Chapter meeting on September 10th at the Crowne Plaza. Frank Megargee, an interpreter for Colonial Williamsburg, came as Richard Henry Lee who is one of our lesser known patriots. One of the problems with RH Lee, as he was known at the time, is that Virginia has so many prominent Lees that keeping them straight is a challenge. RH was a delegate to the first and second Continental Congresses and is a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Frank's portrayal of RH Lee was greatly informative and I think all came away with a greater appreciation of RH Lee's accomplishments. Frank will be with us at our November 11th Governor's Palace graveside ceremony.

At the luncheon meeting we had the pleasure inducting Lewis de Seife into membership in our chapter. Lew is descended from Private William Baugh of Captain Hewlett Sullivan's Company of Independent Volunteers (South Carolina)



(L-R) Lew and wife Linda de Seife and Ed Truslow

**Best regards,
Ed**

VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting

Three chapter members attended the VASSAR Semi-Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg on September 16/17. Most of Virginia's 26 chapters were represented at this gathering. Ed Truslow, Ben Fegan and Ron Losee from our chapter were in attendance. Most of the business items were of a routine nature. A workshop for Registrars (Ron attended) and Administration (Ed attended) were held Friday afternoon. On Friday evening the VASSAR contingent marched behind the VASSAR Color Guard from the hotel to the



Ed Truslow with RH Lee (Frank Megargee)

historic Fredericksburg Market Square. There the group was greeted by Mayor Tomzak. He and other speakers at the podium noted that Fredericksburg is the most historic city in Virginia and a long list of historical reasons were cited as evidence of that. The VASSAR Board of Mangers meeting was held shortly afterwards and all were then treated to the VASSAR President's reception.

The general business meeting was held on Saturday morning and was followed by a trolley tour of the historic area of Ferdericksburg and a tour of Kenmore, the home of Mary Washington. Chapter highlights from the meeting were Ben Fegan's receiving the prestigious Madison award for his hard work with Virginia History Day and Ed Truslow being appointed to the rank of Sergeant in the Virginia Society SAR 1st Virginia Regiment.



Ben Fegan receiving the Madison Award from VASSAR President Mark Brennan



**VASSAR 1st Virginia Regiment
"Sergeants" Jim Robeson of Richmond
and Ed Truslow of Williamsburg.
VASSAR President Brennan is at the
microphone**

The VASSAR nominating committee presented its recommended slate of officers for 2012-2013 to be voted on at the February VASSAR annual meeting. Ed Truslow was placed on the proposed slate of officers to be the next VASSAR secretary.

October 8th Chapter Meeting

Our next chapter meeting will be Saturday October 8th at the Crowne Plaza. Our speaker will be our own Tom Campbell who will bring us the latest in the research on the patriot burials at the Governor's Palace Cemetery. Some of his recent findings are absolutely astonishing. We expect to also induct another new member and will be Teacher of the Year award. We will gather at the usual hour of 11:30am. Please make your reservations with the attached form.

Sign-up for the Oct 8th Meeting
Reservations MUST be received not later
Than Wednesday, Oct 5th

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 _____

Yorktown Day – Oct 19th

Every year SAR and DAR members from all over Virginia and from other states as well descend on Yorktown for the celebration of the victory there. The Williamsburg Chapter is one of the two SAR chapters nearest to Yorktown and it would be very nice if the Williamsburg Chapter had a good representation there. The first event is the memorial service for Patriot Thomas Nelson at the churchyard of Grace Episcopal Church. Following that is the parade that steps off at 10:30am. The route of march is relatively short and we will be marching with all other SAR members as a group behind the VASSAR color guard.. More details will be sent out as we near the date.

Veterans' Day – Nov. 11th

As we have for many years, our chapter will hold a ceremony in the Governor's Palace Garden honoring the Revolutionary War Patriots buried there. The ceremony will

start at 11:00 AM. Wreaths will be laid by Williamsburg DAR chapter, Thomas Nelson SAR Chapter, and our chapter. Members of the other organizations referred to above will join us and we will include as many visitors to the Palace as possible. Frank Megargee portraying Richard Henry Lee will speak briefly.

Members may park in the CW Employee Parking Lot across Francis Street from the Capitol, in the CW for-pay parking building off North Henry Street, or in the City's Parking Deck across Lafayette Street from the post office. We will have limited shuttle service from the Employee Parking Lot to the drop off point in front of Mathew Whaley School. Following the garden ceremony we will have the November luncheon meeting at the Crowne Plaza/ Fort Magruder Inn. More details will follow as we near the date.

George Washington – Distinguished Scholar Lecture Series

Colonial Williamsburg is hosting a five part lecture series on George Washington and presented by Peter R. Henriques, a noted George Washington scholar and professor emeritus of history at George Mason University. He is the author of a recently published work entitled *George Washington Realistic Visionary*. His first lecture on September 14th at the DeWitt Museum Auditorium was before a standing room only audience. His next lecture will be on October 5th and the 2012 lectures will be on February 14th, March 13th and April 10th. They are all held in the DeWitt Museum Auditorium at 5:30pm on those dates. Admission is free to those with a Colonial Williamsburg Good Neighbor Pass.

Revolutionary War Lecture Series - Yorktown Victory Center

On Sept 24th historian and author Robert Selig will give a presentation entitled *From Saratoga to Senegal: How the Capture of General "Johnny" Burgoyne Turned the American revolution into a World War.*

On October 8th our own chapter member and Jamestown-Yorktown foundation historian Ed Ayres will give a presentation entitled *The French Alliance and the Road to Yorktown.*

Both of these lectures will be at 7:00pm and admission is free. Call for reservations at 757-253-5185

1940 U.S. Census

Ancestry.com, the largest online source of genealogical information, has announced that it will make available the 1940 census FREE beginning in April 2012 through the end of 2013.

This should be of invaluable assistance to genealogical researchers looking for information on people born prior to 1940.

Membership Dues Notices

Everyone should have received their 2012 dues notices by now. If you have not received them, please contact Sec./Treasurer Bob Schmidt advising him of that fact. While it may seem early to send your dues in, it helps our hardworking Bob Schmidt get his paperwork together for his submittals to VASSAR. He may be contacted at 757-345-0292 or sar1812@cox.net

The Historian's Corner

This month's selection "From the Historian's Bookshelf" is *George Washington's Secret Navy: How the American Revolution Went to Sea*; by James L. Nelson, McGraw-Hill, New York, 2008.

Nelson writes, "Despite his complete lack of naval experience, George Washington recognized that harassing British merchant ships was his only means of carrying the fight to the enemy and sustaining an otherwise unsustainable stalemate. He also knew that many in Congress still hoped for reconciliation with England, and in that climate Congressional approval for naval action was out of the question. So, without notifying Congress and with no real authority to do so, the general began arming small merchant schooners and sending them to sea to hunt down British transports 'in the service of the ministerial Army'."

In this book, James L. Nelson introduces us to another side of a general known for his unprecedented respect for civilian authority. Here we meet a man whose singular act of independence helped keep the Revolution alive in 1775.

In last month's book raffle, Paul Snyder won *The First Salute: A View of the American Revolution*, by Barbara W. Tuchman.

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

Raffle Book For October: *The Pox and the Covenant: Mather, Franklin, and the Epidemic That Changed America's Destiny*; by Toy Williams, author of "Hurricane of Independence". (signed copy)

2011 Chapter Calendar

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. Chapter
Elections will be held as well.
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

2011 Chapter Officers

President - Ed Truslow
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