



# 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. XVI

No. 4

April 2012

## President's Message

Compatriots,

Spring is surely in the air and we look forward to moving ahead with our current and some new events this year.

Laura and I were touring Costa Rica for eleven days in March and consequently missed the March luncheon meeting. Just a note of historical trivia I learned on my trip. Costa Rican independence was gained in sharp contrast to our American Revolution. Costa Rica did not have to fight anybody and received notification that they were independent via a letter from Nicaragua.

Rush White, our Vice President, ably presided over the chapter luncheon meeting in my absence.



**(L-R) Vice President Rush White & Colonel Bush**

Chaplain (COL) Kenneth W. Bush, who is currently assigned as the Senior Chaplain, Fort Eustis, Virginia and Deputy Joint Base Langley Eustis Chaplain provided the luncheon presentation on Chaplains of the American Revolution.

Prior to this assignment, he was the Director of Training and Leader Development at the United States Army Chaplain Center and School from June 2009-June 2011.

Chaplain Bush's expressed that it is important to remember that the tradition of the Army Chaplain Corps grew out of a long tradition. 103 American chaplains served in the colonial wars from 1676 through 1768, 57 of those in the French and Indian War (1755-1768) - including the Rev. Samuel Langdon, President of Harvard College

But the impact of the American Revolution and the ideals of our Founding Fathers changed it significantly. Unlike its European antecedents which were rooted in the State sponsored religious bodies, the Chaplain Corps became the embodiment of the tensions of the two clauses of the First Amendment dealing with religious Free Exercise and non-establishment.

When George Washington assumed command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts, chaplains were already present for duty. Washington could count fifteen chaplains serving with the twenty-three regiments gathered around Boston. The Continental Congress gave the

chaplains its official recognition on 29 July 1775, when it voted pay for various officers and enlisted personnel in the Continental Army not previously covered in its resolution of 16 July..

Thanks and best regards,  
Ed

### **April 14th Chapter Luncheon**

Our April 14 meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza as usual beginning at 11:30 with a little social time and the formal meeting beginning promptly at noon. Our speaker will be Navy Captain (Ret) Bill Riffer who will talk about his experiences as a commander of a nuclear submarine. Captain Riffer is a frequent lecturer at the Christopher Wren Association and his most recent class covered World War II Eastern Front.

Please take a look at our chapter and VASSAR calendars. There are a lot of interesting meetings and events ahead.

Best regards,  
Ed

### **2012 Chapter Calendar**

- April 14<sup>th</sup>** - Chapter Luncheon Meeting
- May 31<sup>st</sup>** – Memorial Day Ceremony with CW – Lunch at the King’s Arms
- June 16**– Joint Mtg. - Time/Place TBD
- June 26<sup>th</sup>** – Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary
- July 4<sup>th</sup>** – Service at Bruton Parish Church
- July 6<sup>th</sup>** – Battle of Green Spring
- September 8<sup>th</sup>** - Chapter Luncheon Meeting
- October 13<sup>th</sup>** - Chapter Luncheon Meeting
- October 19<sup>th</sup>** – Yorktown Day
- November 11<sup>th</sup>** – Palace Cemetery
- December** – No Meeting

### **Sign-up Form for the April 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**Luncheon Reservations MUST be received not later than Wed. April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Send check & form to:  
Bob Schmidt  
220 Charleston Place  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
(757) 345-0292  
sar1812@cox.net**

### **Checks payable to “Williamsburg Chapter, SAR”**

**Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ lunches at \$18.00 per person for April 14th, 2012**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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### **VASSAR Sponsored Activities**

**April 13 – President Thomas Jefferson’s Birthday** - Jefferson Memorial, Wash. D.C.

**April 15-16 – Battle of Petersburg** – Petersburg, VA

**April 28 – President James Monroe’s Birthday** – Westmoreland Co. 10:30am, Richmond 3:00pm

**May 12-14 Raid on Martin’s Station** – Ewing, VA

**June 17 – Battle of Ramsour’s Mill** – Lincolnton, NC

**July 7-12 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congress –**  
Phoenix, AZ

**August 11-12 Atlantic Middle States  
Conference – Newark, DE**

**September 15-16 VASSAR Semi-Annual  
Meeting Charlottesville, VA**

Details of the above VASSAR events as  
well as other events may be found at:  
<http://www.virginia-sar.org/vassar/events.htm>

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



**Chaplain & Historian Rev. Dr. Jim Henry**

For the month of April, the selection “From the Historian’s Bookshelf” is entitled *The Battle of Kings Mountain: Eyewitness Accounts*, by Robert M. Dunkerly, History Press, Charleston, SC 29403, 2007.

On October 7, 1780, a severe battle raged on the steep, craggy hillsides at Kings Mountain, South Carolina. Two armies that had been marching for weeks finally came to grips here on this isolated ridge. The battle was unique for several reasons: it pitted Americans against each other as Rebels fought Loyalists, and it marked the high tide of British occupation of the state. Surprisingly, while many historians consider the battle a turning point, there has been no

effort to collect and examine eyewitness accounts from the battle.

Dunkerly’s book fills that need. It is hoped that this work will further interest in the Kings Mountain campaign and be an aid to researchers. Also, it is an easy and informative read.

e-mail: [thedawgsdedit@cox.net](mailto:thedawgsdedit@cox.net)

### **April Book Raffle Selection**

April’s book raffle selection is *A Leap in the Dark: The Struggle to Create the American Republic*, by John Ferling. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 7 for \$5.00.

### **VASSAR Annual Meeting – Cont’d**

VASSAR provided us with some photos of the Annual Meeting in Richmond after the last newsletter was sent out. Below are a couple of those we recently received.

Alan Booth was one of the five Rumbaugh Oration contestants to reach the finals in Richmond. He is pictured receiving his certificate and check for his accomplishment.



**(L-R) Bill Broadus, Alan Booth and  
VASSAR President Mark Brennan**

As noted in last month's newsletter, one of the seven chapter awards that Williamsburg received was for the best chapter scrapbook in the state. The scrapbooks are a compilation of all the chapter activities with photos and newspaper clippings. Ed Truslow is pictured receiving this award on behalf of our Historian Jim Henry who put the whole thing together.



**(L-R) VASSAR President Mark Brennan & Ed**

## **2012 Chapter Officers**

**President** - Ed Truslow  
[ewtruslow@verizon.net](mailto:ewtruslow@verizon.net)

**Vice President** - Rushton White  
[rushtonwhite@cox.net](mailto:rushtonwhite@cox.net)

**Secretary/ Treasurer** - Bob Schmidt  
[sar1812@cox.net](mailto:sar1812@cox.net)

**Registrar/Genealogist** – Ron Losee  
[Valosee@aol.com](mailto:Valosee@aol.com)

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