



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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April 2013

President's Message

Lunch on March 9 provided an opportunity to honor Joe Spruill, a long-time member Who has provided dedicated service to our Chapter for many years. I had the pleasure to present Joe with a certificate acknowledging his service.



(L-R) President Spencer & Joe Spruill

Our speaker was Daniel Lovelace who spoke about a Tory Spy in upstate New York who was captured and hanged during the American Revolution for his activities on behalf of the British. The incident illustrated the difficult choices many people had to make in terms of their allegiance.



(L-R) Daniel Lovelace and President Spencer

Ron Losee, our Registrar and Genealogist, reports that he has been contacted by a number of prospective members. Please welcome any new or prospective members who attend one of our lunches

There are a number of important dates listed later in this newsletter. Please note those dates on your calendar. It is particularly important to have a large turnout of members for the May 4 dedication of the Bruton Parish Church plaque dedication.

Bob Spencer,
Chapter President

April 13th Luncheon Meeting

The speaker for the April luncheon meeting is the well known James City area historian Martha McCartney. Her topic will be *Down But Not Out in Pre-Revolutionary Williamsburg - the Bruton Parish Poorhouse*.

Martha is the author of seven books, plus numerous published articles and reports, and has received six historic preservation awards. Her book, *Jamestown Island: An American Legacy*, which is in its 3rd printing, was chosen by the NPS as “best in the field” in the book/cultural history category. *Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers, 1607-1635: A Biographical Dictionary* and *Jamestown People to 1800* are two of her more recent works.

Sign-up Form for the Saturday April 13th Meeting @ 11:30am

Reservations MUST be received not later than Wed April 10th

**Send check & form to:
Jack Lee**

**521 Newport Ave.
Williamsburg, VA 23185-4012
(757) 221-6686
vlee@widomaker.com**

**Make checks payable to
“Williamsburg Chapter, SAR”**

**Please reserve _____ lunches at \$18.00
per person for Mar. 9th, 2013**

Name(s) _____

May 4th SAR Plaque Dedication

On Saturday May 4th at 2:00pm, there will be a dedication for the SAR plaque recently installed by our chapter in Bruton Parish Church. This is a significant moment in our chapter’s history and we hope that ***all chapter members and wives*** attend this event. NSSAR Secretary General Joe Dooley and other NSSAR and VASSAR officers will be in attendance. There will be reception following the ceremony.

Williamsburg is full of so much history that the fact that Bruton Parish Church is the final resting place of three distinguished patriots has gone relatively unnoticed. The VASSAR Knight Patty Trust provided the funds for this the bronze plaque recognizing the patriotic service of Captain David Meade Randolph, Edmund Pendleton and John Blair. Mr. Pendleton’s gravestone is in the north transept of the church building, and the others are in the churchyard. However, their stones are illegible for the most part. The plaque is now mounted on the north side wall of the nave of the church. Both Pendleton and Blair are monumental figures in our country’s early history.

Historian’s Corner

The month of April’s selection “From the Historian’s Bookshelf” is the classic tome of Rhys Isaac entitled “The Transformation of Virginia 1740-1790”, W.W. Norton & Company, New York 1988.

In this original study, Rhys Isaac describes the effect of religious revival and political revolution on the life in Virginia—its great plantations and slave quarters, the capital city of Williamsburg, the small planter’s fifty acres, and the College of William & Mary as well as the Baptist meeting. He vividly recreates and painstakingly dissects

a society in the turmoil of profound inner change.

The eminent historian, Edmund S. Morgan, bests sums up the essence of this work in his “New York Review of Books” when he writes: “(This book uses) new techniques for making the past surrender meanings not previously available... (Isaac) has set us thinking about a society and its social relations during the period of the American Revolution in ways we never did before”.

The “Transformation of Virginia 1740-1790” is highly recommended for anyone seriously interested in learning more about the social context-social, political and religious-of Virginia in the years leading up to, and through, the American Revolution. It is truly a “must read” for the serious student of this period of American history.

April Book Raffle Selection

“An Essay on the Life of the Honourable Major-General Israel Putnam”, by David Humphreys, principal aide-de-camp to Putnam and subsequently to George Washington, Liberty Fund, Indianapolis, 2000. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or seven for \$5.00. Proceeds go to the support of Chapter projects.

2013 Chapter Calendar

April 13th - Chapter Luncheon Meeting

May 4th – Bruton Parish SAR Plaque Dedication

May 27th – Memorial Day Ceremony with CW – Lunch at the King’s Arms

June 8th– Joint Mtg. with Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter

June 26th – Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary Commemoration

July 4th – Service at Bruton Parish Church

July 6th – Battle of Green Spring Commemoration

September 14th - Chapter Luncheon Meeting

October 12th - Chapter Luncheon Meeting

October 19th – Yorktown Day

November 11th – Palace Cemetery Wreath Laying

VASSAR Sponsored Activities

April 8 – Halifax Days – Halifax, NC

April 13 – Thomas Jefferson’s Birthday – Wash. D.C.

April 14 - Graves Mountain Lodge Multi-Chapter Meeting. Syria, VA

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

April 28 - James Monroe’s Birthday – Hollywood Cemetery Richmond, VA

Details of the above VASSAR events as well as other events may be found at:

<http://www.virginia-sar.org/vassar/events.htm>

Chapter Website

Note that you can keep up on chapter news at our web site at:

<http://williamsburg.virginia-sar.org/>

2013 Chapter Officers

President – Bob Spencer

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Vice President – John Moseley

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