



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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Presidents Message

While recovering for double bypass heart surgery on April 22, I have had some time to reflect on the importance of things we often take for granted, e.g. good friends, being associated with an organization such as SAR that promotes sound goals and objectives. I am not certain at this time if I will be able to attend the May 4 dedication ceremony at Bruton Parish Church. I intend to make every effort to do so. Jim Henry and his Committee have done a marvelous job, and deserve our support.

By now, I hope that you have seen the article in Next Door Neighbors magazine about the SAR. I enjoyed talking with the writer of the article. A major purpose of the article was to promote SAR. It seems to have worked. A gentleman from my Church approached me to arrange for his transfer from a Chapter in another state to our Chapter, Let's continue to work for our Chapter.

Our chapter was happy to induct Jay Smith, Howard Perley and C.E. Douglas into membership at the April luncheon meeting. In addition, Bob Barberie was recognized for the approval of two more of his patriot ancestors.



(L-R) Jay Smith and his wife Jamie
Compatriot Smith was inducted into membership by way of his patriot ancestor Henry Smith who was a frontier spy and Pennsylvania soldier.



(L-R) Howard Perley & Bob Spencer)
 Compatriot Perley was inducted into membership by way of his patriot ancestor Aaron Perley a Massachusetts soldier.



(L-R) Bob Barberie & Bob Spencer
 Compatriot Barberie received supplemental certificates for his patriot ancestors Abel Brace, Captain Connecticut militia and Levi Hayden, private with Connecticut Light Horse Regiment.



(L-R) Bob Spencer & C.E. Douglas)
 Compatriot Douglas was inducted into membership by way of patriot his ancestor Thomas Craig Sr, with 14th VA regiment and at Valley Forge

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 at the Bruton Parish Hall. *Parking is permitted on Duke of Gloucester Street in front of the church.*

May 27th Memorial Day Ceremonies & Chapter Luncheon

As we have done in the past, the Williamsburg Chapter will join in the Colonial Williamsburg Memorial Day

commemoration on May 27th. We will assemble at the front of the Governor's Palace no later than 9:15 AM. Following brief opening remarks and wreath laying ceremony there, the march will begin with our chapter color guard following the Colonial Williamsburg Fife and Drums Corps, and then our dignitaries and wreath bearers, and the remaining participants.

The procession will then march to the Palace Green Gate of Bruton Parish Church for a brief wreath laying ceremony and then continue to the French cemetery near the Williamsburg Inn for a wreath laying for our Revolutionary War allies..

At the conclusion of the ceremonies we will meet in the garden at **King's Arms Tavern** for an individual-pay luncheon.

Attendance at the luncheon must be limited to the first 29 responding so please e-mail or call your reservation to Joe Spruill, josephspruill31@gmail.com, or telephone 757-253-7859.

We hope all members will join us. There will be a shuttle from the colonial Williamsburg employees' parking lot opposite the Colonial Capitol to the turnaround in front of Matthew Whaley School for the color guard and those having difficulty walking. *More detail will be provided at a later date.*

VASSAR Award for Scrapbook Compiler for 2012

For the second year in a row Jim Henry won the VASSAR Award for Scrapbook Compiler of the Year. As Chapter Historian, Jim has been compiling our chapter artifacts i.e. newspaper clippings, photos, etc into a fine notebook for

maintaining our chapter history. These ultimately are passed on to the Swem Library at William and Mary for posterity. Jim is pictured below receiving the VASSAR acrylic award from Bob Spencer.



(L-R) Bob Spencer and Jim Henry

Knight-Patty Essay Contest

On April 12th Chapter President Bob Spencer presented a Knight-Patty Essay contest certificate to Peninsula Catholic High School student Scott Yoo. This is an annual VASSAR and NSSAR contest.



(L-R) Bob Spencer and Scott Yoo

Taskinas Plantation Expediton

On Thursday April 18 several of our chapter members were taken on a tour of the various 18th century archaeological sites within the York River State Park. Chapter compatriot,

Jerry Traver is the park archaeologist and he led the tour. We ended up at the site of the Taskinas Plantation house (shown below) which had been owned by John Blair, Jr. whom we will be honoring as part of the plaque dedication at Bruton Parish Church.



(L-R) Jerry Traver, Jim Henry, Joe Spruill, John Moseley and Jack Lee

2013 Chapter Calendar

May 4th – Bruton Parish SAR Plaque Dedication

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

June 8th– Joint Luncheon 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 – Lunch following at the King’s Arms

VASSAR Sponsored Activities

May 11th - Raid on Martin’s Station, Ewing, VA

May 26th – Battle of Vincennes, Vincennes, IN

June 8th – Battle of Ramsour’s Mill, Lincolnton, NC

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

Historian’s Corner

The month of May’s selection “From the Historian’s Bookshelf” is Thomas Paine’s “Common Sense”, Fall River Press, 1995.

Thomas Paine’s “Common Sense” first appeared on January 10, 1776. The political tract immediately became the moral and intellectual touchstone for American colonists struggling to articulate their case for independence from England. It sold over 120,000 copies within three months of its publication.

The United States of America owes its existence in part to the incendiary brilliance of the work. Paine convincingly argued that the time for debate was over and it was now time for American colonists to raise arms. “Common Sense” arguments were accessible to nearly every colonial reader, empowering most colonists to confront the daunting challenges they faced.

If you never have read “Common Sense” in its’ entirety, then now may be a good time to do so. It will broaden one’s perspective on the push for independence that caused our patriot ancestors to take up the fight. It is also just a good book for your summer reading!

Jim Henry, Chapter Historian
Williamsburg Chapter, SAR
email: thedawgsdidit@cox.net

Registrar's Corner

The generous donations by the members at the April 13 luncheon resulted in enough funds to procure at least 1,000 miniature American flags to be distributed at this year's Independence Day concert. If you have any prospective candidates for our Chapter's membership provide their name to Ron Losee at valosee@aol.com or 565-1707 so he can contact them

Treasurer's Corner

Our treasurers are the ones who give the advance luncheon headcounts to the Crowne Plaza. There have been occasions in the past when someone, after arriving at the Crowne Plaza, has asked for a vegetarian lunch. To give the Crowne Plaza some advance notice of these needs, we would ask that anyone foreseeing a need for a vegetarian lunch, make that known to Jack Lee with your reservation.

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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Treasurer – Jack Lee

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Registrar/Genealogist – Ron Losee

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Chaplain/ Historian - Jim Henry

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