



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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June 2013

Presidents Message

As you can see from the following material in the newsletter, the next 6-7 weeks will be very busy. I urge each member to make every attempt to participate in the upcoming events, particularly the joint meeting with the Thomas Nelson Chapter on Saturday, June 8. Vice President John Moseley has booked an interesting speaker.

Let me know if are planning to go to DAR event on July 4 at Berkeley Plantation. You need to make an advance reservation if you intend to stay for lunch afterwards at the Courthouse Grille in Charles City. I can give you the necessary contact. Many thanks to Tom Morr for volunteering to award the ROTC medals again this year.

I look forward to seeing our members who will be attending the events at CW for Memorial Day.

Bob

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 **9:45 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, our dignitaries and wreath bearers,

and the remaining SAR & DAR members and guests.

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. VASSAR President Elect Bill Broadus will be coming from Manassas to speak to us at that gathering.

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 employee's parking lot opposite the Colonial Capitol to the turnaround in front of Matthew Whaley School for the color guard and those having difficulty walking.

June 8th Joint Chapter Luncheon Meeting

Our speaker for the June 8th joint luncheon meeting at the Crowne Plaza with the Thomas Nelson, Jr. Chapter will be the Marquis Lafayette (aka Mark Schneider). I think all who know him will agree that he is a very engaging speaker and we look forward to having him with us. Please sign up using the form below.

Sign-up Form for the Saturday June 8th Meeting @ 11:30am

Reservations MUST be received not later than Wed June 5th

Send check & form to:
Jack Lee
521 Newport Ave.
Williamsburg, VA 23185-4012
(757) 221-6686
valee@widomaker.com

Make checks payable to
“Williamsburg Chapter, SAR”

Please reserve _____ lunches at \$18.00
per person for June 8th, 2013

Name(s) _____

of Vegetarian Lunches _____

Vegetarian Lunches

As noted in last month’s newsletter, some people would rather have 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 at the time of placing the reservation. (See luncheon form)

June 26th Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary Commemoration

The Williamsburg Chapter will conduct a commemoration service at 10:00am on June 26th in honor of the valiant Americans who gave their lives in the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary on that date in 1781. A series of skirmishes occurred in the woods and meadows of Freedom Park between units of Lord Cornwallis, and those of the French

general, Marquis de Lafayette, commanding American forces.

The commemoration will be conducted outside of the Freedom Park Visitors Center in an area where much of the action occurred. The park entrance is at the intersection of Long Hill Road and Centerville Road. We encourage all members and other interested people to attend. In the event of rain, the commemoration will be held inside the Visitor Center

2013 Chapter Calendar

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 – 9:00am SAR Service at Bruton Parish Church

July 4th – 11:00am C.A.R./DAR Berkeley Plantation Commemoration

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

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

July 6th – NSSAR 123rd Annual Congress,
Kansas City, MO

SAR JROTC Award

On May 1st, Chapter ROTC Chairman Tom Morr presented Cadet John Hoffman with the SAR JROTC medal. Cadet Hoffman is a senior at Charles City County High School and is on the color guard and drill team. He plans on joining the Marine Corps.



(L-R) Tom Morr, Cadet Hoffman & Lt. Colonel (Ret.) Vernon Peters who heads up the Charles City Program

SAR ROTC Award

On April 17th at William and Mary Chapter ROTC Chairman Tom Morr presented Cadet Casey M. McGrath with the SAR ROTC Medal. Cadet McGrath has been appointed cadet commander of the ROTC battalion for the coming year.



(L-R) Tom Morr & Cadet Casey McGrath

History Day

On Saturday April 20th VASSAR History Day Chairman Ben Fegan, Don Swain, and Jim Henry acted as judges for the VASSAR portion of the Virginia History Day competition at the Thomas Nelson Community College in Williamsburg. Junior and Senior High School students from all over Virginia traveled to compete in the Colonial Williamsburg sponsored event. The student projects covered a broad range of topics from ancient times to the modern era. The SAR judge’s task was to focus on those projects that encompassed the Revolutionary War period.

The SAR awards were to: Thomas Windley, Hornsby Middle School for his web site, *The Battle of Kings' Mountain*. He received \$100 from the Williamsburg Chapter and a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal from VASSAR.

His faculty advisor, Ms Rachel Moore received a puzzle based upon the iconic painting of Washington crossing the Delaware River. The puzzle was presented by VASSAR and is for her classroom use.



(L-R) Rachel Moore and Thomas Windley

The team of Thomas Messier and Meagan Fowler received awards for their Group Performance, *Paying for the French and Indian war: A Turning Point Into the American Revolution*. Representing Bedford Middle School they received a \$100 award from the Williamsburg Chapter and each also received a Bronze Good Citizenship Medal from VASSAR. The team's faculty sponsor, Ms. Mickey Vanderwerker also received a puzzle from VASSAR.



(L-R) Meagan Fowler & Thomas Messier

New VASSAR Website

The new VASSAR website just came on line. Check it out. Details of VASSAR events as well as other events plus VASSAR newsletters may be found at:

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

American Revolution Museum in Yorktown – Cornerstone Laying

On Friday May 10th, The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation hosted the cornerstone laying of the new American Revolution Museum in Yorktown. Three VASSAR members attended the event for this \$50,000,000 project. When completed in 2016, the new museum will replace the current Yorktown Victory Center.



(L-R) Ken Wood, Thomas Nelson, Jr. President, Ed Truslow, VASSAR 3rd VP, and Walt Neville, Chairman of the VASSAR Yorktown Day Observance Committee.

Historian's Corner

June's selection "From the Historian's Bookshelf" is a fascinating book I read while vacationing at the beach, by Philip Levy, entitled *Where the Cherry Tree Grew: The Story of Ferry Farm, George Washington's Boyhood Home*, St. Martin's Press, New York, 2013.

In May 2002, Professor Philip Levy arrived on the banks of the Rappahannock River in eastern Virginia to begin a decade-long archaeological excavation of Ferry Farm, the eight hundred acre piece of land that George Washington called home from age six until his early adulthood.

Over the course of the excavation----which is ongoing---Levy began to look more closely at the surprising ways Ferry Farm has intersected with American history over its three-hundred-year life. The result is his book "Where the Cherry Tree Grew".

Drawing on his own research, as well as any and all available relevant literature, Levy learned about the landscape's early pre-Washington days as a farmstead, it's importance as the site of Washington's education on life's fragility (death came to Ferry Farm repeatedly during George's time there)' its role as a Civil War battleground, the heated battles that have been fought over its preservation, and finally, an unsuccessful attempt by Walmart to transform the last vestiges of the Washington farm into a vast shopping plaza.

This book comes highly recommended as a summertime "must read".

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

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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valee@widomaker.com

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Valosee@aol.com

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thedawgsdidit@cox.net

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collyerlinn@verizon.net