



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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No. 11

November 2013

President's Message

I look forward to the meeting on Monday, November 11 at 1:00 PM at the Crowne Plaza/Fort Magruder Hotel. Remember, the date and time are changed; the location is the same. You are welcome to attend the Noon Veterans' Day ceremony at the Governor's Palace in Colonial Williamsburg. Details can be found below.

Ron Losee tells me that we should be inducting a number of new members at the November luncheon. Our roster is already more than 100 members. We continue to receive interest in joining our organization.

We will also be receiving a report from the Nominating Committee for the selection of Officers and Directors for 2014. An election will follow receipt of the report. Contact Ed Truslow if you have an interest in serving.

I had the privilege of presenting the Firefighter of the Year award to James City County Firefighter/EMT Brian Heinsman. Brian is a wonderful representative of the Department, and is now at Army Reserve Drill Instructor training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

In early December, I will be presenting an award to a member of the City of Williamsburg Police at the inaugural Department luncheon.

Our Chapter was well represented at the Yorktown Day ceremonies. I had the

privilege of placing our Chapter's wreath at the gravesite of General Thomas Nelson, Jr. and participating in the Parade. I understand that there had been discussions with the National Park Service whether there would be a parade this year. Fortunately, the Parade organizers were successful in having the event.

Bob Spencer

Veterans Day Commemoration

This year our November 11 Veterans Day Commemoration and wreath laying ceremony at the Governors Palace Cemetery will take place at **12:00 noon**. We are recognizing the 158 patriots buried there. Colonial Williamsburg's "George Washington" will speak to us there. Everyone should plan to be at the Palace Cemetery by 11:45am.

November 11th Luncheon Meeting

We are pleased to have Major General (Ret) Clyde Spence, Jr. as our speaker for the November meeting.

General Spence was born in Waycross, GA, graduated from high school at Marion Military Institute, Marion AL and from college at The United Military Academy, West Point, NY in the Class of 1950. He served 32 years in the US Army at command and staff levels with five different

divisions, HQS, US Army Europe; Central Army Group of NATO; US Eighth Army, Korea; Chief, US Military Advisory Gp in Greece; three tours in the Pentagon, and combat in Korea and Vietnam. He retired from his Army career as a Major General in charge of the Army's Security Assistance Program in 1982 to become the Executive Vice President and then President of Marion Military Institute until 1990. After moving to Enid, OK, General Spence became heavily engaged in veteran's affairs activities as a member of the Oklahoma Veterans Council. He currently resides in Williamsburg, VA with his wife, Mary.

Sign-up Form for the Saturday November 11th Meeting @ 1:00pm

Reservations MUST be received not later than Wed November 8th

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 Nov. 11, 2013

Name(s) _____

of Vegetarian Lunches _____

Dues Dues Dues – Are Due

You should have received a 2014 Dues Notice from the Williamsburg Chapter, SAR. The notice indicated that your notice and check should be returned by November 15, 2013, and happily about two thirds of the

members have already responded. This is just a reminder, and hopefully, we can get this completed on or maybe even before the November 15 deadline.

If you have any questions or need further guidance, do not hesitate to contact Treasurer Jack Lee at valee@widomaker.com or by phone at 757-870-4516.

October Meeting Notes

At the October meeting we were pleased to Patrick Henry aka Richard Schumann as our speaker. All were regaled by this spirited orator.



(L-R) President Spencer with “Governor Henry”.

We were pleased to induct new member Donald Brannon. His ancestor was Moses McKenzie who served as a drummer boy in 1774-1775 and went on to fight as a soldier with Maryland's German regiment until 1781 when it became the 3rd Maryland Regiment.



(L-R) Suzi Brannon pinning the SAR rosette on her husband and new member Donald Brannon's lapel

Clyde Spence was the recipient of an NSSAR World War II certificate. Clyde is a recent transfer in from the Oklahoma state society.



(L-R) President Spencer, Patrick Henry and WWII Veteran Clyde Spence.

The 2013 Chapter Teacher of the Year is Stephen Scott Lish. Scott is Chairman of the Social Studies Department at Warhill High School and teaches Government. Scott is a graduate of CNU and has a PhD degree in History from the University of Mississippi. Scott is married and has a seven-year old son.



(L-R) Scott Lish and President Spencer

Lois S. Hornsby Middle School VASSAR History Day Award

On October 18th VASSAR Vice President Ed Truslow presented the 2013 VASSAR History Day award to the James City County Lois B. Hornsby Middle School. This is the third year in a row that the school has won this award. Schools from all over the state come to Williamsburg every year to compete in this event. VASSAR recognizes those students and their schools for outstanding projects centered around the Revolutionary War period.



(L-R) Teachers Rachel Moore, Kyle Moser and Kurt Krass, student winner Thomas Windley holding the award and Principal Dr. Byron Bishop and Ed Truslow. For his winning project, Thomas created a web site about the Battle of King's Mountain.

We are pleased that Williamsburg Chapter member Don Swain has taken over from Ben Fegan, also a Williamsburg member, as VASSAR History Day Chairman..

Yorktown Day

Saturday October 19th in Yorktown had a gentle mist but fortunately that soon cleared off. The annual VASSAR wreath laying took place at the grave of Virginia Governor and General Thomas Nelson, Jr. at Grace Episcopal Church. VASSAR President Kent Webber spoke about the personal sacrifices that Nelson made for the Revolutionary cause. Following the wreath laying, the SAR contingent took their place at the head of the line of march in the parade to the Victory Monument to the cheers of onlookers. Our chapter had eight members present at the event. Our Rev. Dr. Jim Henry filled in for the VASSAR Chaplain who was unable to be at the event.



Front row left - NSSAR President General Joe Dooley with the VASSAR Color Guard and marchers.



President Bob Spencer presenting the chapter wreath at Thomas Nelson's grave



(L-R) Chapter members Jim Henry, Harley Stewart, Bob Spencer, Ed Truslow, Jack Lee, John Brough, Ron Losee and Ben Fegan

Fire/Rescue Technician of the Year Award

President Bob Spencer presented Brian E. Heinsman, James City County Fire/EMS Technician, the 2013 Chapter Firefighter/Medic Award recently.

Senior FRT Heinsman was recognized for his 8 years of service to the fire department as well as his 14 years of both active and reserve duty with the US Army. He is currently a Sergeant First Class serving with the 1st Battalion, 317th Infantry Regiment of the US Army Reserve assigned as a Senior Drill Sergeant at Fort Story in Virginia Beach.



(L-R) President Spencer and Fire-Rescue Technician Heinsman

Registrar's Corner

The following are the 2013 VASSAR membership statistics as of October 21, 2013

- 172 New Members
- 26 Reinstatements
- 3 Reinstatement-Transfers
- 9 Transfers In
- 11 Transfers Out
- 19 Deaths
- **1,902 total members**

158 Supplemental applications have been approved since January 1st.

2013 Chapter Calendar

November 11th – Palace Cemetery Wreath Laying & Luncheon at the Crowne Plaza

December – No meeting

January 13th – Joint chapter dinner meeting and installation of 2014 officers – Crowne Plaza

February 8th – Chapter Luncheon Meeting – Crowne Plaza

VASSAR Sponsored Activities

November 2nd – St. George Tucker Grave Marking – Nelson, Co., VA

December 6th-7th – Battle of Great Bridge Commemoration- Chesapeake, VA

January 18th – Battle of Cowpens, SC

February 14-15 – VASSAR Annual Meeting – Richmond, VA

February 20-21 Crossing of the Dan – South Boston, VA

Historian's Corner

November's selection "From the Historian's Bookshelf", is entitled "Excavating the Taskinas Plantations, York River State Park, VA", by our own Jerome, "Jerry" Traver, Park Archeologist.

In his little book, Jerry presents us with pictures and explanations of artifacts he has unearthed at the York River State Park property ranging from the period of Native American Occupations 10,000 B.P. to A.D. 1600 to the early 19th Century.

In here one will find pictures of Woodland Period Indian base camp artifacts, 17th Century Planters seats, compounds and tenements, such as Richard Clarke's Plantation Seat (ca 1670-1700), Col. Daniel Parke's Taskinas Point Tenement (ca 1689-1710), Planter's Fort (1676-1719), to 18th Century Plantation Seats, Industries, Quarters and Dependencies (1720-1800). The 18th Century period includes, Major

William Morris' Taskinas Plantation Seat (ca 1720's-1739), to John Blair Sr. and John Blair Jr. (1750-1798) Taskinas Seat, then to Rev. James Henderson, son-in-law to John Blair, Jr. (1798-1838).

You may walk the Park trails, explore these, and other, sites; view the artifact displays and purchase a copy of Jerry's book, at the York River State Park Visitor's Center. An excellent place to visit on a Fall afternoon!

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

November Book Raffle Selection

The November Book Raffle selection is entitled *The Whites of Their Eyes: Bunker Hill, the First American Army, and the Emergence of George Washington*, by Paul Lockhart, author of *The Drillmaster of Valley Forge*.

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

spencerlaw@cox.net

Vice President – John Moseley

johnmoseley33@yahoo.com

Treasurer – Jack Lee

valee@widomaker.com

Registrar/Genealogist – Ron Losee

Valosee@aol.com

Chaplain/ Historian - Jim Henry

thedawgsdidit@cox.net

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collyerlinn@verizon.net