



# 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 signers' houses were burned to the ground. No signer defected. Their honor, like their nation remained intact.*

Vol. XX

NO 6

JUNE 2016

### President's Message

We continue to celebrate the accomplishments of our Registrar, Ron Losee. As of this Memorial Day we will have inducted ten more new members into our chapter this year. Congratulations, Ron! Also, recognition is in order for Richard Newsome, our Newsletter Editor. Our newsletter came in a very close second place statewide (out of 27 chapters) during the year 2015. Congratulations, Richard!

Five members of our chapter attended ceremonies on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the tomb of James Monroe, our fifth President, in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. Our wreath was presented along with other heritage societies in commemoration of his 258<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Ceremonies were conducted by the U.S. Army including color guard and band, followed by the program of the James Monroe Foundation. This annual event was beautiful and very well attended.

Our chapter is hosting the semi-annual meeting of the Virginia Society this year. It will be held on Sept. 16-17<sup>th</sup> at the Woodlands Hotel. Our committee held its kick-off meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> attended by Ed Truslow, President, and Wayne Rouse, Secretary, of the Virginia Society. Keep these dates open – you will be hearing more about this event.

Several events will be upon us at the time of the July newsletter. Be prepared for the annual commemoration of the Battle of Spencer's Ordinary on June 26<sup>th</sup> in James City County's Freedom Park. It will take place at the Virginia Society's historical marker and the Park has arranged a speaker. Reserve the date and join us. Also, our chapter will participate in a July 4<sup>th</sup> morning Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving at Bruton Parish Church. Our Chaplain, Rev. Dr. James Henry has begun coordination of the event. Again, reserve the date and join this commemoration of our Independence Day.

- Harbey Stewart



## Chapter/VASSAR Calendar

Upcoming SAR Events in Our Region & Beyond

May 30<sup>th</sup> 2016

**Memorial Day Commemoration**

**Hosted by:**

**Colonial Williamsburg**

**Williamsburg Chapter SAR**

**Williamsburg Chapter DAR**

June 26<sup>th</sup> 2016

**Battle at Spencer's Ordinary**

**Freedom Park**

**Williamsburg, VA**

July 4<sup>th</sup> 2016

**Independence Day Celebrations**

**Bruton Parish Church and**

**Berkeley Plantation**

July 6<sup>th</sup> 2016

**Battle of Green Spring**

**Commemoration**

**Church on the Main**

**Jamestown, VA**

## June 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter Luncheon

The Williamsburg Chapter invites all members, and their guests, to attend the June 18<sup>th</sup> luncheon. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Date:** Saturday, June 18, 2016

**Location:** Ft. Magruder Inn  
Williamsburg

**Meeting:** 11:30

Please see the RSVP information on the last page of this newsletter.

Reservations **MUST** be received no later than Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Memorial Day Luncheon

The Williamsburg SAR/DAR participation in the Colonial Williamsburg Memorial Day celebrations has been cancelled due to the strong possibility of inclement weather. The Williamsburg Chapter SAR will hold its monthly luncheon meeting inside Shield's Tavern starting at 11:30 as scheduled.





## Chapter Happenings

### President James Monroe Birthday Celebration



On the left, Williamsburg Chapter President Harley Stewart stands with the wreath presented, on behalf of the Chapter, at the tomb of President James Monroe on the occasion of his 258th birthday

On the right is a close-up of the wreath presented by the Williamsburg Chapter SAR at the 258<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for President James Monroe at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond, VA.



Williamsburg Chapter President Harley Stewart Presents the wreath at the tomb of President James Monroe at his birthday celebration.

## The Battle of Spencer's Ordinary

The Battle of Spencer's Ordinary, Virginia, was fought on June 26, 1781, between Continental troops and local militia from the army of the Marquis de la Fayette and Loyalist and Hessian troops under British Lieutenant Colonel John Graves Simcoe. On June 23, British commander Charles Cornwallis ordered Simcoe to take his Queen's Rangers and a detachment of Hessian troops to destroy boats and supplies on the Chickahominy River. Upon learning of the move on June 25, la Fayette directed Colonel Richard Butler, with a regiment of Pennsylvanians, a detail of Virginia riflemen, and 120 cavalymen and light infantry under Major William McPherson, to intercept Simcoe on his way back to Williamsburg. After marching all night, the patriot troops caught up with Simcoe near Spencer's Ordinary, at the fork of the Jamestown and Williamsburg roads, about six miles northwest of Williamsburg. As la Fayette explained, McPherson's light infantry made an immediate charge on Simcoe's Rangers, who repulsed the Americans and counter-attacked. By then, however, the Virginia riflemen arrived on the field and "behaved most gallantly and did great execution." The result was a "smart" back and forth engagement. Simcoe broke off the fight to fall back to Williamsburg when he became concerned that la Fayette's main body was on the way. At the same time, Butler, hearing that Cornwallis would soon arrive with heavy reinforcements, was also anxious to end the battle and therefore did not pursue the enemy.

La Fayette wrote that "Lord Cornwallis was heard to express himself vehemently upon the disproportion between his and our killed, which must be attributed to the great skill of our riflemen" — an assessment that was true enough, although the casualty totals varied widely between la Fayette's account and that of Cornwallis. La Fayette reported that his troops killed 60 and wounded more than 100 of Simcoe's men, while Cornwallis admitted to 33 killed and wounded. Nevertheless, la Fayette's losses — 9 killed and 12 wounded — were still minor in comparison. The body of one of Simcoe's lost Loyalist officers — 20-year-old Cornet Charles Jones of Weston, Massachusetts, who had been a Harvard student when the war began — was returned to Williamsburg and buried in the city with full military honors.

In an important sense, the battle represented the beginning of the end of the American Revolution. Lafayette informed Virginia Governor Thomas Nelson, Jr., that "Your return to Richmond and this little affair will particularly mark his Lordship's retreat and the recovery of every part of the state not under naval protection." All that was left to Cornwallis was the protection of the British navy, which the Comte de Grasse's fleet eliminated with his defeat of the British fleet at the Battle of the Capes just over a month later, which set the stage for the decisive campaign at Yorktown.

[Please join the members of the Williamsburg Chapter SAR on June 26<sup>th</sup> to commemorate this battle with the laying of a wreath and a presentation. The ceremony will be held at Freedom Park, in James City County, which occupies portions of the original battlefield.](#)

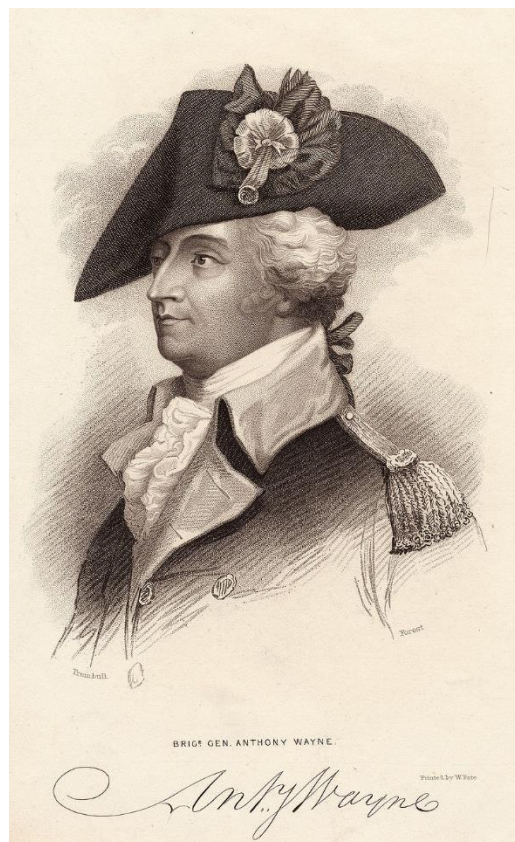


## The Battle of Green Spring

The Battle of Green Spring took place near Green Spring Plantation in James City County, Virginia during the American Revolutionary War. On July 6, 1781 United States Brigadier General "Mad" Anthony Wayne, leading the advance forces of the Marquis de Lafayette, was ambushed near the plantation by the British army of Earl Charles Cornwallis in the last major land battle of the Virginia campaign prior to the Siege of Yorktown. Following a month of marching and countermarching in central Virginia by Cornwallis and Lafayette, Cornwallis in late June moved to Williamsburg, where he received orders to move to Portsmouth and send some of his army to New York City. Lafayette followed Cornwallis fairly closely, emboldened by the arrival of reinforcements. On July 4, Cornwallis departed Williamsburg for Jamestown, planning to cross the James River enroute to Portsmouth. Lafayette believed he could stage an attack on Cornwallis' rear guard during the crossing.

Cornwallis anticipated Lafayette's idea, and laid an elaborate trap. General Wayne's forces were very nearly caught in the trap, and only a bold bayonet charge against the numerically overwhelming British enabled his forces to retreat. Cornwallis did not follow the victory with pursuit, instead following his plan to cross the river. The action reinforced the perception among contemporaries that justified the moniker "Mad" to describe Wayne, although opinion on the merits of his actions was divided.

Please join the Williamsburg Chapter SAR on July 6th at a commemoration and wreath laying ceremony at the battlefield site near Williamsburg, VA.



General "Mad" Antony Wayne



## Frontier Savagery

To descendants of the German immigrants who were the first colonists who courageously settled on the wild and thinly populated frontier around Currytown, New York, July 9 is noted as Invasion Day. In 1781 it was a typically hot summer day with family members laboring in the cultivated fields and cutting timber in nearby forests. Danger lurked nearby. Hostile Indians and unfriendly Tories were always a threat.

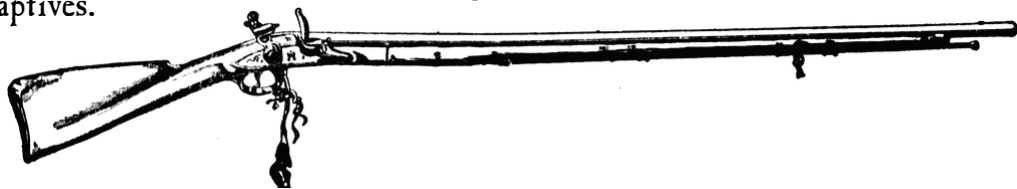
With no warning a war party of Iroquois Indians and Tories led by Captain John Dockstader swept into the village and began killing and scalping fleeing men, women and children. Buildings were set afire, several boys and girls were captured. Some were able to seek safety in a small fort, others tried unsuccessfully to hide in the woods. Jacob Dievendorf, father of several children in the area, escaped by throwing himself under a fallen log; Indian pursuers failed to find him.

Two of his sons, Jacob and Frederick were captured by the Indians and taken south to a nearby town. They were tied up at night and expected to be taken into Canada. However, Patriot forces were reported by scouts to be moving toward the area. The Indians, who valued the bounty paid for each scalp, began killing the captives.

Teenager Jacob Dievendorf tried to escape but was overtaken by an Indian, knocked down by a blow from his tomahawk, his scalp torn from his head and he was left for dead. Brother Frederick suffered the same fate. Both boys recovered consciousness, but were too weak to walk, so covered their bodies with leaves and lay quiet, expecting to die.

Colonial troops found the boys, near death from loss of blood. Jacob was moved to the town of Stone Arabia and the home of a Dr. Fraught who cared for him, in his home, for five years. Jacob's scalp never permanently healed; it was a source of pain and discomfort his entire life. As Mr. Dievendorf grew up he was known as an honest man, just in his dealings, living an upright life. He wore a small skull cap until the day he died. His brother Frederick, although surviving the butchery, died shortly thereafter when he fell from a horse.

Jacob Dievendorf miraculously lived until 8 October, 1859 when he passed at age 85. And he was considered at the time the most wealthy man in the community. His father, Jacob Sr, is the SAR Patriot of Compatriot Lynn Dievendorf, member of the Williamsburg chapter.



## James Cameron to Speak at June Luncheon



James Cameron will introduce and tell the story of a remarkable free black man named John Rollison. Born in 1725 in Yorktown, Rollison began his career as a shoemaker's apprentice but went on to open his own shop and became a prominent businessman and land owner. When he died in 1780, Rollison had substantial holdings that included eight lots with dwellings, a tavern and a number of slaves. When Cameron plays the Rollison character for school children, particularly minority students, he wants his message to be inspirational. He tells them that in every century there have been those who did great things with very little — people who succeeded with a lot less opportunity than they have now.

Cameron, already six feet three inches by the age of 13, began a basketball career that would carry him all the way to the professional level. After earning a spot as an undrafted free agent, at six feet seven inches he played forward for two years for the Kansas City Kings. He also played football and was a track athlete in college. Acting came effortlessly to Cameron and was something that was almost second nature to him. Cameron graduated from Queens College in New York where he majored in Psychology with a minor in Communications. A father of two grown daughters and grandfather of two, Cameron is married to a professional singer, Marcia Dadds.

### Registrar's Corner

The Tidewater Genealogical Society charter bus trip to Washington D.C. to visit the DAR Library was cancelled in May because not enough folks made reservations. It has been rescheduled for 22 June; sure would like any amateur genealogists looking for supplemental ancestors to tag along in June. Person to contact is at [PeggyLutton57@gmail.com](mailto:PeggyLutton57@gmail.com).

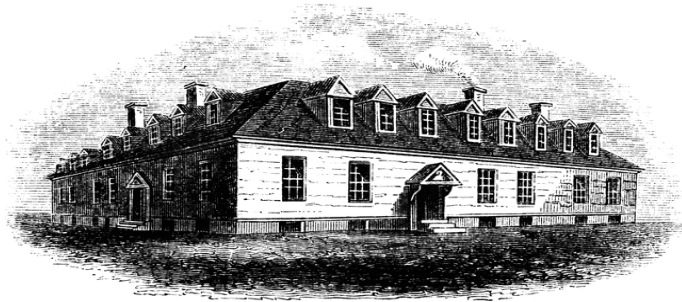
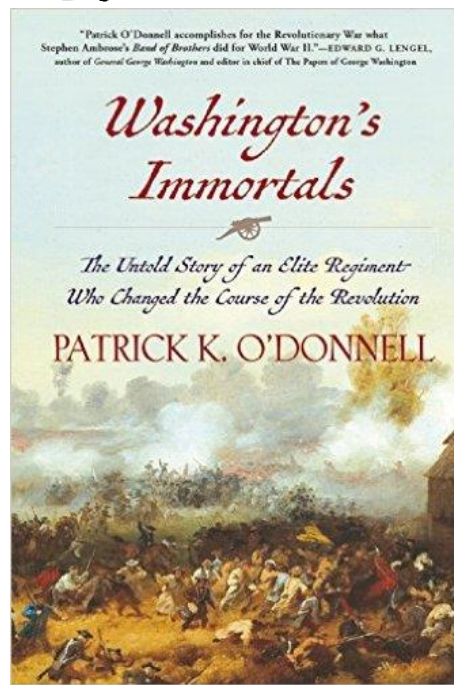
The chapter is stocked up with miniature American flags that we will distribute at the Independence Day Concert in Merchants Square scheduled for Sunday, 3 July. You and your family are invited to attend this free, patriotic event. Bring along a picnic lunch and join the SAR volunteers who are distributing the flags; come early, there WILL be a crowd.

- S.F. Ron Lisee



# Book Raffle at June Luncheon

The Book Raffle Book for June is "Washington's Immortals: The Story of an Elite Regiment Who Changed the Course of the Revolution", by Patrick K. O'Donnell, Atlantic Monthly Press, New York, 2016. Tickets are \$1 each or 7 for \$5 and may be purchased at the meeting.



## Williamsburg Chapter Officers

<b>President</b>	Harley Stewart	<b>Registrar/Genealogist</b>	Ron Losee
<b>Vice-President</b>	Jay Smith	<b>Historian</b>	William Greaf
<b>Secretary</b>	Roger Cross	<b>Chaplain</b>	Rev. Dr. Jim Henry
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jack Lee	<b>Projects</b>	Tom Campbell
<b>Public Relations</b>	Lew de Seife	<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	George Bridewell

For information about the Williamsburg Chapter SAR please contact Harley Stewart, President, at [hstewart9@cox.net](mailto:hstewart9@cox.net).

*Cut along dotted line*

### Reservation for the Saturday, June 18th 2016 Chapter Luncheon Meeting:

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners at \$20.00

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

# of Vegetarian Dinners \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Williamsburg Chapter SAR"

and mail to:

Jack Lee

521 Newport Ave.

Williamsburg, VA 23185-4012

(757) 221-6686

[valee@widomaker.com](mailto:valee@widomaker.com)

