



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.

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President's Message

Thank you for the opportunity to serve once again. 2016 was a great year with accomplishments enjoyed by all. Thank you for your support. Together we can make 2017 yet another great year! Our chapter continues to grow. Starting 2016 at 132 members and ending at 149 was big enough; however, for 2017 we are starting the year with four approved for induction and 14 applications awaiting approval.

The Williamsburg Chapter was represented at the 236th Anniversary of the Battle of Cowpens on January 14 by compatriot John Holt, who presented our wreath. 78 groups presented wreaths – 6 national, 17 state, 31 SAR chapters (4 from Virginia), 20 DAR chapters, and 4 C.A.R. chapters.

The joint dinner/meeting of our chapter and the Thomas Nelson Jr. chapter took place on January 14 at the James River Country Club.

Officers of both chapters were installed by Ed Truslow, VASSAR President. Compatriot Tom Campbell was awarded the Chapter Medal of Distinguished Service by your president for his 19 years of chapter contributions, most recently as a general in the 1st Virginia Regiment and in donating a bust of the Marquis de Lafayette to the Museum of the American Revolution in Yorktown.

A not to be missed opportunity will be our Virginia Society SAR annual meeting on February 10-11 to be held at the Omni Hotel in Richmond, especially the general meeting, orations, awards, and officer installations on Saturday, the 11th.

You will also not want to miss our next meeting on February 18, which will be a ladies/Valentine's Day gala with flowers. This event has been a great success in past years.

- Harley



Chapter/VASSAR Calendar

Upcoming Events in Our Region & Beyond

February 10-11, 2017

VASSAR
Annual Meeting
Omni Hotel
Richmond, VA

February 18th 2017

Crossing of the Dan
NSSAR
South Boston, NC

VASSAR Annual Meeting

February 10-11, 2017

The VASSAR annual meeting will take place in Richmond at the Omni Hotel on February 10th – 11th. Registration begins at 1:00pm on the 10th, with the afternoon programs starting at 2:00pm. Friday concludes with the President's Reception which starts at 9:30pm. Registration on Saturday begins at 7:00am, and the general membership meeting starts at 8:30am. Other activities are scheduled through the day. The evening activities begin at 6:00pm with an open social gathering followed at 7:00pm with the formal Banquet. The day concludes with another President's Reception at 9:30pm.

Members are encouraged to attend. Additional information was sent to all members via email on January 11th. Contact Roger Cross at rogercross@msn.com for more information.

February 18th Chapter Luncheon

The Williamsburg Chapter invites all members and their guests to attend the February 18th luncheon at our new location in the Colonial Heritage clubhouse. We look forward to seeing you there. Additional information about the new location is available on page 5 of this newsletter.

Date: Saturday, February 18th, 2017

Location: Colonial Heritage Clubhouse
 Williamsburg
Meeting: 12:00

Please see the **RSVP** information on the last page of this newsletter.
Reservations MUST be received no later than **Saturday, February 11th.**

Registrar's Corner

A few words from your new registrar. That's right, someone has foolishly agreed to take this job from Ron Losee, who is a very hard act to follow. I doubt there will ever be a better registrar than Ron, but I am committed to giving it my best effort. This chapter will have several new members inducted in the next 3 or 4 months, all thanks to Ron. I would like to get on the scoreboard too. So, I will just say the Registrar's Office is open for business. If you know someone who would like to join and has some Revolutionary War genealogy, give them the email address wmsbgsarregistrar@gmail.com or contact me via email and I'll contact them. Please raise the subject of SAR in discussions with sons, friends, acquaintances (and even strangers). Wake up the closet genealogists!

- Jim Hess

Chapter Happenings



2017 Board of Managers Inducted

The Williamsburg Chapter SAR inducted the 2017 Board of Managers at the annual joint dinner with the Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter on January 14th at the James River Country Club. Pictured left to right are Stephen McGuffin, Historian, Jim Hess, Registrar, Bill Grief, Treasurer, Jay Smith, Vice-President, Harley Stewart, President, and Ed Truslow, 2016 VASSAR President.



Williamsburg Chapter of SAR presents Distinguished Service Medal

Tom Campbell of the Williamsburg Chapter was presented with the Sons of the American Revolution Distinguished Service Medal for his long and exceptional service to SAR, at the joint dinner of the Williamsburg Chapter and the Thomas Nelson Jr. Chapter of SAR. L-R Mary Margaret Campbell, Tom Campbell, Harley Stewart, Chapter President.

Chapter Happenings Cont'd

The Battle of Cowpens Commemorated

Williamsburg Chapter member John Holt took the initiative, and the opportunity, to place our chapter wreath at the commemoration of the Battle of Cowpens. John was on his way back to Williamsburg from Florida, and arranged to have the wreath shipped to him before he left. He stopped to celebrate the commemoration and was proud to present our chapter wreath before continuing his journey home.



In Memory

Compatriot Fred Amos Wilson passed away on Sunday, January 8, after a brief illness. Fred became a member of the Williamsburg Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution in 2006; his recent health condition prevented him from attending chapter events.

Fred was born in 1920 in Illinois, graduated from the University of Illinois with a Mechanical Engineering degree in 1943, and spent many years with Linde Air Products company in Tonawanda, New York.. He later became a registered patent agent with Hydrocarbon Research Inc. in New Jersey. He retired in 2002, moving to Williamsburg in 2004 where one of his three sons and daughter-in-law were living. He relocated to WindsorMeade Retirement Home several years later.

Fred's Patriot ancestor was Fauquier County, Virginia native George Eskridge who served as a sergeant in the Continental army initially, and later as a lieutenant at the battles of Cowpens and Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina. He was at Yorktown when General Cornwallis surrendered in October 1781. Patriot George received land grants in Ohio and Kentucky, died in 1827, several years after a daughter married Samuel Long Wilson. The family moved several years later to Illinois. Fred's father, born in 1875, became a member of the SAR, and was assigned the national number 80002. He died in 1962 at the age of 87.

Chapter Happenings Cont'd

New Location for the Monthly Meeting and Luncheon

Beginning with our luncheon meeting on Saturday, February 18, 2017, the Williamsburg Chapter SAR will be meeting at **The Colonial Heritage Club**, 6500 Arthur Hills Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23188. This change in venue has many positives going forward. Our luncheon room is the Heritage Dining Room, the main dining room for the Colonial Heritage neighborhood. It is large enough to accommodate our group comfortably. It has two walls of windows which gives it a nice open feel and the room opens to a covered porch which overlooks the putting green. Our menu will include 4 options; a regular menu (not always chicken), a vegan option, a vegetarian option and a gluten free option. All menu options come with side salad, dessert, warm rolls, coffee, tea, and water. The cost remains at \$20. There will be a cash bar available prior to the meal.



The Clubhouse at Colonial Heritage

Another positive is convenient and unencumbered parking near the entrance to the club house. In addition, there is overflow parking near the golf clubhouse a short walk away. The main entrance to Colonial Heritage is marked by 3 large flags and is off of Richmond Rd in the Lightfoot area, near the Williamsburg Pottery. This is a gated community but you will simply need to tell the guard that you are going to the restaurant and you will be allowed to enter.

One item to note is that RSVPs will need to be in by the end of the day on the **Saturday before the meeting** in order to provide the multiple meal options. RSVPs should be provided to our new Treasurer, Bill Greaif. The RSVP form and the contact information for Bill Greaif are located at the bottom of the last page of this newsletter.

The link below opens a Google Earth map of the Colonial Heritage clubhouse, adjacent parking lot and loop road going right to the main entrance. This may be helpful to anybody going to Colonial Heritage for the first time. The road names are also clearly annotated. You can toggle to a regular Google map if you wish by clicking in the small square in the lower left side of the Earth map. Of course, you can zoom in or out to better see landmarks with either view. <https://www.google.com/maps/@37.35034,-76.76728,278m/data=!3m1!1e3>

Chapter Happenings Cont'd

Meredith Poole, Staff Archaeologist at Colonial Williamsburg,
Is the Speaker for the February 18th Luncheon.

Right in Your Backyard: 10 Things You Might Not Know About Archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg.

Few activities on Duke of Gloucester Street have Archaeology's crowd-gathering potential. Certainly the opportunity to witness that moment of discovery has understandable allure, but what about the longer view? For almost 90 years, archaeologists have contributed to Colonial Williamsburg's history-making in ways that are occasionally surprising and unexpected. What do we know about your 18th century town and neighbors, and how have we figured it out? These highlights of Colonial Williamsburg's Archaeological program promise to make you a more knowledgeable tour guide for out-of-town guests!



Meredith Poole:

Meredith Poole is a Staff Archaeologist at Colonial Williamsburg. She has spent the entirety of her 31-year archaeological career with the Foundation, excavating sites that include (most recently) Richard Charlton's Coffeeshouse, James Anderson's Public Armoury, and the Markethouse, as well as some long-ago projects on the Thomas Everard property, and the Kendall-Gardener Carpenter's Yard...to name a few. She is currently digging, along with colleagues, behind the Public Hospital at Colonial Williamsburg.

Meredith holds a B.A. from Hamilton College, and a Master's Degree in Anthropology from the College of William and Mary. She and her husband, Joe, are preparing to send their second, and final, child off to college.



Richard Charlton's Coffeeshouse

Robert R. Livingston

In mid-June 1776 the Continental Congress tasked five men with the duty of drafting a declaration of independence after discussions were delayed by the state of New York that preferred not to cut ties to the Great Britain too quickly. Before recess five men, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston, the latter from New York, were selected to develop one of the most famous documents in world history. It retains that prestige even today.

Livingston was the son of a prestigious New York judge, had graduated from King's College in 1765, admitted to the bar in 1770 and three years later was appointed Recorder of the City of New York. Outspoken about American rights, he was replaced in that job. He became a local patriot leader and a New York delegate to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. He was a moderate, and warned against cutting ties with Great Britain too quickly.

Livingston and his four comrades wrote and rewrote the Declaration of Independence until it was finally approved. Livingston missed the signing ceremony; his name does not appear because he was recalled to New York to take part in an independence convention. Subsequently he had an important role in drafting New York's first state constitution before rejoining Congress in 1779.

The British responded to his "treachery" by burning Livingston's home and his father's estate at Clermont, Columbia County, New York in 1777.

Remaining active in politics and supporting factions led by Thomas Jefferson he was appointed Ambassador to France in 1801 and was in that post to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase with Napoleon's government. He later attempted to develop steam-powered boats on the Hudson River, but not until new technology from inventor and fellow American Robert Fulton did the venture succeed. Fulton's first steamboat in 1807 was named.....the Clermont.

In 1789, as Chancellor of New York, Livingston had the honor to administer the Presidential Oath of Office to George Washington.

Robert R. Livingston, pictured third from the left below in the famous painting by John Trumble, died in 1813; he is a relative of Compatriot Richard Newsome of the Williamsburg Chapter, SAR

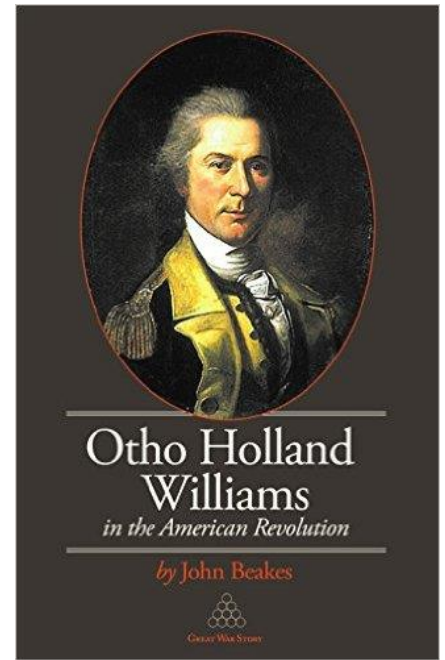


Book Raffle for February Luncheon

“Otho Holland Williams in the American Revolution” is the third military biography in our series on General Washington’s best officers. Williams’ exceptional military career began at the very outset of the Revolutionary War when, at 26, he joined a Maryland company of rifleman as a junior officer. He participated in the siege of Boston in 1776 and the defense of Fort Mifflin, where he was wounded and captured by the British during the fierce battle.

Discover the rest of his remarkable war time exploits in this detailed account by John Beakes.

Raffle tickets are available for purchase at the meeting. Tickets are \$1 each or 7 for \$5.



2017 Williamsburg Chapter Officers

President	Harley Stewart	Registrar/Genealogist	Jim Hess
Vice-President	Jay Smith	Historian	Steve McGuffin
Secretary	Roger Cross	Chaplain	Rev. Dr. Jim Henry
Treasurer	William Greaif	Newsletter Editor	Richard Newsome
Public Relations	Lew de Seife	Sergeant-at-Arms	Eric Ely
At-Large	Ron Losec	At-Large	Tom Campbell

For information about the Williamsburg Chapter SAR please contact Harley Stewart, President, at hstewart9@cox.net.

Cut along dotted line

Reservation for the Saturday, February 18th 2017 Chapter Luncheon:

Please reserve _____ regular meals at \$20.00

Name(s) _____
 # of Vegetarian meals _____ # of Vegan Dinners _____ #of Gluten free meals _____

Please make checks payable to “Williamsburg Chapter SAR”

and mail to arrive by February 11th:

SAR

PO Box 3622.

Williamsburg, VA 23187

(631) 219-6616

hsaprof@gmail.com

