

THE BULLETIN



***VIRGINIA SONS
OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION
FEBRUARY 2023***

Virginia Bulletin

Virginia, Sons of the American Revolution



2023

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S GAVEL	2	CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT	16
VASSAR OFFICERS	4	MEMBERCLICKS	18
COMMITTEE CHAIRS	5	PATRIOT SPOTLIGHT	21
REGIONS	6	VASSAR LIABILITY	
CHAPTERS	8	COMMITTEE REPORT	25
NEW MEMBERS	9	CROSSING THE DAN	29
TRANSFER MEMBERS	13	2023 ANNUAL VASSAR	
REINSTATED MEMBERS	14	MEETING AGENDA	34

PRESIDENT'S GAVEL



102nd VASSAR President's Annual Report February 1, 2023

I have been honored to serve as the Virginia Society President from February 2022 to present.

The major focus of Virginia SAR this year has been to prepare for the 250th anniversary of the Revolution. Our chapters now have the guidance and tools in place to ensure the Virginia SAR will continue to promote patriotism, honor the service of our Patriot ancestors and foster good relationship among the descendants of those patriots. In 2021, a 250th committee was formed, in 2022 VASSAR has restructured the state program committees into Regions, Color Guard and information technology to prepare for the anniversary.

The first step to provide support is a regional committee structure. The 31 chapters are divided into 4 regional committees. These regional committees include 7 to 8 chapter presidents, a chairman and 3 vice chairs. The Chair and vice chairmen attend meetings of the state programs and committees chaired by the 3 Virginia SAR Vice Presidents. As liaisons they bring information to the Chapters at the regional meetings. Our goal is to improve cooperation between chapters and increase support for the Chapters from the states programs and committees. In 2022 these regional committees were asked to 3 meetings during the year. The meetings were conducted via zoom. I hope chapter Presidents will see the value of these meetings and continue to be active members of the regions in 2023.

The 2nd step was to provide guidance for the Chapter President on operational issues like accidents, incidents, and color guard support. The VASSAR Color Guard lead by Com-

PRESIDENT'S GAVEL

mander Melhuish has created accident and incident guidelines, reviewed insurance coverage to provide coverage for musket demonstrations and created a wallet card for quick reference on steps to take if an accident occurs. These policy improvements combined with increased training workshops, tracking of Color Guard training, and revision of the CG handbook will ensure our Color Guard continue to be the excellent representatives of the Virginia SAR.

The 3rd is a complete rebuild of the State websites in addition Virginia will be implementing a membership management system using MemberClick services. The services improvements include mass email capabilities, accepting online payments, forms for events, and workspaces for committees. Compatriots are able to update contact information, browse VASSAR history and connect with other VASSAR compatriots.

The Virginia SAR has been active, as President from February 12th I have attended more than 70 events.

The Virginia SAR partnered with the VA C.A.R. to fund a new theater system at the Yorktown National Park for the new field on the Battle of Yorktown.

The Virginia SAR partnered with the Lafayette Trail Association to fund a marker in Jeffersonton, Virginia.

The Color Guard held 2 workshops and well over 100 events from Grave marking to summer camps. Attending these events I was honored to meet many Compatriots throughout Virginia and see the communities they serve.

It has been a privilege and honor to serve as President of the Virginia SAR. I will always be grateful for the support you have all given me over this year.

Your Most Humble Servant,
R. Bruce Meyer
102nd President, Virginia SAR

VIRGINIA SOCIETY OFFICERS

2022-2023/2023-2024

These are the officer elected by the members and who serve with distinction as volunteers. The membership wishes to thank them for thier service and their support of what we do.

<i>OFFICE</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>CHAPTER</i>
President	Meyer, Bruce	Coggins, Ernie	George Washington
1st Vice President	Coggins, Ernie	Greaf, Bill	Williamsburg
2nd Vice President	Greaf, Bill	Weyler, Mike	Col. William Grayson
3rd Vice President	Weyler, Mike	Darrin Schmidt	Fairfax Resolves
Secretary	Dioquino, Tim	Dioquino, Tim	Fairfax Resolves
Treasurer	Elofson, Rick	Elofson, Rick	Thomas Nelson, Jr.
Chancellor	Monday, Esq., Eric	Monday, Esq., Eric	Col. George Waller
Chaplain	Thomas	Rev. Robert Haley	Fincastle Resolutions
Historian	Roth, Tom	Tom Roth	George Washington
Surgeon	Sheap, Dr. Kirk	Dr. Charles Driscoll	Patrick Henry
Registrar	Haskins, Bill	William Haskins	Richmond
National Trustee	Schwetke, Bill	R. Bruce Meyer	Thomas Nelson, Jr.
Alt. National Trustee	Thomas, Jeff	Ernest B Coggins	George Washington
Asst. Sec & Asst. Treas	Rouse, Wayne		
Asst. Chaplain	Blevins, MDiv. Terry		
Asst. Registrar	Cook Dave		
Asst. Registrar	Thomas, Davide		

Virginia SAR State Committee Chairs
(2022-2023)

Youth Activities

1st Vice President

Patriot Chest Program Chair
Patriot Chest Program Vice-Chair
Poster & Brochure Contests Chair
SAR/C.A.R. Liaison
Eagle Scout
George & Stella M. Knight Essay
Joseph E. Rumbaugh Orations
ROTC/JROTC
History Day Support

Coggins, Ernie

Russell, Jim
O'Kelley, Jr., James T.
Hamill, Thomas
McKinley, Lawrence E.
Hawkins, Kenneth L.
Sherman, Richard M.
Schmidt, Darrin M.
Keith, Jr., Spurgeon C.
Rouleau, Keith

Membership

2nd Vice President

Membership and Support
SAR/DAR Liaison
Battle of Great Bridge Commemoration
Crossing of the Dan Commemoration
Raid at Martin's Station Commemoration
Yorktown Day Commemoration
Revolutionary War Graves

Greif, William D.

Greif, William D.
Schmidt, Darrin M.
Hawkins, Kenneth L.
Hall, Gary
Coker, Thomas
Hodges, Gary O.
Corey, Dale E.

Community Affairs

3rd Vice President

Public Education
Flag Recognition
Good Citizenship
Operation Ancestor Search (OAS)
Partners in Patriotism & Veterans Affairs
Public Safety and Heroism
Youth Education

Weyler, Michael E.

Walden, Paul A.
Morris, Kenneth E.
Davidson III, R. Edmund
Bodge Gregory O.
Corey, Dale E.
Collier, William C.
Day, Mark R.

REGIONALS CHAPTERS AND CHAIRMEN

Chapter Name	Abbrev.	Region	First	Last
Col. Fielding Lewis	CFL	Northern	Jim	Wachter
Col. James Wood II	CJW	Northern	Chip	Daniel
Col. William Grayson	CWG	Northern	Ross	Schwalm
Culpeper Minutemen	CMM	Northern	Tom	Hamill
Fairfax Resolves	FFR	Northern	David	Huxsoll
George Mason	GMS	Northern	Fritz	Barth
George Washington	GWS	Northern	Richard	Rankin
Sgt Maj John Champe	SJC	Northern	Ken	Bonner
Northern Region Chair	CJW	Northern	Dale	Corey
Youth Vice Chair	FFR	Northern	Darrin	Schmidt
Membership Vice Chair	SJC	Northern	Ken	Bonner
Community Affairs	CMM	Northern	Tom	Hamill
James Monroe	JMR	Eastern	Charles	Belfield
Nansemond Indian Patriots	NIP	Eastern	Tom	Badamo
Norfolk	NFK	Eastern	Robert	Bruce
Rappahannock	RPH	Eastern	Tom	Blackwell
Richard Henry Lee	RHL	Eastern	Michael	Rhodes
Thomas Nelson, Jr.	TNJ	Eastern	John	Priest
Williamsburg	WBG	Eastern	Bruce	Laubach
Eastern Region Chair	NFK	Eastern	Ken	Hawkins
Youth Vice Chair	RPH	Eastern	Jim	Russell
Membership Vice Chair	RPH	Eastern	Carl	Strock
Community Affairs	TNJ	Eastern	Gary	Hodges

REGIONALS CHAPTERS AND CHAIRMEN

Chapter Name	Abbrev.	Region	First Name	Last Name
Clinch Mountain Militia	CLM	Frontier	Chris	Calo
Col. George Waller	CGW	Frontier	Jarred	Marlowe
Fincastle Resolutions	FRS	Frontier	Robert	Haley
Gen. William Campbell	GWC	Frontier	Garrett	Jackson
Lt. David Cox	LDC	Frontier	Harrel	Story
Martin's Station	MTS	Frontier	Tom	Coker
New River Valley	NRV	Frontier	Jerry	Ford
Overmountain Men	OMM	Frontier	James	Moore
Frontier Region Chair	MTS	Frontier	Eric	Monday
Youth Vice Chair	FRS	Frontier	Spurgeon	Keith
Membership Vice Chair		Frontier		TBD
Community Affairs	GWC	Frontier	Garrett	Jackson
Dan River	DRV	Central	Gary	Hall
Fort Harrison	FTH	Central	Wesley	Dove
Gen. Daniel Morgan	GDM	Central	Edmund	Davidson
Patrick Henry	PTH	Central	Mark	Day
Richmond	RMD	Central	Bill	Haskins
Rockbridge Volunteers	RBV	Central	Greg	Jewett
Thomas Jefferson	TJF	Central	David	Cooke
Central Region Chair	DRV	Central	Gary	Hall
Youth Vice Chair	TJF	Central	Jim	O'Kelly
Membership Vice Chair	RMD	Central	Bill	Haskins
Community Affairs	RMD	Central	Chris	John

CHAPTERS

Chapter Name	First Name of President	Last Name of President
Clinch Mountain Militia	Chris	Calo
Col. Fielding Lewis	Jim	Wachter
Col. George Waller	Jarred	Marlowe
Col. James Wood II	Chip	Daniel
Col. William Grayson	Ross	Schwalm
Culpeper Minutemen	Tom	Hamill
Dan River	Gary	Hall
Fairfax Resolves	David	Huxsoll
Fincastle Resolutions	Robert	Haley
Fort Harrison	Wesley	Dove
Gen. Daniel Morgan	Edmund	Davidson
Gen. William Campbell	Garrett	Jackson
George Mason	Fritz	Barth
George Washington	Richard	Rankin
James Monroe	Charles	Belfield
Jamestown (Headquarters)	Mike	Taimi
Lt. David Cox	Harrel	Story
Martin's Station	Tom	Coker
Nansemond Indian Patriots	Tom	Badamo
New River Valley	Jerry	Ford
Norfolk	Robert	Bruce
Overmountain Men	James	Moore
Patrick Henry	Mark	Day
Rappahannock	Tom	Blackwell
Richard Henry Lee	Michael	Rhodes
Richmond	Bill	Haskins
Rockbridge Volunteers	Greg	Jewett
Sgt Maj John Champe	Ken	Bonner
Thomas Jefferson	David	Cooke
Thomas Nelson, Jr.	John	Priest
Williamsburg	Bruce	Laubach

NEW MEMBERS 2022

Date	Full Name	Date	Full Name
	Col Fielding Lewis		Col James Wood II
01/21/2022	John Bradley Carberry	12/02/2022	Curtis Dean Falkenstein
01/21/2022	William Dean Tugman	12/02/2022	David Michael Falkenstein
05/06/2022	William G Gravatt	12/02/2022	Jerry Allen Headley
05/20/2022	Charles Burke Barbee	12/02/2022	William Alexander Weiss
05/20/2022	Elmer Ray Barbee		
08/05/2022	Noel E Douglas		Col William Grayson
08/05/2022	Daniel Martin Murphy	01/14/2022	Christopher Canterbury
08/19/2022	Stephen Wayne Boulton	01/21/2022	Gary Edwin Bresnahan
10/21/2022	Andrew John Rooney	01/21/2022	John Pierce Hey
10/21/2022	Patrick William Rooney	01/21/2022	Jonathan S. Hey
10/21/2022	William Patrick Rooney	01/21/2022	Joshua Anthony Hey
12/02/2022	Robert Harry Bolton	03/04/2022	Timothy Mark Allan Miller
12/02/2022	Martin Lynn Fair	03/04/2022	Charles Warren Wagner
12/31/2022	Russell Watson Smith	05/06/2022	Ralph Edward Elosser Jr
		06/24/2022	Joshua Michael Nelson
	Col George Waller	07/01/2022	Jonathan Bradley Davis
06/24/2022	George Marion Dickens Jr.	07/15/2022	Robert Leroy Krebs
06/24/2022	Jacob Michael Penn	07/22/2022	Lucas Andrew Young
07/01/2022	Richard Ellis Garriott Jr.	07/29/2022	William Joseph Krouse Jr
07/01/2022	Michael Lawrence Nemec	08/19/2022	James Lovell Little III
07/01/2022	Riley Wilson Woodel	10/14/2022	Benjamin Riley Bradfield
		10/14/2022	Frank Leslie Bradfield III
	Col James Wood II	10/14/2022	Timothy Charles Bradfield
01/21/2022	Steven Edward Cale	12/09/2022	Donald Terry Butzer
01/21/2022	Brett Richard Jones		
01/21/2022	Bryce Cameron Jones		Fincastle Resolutions
01/21/2022	Michael Carlton Jones	05/06/2022	Dennis Randall Booker
03/04/2022	James George Kontoes	09/30/2022	Lee Saunders Anthony
03/04/2022	Richard Lewis Tyler	09/30/2022	Benjamin Harrison Ward
09/30/2022	Brian Gill Bayliss		
09/30/2022	Philip Nawrath Hunter Jr.		

NEW MEMBERS 2022

Date	Full Name	Date	Full Name
Culpeper Minutemen		Fort Harrison	
01/21/2022	Mark Douglas Crain	01/21/2022	Danny Lee Perry
03/04/2022	Carroll Eugene Garrison	01/21/2022	Matthew Ryan Phillippi
05/27/2022	William Brooks Wheeler	02/18/2022	Paul Gregory Speck
08/19/2022	Robert Douglas Towler Jr.	02/18/2022	Chad Alan Wood
09/23/2022	Alistair John Eaton	03/04/2022	Bryan Douglas Buck
09/23/2022	Jason Allen Kuvakas	05/27/2022	R. Dean Newman
09/23/2022	John Allen Kuvakas	10/21/2022	Paul Lanier Wilson
		12/02/2022	Joshua Matthew Stephens
Dan River		George Mason	
09/02/2022	Terry A. Daniel		
11/18/2022	Paul Augusta Smith Jr.	01/21/2022	Shawn Charles McBurney
		03/04/2022	Lawrence William Buxton
Fairfax Resolves		George Washington	
01/28/2022	James Allen Cordes		
02/04/2022	Justin Michael Haight	01/28/2022	Drew Gilbert Flavell
02/25/2022	Bryon Paul Veal	02/11/2022	William Douglas Wilson Jr.
03/25/2022	Charles L. Wade	02/18/2022	Kenneth M Rich
05/13/2022	Atticus John Reaser, Esq.	03/04/2022	Eric Norman Atkisson
05/13/2022	Joel Monroe Reaser	03/04/2022	Tyler D. Cuming
05/13/2022	Liam Bijan Reaser	04/01/2022	David Owen Smith
06/10/2022	Charles A. Kilmer	04/29/2022	Andrew Jackson Bush Jr.
06/24/2022	Aaron Thomas Scarpelli	04/29/2022	Austin Kendrick Houck
06/24/2022	Ryan Thomas Scarpelli	04/29/2022	Thimothy Shawn Wafford
07/29/2022	Paul Kennedy Landers	06/03/2022	Scot Anthony Bryant
08/19/2022	Jackson Thomas Cherry	07/22/2022	William Vincent Skyles Jr.
08/19/2022	Mark Andrew Cherry	09/02/2022	Paul Steven McComb
08/19/2022	Michael Ryan Cherry	09/23/2022	Robert C. Norris Jr.
08/19/2022	Robert LeBlond Cherry		
08/19/2022	Samuel Chad Sorrells		
12/09/2022	David Lloyd Walker	Richard Henry Lee	
12/31/2022	John Jeffrey Krieger	08/05/2022	Andrew Leroy West
12/31/2022	Robert Henry Krieger	12/16/2022	Douglas Lee Thompson
12/31/2022	Robert Aaron Krieger		

NEW MEMBERS 2022

Date	Full Name	Date	Full Name
	James Monroe		Richmond
05/06/2022	David Llewellyn Jennings	01/14/2022	Douglas Edward Reynolds Jr.
08/05/2022	John William Henley	02/18/2022	Peter John Williamson
		04/27/2022	Charles Cole Culver
	Jamestown Headquarters	04/27/2022	Patrick A. Culver
02/18/2022	Charles Allen Jones	08/19/2022	Samuel Harrison Jones III
12/06/2022	Billy G. Holloway	08/19/2022	William Guy Smith III
12/09/2022	Frank Anthony Mastrandrea Jr.	11/04/2022	Cason Dwyer
08/05/2022	Jerry Don Hooker	11/18/2022	Brett Allen Martin
	Norfolk		Sgt Maj John Champe
07/15/2022	William Stewart Jones	07/29/2022	John McNamara Curtis Jr.
09/30/2022	Kenneth Earl Adkins	08/05/2022	Daniel Joseph Loper
		09/30/2022	Kevin John Van Deusen
	Overmountain Men	09/30/2022	Stephen John Van Deusen
09/30/2022	Robert Lee Guinn	10/21/2022	Conor Patrick Timpe
10/28/2022	Kyler Michial Kerney Elliott	10/21/2022	Daniel Louis Timpe
		10/21/2022	Matthew James Timpe
	Patrick Henry		Thomas Jefferson
02/11/2022	David Lawrence Stokes		
03/04/2022	Aubrey Jones Rosser Jr	03/04/2022	Alexander F. Dobrowolski
03/11/2022	Hugh E. Hendrix	03/04/2022	Daniel A. Dobrowolski
03/18/2022	Charles Michael Reeves	03/04/2022	Declan Mark Ross
04/01/2022	Revely B. Carwile Jr.	07/15/2022	Lawrence Brian Rush
05/13/2022	Thomas Friend Rothwell II	09/02/2022	Carl Preston Breeden Jr.
05/20/2022	Paul Charles Childress	09/02/2022	Carl Preston Breeden Sr.
06/03/2022	Jordan Jay Hoisington	12/02/2022	Richard L. Welborn
06/03/2022	Trenton Michael Hoisington		
07/29/2022	Michael Jay Hoisington		Thomas Nelson Jr
10/21/2022	A. Glenn Dalton	03/18/2022	Michael Scott Kiser
11/18/2022	Nathaniel Walker Mahanes	06/10/2022	Ethan Ray Moses
12/09/2022	Isaac Allan Gardner	06/10/2022	Daniel Blake Sage
12/09/2022	Nathan Thomas Gardner	06/10/2022	Freddie Brett Whitson
12/09/2022	Samuel Christian Gardner		
12/09/2022	Thomas Allan Gardner		

NEW MEMBERS 2022

Date	Full Name	Date	Full Name
	Virginia Society SAR		Williamsburg
07/22/2022	Alexander Clinton Johnston	05/20/2022	Daniel Cleburne Reeves
		10/14/2022	Matthew Alexander Hinkley
		10/21/2022	Eric Crossman Wolfe
		10/21/2022	Stewart Crossman Wolfe
		10/28/2022	Michael Joseph Doucette
		11/18/2022	Clyde Wilson Stacks
		11/18/2022	Karl Joseph Wickert



President Pickette with VASSAR First VP Ernie Coggins at placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery

TRANSFER MEMBERS 2022

Date	Full	Date	Full
Col Fielding Lewis		New River Valley	
04/09/2022	Daniel G. Pare	12/11/2022	Raymond Lee Meese
04/09/2022	Jacob Jefferson Pare		
Col William Grayson		Norfolk	
04/09/2022	Louis G. Pare	12/09/2022	Rayford Howard Hixon III
10/17/2022	Gregory T. Scotten	12/16/2022	William Theodore Jatho
Fairfax Resolves		Richmond	
08/09/2022	Raymond Lee Hawkins Jr.	08/01/2022	Steven Craig Norris
Sgt Maj John Champe			
11/08/2022	James Allen Brister Mazars de Mazarin	12/16/2022	Donald Edward Coons
Lt David Cox		12/20/2022	Joseph A. Polley
11/30/2022	Wesley Lane Isley	Williamsburg	
Nansemond Indian Patriots		03/15/2022	George Allen Jones
10/03/2022	Mills Carlyle Edwards Jr.		



Nansemond Indian Patriots Chapter – Dance Group at the Semi-Annual

REINSTATED MEMBERS

2022

Date	Full	Date	Full
	Col Fielding Lewis		Fincastle Resolutions
05/06/2022	Kenneth Alison Burt	07/30/2022	John Tuthill Igoe
		07/30/2022	David Parrish Minichan Jr
	Col James Wood II	07/30/2022	David Ball Trinkle
04/14/2022	James Lowell Ahlemann		Fort Harrison
04/14/2022	Steven Franklin Kerchner II	03/21/2022	James Edward Lee
10/20/2022	Arthur Lee LaFlam		
	Col William Grayson		George Mason
		3/24/2022	John Maximillian Dominguez
03/21/2022	Alexander Francis Bills	08/23/2022	Robert Earl McRorie
04/11/2022	John Woodward Patterson III	12/12/2022	Bruce Robert Vaughn
04/11/2022	John Albert Ward Jr.		
			George Washington
	Dan River	08/23/2022	Michael Joseph Bennett
03/21/2022	John Graham Wallace Jr.	12/29/2022	Kevin Brown McCandlish
11/01/2022	Joey Ray Preston		
			Norfolk
	Fairfax Resolves	06/02/2022	Paul Maurice Farley
06/24/2022	James Philip Briggs, III	06/02/2022	Marvin William Lee Sr PhD
06/24/2022	Stefano Paolo Flori	06/02/2022	William John Meyer Jr.
06/24/2022	Richard Charles Hunt	06/24/2022	Nelson Pierce Eichelberger
06/24/2022	Ryan Charles Hunt	08/06/2022	Kevin LaLander Johnson
06/24/2022	Stephen Earl Hunt	08/06/2022	Robert W. Reagan III
06/24/2022	Mark Edward Peters	08/06/2022	Maxwell Seamus Willette
06/24/2022	Steve Arnold Yarbrough	11/22/2022	Nathan Elliott
06/24/2022	Tyler Scott Yarbrough	12/29/2022	Mark Andrew Jumper
07/05/2022	Cole Anthony Terpenning		

REINSTATED MEMBERS 2022

Date	Full	Date	Full
	Patrick Henry		Thomas Nelson Jr
06/24/2022	Charles Wilfred Bennett Jr	12/12/2022	Burton Cox Bradshaw Jr
		12/12/2022	Jeffrey Russell Brown
	Richard Henry Lee	12/12/2022	Alan Bruce Phillips
03/21/2022	William Bruce Lake		
			Virginia Society SAR
	Richmond	12/29/2022	Ryan Paul Carpenter
03/21/2022	Christopher Kilian Peace		
03/24/2022	Alan Bryant Noel		Williamsburg
		06/02/2022	Erastus Gaither Bumgardner III
	Sgt Maj John Champe		
03/21/2022	James Kenneth Watts		
06/24/2022	Kevin Friedrich Knapp		
06/24/2022	Michael Vincent Knapp		



VASSAR President Bruce Meyer with George Washington Chapter President Richard Rankin placed a Wreath at the Tomb of George Washington on July 4, 2022.

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

COLONEL JAMES WOOD II CHAPTER

The Colonel James Wood II Chapter was organized in 2007 at the behest of Virginia Past President Jim Bayne. He was looking to start a new chapter in the northern Shenandoah Valley and western areas of the State. His compatriot Al White agreed to take the lead in starting a new chapter in Northwest Virginia. It was determined that a viable chapter was needed to cover the five county area, which include Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah and Warren Counties. The chapter was named for Colonel James Wood II, a son of the founding father of Winchester. James II, was deputy surveyor of Frederick County, served in the Virginia House of Burgesses from 1766-1776 and in the Virginia Constitutional Convention in 1776. Wood negotiated the Treaty of Fort Pitt with the Shawnee Indians in 1775, making possible the successful expedition of General George Rogers Clark. He fought in the Revolutionary War, commanding the Virginia Regiment at the Battle of Brandywine and later named a Brigadier General of Virginia troops. He served as governor of Virginia from 1796-1799. The chapter was formally chartered on 29 November 2007 at Strasburg, Virginia by Virginia President Joseph W. Dooley. NSSAR President General Bruce Wilcox was present and charged the membership with carrying out the goals and objectives of the Society. This became a quest that has made it to a most successful chapter. The chapter quickly became involved in meeting its objectives. In 2009, it the won Best Medium Chapter in Virginia, an award the repeated in 2010. It was in 2011 they had earned the Sustained Revolutionary Grave Marking award, followed in 2011 with the Revolutionary Grave Registration Streamer. The chapter grew in size and in activity. In 2013, they began a streak of 8 consecutive Best Large Chapter in Virginia Awards along with Chapter Excellence Awards. In 2019, they were awarded the USS Stark Memorial Award as the top large chapter in NSSAR supporting veterans during 2018. In 2020, they were presented the Liberty Bell Award as top large chapter in NSSAR. For their effort in 2020, the CJWII Chapter was presented the Best Very Large Chapter in

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT

Virginia, the USS Stark Memorial Award, the President General's Activity Award and the Liberty Bell Award as the top NSSAR chapter within their membership category. For 2021, they were again presented the Best Very Large Chapter in Virginia and the USS Stark Memorial Award. They were recognized for having the top Americanism point total in the chapter membership category, however, a chapter cannot win two years in a row, therefore earning Honorary Mention status. In 15 years of service, they have earned 139 streamers or stars for continued excellence in meeting the goals and objectives of the SAR. The chapter has a top color guard unit, a solid Revolutionary War Graves Program and a strong veterans support program. Due to the quality of its members, outstanding stewardship of the chapter by the BOM and support from the surrounding community, the Colonel James Wood II Chapter has risen to prominence as one of the best chapters in Virginia.



Chapter flag of the Col. James Wood II Chapter. It is a modern interpretation of the regimental flag of the Virginia 8th Regiment in the Revolutionary War. The 8th was called the "German Regiment" because of the large number of German Soldiers from the Shenandoah Valley. It was commanded by Peter Muhlenberg who spoke both German and English.

MEMBER CLICKS

MemberClicks Professional

The Virginia State Society (VASSAR) is pleased to announce the forthcoming implementation of a new membership management system from MemberClicks Professional. This system will reduce the workload for state officers and chapter officers by providing a communications tool, event registration tool and automation tool for dues renewal and event payments through a payment processor linked directly to state and chapter accounts.

MemberClicks Professional (MCPro) will provide the state and chapters with the ability to consolidate membership communication using a single platform for membership contact data, online event registration, event request forms, VASSAR calendar and the ability to pay dues online.

Members and prospective members will also have the ability to update their own contact information and other member specific information. VASSAR officers and chapter officers will have the ability to use this system for broadcast communication to membership and partner organizations, create profiles for perspective members to ensure they are included in updates to VASSAR, chapter news and provide a database for contact information for various other VASSAR interests such as media, DAR chapter representatives and CAR leadership.

Ultimately, this system will provide for increased retention and participation through the engagement of direct communication with membership across VASSAR and event coordination through a calendar, open to chapters and managed by chapters and committees. With dues payment and event payment automation and member-controlled contact information updates, this tool should reduce the administrative

MEMBER CLICKS

time our volunteer chapter and state officers commit to such activities, freeing them up from manual entry administrative tasks, creating more time for chapter and community engagement activities.

Every chapter with an active website will be provided a link directly to the MCPPro member portal. MCPPro will be the new host for the VASSAR Dispatches with an integrated events calendar, event registration forms and other forms such as Color Guard request.

MemberClicks will be the central management system for the VASSAR database of members, which is synchronized with the NSSAR database annually to ensure we have an accurate and current count of active and non-active members (opportunity to reengage with members who may have lapsed). To protect personally identifiable information, MemberClick's data storage meets federal and industry standard data security provisions and VASSAR will limit member profile information access to state and chapter officers who require access to the contact information today.

Training for administrators (state and chapter officers) will be provided by the VASSAR Annual Meeting along with a link for user training provided by MCPPro. Information sessions on the new membership management system will be provided at the Semi-Annual meeting in September.

I feel member clicks will be a great asset to our organization. It has a lot of good features, as I have been working on it and using it. I truly think it will be a great tool

After we get everyone on and using it. We are opening up more useful tools in it every week, to help on all aspects of our organization

I like the convenient way it is to navigate and have everything in one platform

The only flaw at this time is how you add a connection, but keep in mind everyone we are

MEMBER CLICKS

working on trying to fix this issue, we have a good team and everyone willing to help all the members with any issue they have.

John Gullion
Vice President General William Campbell Chapter VASSAR
VASSAR Region Color Guard Commander
VHEA Region 3 Director
VDWR Instructor
OVTA VA. Director

In order to be an effective user of our MemberClicks program, it is essential that a member complete all of the video training provided by MemberClicks, training that is also available for download as a pdf. I say it is essential because of the extensive interconnections between the various functions such as member database, event planning, event participation and payment of dues and event fees. A user who is unaware of these interconnections, or links between functions and how to control them, may fail to complete his communication objectives and run into roadblocks or deadends.

Having all VASSAR members conducting Society and Chapter business on one platform allows for more coordinated activities. MemberClicks should reduce or eliminate most of the laborious interface activity now required to plan for, advertise and conduct state and multi-chapter events. Also, with a single state portal for all dues and event fees, the state treasurer will not have to count on 30 chapter treasurers to determine who has or has not paid their dues. Finally, those year-end dues reminders, normally an annual chapter headache, will be generated by MemberClicks and sent to all VASSAR members.

Michael E. Weyler
3rd VP, VASSAR

PATRIOT SPOTLIGHT

The Story of an Unremarkable Patriot

250 Years Ago or Thereabouts

The story I am about to tell concerns a person of French extraction who enters the Colonies from then British Canada and joins the American Patriots cause. Like any self-respecting young Frenchman of the time, he was ready to fight the British. He became an American in the process. He probably didn't think himself to be in any way remarkable.

The story begins in Liöle (modern day Lisle near the Belgian border), France, where one Ignace (Ignatius) François Delezenne marries a Christine Jacquement in 1748. Shortly thereafter, for reasons unknown, they brave an Atlantic crossing to the then French-controlled area of Trois Rivières, Québec. He specializes in making silver church altar candelabra, chalices, patens and related Communion vessels.

In 1750, Ignace and Christine have a child named, Joseph Christopher Delezenne. Providentially, for this story, four years later, in 1754, a Mary Dusenbury is born in Holland. We will return to her in due course.

With the British victorious in the French and Indian War (the Six Years' War, 1756-1763), Québec falls under English rule. Trois Rivières, was the site of a defeat of the Americans, led by Brigadier General William Thompson, on June 8, 1776, by General Charles Burgoyne. Whether or not Joseph Christopher Delezenne was still there or not, we do not know. What is known is that the 26-year-old Frenchman decided to follow the St. Lawrence River down to the Colony of New York, settling in the area of Westchester County.

PATRIOT SPOTLIGHT

No doubt caught up in the Rebel fervor of 1776, he elected to cast his lot with the Patriot Cause and joins the Continental Army. According to the records, the first combat he sees is in the ignominious surrender by Patriot General Arthur St. Clair of Ft. Ticonderoga to Burgoyne and the British after a brief skirmish in July of 1777. In the fall of that year, he fought at the Battle of Saratoga, a stunning victory for the America forces. Two days after the victory, on October 17, 1777, he receives a Captain's commission in the New York Continental Line, Engineers and Sappers, under the command of the Polish freedom fighter, then a Colonel Thaddeus Kosciusko. It might be noted here that other French Engineers had been seconded secretly to the Americans by the French government, which, a year later would declare war against England and render critical assistance to the American Revolution. The fact that Delezenne joins the Engineers is probably not coincidental.

While wintering with General Washington's troops at Valley Forge, he sought leave to return to Westchester County and marries the previously mentioned of Dutch extraction, Mary Dusenbury, whose family has also moved to the Colonies and has settled in Westchester County.

During the Southern Campaign of the Independence War, we find that Captain Delezenne is still serving under now, General Kosciusko, under the Campaign Command of General Nathanael Greene. In particular, he is noted as leading the zigzagging siege trench construction on horseback, of the British-and Tory Militia-controlled Fort Ninety Six, in May/June 1781, in South Carolina. Early in September of that year, he is wounded in the hand at the Battle of Eutaw Springs north of Charleston. In the following month, Lord General Cornwallis would surrender his army at the Battle of Yorktown in Virginia. The larger war would in short order

PATRIOT SPOTLIGHT

come to a conclusion, with the Treaty of Paris in 1783, and the granting of independence to the newly formed United States of America. Captain Delezenne finished out the war stationed at West Point under the command of Colonel Pechefontaine when the Continental Army was disbanded in November, 1783.

The story of this unremarkable member of the Continental Line, Christopher Joseph and Christine have a son, Joseph E. Delezenne. He would marry Sarah Ann Drayton, who was born interestingly enough in Castletown, in Dorset, England, and emigrates to America and marries young Joseph in February of 1812, the year America returns to war with England. They have a daughter, Sarah Ann who marries a fellow from Philadelphia by the name of Robert Baker. In the meantime, the unremarkable Patriot dies in 1828, at the age of 78.

Life marches on. Sarah and Robert have a daughter, Sarah Matilda, who, just prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, marries a fellow Philadelphian, in 1859, by the name of Henry Theophilus Phillips, whose parents were of Welsh and English extraction and arrived in America through the port of Philadelphia in 1832. This couple, of all places, get married in the old city of Detroit, the site of earlier French and then English forts on the Detroit River at the mouth of Lake St. Clair. They have a daughter, Sarah Evelyn Phillips a year later.

In time, Sarah Evelyn agrees to marry a young man, originally from London, Ontario, Canada, who had moved down to Detroit. This fellow is the owner of a general store and is a famed hunting and fishing guide. He was successful enough to send a gift of a twelve brace of quail as a gift for Queen Victoria for her Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

So, what is the point of this long story? Well, Sarah Evelyn Phillips' husband was William Hall

PATRIOT SPOTLIGHT

Williams, and he was my great grandfather. And now, you know... the rest of the story.

Yours truly, Henry Phillips Williams III, born August 12, 1949, Grosse Pointe, Michigan, on Lake St. Clair - Past President of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution.



VASSAR Liability and Black Powder Insurance



Richard E. Rankin

Past President, George Washington Chapter

VASSAR Insurance Committee, Insurance Advisor

Last year, VASSAR purchased a General Liability Policy with an insurance company to provide protection for events arising from VASSAR mission activities, as a non-profit organization. Unfortunately, upon further examination, this insurance company never confirmed in writing that the liability coverage extended to firing events by our VASSAR Color Guard (CG).

In June 2022, the VASSAR President authorized a special insurance committee be appointed to address the liability insurance issue. The Chairman is the VASSAR CG Commander and includes two Compatriots who are licensed insurance agents.

VASSAR Liability and Black Powder Insurance

The VASSAR Insurance Committee initiated a search to find an insurance company which would agree to underwrite third party liability coverage (for both bodily injury and property damage) for VASSAR, the entity, and the activities of our VASSAR Color Guard members who conduct the firing of blank cartridges using black powder at VASSAR or non-VASSAR sanctioned events.

As we learned, several other state societies have retained Lockton (an insurance broker) to arrange third party liability coverage for their State Society's Color Guard activities. Lockton is the world's largest privately held insurance brokerage firm. Lockton operates in over 100 locations and in 125 countries. Lockton currently employs over 9,000 people worldwide and its 2021 global revenues exceed \$ 2.2 billion. Our choice was to select Lockton, as our broker. Our insurance underwriter, Acceptance Indemnity Insurance Company, is A.M. Best rated as A- (which is Excellent).

An early encouraging sign in the negotiation process was the fact that the insurance underwriter actually knew the difference between a musket and a rifle! We quickly structured a policy for black powder firings, which applied to all VASSAR members in good standing (e.g. their membership had not expired); coverage extended to VASSAR and non-VASSAR firing events in Virginia or outside Virginia, as reported by the VASSAR CG Commander to Lockton (the coverage travels with you); the elimination of any policy deductibles; and the Deposit Premium would be based on the initial listing of declared VASSAR events for the policy year. The deposit premium will be audited at the end of the policy year (in July), as to the final, final number of VASSAR reported events during the policy year; and a premium adjustment would be made accordingly.

The negotiation also addressed two other important issues: first, from time-to-time, non-

VASSAR Liability and Black Powder Insurance

VASSAR SAR members from other state societies request to participate in a VASSAR CG musket firings. However, the VASSAR insurance coverage does not extend to non-VASSAR members, such as private citizens, DAR, CAR, or non-VASSAR re-enactors. One option is to decline any offers to participate (due to zero coverage), or request the non-VASSAR member to present to the VASSAR CG Commander, a written and valid Certificate of Insurance (COI) from an insurance company confirming their coverage extends to the specific member(s) and scheduled event within 48 hours prior to an event.

The second and even larger issue related to the policy exclusion called the Explosives Exclusion, for which many insurance companies assume a very broad interpretation. The standard exclusion applies to the distribution... sales... or use of explosives or explosive devices. Obviously, the key question is whether this exclusion applies to the handling and discharge of black powder explosives? Our insurance company confirmed their narrow interpretation: namely that the exclusion does not apply to black powder firings of blank cartridges by muskets or rifles. The insurance company stated in writing that the Explosives Exclusion is intended to apply to the use of fireworks, TNT or C-4.

From an administrative standpoint, Lockton is structured to service their accounts on a real-time basis. Any requests for VASSAR to provide a host event sponsor a Certificate of Insurance (COI) evidencing VASSAR insurance coverage, must be submitted to Lockton within 3 business days prior to the sponsored event. Also, Lockton provides a 1-888 claims reporting number for real-time claims/incident notification to Lockton. The Lockton claims numbers supports and compliments the VASSAR Accident Report Form currently available to all VASSAR CG members and chapters.

As Lockton quickly realized during their review of our application, VASSAR is fully com-

VASSAR Liability and
Black Powder Insurance

mitted to loss control, whereby we seek to reduce both the frequency and severity of injury or property type losses.

Our risk management protocol includes regularly scheduled in-person CG workshops stressing practices and procedures to ensure that safety is first and always. Color Guard training is supplemented by safety and training videos available to CG commanders posted on our SAR website, our SAR Facebook page and YouTube. The safety of VASSAR color guardsmen, participants and guests at CG public events is paramount.

VASSAR has always been committed to a safety-centric culture from the bottom to the top with the Color Guard. Our North Region Color Guard Commander also serves as the National Society Color Guard Safety Officer and has received the full support from our National and Virginia Color Guard Commanders.

We will continue our commitment to loss control programs within our chapters to enhance our risk management protocol of minimizing risks. We will also seek more favorable insurance coverage terms during our coverage renewal scheduled in June. For now, Lockton has demonstrated itself to be a supportive partner and risk advisor to our insurance needs and the VASSAR mission.

Crossing of the Dan

The Battle

Following an American victory at the Battle of Cowpens in South Carolina in January 1781, General Nathanael Greene's southern army outran British forces under Lord Cornwallis as both armies raced northward across the Carolinas, toward the Dan River in what became known as the Race to the Dan. Greene's army crossed the Dan River to safety near South Boston. Having successfully outmaneuvered General Lord Cornwallis and reached the banks of the Dan River, he crossed into Halifax County, General Greene and his troops moved northward and crossed the Banister River near present-day Halifax. The Crossing of the Dan by General Greene left General Lord Cornwallis and his troops stranded on the southern banks, The crossing has come to be considered by historians as a major turning point in the American Revolution.

According to Dr. Larry Aaron, author of *"The Race to the Dan--The Retreat that Rescued the American Revolution"*, patriots had marched 200 miles from Guilford Courthouse, North Carolina to the Dan River in Virginia, braving the harshest of winter conditions—the last 40 miles having been done in 16 hours. "Every half-clad, starving, frostbitten soldier who made it to the Dan that day was a hero. Subordinate officers served with distinction, but Major General Nathanael Greene was the man of the hour. He enjoyed high praise from friend and foe. George Washington wrote to Greene, 'You may be assured that your retreat before Lord Cornwallis is highly applauded by all ranks, and it reflects much upon your military abilities.'" (p.33).

Once the Dan River, near present-day South Boston, was crossed on Feb. 14, 1781, General Nathanael Greene and the Southern Army proceeded northward to the Banister River. Cross-

Crossing of the Dan

ing there, they marched to Halifax County Courthouse, north of the Banister River. Camping there for a period of time, Greene corresponded with other American officers including Colonel Thaddeus Kosciusko and Colonel Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, asking for supplies and reinforcements.

On Feb. 15, 1781, while camped at Irwin's Ferry, Greene wrote a poignant report to General Washington that includes the following excerpt: "The miserable situation of the troops for want of clothing had rendered the march the most painful imaginable, several hundreds of the soldiers tracking the ground with their bloody feet...Our Army are in good spirits notwithstanding their suffering and excessive fatigue." (p.34).

In his memoirs, Light-Horse Harry Lee records, "The people of Halifax County received us with the affection of brothers mingled with the admiration of the brave devotion to country just exhibited....The army also enjoyed wholesome and abundant supplies of food in the rich and friendly county of Halifax. Neighboring Pittsylvania sent aid as well. Help came from all over Southside Virginia. Militia units poured in, and also fresh continental troops arrived.'" (p.34).

The Present

The Crossing of the Dan became a turning point in the American Revolution, precipitating events that led to the British surrender at Yorktown. Because of its historical significance the National Society Sons of the American Revolution has now recognized the Crossing of the Dan as a nationally sanctioned event. The Crossing of the Dan Commemoration began

Crossing of the Dan

in 2005 with members of the Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia SAR, Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Halifax County Historical Society.

Since 2005, the support of the commemoration has continued to grow. The sponsorship of the event now includes the Dan River Chapter SAR, the Virginia SAR (VASSAR), the Berryman Green DAR Chapter, the Halifax County Historical Society, the South Boston - Halifax County Museum, the town of South Boston, the town of Halifax and the county of Halifax.

The event also has been recognized by a Joint Resolution of the House and Senate of the Virginia Legislature.

The Weekend Activities

This year's Crossing Events will get underway on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023. The South Boston-Halifax County Museum of Fine Arts and History will kick off a weekend of Crossing of the Dan festivities beginning at 7 p.m. with a historical program by guest speaker Cody Youngblood entitled "Fitting An Army".

Mr. Youngblood, curator of Red Hill - Patrick Henry's Home, presenting a historical program about the patriots of Halifax County and their role in resupplying General Nathanael Greene's army after the crossing. Youngblood's program will feature the Southern Continental Army Exhibit now on display at the museum as a complement to the Crossing of the Dan permanent exhibit. In addition to working as the curator at Patrick Henry's Red Hill, Youngblood is an architectural historian who holds a B. A. in Historic Preservation and Museum Studies from the University of Mary Washington and an M. A. in the Conservation of Historic Buildings from the University of York. He formerly served as the Museum Director of George C. Marshall's Dodona Manor and the Collec-

Crossing of the Dan

tions Manager at Oatlands Historic House & Gardens in Leesburg.

At Red Hill, Youngblood stewards the largest collection of Patrick Henry artifacts in the world and oversees the preservation of the site's historic built environment.

The public is invited to attend Youngblood's presentation and to tour The Crossing of the Dan permanent exhibit at the museum located at 1540 Wilborn Avenue in South Boston.

On Saturday, Feb. 11, at The Prizery, beginning at 10 a.m. for the 242nd anniversary commemoration of the Crossing of the Dan. Award-winning multi-instrumentalist, singer-songwriter and master performance artist David Russell will present "Music Of The Revolutionary War Period"

During this Sons of the American Revolution National Event, Russell will present the true history of the famous Race to the Dan River made and won by Revolutionary War General Nathanael Greene over British General Lord Cornwallis by telling the story in a "you are there in real time" musical and narration performance. He will be accompanied by Roland Terry of the legendary 8th generation Terry musical family of North Carolina. Born to a musical family, Russell began the study of classical guitar with a Segovia Master at age 6 and soon broadened his musical interests to include many different styles of acoustic guitar as well as other instruments.

Over the last 38 years, he has performed throughout the U.S. and Canada. Aside from his number one instrument of guitar, he is a multi-instrumentalist performing on mandolin, octave mandolin/bouzouki, banjo and Dobro.

Parallel with his work career as a touring contemporary music performer and recording session artist, Russell holds several shows a year presenting American historical music. He emphasizes music that was performed to small audiences around a

Crossing of the Dan

campfire or the intimacy of a home parlor when there were no recordings and music was carried in memory by oral tradition of live performance. He has a deep interest in bringing colonial history alive through period music and songs.

During his musical career, Russell has performed with Doc and Merle Watson, Norman and Nancy Blake, Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs, John Hartford, Vassar Clements, Steve Martin, Jimmy Buffett, Gamble Rogers and Steve Goodman.

For more information on Russell, visit www.davidrussellmusic.com.

Terry will perform on a 200-year-old violin of his famed uncle Edsel Terry.



**Virginia Society
Sons of the American Revolution
133rd Annual Meeting Agenda
February 9-11, 2023**

Thursday, February 9

7:00 – 9:00 pm	South Boston & Halifax County Museum Program / Installation of the 2023 Dan River Chapter officers	South Boston, VA
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Friday, February 10

(All events at Berry Hill Conference Center unless otherwise noted)

1:00 – 7:00 pm	Registration	Grand Ballroom Entrance
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Classrooms 7 & 8
1:00 – 4:00 pm	Banister Encampment Program (Rolling 15-minute portrayals of soldiers present during 1781)	King’s Bridge Landing Halifax, VA
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Transition to Halifax County Courthouse	Walk/Drive
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Road to the Revolution / VA & NC State America Revolution 250 th Commissions	Halifax County Courthouse
6:00 – 6:30 pm	Patriot Soldiers Dedication/Musket Salute	Halifax County War Memorial
<i>2023 Virginia SAR Annual Meeting Begins</i>		
6:30 – 7:00 pm	Social Gathering (Bar open throughout Dinner)	Grand Ballroom
7:00 – 8:30 pm	Buffet Dinner & Awards (Business Coat & Tie)	Grand Ballroom
9:00 – 10:30 pm	President’s Reception	Library Bar

**Virginia Society
Sons of the American Revolution
133rd Annual Meeting Agenda**

Saturday, February 11

7:00 – 8:30 am	Registration	Grand Ballroom
7:00 – 8:30 am	Breakfast	Orangerie
8:30 – 9:00 am	Memorial Service	Grand Ballroom
9:30 AM	Bus departs for the Prizery	
		The Prizery Banquet Hall South Boston, VA
10:00 am– 12:00 pm	Crossing of the Dan Program	
	Brunswick Stew for Purchase (available at 11:30 am) & Lunch on your Own	The Prizery Banquet Hall & Surrounding Area
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm		
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Public Service Awards Ceremony	The Prizery Banquet Hall
1:45 PM	Buses depart for Berry Hill Conference Center	
2:15 - 3:45 pm	Orations Contest & Youth Awards	Grand Ballroom
3:45 – 4:00 pm	Group Picture on Mansion Portico	
4:00 – 5:30 pm	Ladies Program	Classroom C
4:00 – 5:30 pm	General Membership Meeting	Grand Ballroom
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Social Gathering (Drink Coupons & Cash Bar)	Library Bar
	Banquet Dinner/Guest Speaker/ President’s Awards/State Officer Installa- tions (Black Tie w/ Decorations Op-	Grand Ballroom
7:00 – 9:00 pm		
9:15 – 10:30 pm	President’s Reception & Fireworks	Library Bar & Mansion Portico

***2023 Virginia SAR Annual Meeting Con-
cludes***

Sunday, February 12

8:00 – 9:30 am	Executive Committee Meeting	Classroom 7 & 8
Before 11:00 am	Guest Checkouts & Departures	